

Task Force on Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment

Wednesday, May 15, 2019

Zoom Meeting

Present: The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne, Ms. Natalie Finstad, The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner, The Rev. Eric Metoyer, Ms. Caroline McCall, The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, The Rev. Daniel Velez-Rivera, The Rev. Tom Brackett, The Rev. Michael Sells, The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, The Rev. Canon Ada Wong Nagata, The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow, Canon Katie Forsyth

Absent: The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, The Rt. Rev. Gretchen Rehberg, The Rev. Canon Betsy Ivey, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Dr. Gandhi Lopez, Mr. Jason Evans, The Rt. Rev. Allen Shin

Task Force Business

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. and invited members of the Task Force to share instances of new life during this Eastertide.

Detailed minutes were not taken during the check-in portion of the meeting

Update from the Rev. Tom Brackett on the Work of Church Planting and on the Work of Congregational Redevelopment with the Intention of Starting New Ministries

The Episcopal Church Staff is currently looking for a replacement for the Rev. Mike Michie. They have posted the position, received approximately twenty applications, and began to form a search committee for the position. It is possible that they will need to bring in a temporary employee to fill in some of the gaps until they make a hire.

In the meantime, the Rev. Tom Brackett and the Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner requested that the Task Force members support Tom by taking on extra duties. The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne has figured out ways for people to be engaged before the replacement is hired and will be remaining on the call for an extra hour to sort out who is able to take on responsibilities. Everyone is invited to join that call.

There will be another Discernment Retreat for New Ministries in Atlanta this upcoming week. The Rev. Tom Brackett will travel to Atlanta to meet with a group of eight people who are discerning their call to new ministry development for three days.

The Rev. Tom Brackett has met with several consultants who work in congregational development. He is mapping out the different ways they work with churches to create a functional database that does two things: one, identifies the common thread about church development that exists in different consulting approaches and two, allows people to identify the consultant with whom they would benefit most from work together. .

The Task Force then had time for questions and answers about the Rev. Tom Brackett's presentation.

Ms. Caroline McCall requested clarification about ways members of the Task Force could support with the work in addition to helping with tech and communications.

The Rev. Tom Brackett said that, at the moment, we are helping dioceses and bishops find time and resources for this work. There are many leaders in the church that want to do this work but, given all the demands of the Episcopacy, it's hard to prioritize it. He also shared that even in places where people want to get engaged there is often a lot of work to be done before to prepare congregations. The Rev. Tom Brackett also shared that in the United Church of Canada they have 800 congregations and a staff of ten people working on church planting and mission development. However, we have 8000 congregations and our staff team is 3 people.

Ms. Caroline McCall shared that Tom's response was helpful in that it revealed that some of the work of translation and reinterpretation of normative models of church and church (re)development will need to wait. The Rev. Tom Brackett thanked her for her clarity and said that he would be starting a regular call for people to join and learn more about the work of re-development for new ministries.

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner suggested the idea of having coaches or liaisons for bishops who are going through the process of redevelopment. This person would be a bridge to the Task Force and support people in identifying the next step. The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde shared that this would be helpful.

Ms. Natalie Finstad requested that the subcommittee focused on strategy think about ways to address the structural needs of understaffing in terms of new ministry development both on the Presiding Bishop's staff and at the local diocesan level.

In response to a question from the Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner, The Rev. Tom Brackett requested that someone connect with Megan Richie to set up an invitation to the next Genesis gathering.

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner agreed to work on this as well as the logistics for a group gathering to happen sometime before April 2020. The Rev. Tom Brackett will help her identify good dates and potential locations.

Finally, the Rev. Tom Brackett shared that we have a group of people who have submitted applications for grants – approximately 30 people

The Rev. Tom Brackett shared an update on creating and maintaining support resources for leaders who are doing Parish Redevelopment for the Sake of New Ministry

The Rev. Tom Brackett has been in conversation with leaders from the College for Congregational Development (CCD) and other consultants in the church. He requested that a good number of Task Force members help him process what he's heard from the consultants doing this work primarily at the congregational level.

