

ASSESSMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Membership

The Rev. Mally Ewing Lloyd, <i>Chair</i>	Massachusetts, I	2018
Mr. Victor A. Feliberty-Ruberté, Ph.D.	Puerto Rico, IX	2018
The Rt. Rev. William Michie Klusmeyer	West Virginia, III	2018
The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime	Alaska, VIII	2018
The Rev. Brandon Mauai	North Dakota, VI	2018
The Rev. Michele Ann Racusin	San Joaquin, VIII	2018
The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel	Olympia, WA, VIII	2018
Canon Rosalie Simmonds Ballantine, Esq.	The Virgin Islands, II	2018
The Rev. Dr. James E. Taylor	South Carolina, IV	2018
The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	North Carolina, IV	2018
The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	Ohio, V	2018
Mr. N. Kurt Barnes, <i>Treasurer</i>	New York, II	2018
The Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Barlowe, <i>Staff Liaison</i>	California, VIII	2018

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

- Mr. T. Dennis Sullivan, Chair (resigned)
- Ms. Jane Cislucis (resigned)
- The Rt. Rev. C. Andrew Doyle (resigned)

Mandate

Executive Council, meeting in Linthicum Heights from January 9-11, 2015, approved the creation of a Diocesan Assessment Review Committee, under the oversight of the Joint Standing Committee Finances For Mission (FFM), to work with dioceses that do not commit to pay their full assessment to The Episcopal Church in any year, to talk with diocesan leaders about the reasons for not paying the full amount, including reviewing diocesan financial statements, and to encourage and work with such dioceses to create a plan for reaching the full assessment amount.

The Diocesan Assessment Review Committee has the authority to recommend that Executive Council grant a full or partial Waiver of Assessment to any diocese, allowing it to pay a lower assessment amount than levied in The Episcopal Church's budget, based on financial hardship, an appropriate plan for reaching the full assessment over time, or other factors.

Summary of Work

MEETINGS

The Assessment Review Committee [ARC] met once face-to-face and had three (3) teleconference calls. A second face-to-face meeting is scheduled for 2018.

Beginning January 1, 2019, assessments of dioceses to support the triennial budget are mandatory. The Assessment Review Committee was charged with creating a process whereby those dioceses which by reason of financial hardship cannot meet their full assessment as set by General Convention, can apply for a waiver. Because the assessment for 2019-2021 will not be set until the 2018 General Convention, the final waiver cannot be granted until the October 2018 meeting of Executive Council

At the first meetings, the committee discussed the theological underpinnings of assessments and granting waivers including unity, catholicity, universality and abundance. Members were in agreement that the waiver application process should not be punitive, but conversational and relational-focusing on developing financial health and diocesan participation in the fullness of the church. And the committee is open to the idea that for some dioceses full compliance may not mean reaching the full assessment.

In regular conversation with Executive Council's Joint Standing Committee on Finances for Mission, ARC developed a two (2) phase process for those dioceses who in not at full compliance in the current triennium to apply for a waiver for 2019-2021. Bishop members of ARC kept the House of Bishops informed of the committee's intentions and solicited the bishops support and feedback.

In November 2016, diocesan bishops and finance officers/treasurers were invited to let the committee know that their diocese intended to apply for a waiver by January 15, 2017. Each diocese was assigned a contact person from the ARC. By the end of 2017, eight (8) congregations that were previously out of compliance were planning to be at the full assessment in the next triennium, ten (10) indicated that they will apply for waivers, ten (10) dioceses did not respond to the ARC's invitation, and one (1) diocese reported that it will not apply for a waiver and it will not pay its full assessment. Executive Council included a line item for waivers in its draft of the 2019-2021 budget based on these initial conversations.

In December 2017, the formal waiver application began. The ten (10) dioceses that wish to apply for waivers were asked to submit a narrative, up to three (3) pages, that describes their diocese's financial hardship with a plan and timeline for coming to full compliance in the coming triennium. Or if the diocese felt that full compliance would be unattainable in this triennium, it should propose a payment schedule for each year of the 2019-2021 triennium. Also required were diocesan budgets for 2017 and 2018 budgets and the most recent audited financial report. All due by January 15, 2018. At the same time, the committee once again reached out to the ten (10) dioceses that had not responded to the initial communications and invited them to make a formal application.

Budget

The Budget of \$20,000 was adequate to cover the cost of the committee's work.

Continuance Recommendation

Since the waiver process is required by canon, The Assessment Review Committee should continue in the next triennium.

The Rev. Mally Ewing Lloyd
Assessment Review Committee, *Chair*