

Task Force on New Funding for Clergy Formation

Wednesday, January 30, 2018 Minutes

10 am PST

The meeting was called to order by the Rev. Brendan Barnicle, and opening prayer was led by the Rt. Rev. John Taylor.

The following committee members were in attendance: Barnicle, Cowart, Heller, Henry-McKeever, Hybl, Kittredge, Murphy, Taylor

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal is on sabbatical. The Rev. JoAnn Jones had a conflicting meeting. Mr. Joseph Swimmer was unavailable.

After a period of introductions and Oscar picks, the Task Force started to map out its plan for addressing Resolution A027. The Task Force identified a need to understand the previous Task Force that promoted Resolution A027. Brendan Barnicle will coordinate with Susanna Singer, who lead the prior Task Force, to see if she and others can attend our next meeting and provide an overview of the process. In particular, Elizabeth Henry-McKeever raised the important question about what “implement” means in Resolution A027, which will be one of the topics that we explore with the prior Task Force members.

Brendan Barnicle will post the report to General Convention from that task force to this Task Force’s Extranet site.

Jim Murphy will contact the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) to determine which funds may have already been dedicate to the purposes clergy education as referenced in Resolution A027, and may be available, and will share how funds are currently awarded. Murphy also agreed to try and determine who is currently overseeing the development efforts of the Episcopal Church following the retirement of former officer, Tara Holley.

The Task Force has initially identified five areas of study. First, how great a priority is clergy formation, particularly for part-time, bi-vocational and non-stipendiary clergy, for the entire Episcopal Church? Second, how many students are in the formation process for part-time, bi-vocational and non-stipendiary clergy positions; what are their needs and how does that fit with students preparing for full-time ordained clergy positions? Third, what is the overall cost of providing education for clergy that will serve in part-time, bi-vocational and non-stipendiary positions? Fourth, what are the existing sources of funding for clergy formation, particularly part-time, bi-vocational and non-stipendiary clergy? Fifth, what are the new sources of funding that might be available to meet the needs of clergy formation, particularly for part-time, bi-vocational and non-stipendiary clergy?

The Task Force hopes to meet again on a Zoom call in February, but February 20-23 seems to be a challenging time for most of the committee.

Jim Murphy led the Task Force in closing prayer.