

House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development

The Mercer School of Theology, Garden City, NY

November 27, 2018

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Gayle Harris, Chair, at 9:01 a.m. and opened with prayer by Wayne Houglund.

Present were members of the Committee on Pastoral Development:

Present: Gayle Harris, Oge Beauvoir, Wayne Houglund, Jacob Owensby, Holly Hollerith, Clifton Daniels, Larry Provenzano, Betsy Fisher, Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Ed Officio Todd Ousley

Absent: Dean Wolfe and Susan Goff

Having taken time for each member to check in over dinner the previous evening, the committee began work as laid out in the agenda (see Appendix A). Matters requiring action or follow up are noted in bold. The committee decided to rotate the role of secretary pro tem at each meeting organized alphabetically by last name. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows took minutes for this meeting.

Updates from Todd Ousley and Challenging Areas

Todd Ousley reviewed three major areas of current focus of his ministry.

1. Title IV and disciplinary matters related to bishops is one major focus and challenge. He has come to understand the multiple extra layers of difference between Title IV with Bishops versus priests and deacons noting the system-wide effects in a diocese and the wider church when a bishop is at the center of the matter. Todd has a self-imposed deadline of December 31, 2018 to work with Chancellor Mary Kostel to bring some cases to resolution—many of which are able to be dealt with as pre-dismissal matters—before it goes into official Title IV proceedings. This reflects his desire and sense that many of the matters can be resolved pastorally and thus honoring the intent of the current canon to focus on reconciliation. There are about 20 matters concerning bishops currently but only two of them are really legitimate Title IV cases. This is in line with historic patterns in the church. The kind of cases are also not unusual.

Ousley believes it would be helpful to have a case manager in the Title IV work to distribute the work load so that one person isn't doing both case management and intake work. Ideally this would be a half to full-time position. Does not need to be a bishop but a retired bishop would work well or someone who really understands the nuances of this work.

The Presiding Bishop desired that the officer of pastoral development would remain in a pastoral role while overseeing disciplinary cases and to have someone else to take care of the administrative aspects of the work. The Committee discussed the value of having two or three retired or assisting bishops to take on the role of intake officers to help with overall case management. Given the role of intake officer as information gatherer and report-producer, the Committee discussed how someone of any order could be appropriate. It depends on skill set.

Using the term assistant intake officer is clarifying to help understand the stream of authority.

Action: The HOB Pastoral Development Committee should advocate for and express to the Presiding Bishop assisting intake officers for Title IV actions involving bishops.

Action: Betsy Fisher will speak to the bishop spouses and partners about how Title IV affects them in order to better understand the pastoral care needs and implications for a bishop's family both during and after disciplinary proceedings and to give feedback on what specific support will look like.

2. Elections of Bishops

Todd Ousley informed the Committee that there has not been an election since January 2017 that hasn't had a significant complication and there are many, many election processes going on. The area of discernment—giftedness and call to the episcopate is an issue right now. He identified the need to form and mentor people over time for the episcopacy and it begins with the formation of disciples in general—the formation of the baptized.

Ousley noted that the Church does know a few things about mentoring and creating processes for discernment to executive leadership, such as Beautiful Authority, Women Embodying Executive Leadership. The Committee discussed the recent elections and identified areas where coaching might be helpful. As effective as the College for Bishops is post-election, there are some ways that candidates in bishops searches might be coached as they broaden the perspective of their ministry from the parish or diocese to the wider church.

Action: Recommend that candidates on a slate be coached about how to communicate—particularly about health concerns, and tend to matters of accountability, collegiality, etc. in the period between slate announcement and the election.

3. Pastoral Concerns

Todd reviewed a number of dioceses that are moving through conflict resolution and the effect on the bishops involved.

The Committee took a ten minute break from 10:20-10:30.

Jacob Owensby—Issues regarding bishop collegiality and proper boundary-keeping. Gayle Harris and Todd Ousley will discuss how these issues may be brought forward to the next HOB meeting in spring 2019.

Discussion on General Convention in Austin—Proceedings, concerns in general and #MeToo Gathering
The Committee discussed what follow-up may be necessary regarding the statute of limitations being lifted beginning January 1, 2019. The Office of Pastoral Development will send out a reminder notice to bishops and dioceses about this change.

HOB Social Media Policy—Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows raised the matter of the ineffectiveness of the social media policy prohibiting use of social media while the HOB is in session at General Convention because the meetings are live-streamed and visitors in the gallery are able to communicate about the proceedings in real time.

