

Task Force on the Care of Creation and Environmental Racism

January 14 2020, 3-4:30 PM (EST)

Teleconference

1. Opening prayer
2. Welcome, meeting overview, minutes from September and November meetings
 - **Proposed: approve meeting minutes from September and November meetings.**
 - **Approved.**
3. Check-in/prayer request members
4. Update on grant/request for approval on grants (20 minutes) Sarah Nolan
 - Deadline: **get grant recommendations to executive council next week.**
 - Sarah Nolan offers gratitude to all who read applicants and contributed to the grant decision process.
 - Each grant was read by two readers and given scores and an evaluation.
 - Grants were then sorted into three categories: fund if possible, uncertain for funding, recommend against funding.
 - For the triennium we have \$350,000, in two grant rounds. While we could split into two groups of \$175,000, there is also an argument for holding more funds for the second round.
 - The total of the green grants is \$140,000, not including the yellow or unsorted grants. There are a lot of amazing grants and we need to grapple with the fact that we can't fund everything we might want to.
 - Our priority – **what we fund should represent a diversity of locations and types of projects.**
 - **How important is it to have equity across provinces?**
 - If we fund the Green grants in part, we can fund more of the Yellow grants.
 - **Proposal: At this point, all Green grants will be funded but not necessarily at their full amount, in the spirit of allowing us to fund additional smaller grants. We will also share a FULL FINAL LIST with the Task Force before sending on to Executive Council**
 - **Approved.**
5. Updates on eco-justice ministry and report due to Exec. Council(15 minutes)
 - There is a new version of the Glossary, which we will be spreading internally within the church-wide staff so that others can make edits as well.
 - Biggest challenge is the timing and bringing this all together, in alignment with Executive Council's deadlines.
 - The work of collecting storytelling videos is ongoing, in collaboration with Melanie and Phoebe. These will be shared using the Asset Map.
 - Environmental racism and eco-justice are being included in the Creation Covenant and treated as part of rather than separate from our other creation work, which is critical.

- We will be communicating to executive council our vision for the glossary, the report, and the Asset Map.
 - By the end we will have a one-pager and several infographics to share with Executive Council, and will share them on Basecamp as well for your review.
- Bishop Lattime and Lewis Powell will be presenting some of the work from the Glossary on Monday at Wintertalk. They will also encourage those gathered at Wintertalk, invite them to do storytelling as well to gather and add them to the collection. This will be a part of the presentation as well.

6. Update on theology working group (10 minutes) Andy

- Andy: The current focus is the special issue of the Anglican Theological Review. The deadline for manuscripts that we set is tomorrow (Wednesday January 15th). Some have come in tomorrow. Sarah Nolan and Andy Thompson are co-editors. Mark Richardson has filled a similar role before and will be advising as well.

7. Requests for funding for GC currently unfunded mandates

- a) Carbon offsets A014- request \$25K in resolution to Executive Council – Andy Thompson
 - Andy Thompson compiled a document about this for Executive Council, including our discussion from Salt Lake City. There is also talk that staff at 815 are interested in some voluntary offsetting as well – and for that Andy includes information about Cool Effect and several other options that would be ready to do smaller-scale offsets for offices that wanted to do that voluntarily. Andy includes that we (ask the Task Force) voluntarily offset our emissions from Salt Lake City– was that through Cool Effect?
 - Stephanie Johnson: Yes
 - Canon Spellens and Bishop Rice spoke about PB Michael Curry's staff engaging in offsets
 - Stephanie Johnson: One area of concern that was raised by Canon Spellens is that there is often hesitancy in the Church about hiring new staff or consultants to complete projects which is key to this project
 - For this we need someone to pull this off
 - Maybe we could contract with ERD? We are reaching out to find ideas for how to get around this staffing challenge.
 - Andy Thompson: This project took shape from conversations with ERD staff, but the reason for our proposal is that this will involve a significant amount of labor, someone to monitor and track the projects that are happening place. What's needed is that tracking and coordination, and it does not seem likely that someone at ERD has the capacity to coordinate this as a program for the whole church, given the quantity of offsets we're talking about.
 - Andy Thompson: It would take at least a year of setting up infrastructure to get ERD to the capacity to handle travel for the Episcopal Church. Maybe we could take to ERD about a project to bundle some of their projects and some of these new project? ERD is excited but may just not have capacity.
 - **Proposal: Stay with our original course of action, with the additions to Andy's proposal that we've discussed today (around ethical offsets and capacity-**

building). And if we have to make a new plan after Executive Council, we have some ideas of what partnerships to pursue.

- **Approved**

b) Study of church owned property D053 - inventory of church owned properties (revised proposal) - proposed by Nurya Parish

- Stephanie Johnson shared Nurya Parish's proposal with the group.
- Delia: Nurya has narrowed this down, to a focus on information-gathering on church owned processes. They will go through CPG and through diocese, starting with three regionally-diverse diocese which will attempt to integrate care of creation on their church lands. They will look into doing regenerative agriculture, green burials, conservation biology, etc.
 - One way to take stock of existing land could be through the Asset Map
 - And there's an element of network-building of the Episcopalians who are stewarding these church lands
 - AND these land-based efforts could be connected to our Creation Covenant Ambition Cohorts that Bishop Rice (and others) are imagining.
 - There's a real value to this inventory process, especially if networking is a key component. Can we start to get a sense of who's doing certain types of conservation efforts (grasslands, etc) and then create affinity groups.
- Stephanie: The budget that Nurya is proposing is well thought-out and responsive to the Resolution and to our feedback. Reminder: this is the same way that we funded the Carbon Tracker (\$20,000), COP (\$3,000), etc with a budget line that originally had \$134,000 for these unfunded mandates. Nurya is asking for \$20,607 and will have something well in advance of General Convention. Stephanie's recommendation is to say yes to this.
- **Proposal: fund this in full as requested.**
- **Approved.**

c) Helping communities Affected by change in energy use D081- "devote financial resources to community development and organizing"

- Stephanie: this was a placeholder. This was meant to be a part of the conversation on the Creation Covenant implementation plan.
- **Proposal: Keep this as a placeholder for future conversations.**
- **Approved.**

9) Creation Care Covenant- Melanie Mullen

- In this document we have moved from large ideas toward ensuring that diocese and local communities are engaged in these efforts, and can participate in a Loving, Liberating, and Life-giving Manner. The submission will reflect that.

- **We will share a draft of this on Friday** which will have improved formatting. A team of us will be testifying in favor of this in front of Executive Council, which will be really exciting and inspiring.
 - Bishop Rice: Yes – Canon Spellers isn't bringing this alone, but in a cohort of us which will be presenting this proposal and educating Executive Council about this submission.
- Phoebe Chatfield: Wanted to note that the firm, mitigation goal (100% clean energy by 2024) is no longer in the document, in large part because of ideas from this group. Instead we will be inviting many members of the church to work together on ambitious goal-setting. More on that to come!

10) updates on GC planning

- Bishop Rice: Planning for our efforts at General Convention. So far we have explored using bicycle power, and including carbon offset efforts.

11) Other business/ March zoom meeting and in-person April meeting in St. Louis, MO

- March meeting is the second Tuesday of the Month
- April Meeting is in person, in collaboration with other Task Forces. April 20th - 22nd. We will offset with Cool Effect again.
- **Proposal: Have the March Zoom meeting AND the April in person meeting.**
- **Approved.**

Closing Prayer: Rev. Stephanie Johnson.