

Diocese of Easton Combined Meeting  
Diocesan Council and Standing Committee  
Monday October 27, 2025

Granville Blades - present  
Chrissy Aull - present  
Rev Sichangi - present  
Rev Kamihachi - present  
Kay Ferraro - present

Andrew Cropper - present  
Vic Evans - present  
Lynda Habel -present  
Susan Leight - present  
Marion Robinette - present

Rev. Clayville - present  
Myron Richardson - present  
Sally Rifenburg - present  
James Fitzgerald - present  
Rev. Southern – present

Standing Committee members present-  
Rev. Darcy Williams, Jim Cockey, Rev. Greg Powell, Debra Dragone, Linda Hurley,  
Rev. Charlotte Meyer

Guests – Ned Aull, Julia Connelly Zahn, Bishop Bud Shand

Documents previously distributed:

Budget summary 2026 draft and Big Picture, agenda, Nominating Committee member list, Resolution for Transactions, Addendum to Traditional Deacon LOA, Standing Committee liaison to Diocesan Committee assignments, Camp Wright report.

(No prior minutes distributed. They will be held for approval on Nov 24, 2025.)

Granville Blades opened with prayer – 6:30

**Agenda III -Nominating Committee for Diocesan Positions** – Sally Rifenburg – reviewed attached list of nominating committee, Darcy reviewed expectations, Andrew moved to consent, Stephanie seconded, Sally abstained, unanimous to approve.

**Agenda IV** - Camp Wright- Julia Connelly – by zoom- Julia reviewed the attached report, focused on rental season revenue as a significant source of revenue, opening registration on time in November, new registrar now on board, Camp Wright staff saying prayers as the Diocese pursues discernment. Confirmed an upcoming event to announce shoreline restoration. Julia left the meeting.

**6:41 Agenda V** – Personnel Committee- Ned Aull – presented on the work of the Committee on 1) stipend for Deacons and eligibility for Church Pension Fund and 2) professional membership in Association for Episcopal Deacons (AED), reviewed addendum. Ned explained the methodology to seek completion of the addendum by all Deacons. AD Laura Harbaugh has agreed to be available to anyone that needs assistance to complete this addendum. Advised that the Committee is updating more comprehensive LOA's for Deacons which will be submitted at a future date. No questions, Darcy expressed her appreciation for the work of the Committee. Ned left the meeting.

**6:48 Agenda VI** - Welcome to Bishop Shand – Darcy made introductions of Rt Rev James “Bud” Shand, Assisting Bishop. Bishop Shand expressed his appreciation for the recent funeral service for Rev Bernie Schroeder. Noted he has no ecclesiastical authority. He is looking forward to visiting parishes. He received an invitation to join the meeting and stay throughout.

**Agenda VII** – 6:53 – Clergy transitions – Darcy Williams - Darcy shared that Bishop Shand is providing pastoral presence, preside over confirmations, assisting Bishop in a part time position, he will be available on some Sundays and Mondays, part time on Tuesdays. Standing Committee becomes Ecclesiastical Authority as of October 18, 2025 – tasked with anything that the bishop would do related to the business of the Diocese, Darcy being Chair. All Standing Committee members were present at the meeting for a fresh round of introductions. Standing Committee

appointed Discernment Committee to address the question: “What is God calling us to do on the Eastern Shore of Maryland?” Darcy observed that it is now important to pursue “Listening and Healing” in this Diocese based on a great deal of hurt. She emphasized that we all need to hear other people’s stories. Steering Committee is planning the first event on November 15, 2025, with consideration for other events. It is encouraged that every parish strive to be represented with love, care, and respect. Future options for the Diocese will be considered once we are through the healing process. Bishop San was aware of the listening process and blessed same. It is important to enable a peaceful separation process for Bishop San and his family. Darcy opened the floor to questions.

Members of the Council conveyed their appreciation to Darcy and the Steering Committee. Myron noted that Darcy and the Standing Committee stepped in to prepare the budget in August with Bishop San’s approval.

Reviewed SC liaison assignment to the various committees. Darcy had forwarded a list before the meeting. Every committee in Diocese has a liaison. The assigned liaison will reach out to Committee chairs. Members of Council are encouraged to share the list.

#### **Agenda VIII, cont. – Clergy Transitions – Darcy**

With no Canon to the Ordinary, Lynn Anstatt has been appointed as temporary contact for transitions in parishes.

Standing Committee is in communication with consultants and in discussion with regard to identifying a new Canon to Ordinary. Several options are available.

Charlotte noted that the parishes in transition might consider reaching out to other parishes that are further along in transition, including CCKI and Wye Parish.

New transitions – St. Alban’s – Margaret Brack has left the DOE. Working with supply clergy. All Faith Chapel – Loretta Collins has left to accompany her husband Rev. Patrick Collins to Ft Wayne, Indiana. Morning Prayer with Supply Priests in January. They have a need for clergy to lead Christmas Eve service. Rev. Wright joining Christ Church Easton. Christ Church KI has called Terence Lively, a Lutheran seminarian to be their curate.

