

The Assessment Review Committee of the Executive Council

Teleconference

February 14, 2019

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

Regrets: Mike Klusmeyer, Patty Downing.

Mally called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM EST with prayer. She reviewed the focus of the meeting, that of leading to a report to EC next week.

Both Kurt and Mally had posted status reports, which were used for discussion.

Alabama – no commitment yet. Kurt has been in touch and has not had a response.

Albany – a leadership meeting decided that the assessment issue would be back-burnered for the time being. There is no waiver request and no plan. The committee has never really heard from them. They could have a reverse attitude toward the process if the committee is not in touch. They increased from 8% to 8.8%.

California – has been contacted but no response has been received.

Central Gulf Coast – their increases are planned from 12% to 14% to 15%. Kurt recommends granting the waiver. Greg believes this is a real plan. Committee approved to recommend.

Columbia – Kurt indicated their letter showed a dollar increase but there is still no projection going forward. He considers giving them a one-year waiver since they are trying to work things out in a positive way. Committee favored this recommendation.

Colorado – there is no update and the new bishop will be installed in May. The report will tell EC that no waiver is granted since there is no plan.

Convocation – the new bishop will be installed and the conversation continues about what manner of diocese this is. They are recommended to be put on hold. Greg advocated consistency from this committee with all of the recommendations. New bishops should be considered. Discussion looked at the pitfalls of ‘back room decisions’ in the process.

Dallas – they say they will get to 15% but they will split the 15% between Assessment and other ministries. The committee does not approve of that move. The recommendation should be that no waiver will be given. It’s not okay to approve a waiver in this kind of situation; their plan is not acceptable. All agreed.

Dominican Republic – has gone from \$12,000 to \$15,000 and has been in conversation. Mally suggested a one-year waiver and continued conversation. All agreed.

Chicago – pledged at 13%, which Kurt confirmed and asked if they would ask for a waiver. They are still deciding whether or not to do that.

Florida – there is no waiver application. They have been asked if they will do so and nothing has been heard. The report should say that they are at 10% and there is no recommendation.

Fond du Lac – the pledge came in recently, they will apply for a waiver.

Fort Worth – assume a full Assessment.

Honduras – risks losing their grant, but need to stay in conversation. Kurt will pursue.

Pennsylvania - The bishop wanted to present to his standing committee the reasons why it is important to pay a full Assessment. Their plan demonstrates that their percentage of commitment is declining over time as income increases.

Rio Grande - waiver request was posted. Their plan shows declining income of the diocese while they are trying to increase the commitment. The idea of not reaching 15% until 2032 does not seem realistic.

Recommendation: continue conversations. Agreement was reached about the unmanageability of waiting until 2032.

San Joaquin – there has been no corrected plan. Nancy expressed her displeasure with their reaction.

Kurt will contact Michael Glass about how their pledge will appear in the EC report. They promised a 15% pledge when the \$7 million loan(s) were forgiven. The current pledge is 13%. Jim suggested a stern conversation before EC and said there are too many conversations going on in isolation.

There need to be tie-ins with what the committee expectations are and a way to keep those who get waivers on the straight and narrow. Working with the presiding officers will help the committee to keep the process even.

Taiwan – there is a communication problem in getting them to understand this process. Bruce Woodcock will be meeting with Bishop Lai at the end of February. Possibly the recommendation will be a one-year waiver with lack of clarity around the amount. Greg identified some cultural difference that are often the cause of communication difficulty. Kurt sent a note to the chair of the Venezuela standing committee asking for an increase from \$1000 to \$1500 and have it deducted from their block grant and suggested this might be a way to go with Taiwan. This would be treating everyone the same. Recommendation: Grant a one-year waiver for both and continue dialogue.

Venezuela - has a custodial account that is worth more than \$300,000. They use about half of their block grant annually.

If we get information from Honduras, Taiwan, and Venezuela – is it okay to recommend a grant and continue discussions? Agreed by majority. Kurt will pursue. Mally will list the dioceses that have not yet sent in their reports/commitments.

Greg wondered if the dioceses that came with a stretch into a 15% commitment might be applauded publicly. Mally wants to be able to highlight the benefit of bringing the Assessment down to 15%. Greg emphasized the importance of telling the good news. ENS might do a story about the ARC to spread the word. Kurt suggested a mid-year story might be well timed. Mally asked the committee to send her their thoughts about the experiences through the process. Relationships are being built and improved through the committee's work.

Bishops are going to speak with Pennsylvania. Kurt continues contacting non-domestic entities. Something might be put on the church website so people can access the waiver information electronically. Mally advocated for a face-to-face meeting in 2018. Jim invited a meeting to take place in Charleston if one can't be tagged onto an EC meeting. Mally will speak with Michael Barlowe about the budget.

With thanks to the committee for being present on this day, Mally adjourned the meeting at 1:59 PM. Nancy Koonce offered a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee