

Assessment Review Committee
October 7, 2019
Minutes of the Meeting

Attending the call were: Mally Lloyd, Kurt Barnes, Nancy Koonce, Rosalie Ballentine, Jim Taylor, Mark Lattime, Mike Klusmeyer, and Mark Stevenson, and Nancy Caparulo.
Regrets: Patty Downing, Greg Rickel.

Mally called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Mark Lattime offered a prayer.

The Agenda was moved, seconded and approved as presented.

Mally articulated the main goal of the meeting as that of deciding the waivers that will be taken to EC on the 18th of October.

Colorado – Patty worked with them. They set a 15% goal for 2022. Mally suggested approve the plan and the waiver for 2020 and 2021. Moved (Koonce), seconded (Ballentine) to approve.

Europe – a more complicated situation. A pledge was received for 2020 but no step-up plan was received. Mike had spoken with Bishop Eddington at the HOB meeting. They are taxed for things our church isn't taxed on and this needs to be factored in. The executive officers weighed in that the Convocation is not a diocese and recommended a waiver. A number is needed to apply the assessment to. Mark Stevenson added that the outcome of the Executive Leadership team was that there was a debate within the group but everyone was in favor of a waiver for a variety of reasons. They have representation at Convention – both voice and vote – but they are not a diocese, which all agreed, but a look needs to be taken at clarifying how they are treated. The waiver would be given for 2019 and 2020. The Convocation gave 8.7% in 2019 and 9.0 In 2020. Their absolute contribution is up \$500, about 9%. If their tax is removed from diocesan income the pledge results at 12.5%. Kurt will provide this information to the committee. They're only about 2.5 points away from 15%. Everyone agreed with that approach. Moved to grant waiver on 80% of income, seconded, and carried.

Honduras – if the diocese agreed \$1500 for 2019 it would be given a one-year waiver. Kurt has communicated with Bishop Allen but has not had a response from him. Discussed a process for obtaining an answer.

Follow-ups:

Alabama – Rosalie contacted them via e-mail. She has not had a response. They were at 12.8% for 2019. Nothing formal has been received. There was some curiosity around the decrease in their giving. No waiver has been applied for. They will be retained on the follow-up list.

Albany – Kurt has been in contact. They asked for information about how to apply for a waiver. The material was sent and no response has been received. Mark S spoke with Bishop Love at the HOB meeting. He wasn't sure the ARC would consider a waiver request. The diocese is trying to figure out a way to go forward with TEC.

Dallas – still nothing from them.

Ecuador Central – Bishop Scantlebury contacted Kurt after the assessment letter went out, expressing his surprise at the dollars generated by 15%. Mark S will be traveling there soon and will be able to have some conversation. Rosalie discussed the issues about the income stream in Province IX and the possibility of assessing that province differently. This will be discussed further at the face-to-face meeting in December as well as how to work with folks that have a totally different tax structure from our own. Mally asked Kurt to contact Bishop Scantlebury about moving their assessment higher. Should a waiver based on that conversation be approved? Moved, seconded, and carried to approve said waiver.

Florida – diocesan council voted to move toward 15% and the bishop, on legal advice, said not until it is voted at convention. This is on hold until there is a vote in January. Mike called Bishop Johnson and has gotten no response.

Fond du Lac – no more information and no plan. They intended 12% in 2020. The giving is going down over two years. They had written concerning their grant(s). The suggestion of keeping the level of giving where it was in 2019 was considered a good one. They want a waiver – they desire to reach 15%. Suggested a two-year waiver for 12% (2019—2020) and keep talking about 2021. Their numbers have been flat for three years. They should be asked to stretch. “No less than the percentage you paid the year before.” 11.9% in 2019. The letter commits to 12% for 2020. They should be encouraged to express their desire to get to 15%. This needs to be revisited and a further discussion of what is a “viable” diocese.

Rio Grande – nothing more from Bishop Hunn. Mike connected with him at the HOB. He is committed to getting to 15% faster than they have indicated. Parishes have not been forthcoming about their financial information and a great deal of mistrust exists across the diocese. Kurt suggested saying okay for 2019 and keeping the conversation going. 2019 – 6.2%. Grant a waiver for that and keep talking. Mark S suggested there would be growth. Rosalie observed there is no plan, their number is awfully low, and giving them a waiver doesn't feel right. It was agreed that a waiver request should come from the diocese. Mike will contact Bishop Hunn, stressing that they need to put in writing their plans for 2019 and 2020. A waiver could be considered for both years. 2020 needs to move substantially toward double digits. No vote was taken at this meeting. The committee can vote by Extranet when more information comes in.

Pennsylvania -15% pledged for 2020. They are at 8.2% for 2019 and a waiver is needed. ARC will recommend a waiver for 2019 and look at 2020 if they fall short of 15%. Moved (Rosalie), seconded and carried. The bishop contacted the PB and Kurt about their pledge. Kurt will send him an e-mail to let him know the decision. They can apply for a waiver for 2020 if their convention does not approve 15%.

Springfield – is not seeking a waiver.

Eastern MI – will be at 15%

Milwaukee – 14.9% in 2019; Kurt will contact. (Discussed with Bishop; they deducted \$150K instead of \$140K and will remit the balance to be at 15%.)

Maine is at 16.2%

Recap: Waivers have been recommended for Ecuador Central (if they confirm with Kurt they'll move to \$2,500), Fond du Lac, and Pennsylvania.

Mike will get further information from Rio Grande and then the committee will vote on the Extranet. Province IX – we don't know the percentage of what number. Discussion continues. Meeting in Baltimore December 4 – 6. Do some work and make phone calls to see if things can be moved along. Agenda items are being collected and Mally invited other ideas for the meeting at the Maritime Center.

Mally will post her report to EC Finance Committee and invited comments from the committee. Rosalie closed the meeting with prayer at 1:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee