

Minutes of the Standing Committee
January 15, 2019

Present: +Audrey Scanlan, John Harwood+, John Wolgemuth, Amy Swiernik, Jim Strader-Sasser+, Barbara Hutchinson+, Drew Dorgan, Susan Landin, Michael Naylor+, and Nicolette Norris.

Absent: Patrick Pierce+

After sharing personal experiences that illuminate lessons from Corinthians, we turned to the consent to the election of the Rev. Jennifer Reddall (diocese of Arizona) and the Rev. Phoebe Roaf (diocese of West Tennessee). John moved and John+ seconded that we give our consent, which we unanimously did.

Chad Linder summarized the most recent meeting with St. John's-Lancaster. The church wants to convert its line of credit with Fulton Bank to a loan for an additional year (the amount is \$645,000 with 65% in collateral). Jeff+ moved and Anthony seconded a motion that we approve this change. The motion passed unanimously. St. John's also agreed to its Fair Share for 2019.

St. Luke's-Altoona wishes to sell a parcel of vacant land bought for \$18,000 to a local doctor for about \$65,000; the Altoona school district has offered \$60,000. Barb+ moved and John+ seconded a motion that we ask the parish seek an appraisal of the lot. The motion carried unanimously.

+Audrey reported that Amy S. has joined the staff in a part-time role as events coordinator. We then discussed the best way to handle communication about sexual abuse within the diocese and the national church. Is a pastoral letter (which must be read from the pulpit) the best way to proceed? We saw pros and cons for each of the possibilities. The sense was it would be best for the bishop to send a letter to each parish for distribution by whatever means seem appropriate.

The Finance Committee continues to struggle with a better approach to the Fair Share.

We then talked about the goals for the retreat with COM, SSM, the bishop and, Dan Morrow. It would be helpful for all of us to understand the ordination flow-chart, the demographics of our diocese, the changing patterns of formation, new models for pastoral and sacramental ministry, and diocesan statistics (number of parishes w/o priests; declining number of parishes with full-time or part-time priests in our diocese). Nationally, we have fewer ordained priests than Episcopal parishes; the number of retirements exceeds the number of graduates from seminary; part-time or multi-point or non-stipendiary positions are increasing. What will we look like in 5-10 years in our diocese? What patterns of lay and ordained formation seem wisest?

For our next meeting, we will read chapter 2 in *The Agile Church*. Let us come with our own question relevant to chapter 2.

Following our vespers service, we shared what was most striking about the meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 5, at 1PM.

Our retreat with COM on Friday, March 8, will be held from 1-5 at St. Thomas-Lancaster.