Executive Council Standing Committee on Finance

May 19, 2020

Minutes of the Tele-Meeting

Attending the meeting: Anne Hodges-Copple, Cornelia Eaton, Mally Lloyd, Diane Pollard, Holli Powell Sturm, Anne Kitch, Zena Link, Andrea McKellar, Gay Jennings (President HOD), Byron Rushing (VP HOD), Mike Ehmer (Chair, PB&F), Patrick Haizel, Kurt Barnes, Nancy Caparulo, Margareth Crosnier de Bellaistre, Cecilia Malm, and T.J. Houlihan. Excused: Patty Downing.

Mally called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM EDT. Diane offered a prayer. There was an update concerning Patty, who has asked to be replaced as chair of the budget committee.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the agenda.

Observations were aired concerning the Executive Council meeting. Support was expressed for the neediest communities being the focus for accepting the PPP. That is to be kept foremost in mind concerning the budget work. The aim is to have recommendations to EC by June 1. Mally has asked the chairs of the other EC committees to have a look at the recommendations. This group will meet May 26 from 5:00 to 6:30.

The budget review continued with the communication section. HR policies, it was noted, are under the purview of the EC. Gay was concerned about the discontinuation of staff development for the rest of the year. There is an accrual for the PB installation and a large reduction in the freelancers’ line, where staff has begun to fill the gap. The church has bought video equipment, eliminating the need for some consultants. Podcasts and PB videos will be done in the new video center.

Anne observed that communities with the fewest resources are keenly aware of the need to have a worthwhile online presence. Cornelia spoke to the efficacy of the online work being done in Navajoland. An unexplored area is how to convert a web surfer to a community member.

Lines 272 – 283 Web development, Facebook and other social media evangelists. Reductions have been made in computer hardware and software.

Lines 285-296 Noted: small reductions in travel compared with other departments.

Lines 298 – 309 Episcopal Digital network is 12% reduced.

Lines 311-336 Digital Evangelism (outward looking) Podcasts are covered here. The consultant line was reduced. Consultants are relied on markedly less with better staff in place. It was noted that there was no reduction made in computer hardware and software at all. Kurt will explore the reason.
Lines 339-349 Language and translation services were able to reduce their equipment line since they had upgraded significantly last year. Discussion covered the request to not ‘chat’ during a meeting that the interpreter can’t manage while translating.

Line 366 – Discussion whether campus ministry grants can be repurposed for virtual activities.

Line 357a – there may need to be more investigation with Interim Bodies concerning this line.

Block Grants – no changes. Ecuador Central has asked for continuation of their block grant through 2022. Honduras has requested an additional grants of $410K for 2020. Gay said there should be a strategy to deal across the board with requests like this. Mally and Kurt will discuss this out of committee. Line 402 was clarified as sustainability grants for ministry within. This line may be up for a vote by EC in June. The request is being written now. PB&F worked long and hard on this area so that the grant recipients would have a say in how their funds are used. Total Mission Within reflects an 8% change.

Lines covering Mission Beyond. Dramatic cuts are reflected for travel and international visitors. Global mission development will be explored further.

Line 429 – Cuba should be moved to mission within. Kurt will make the appropriate adjustment.

Line 436 – Covenant long-term development - need to find out the nature of the grants and to whom. Clarification was made that all grants that have been awarded by EC to date will be paid. It was agreed that grants to the under-resourced should go forward as well.

Line 412 – Inter-Anglican secretariat office grant will be on the “hard discussion” list.

International Justice and peace-making. This is UN oriented. Would cutting the budget affect any of the programs that come to the UN that have to do with health, AIDS, etc? Our primary money in that area covers the staff person, who is not impacted here, and the support of the UN Conference on the Status of Women, which was cancelled for 2020.

Line 451-459 - Loan collection through EMM continues. Kurt has seen repayments come in the mail. April’s collections were slightly above those of March.

Missionary Service – have Mission Beyond take a look at these lines and make recommendations. YASC will be very attractive in the recession since people will be unable to travel in 2020. Those programs within the US are going forward perhaps sooner than the international ones.

OGR (470-477) All agreed that they are sorely needed and they’re down one staff member.

Ecumenical and Interfaith – Line 480 needs further explanation.

There was a request that a value be assigned to the services given to the agencies that are housed in the church center. Lines 503-509 cover these costs.

Governance - Line 532 covers things produced according to the canons. Line 522 – since there are bishops who are postponing their retirements, there may be an opportunity for savings here.
Lines 542-545 – no change.

House of Deputies – Gay may be able to reduce the travel line further, since the travel ban has been extended to Labor Day.

Archives – Mally will ask them for a report.

Finance and Legal – Donor cultivation reduced by 50% was questioned. That came from events, meals, travel. Grant writing consultants are no longer being used as this is being done in house.

The finance office is reduced by one staff member in accounts receivable. Staff is doubling up.

Legal – the review left off at line 613.

January and February budget numbers are available.

Thursday morning the Executive Committee meets to discuss the agenda for EC. Mally asked the committee to look at the questions sent by Jane Cisluycis so they can be discussed later this week. GCO would like to know who will take care of the Blue Book writing for the committee. This is a brief narrative of what happened in Finance over the triennium. The writer needs to be identified by May 29. Andrea volunteered to manage the resolutions.

Zena prayed the committee out at 6:32 PM. The committee will continue its review tomorrow at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee