

Standing Committee Meeting
March 12, 2019

Scott, Tammy, Liz, Celia, , Gary, Andy

Consents

West Tennessee – Phoebe Roaf
Moved – Liz
Second - Celia
Unanimous

Northern CA – Megan Trauquair
Moved Jamey
Second -Tammy
Unanimous

San Diego – Susan Snook
Moved – Gary
Second – Celia
Unanimous

Texas – Katheryn Ryan
Moved – Tammy
Second – Liz
Unanimous

Maine – Thomas James Brown
Moved – Jamie
Second – Liz
Unanimous

Canons related to Standing Committees

Do we understand our role?

There is a mandate from the national church

The Diocese can supercede the national canons in some few instances

We now have a document that lists the mandates from the national church

We, as a body, need to decide our interpretation of the canons.

We need to be clear about our job

First and foremost to protect the properties of the parishes and the diocese

We have documents from other dioceses that state that the sale of property has to be with the consent of the Standing Committee

Those decisions do not rest with the Executive Council – they can engage a realtor

The final decision to sell has to go through the Standing Committee

We as a body need to decide how to move forward with this knowledge – we need to be compassionate, pastoral, and accountable

Do we need to go back to past property sales and look for paper trails?

We could raise the examples of recent sales and look to see what was done

There was some agreement that

We should get clear about our interpretation and move forward – not look backward

There is a real lack of communication – the Standing Committee is not getting any of this information about property sales

The Bishop's interpretation, after consultation with the Chancellor, Stuart Parsons, is that property reverts to custody and control of the ordinary and so sale of the property does not have to clear the Standing Committee

Other Dioceses don't interpret the canons in that way

Article V Sec 6 Cession of Properties

1.7.3 Encumbrance of property requires consent

13.2b

13.3a

6.2

We need to compose a letter that describes our role in these processes and ask that we be allowed to fulfill our canonically mandated responsibility

We need a paper argument – documented – we may need to ask for some help from the national church about our mandate as a standing committee

This is our effort to work with him to firm things up and create clarity in the life of the diocese – we have a mandate to be sure that we are in order. He has told us that he is coming to the end of his episcopacy and wants to put things in order.

We might want to talk to Tom Scrivner before we engage the Bishop

We need to be sure that we are performing our canonically mandated responsibilities because we are the legally responsible body

We don't want to look backwards but there are properties that are on the block now.

We need to look at the Diocesan canons to see what they say about all of these matters

The Bishop has asked us to “be” the Property Committee so we are simply responding to his request by bringing this up

We don't have a history of working with the Bishop. It is not common that a Bishop not meet with the Standing Committee.

We can outline what we understand our job to be, outline our responsibilities going forward be ready for the call to new leadership. Part of the reason we are doing this is to have things in place when a new Bishop arrives.

We can thank him for the mandate to be the property comm – now we are discovering what we need to be doing....

We are aware of what is happening in the larger church

You asked us to get more involved in property

We are doing our due diligence

Specifically around the consent piece

Gary will reach out to Tom Scrivner

Liz will continue to examine the canons

We need to create a first draft of a letter at our next meeting

Liz will put together a group of documents from other dioceses

June 4 – meet on the first Tuesday in June so we can meet with Seminarian Mike McElwee
COM will meet with him at 6:00 and then us at 6:45

Scott will look through his folder to make sure it is complete

Next meeting is April 9