Action: Social Media Policy—will remain in effect for the next meetings of the HOB. A resolution will come prior to the next General Convention suspending the policy excepting when the House is in executive session. Gayle Harris will speak with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry about the social media policy while at Lambeth for when the HOB gathers there.

The Committee continued its work over lunch.

General Convention Task Force to assist the Office of Pastoral Development
Todd Ousley reviewed the origins of the task force as beginning with D004 at General Convention 2015 where many questions and resolutions came forward pertaining to episcopal transitions including the creation of Task Force on the Episcopacy. A pilot board to deal with episcopal transitions was set up as a mediating structure between the presiding bishop and the officer of pastoral development to direct the work of pastoral development. A147 shifted the work of the board to being a task force to assist the Office of Pastoral Development for 3 years.

The members are:

Mathis, Canon Jill	Chair	2021	Pennsylvania, III
Scanlan, The Rt. Rev. Audrey	Vice-Chair	2021	Central Pennsylvania, III
Ambrogi, Mr. Robert	Secretary	2021	New Hampshire, I
Bates, Canon Lynn	Member	2021	Vermont, I
Chambers, The Rev. Canon Joseph	Member	2021	Missouri, V
Grant, The Rev. Percy	Member	2021	Ohio, V
Hitt II, Mr. Lawrence	Member	2021	Colorado, VI
Hollingsworth, The Rt. Rev. Mark	Member	2021	Ohio, V
Jacobs, The Rev. Canon Gregory	Member	2021	Newark, II
Knudsen, The Rt. Rev. Chilton	Member	2021	Maryland, III
Seage, The Rt. Rev. Brian	Member	2021	Mississippi, IV
Smith, The Rev. Canon Nora	Member	2021	New York, II
Thomason, The Very Rev. Dr. Steven	Member	2021	Olympia, VIII
Yeiser, Ms. Mary T	Member	2021	Lexington, IV
Zorrilla, The Rev. Canon Rafael	Member	2021	Puerto Rico, IX
Curry, The Most Rev. Michael	Ex Officio	2021	North Carolina, IV
Jennings, The Rev. Gay Clark	Ex Officio	2021	Ohio, V
Johnson, Ms. Sally.	Representative of the President of the House of Deputies	2021.	Minnesota, VI

Upcoming Elections

Todd Ousley reported on the status of the consents to the election of a diocesan bishop of Haiti. He also listed the current consecration dates and the ordination dates of elections that have not yet occurred. These included in Appendix B.

The agenda item of Legislation from General Convention was not taken up as any pertinent discussion had been previously discussed and reported earlier in this meeting.

Pastoral Relations with Retired Bishops and Survivors: Gayle Harris brought this forward out of conversations with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. The concern is about retired bishops and their spouses in the HOB and how we might care for the relationships with them. A second and related issued pertains to the welcome and hospitality of visiting bishops (those without voice and vote) to General Convention and their seating in the HOB during General Convention (IARCA bishops in particular). Perhaps it would be helpful to have a protocol for these bishops who come representing international bodies, or are companion relationship partners.

The Committee discussed the needs of retired bishops. Gayle Harris identified it as an issue about retired bishops feeling isolated and desiring community. It would be helpful to get data beyond the anecdotal evidence.

Action: Suggestions are to have a provincial structures consider the selection of convener to care for retired bishops. When bishops meet by province at the next HOB they should take this up for discussion.

After conversation about how best to welcome those bishops and other dignitaries who attend meetings but are not the expressed invited guests of the Presiding Bishop (for whom seating and hospitality is prearranged) the Committee made the following recommendation.

Action: The Committee recommends the following Seating Arrangements to the Presiding Bishop:

Other categories of bishops at General Convention and HOB meetings—seating:

Retired—interspersed at table; no more than one at each table

Historic Connection like IARCA, Liberia, interspersed

Anglican Communion—interspersed

Full Communion—interspersed

Diocesan Companions Bishops—gallery

Ecumenical Partners—gallery at General Convention; Interspersed at HOB meetings

Impaired Communion—doghouse

For the next Committee meeting agenda: Larry Provenzano will bring forward a conversation about Title IV process for lay leaders (not employed by the church). The Committee discussed the challenge of antagonistic lay leadership in the parochial system and the need for the church to address difficult laity for whom Title IV doesn't apply. Larry Provenzano has a small team of people including a canon lawyer working on this. He will have more to bring the Committee at the next meeting at the spring 2019 HOB retreat.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Submitted by Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Secretary Pro Tem