#### **Agenda IX – update on Gather Listen Connect – Chrissy, Charlotte, Susie**

As members of Steering Committee for Gather Listen Connect, Chrissy, Charlotte and Susie provided update on the November 15<sup>th</sup> gathering. Registration forms have just gone out. The committee wants to encourage attendance from every parish, while noting the capacity limit of 200. Primary goal of the Committee is to provide a “safe space” for members to share their range of emotions and responses to recent past Diocesan leadership situations. Charlotte urged everyone to attend as there is room and listening for everyone’s thoughts, opinions, hopes. There were some questions with regard to those who cannot attend on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The Committee is ready to plan one to two more events in the new year. The Committee asks every guest to register as food will be served.

Standing Committee was dismissed from the meeting.

**Diocesan Council meeting** – (noted that Marion Robinette, Council member, left the meeting.)

**Agenda XI** – Present first draft of Budget – Myron and Megan – Megan shared screen for zoom attendees.

Megan expressed thanks to the Finance Committee – Darcy and Debra from SC.

Megan – It is challenging to build a budget in this time of transition. The Finance Committee has been working on this since September and reviewed the figures multiple times. Big picture overview: Myron offered that it is required by Canon that the budget proposal be within 1% of a plus or minus budget.

Apportionment income is looking steady with 19 pledges to date. Many parishes are in touch with Megan with most pledging 100% of their designated apportionment. Megan distributed a written summary.

EEF is very stable.

Megan noted that the funds that were extra due to no Bishop employed for a portion of 2026 is in a holding space so that we are prepared for an incoming Bishop in 2027 or beyond

Next year 2026 projected staff expenses are up due to a full time Canon, (which is different than our recent past Canon who was part time), full time Youth

Missioner and part time Latino missioner. Chrissy expressed her appreciation for the full time Canon and the FT Youth Missioner with suggestion that the future Youth Missioner will not be expected to take on multiple responsibilities other than Youth and Family. Darcy indicated her understanding.

An explanation was provided concerning the COLA increases.

Discussion around conversations with Saint Paul's by the Sea which has pledged \$0. Standing Committee is in conversation with this parish. They are not expected to pay anything this year, but the situation is reversible. Some level of discomfort expressed with the zero pledge was expressed by members of Diocesan Council.

There was some discussion around changes in the canons Diocesan Council has authority to arrange payment plan for all apportionments not paid. Apportionments are not forgiven, per Canons. Suggested by a member that consideration be given by DC going forward to this approach. Darcy shared what information she could as a rep of the Standing Committee and noted the intent is to not forgive the apportionment. St Paul's by the Sea has not paid anything for 2025 and is pledging zero for 2026. Member conversation was held around importance of following policy/canons and avoiding precedents. Darcy indicates SC is working in a way that produces results/payments which involves working with St. Paul's in a pastoral manner. She does not feel a more rigid approach in this situation will reach the results we desire. Darcy noted that the SC became officially involved this past Monday as the Ecclesiastical Authority and a schedule of interactions has not yet been agreed to. Consideration given to future conversations on this topic. There is no penalty recorded due to a lack of apportionment payment. Most non-payments due to inability, not due to conflict. The former provision indicating consequences due to non-payment have been removed from canons. The Council expressed support and appreciation to the SC for their effort to resolve this situation

Conversation around St Andrew's, Hurlock: Listening Committee and Pastoral Care Committee – in frequent conversation , large food pantry – ASA very low – 4 or 5, Diocese is providing significant support for staff work, Listening Committee feels it is important that as a Mission that St. Andrews not have to pay an apportionment. Asking DC to forgive the 2026 Apportionment due to the circumstances at St.

Andrew's. There was indicated agreement to forgive the St. Andrews apportionment due to their financial status. No further comment or questions.

Megan noted the need for a person to join the effort to close St Paul's Vienna. Involves reaching out to other non-profits who might be interested in purchasing the building. Transfer the assets of the parish. There is a much left to be done on this. Canon 607- parishes under pastoral consultation, noted by Darcy.

Vic requested a note be placed on the budget to explain the exemption for St Andrew's. This is a small apportionment.

There was a request to strike the three asterisks by Chesapeake City Augustine Parish on the budget sheet. Myron offered that the Listening Committee met with St Augustine, working aggressively to get back on track but there are many buildings to be maintained so Myron is not confident of 100% apportionment.

Vic moved to approve the draft first round Budget for 2026, Nicholas seconded, one vote not to approve, all others vote to approve. This round of budget is passed. (Noted that two Diocesan Council members may not have been present on zoom to vote.)

Council expressed appreciation to Megan for her dedicated work on the budget.

8:17 **Agenda XII** – Grace Church - DC needs to approve resolution which was previously forwarded. Authorizes Myron and Granville to sign documents

Andrew made motion, Susie seconded, vote to approve unanimous.

Chrissy has to take resolution to the bank for signature.

Next meeting – Nov 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Adjourned 8:20 p.m.