The Rev. Eric Metonyer, the Very Rev. Amy McCreath and Ms. Caroline McCall expressed interest. Caroline then suggested that the group meet in person instead of remotely to increase productivity and to get a better return on Tom's investment of time. The group agreed, although Amy will likely join remotely if the group meets during the summer. The Rev. Tom Brackett agreed to share potential dates for this gathering on extranet.

Ms. Caroline McCall requested to be added to the subcommittee for strategy and networking. The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner agreed to help add her to the team and apologized for not placing her on a team earlier.

The Rev. Tom Brackett made another appeal for people to join him on a conversation with the Bishops interested in the Community of Practice on Friday at 12:00 p.m. The Zoom Details are in the ["Next Steps"](#) below.

The Task Force then heard reports on the progress made by subcommittees.

The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne reported that the Communications Subcommittee has met and finished the work for the church planting website as of now. He has also created a "punch list" of things that need to be done to support Tom due to Mike's departure.

He then shared that one potential opportunity for Task Force support would be to staff an online meeting room where potential grantee could ask questions about the process for grants.

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner mentioned that Canon Katie Forsyth and the Rev. Canon Dan Morrow would like to be involved in this work but are not able to stay on the call today.

Canon Katie Forsyth reported on the Grants Subcommittee. She said the applications for Church Planting grants is live and we are receiving applications. She is interested in setting up an in-person meeting to review grant applications.

The Rev. Tom Brackett clarified that the due date for this round of applications is June 30.

The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow shared that there is nothing new to report from the Strategy and Networking Subcommittee - he requested that members of the team fill out the doodle poll about a time to meet in the near future.

The meeting concluded with a prayer from The Rev. Daniel Velez-Rivera and the expressed gratitude from the Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner.

Next Steps from the Meeting

- Ms. Natalie Finstad
 - check extranet setting to make sure that her settings are correct and if the test email doesn't work then talk to Bryan from GCO and see what might be happening
 - Send Notes/Minutes for editing and get them to GCO by next week.
 - Email question to Dan about strategy/networking possibility
- The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner
 - Get Caroline on the subcommittee for strategy and networking with GCO
 - Find dates for the late summer/early fall gathering
 - Suggest dates for the grants gathering
 - Fill out the doodle poll from Dan for Strategy Subcommittee
- The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow
 - Follow up with Tom to join the next Strategy Meeting Subcommittee
 - Discuss the following question at the next strategy meeting, "Can y'all think about the work that would need to be done to address the structural needs of understaffing in the church, what Tom mentioned about the UC of Canada. And, not just at the PB level but how do we think about staff models that on local/diocesan level support change. And, how do we support bps to think creatively about the ways we staff so that parishes have support? Are there models we can help them put in place or questions that we can ask to help them think of the right model in their context?"

- The Rev. Tom Brackett
 - Set up the regular meeting of people who want to get involved in redevelopment work with Tom
 - Set up call with Bp Alan before his clergy conference this week
 - Fill out the doodle poll from Dan for Strategy Subcommittee
 - Put potential dates for a meeting to review existing consulting approaches on the extranet
- Ms Caroline McCall
 - Fill out the doodle poll from Dan for Strategy Subcommittee
- Everyone
 - Engage Community of Practice - Redevelopment for the sake of blessing new ministries - Friday at noon - <https://zoom.us/j/9446322216>
 - One tap mobile
 - +16465588656,,9446322216# US (New York)
 - +16699006833,,9446322216# US (San Jose)
 - Meeting ID: 944 632 2216
 - Reminder: Next meeting – Wednesday, June 19th (3:00 pm EST / 2:00 pm CST / 1:00 pm MTN / 12:00 noon PST)

Prayer Requests

- For Janet, on June 1, as she stands for election in the Dioceses of El Camino Real as Bishop