

## **The Assessment Review Committee of the Executive Council**

### **Teleconference**

**November 26, 2018**

Attending the meeting: Mally Lloyd, Kurt Barnes, Nancy Koonce, Mark Latime, Patty Downing, Mark Stevenson, Jim Taylor, Rosalie Ballentine, and Nancy Caparulo.

Regrets: Mike Klusmeyer, Greg Rickel.

Mally called the meeting to order with prayer at 4:01 PM EST.

The minutes from prior meetings were not considered at this time.

At Mally's request committee members articulated their experience with the committee thus far and their hopes for the work going forward.

The agenda was reviewed and no changes were made.

The question arose concerning the meaning of "not eligible for grants." The understanding so far has been that anything the bishop must sign off on is not eligible for grants for dioceses that are non-compliant. Enforcement has not yet been addressed.

#### Process to Date

The Assessment Review Timeline was reviewed to bring new members up to speed. There are bishops and treasurers who still do not know about the process.

#### Where are we now?

- The good news is that Central Florida is at 15%, which reduces the waiver pool necessary.
- Colombia recommendation has been made for an exemption but there is no plan.
- Colorado needs a plan.
- The Convocation has made a request but a conversation is needed with bishop-elect as is a plan. Mark Stevenson agreed about the recommendation to speak with the bishop-elect as the current bishop believes that they are not a diocese.
- Rio Grande will have an impact with the installation of Michael Hunn as bishop. A plan is needed from that diocese.
- The Canons provide that area missions are called 'dioceses', too. The PB and PHOD have been consulted. The people in the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe want to be treated as a diocese. Mark S believes that the matter will resolve smoothly once the transition from bishop to bishop is complete. There is a similar transition in Colorado.
- Question arose concerning Navajoland's pledge. They are at 15%, acting as a diocese.
- Dallas – no update. They plan to be at 10% by 2022. It is not clear whether they have a specific plan in place. Waivers are considered based on actual need.
- Dominican Republic – Glenda McQueen is setting up a conversation with David Copley, the Bishop and Kurt to see what their ability might be to increase from 1.5%. It appears they

have ample capacity to increase considerably unless they misunderstand calculating or reporting their diocesan report.

- Ecuador Central – Kurt will continue to pursue the bishop to get a step-up plan.
- Honduras – Glenda, Chuck Robertson, David Copley, and Kurt spoke with Bishop Allen. There are matters there that need to be clarified and cleared up. Kurt continues to work on the three Province IX dioceses and he inquired whether anyone can think of a bilingual person who might become a committee member. Province IX work has been historically frustrating. Mally offered additional committee help in this area. Kurt will let Mike Klusmeyer know when the teleconferences will take place.
- Pennsylvania is somewhat confusing. Despite the plan to increase, if their income increases, their percentage declines. Patty offered to make a visit. Mally suggested she confer with Rosalie, who had been trying to work with that diocese. Patty will speak with a member of their standing committee who is a friend. A plan is needed and it appears that their level of commitment is going backwards. The diocese received \$66K in grants in 2017.
- Taiwan – Chuck Robertson, Mark S, and some others are having a discussion tomorrow afternoon (11/27/18) and the staff officer is having a conversation with the bishop, who has announced his retirement.
- Venezuela – Kurt e-mailed them and will try to get a conversation set up with Glenda. They have not filed a diocesan report in years. Even trying to calculate would be an exercise in futility. They receive no grants other than a block grant.

Questions were invited. It was noted that in mid-January the committee will need to have something to report to EC. The documents necessary; audit, budget, diocesan report, a letter explaining the financial hardship, and a plan to meet 15%. Then the committee works with the diocese based on that information. Kurt will update the spreadsheet.

What about Albany? They never requested a waiver and no current contact is listed. If a given diocese was not pro-active, the committee's assumption was that they would be at 15% in 2019. Springfield wrote to say they wouldn't request a waiver. They get no grants, so there is nothing to do. It is immediately unknown as to whether Albany gets any grants. Mark S suggested leaving Albany alone as there are other issues at play right now. It was thought that this diocese will be revisited after the first of the year.

#### Going Forward

- Central Gulf Coast – Greg has been working with them. No commitment has been received.
- Mike Klusmeyer will be reminded to follow up with Colombia or, perhaps, have an additional conversation with Glenda and the bishop to see if there is an understanding of the process and a planned increase in their pledge. They have many grants at stake. An application and documentation are needed. They have increased their pledge but additional clarification is needed.
- Colorado and the Convocation are on hold owing to bishop transitions.
- Dallas – Greg is to follow up. They need to be clearer about what they are doing (planning to increase the percentage of the portion coming to TEC). Kurt will follow up with Greg.
- DR, Ecuador Central, Honduras – conversations are in process.
- Patty will speak with standing committee member in PA and report.
- Rio Grande will remain on hold with transition.

- Taiwan – Mark S will follow-up on that and report.
- Venezuela – Kurt is monitoring.

Concern was expressed about how to report to EC that the dioceses in transition are on hold for the time being. There are a lot of dioceses about to be in transition. Kurt suggested a letter be sent to the dioceses in question (e.g., CO and Rio Grande), letting them know that they're on the committee's radar. Mark L suggested he have contact with the bishops coming in. It was noted that the Rio Grande deputation has been trying to get up to 15% for years. Diane Butler, an EC member, might be helpful there.

Letters are to go to Mark Edington (Convocation), to Kim Lucas (CO), and to Michael Hunn (Rio Grande) identifying the outstanding issue. Kurt will start the letter and share it with Mally. The Committee will touch base again after January 1. A face-to-face meeting will be scheduled for the purposes of long-range planning. Jim Taylor asked about money in the budget for on-site visiting. He believes it is important to continue to build relationships. Kurt suggested developing a plan about what this committee thinks its work should be in the coming triennium, building travel time into a budget, and then make the request to Canon Barlowe.

It was then asked when the dioceses, which are no longer getting grants, will "feel the pinch?" Every grant letter to a grantee will indicate that the grant may be withdrawn if a diocese is not in compliance with the budgetary assessment and/or has not received a waiver. Granting cycles go on all year. When people applying for scholarships and mission enterprise grants don't get them due to diocesan non-compliance, the reaction will get back to the bishop. Nancy K opined that the conversation needs to continue to happen in the House of Bishops. There is a good story about the number of diocese that have come into compliance as a result of the committee's work. There is a good news story now available to take to the HOB.

The Extranet will continue to be used for reporting.

Patty closed the meeting with prayer at 5:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Caparulo  
Staff support to the committee