

## **Standing Committee Minutes**

**March 18, 2023**

Meeting in Person and by Zoom

Committee Members: Bishop Eric Vawter Menees – President, Dcn. Leslie Arbegast (2023), Mr. David Chambers (2023), Fr. Carlos Raines (2024), Mrs. Karlyne Paul (2024), Mr. Paul Wagner (2025), Dcn. Chuck Kendall (2025), Fr. Luke Childs - Vice President (2026) & Mr. David Katzakian (2026)

Staff and Permanent Guests: Mrs. Hephzibah Hovsepian – Secretary, Canon David Francis – Treasurer

1. Opening Prayer - Fr. Childs
2. Agenda Approval  
Motion to approve: Mr. Paul Wagner  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Fr. Luke Childs  
Motion carried
3. Bible Study - Dcn. Arbegast  
Based on John 4: 1-10 Samaritan Woman
4. Minutes of February 2023 Meeting  
Motion to approve February Minutes as presented: Dcn. Chuck Kendall  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Mr. Dave Katzakian  
Motion carried
5. Financials
  - a. Financial Report - February 2023  
Canon David Francis presented the financial report and answered multiple questions in detail. The monthly percentage is 16.6%. The actual income percentage is 18.5%. The actual expenditure percentage is 14.3%. There is a cash balance of \$19,833.08 income over expenditure at the end of two months.  
  
Motion to approve Feb. Financial Report as presented: Mrs. Karlyn Paul  
2<sup>nd</sup>: David chambers  
  
Discussion followed:
    - i. Bishop Eric gave an account of his regular expenditures from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. These expenditures included support for Fr. Richard and Martha Menees who are our missionaries to Uganda with \$150 monthly. He also oversees 5 congregations in Mexico and supports Fr. Jose Luis with \$200 monthly. Fr. Luis visits the congregations and uses this support for his expenses (bus transportation, hotel, etc.).

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- ii. Mr. David Chambers brought up the idea of investing some of the Diocesan funds. After a discussion about possible option it was decided the Finance committee would meet, discussing investment plans and making a recommendation to the vestry.
  
- b. Written report for publication  
Motion to approve the first paragraph for publication: Mr. Paul Wanger  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Fr. Luke Childs  
Motion carried
  
- c. The question of expenditures regarding GAFCON arose. The bishop reported that the airline tickets, hotel & conference fees have been paid. Bp. Menees, Cn. Conkle, Fr. Hall, Fr. Miller and Fr. Richard & Martha Menees are the official delegates of the ADSJ. The diocese is covering the airfare for Bp. Menees, Cn. Conkle and Fr. Hall. ADSJ is covering the hotel and conference fees for Fr. Richard and Martha. Fr. Miller's congregation is covering all of his expenses.
  
- d. The Bishop explained that a prayer for our Companion Diocese of Kigezi in Uganda is posted on our Diocesan website and encourages everyone to use the posted material for the Prayers of the People.

6. Draft Whistleblower Policy

The Diocese of San Joaquin has set the standard for the province; however, one thing we do not have is a whistleblower policy.

Bishop Eric presented a draft of this policy to the committee. The Whistleblower policy's purpose is to improve the protection of our children and the vulnerable adults. Bishop has appointed Deacon Leslie Arbegast as the Diocesan Ombudsman (an advocate who assists in fulfillment of our protection policies).

The Ombudsman will be a resource to all the churches across the Diocese, making sure the policies are fulfilled as well as being the point person to call in case of a canonical violation. Diocesan Chancellor has received and will review this policy. The policy, once approved, will be added to Diocesan online resources and to the Rector's and Warden's Manual.

The Standing Committee is asked to pray about the Whistleblower Policy and be prepared to discuss it and vote on it at the next meeting.

7. COM Report

Although the Bishop is the final determiner of the ordination of the candidates, Commission on Ministry assists him in finding ways to meet the needs of the Diocese in this every changing system world. More and more ordained clergy from other denominations can be

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expected and the traditional processing of the candidacy should be adjusted when it comes to working with qualified candidates.

- Brandon LeTourneau – Commission on Ministry has met and approved him for candidacy.
- Dcn. Dave Peterson was ordained to the diaconate and has received an offer from Holly Cross in Sanger.
- Dcn. Jack Franicevich and the bishop are looking for a date for his ordination to the priesthood.

8. Bishop's Report – See the written report

9. Deanery Reports

- Fr. Luke Childs – Northern Deanery submitted a written report.
- Dcn. Leslie – Southern Deanery submitted a written report.
- Fr. Carlos Raines – Central Deanery submitted a written report.
- Dcn. Chuck Kendall – East West Deanery gave a verbal update.

*Closing Prayer – Eternal God and Heavenly Father, bless the Diocese of San Joaquin. Inspire us and strengthen our bonds to you and one another. Help us to witness to the saving power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that with Godly love, patience, and zeal we may win many hearts to the Truth once delivered. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Next Meeting – April 15, 2022