

**Draft Minutes**  
**Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Governance & Operations**  
**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019 3:30pm EST**

**Members Present:** Jane Cislucyis, Russell Randle, Liza Anderson, Thomas Alexander, Diane Butler, Polly Getz, Louis (“Coach”) Glosson, Ed Konieczny, Aaron Perkins

**Staff Present:** Geof Smith, Mark Stevenson

**Excused:** Doug Anning

Coach opened with prayer at 3:30.

Jane gave us an update on our referred resolutions, which she has organized for us in a google doc.

The joint meeting of the committee chairs which Jane attended stressed the importance of building a work plan for the triennium. We started that process at our first meeting, but we will need to take some time in February to plot out a more detailed work plan.

Other aspects of our committee time together in February will include:

- A report about the work of the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution, and Canons
- An update from Mark Duffy on archives
- A legal update from Doug Anning
- Jane has inquired about the status of the mutual ministry review, and we will know more soon. She has also inquired about the status of the Chief Legal Officer review.

Staff who will be present with us include: Raphaelle Sondak (human resources), Lynette Wilson (Episcopal News Service), Darwin Darling (IT), Nancy Davidge (public affairs), Jeremy Tackett (creative services/digital evangelism). We should let Geof know if there are any particular issues that we’d like to hear from staff about, bearing in mind that not all staff are present at each meeting.

We discussed planning racial reconciliation work at each meeting as part of our responsibility for board development. Jane suggests exploring the possibility of a Native American focus for our June (Baltimore) meeting, and we will discuss the possibility with Executive Council members Cornelia Eaton and Angela Goodhouse-Mauai. For our October meeting, Rose Sconiers has suggested a possible speaker, but there may also be possibilities connected to the local context for that meeting (Montgomery).

At our meeting next month, we will hear from two survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing, and will also visit the museum and memorial.

In addition, we agreed that other kinds of board development should be folded into the plenary agenda each time, not necessarily for a long time, but to make it part of the regular fabric of what we do. Russ will bring more ideas for board development and long range planning to the meeting next month. Given how well the hypothetical scenarios were received last time, he suggests perhaps more of those, but this time focusing on particular challenges that the church could potentially face going forward. (disaster preparedness, economic downturn, etc.) Polly added

additional possibilities, like immigration and sanctuary questions, or the Department of Justice potentially taking a look at churches' response to clergy sexual abuse.

Jane has posted some documents to the extranet from ECW regarding their board members and the changes they approved to their bylaws, which now come to Executive Council for review and approval. We have been asked to propose these, and will spend some time together in February going over them. Randall asked whether Doug reviewed these already? It would be better not to be drafting things on the fly at the meeting, so it would be good to know what the current status of this is. Polly added that it would be helpful to have not just the new bylaws, but a version that clearly shows what changes were made.

Geof added that there will be some HR documents for us to look at (revision to the sabbatical policy and a revision to the anti-harassment policy to conform to NY state law). Doug has already reviewed these.

Jane notes that there was a reminder sent to provincial presidents that they need to do an annual review to executive council, which comes to our committee. Right now everyone tends to do this their own way; we might discuss whether we'd like to request a uniform format for all of these.

The floor was open for additional agenda items for our time together next month.

Polly raised the question of the annual appeal, which is a new part of the church's fundraising strategy. Was there ever any strategic conversation about this at Executive Council? Past members of council shared that it was reported to Executive Council during the previous triennium and no questions were raised. However, we discussed whether some further conversation about fundraising strategy might be important for all of Council to help take us to a different level as a board in thinking through some of these things strategically. Is the development office getting the kind of support they need from us? It would also be good to have the context for these decisions so that we can communicate it to the wider church rather than being caught by surprise.

Polly also shared that the new Title IV website seems to have been well received, with 32,000 hits within the last month.

Russ has been working with Raphaëlle on lay pension equity for the DFMS. This will probably be an agenda item for both us and for FFM at some point.

Diane closed the meeting with prayer at 4:15pm.

-Liza Anderson