The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

The Standing Committee

28 February 2018

Attendance: Members - Sarah Peters, Michael Hartney, Lois Giess, Susan Woodhouse, Robert Picken, Cameron Miller, Carolyn Mok, Richard Hamlin; Bishop - Prince Singh

The meeting was convened in the Diocesan offices at Saint Peter’s Church, Henrietta, New York, at 3.58 pm.

An opening prayer was offered by Robert Picken. Themes: Lent – Temptation/George Herbert/Relationship with Christ/Humility before God. He read Herbert’s poem: *Love Bade Me Welcome.*

Robert asked if a guest, a seminarian at Saint Paul’s Rochester, could attend a future meeting of the Standing Committee. After discussion a motion was offered that the Standing Committee invite Taylor Daynes to attend a future meeting of the Standing Committee, subject to exclusion regarding confidential matters. Moved, (Robert)/Seconded (Susan). Passed (7 yes; 1 no).

The Agenda was presented. Moved (Carolyn)/Seconded (Lois) Passed.

The minutes of December 20, 2017, were presented. Moved (Lois)/Seconded (Carolyn) Passed.

Update on Current Postulants. Dale VanWormer, Josh Barrett, Nathan Kohlmeier, Keisha Stokes, Melanie Duguid-May, and Mark Brumitt

* Dale: The Bishop will be visiting Dale at Nashotah House in March. He is a middler. He will be coming to the Standing Committee soon for his Candidacy interview.
* Josh: He is in the 2nd Semester at Virginia Theological Seminary.
* Nathan: He and his spouse live in Massachusetts, and by mutual agreement (Nathan/COM/Bishop) will begin the process again in the Diocese of Massachusetts. He is no longer a Postulant of the Diocese.
* Keisha: She is in the 2nd semester at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. She will be placed at Incarnation Penfield soon for field placement.
* Melanie: She is a professor at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. Her field placement is at Saint Luke’s Branchport.
* Mark: He is a professor at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. His field placement will be determined later and will begin in June.

Future plans for interviews of postulants for candidacy were discussed.

*[Todd Rubiano joined the meeting, 4:35 pm.]*

Todd shared information regarding potential property sales: 1) Saint Luke’s Fairport is considering selling a parcel of their land.; 2) Zion Avon is considering selling their rectory.; 3) Christ Rochester is considering selling a strip of land to a neighbor.; 4) Trinity Geneva’s development is pending before the local zoning board.

Todd shared that the Trustees are working on a plan to understand how diocesan properties are utilized and their future use. They include diocesan property in: Bolivar, Belvidere (and cemetery), Belmont, Montour Falls (Parish Hall), Webster (Saint Andrew’s Summer Chapel); Sodus Point (Christ Church Summer Chapel).

Todd presented information regarding the future of the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) benefit to retired clergy, their spouses, and widows. The proposal agreed to by the Trustees and Diocesan Council is to grandfather all clergy/spouses/widows who are currently receiving the benefit and those clergy who will retire on or before December 31, 2019. The Trustees have agreed to designate a funding stream to pay for the continued HRA benefit. Clergy receive a Church Pension Fund benefit for Medicare Supplement Insurance. A comparable lay benefit for a Medicare supplement plan is being studied by the Trustees. \*

***\**** *Clarifications to these minutes were adopted at the April 25, 2018, meeting. See those minutes for those clarifications.*

*[Todd Rubiano left the meeting,5:02 pm.]*

*[Robert left the meeting, 5:02 pm.]*

The Bishop’s report was considered. He highlighted: a) Krista Cameron has retired from Saint Luke’s Brockport; b) Saint John’s Catharine/Saint James’ Watkins Glen – Abi John who is the Priest at Good Shepherd Savona will be the part-time priest for each congregation. Abi became canonically resident as of November 2017. Abi and a supply priest will share the three congregations.; c) Saint Mark’s Newark has a candidate for Rector; d) Saint Stephen’s Rochester is in discernment with REACH (homeless ministry) regarding building apartments in the 19th Ward.; e) Zion Avon has called Virginia Mazzarella as Rector. She will begin in April.; f) The diocesan Deaf Ministry is in discernment with NTID and the larger Rochester deaf community. Grant money is being pursued. A candidate to be the Missioner is very interested.; g) The Task Force for the Christian formation of Youth and Young Adults have completed their work and reported to the Bishop.; h) The Commission on Ministry’s local discernment process has experienced some tension within congregations. A team approach is being considered which would enlarge the membership of a local discernment committee to include a larger pool of members from experienced discernment committee members in the diocese.; i) The Bishop is meeting with United Methodist colleagues regarding national full communion conversations which are underway.; j) Two United Thank Offering grants are to be submitted: 1- Saint Mark’s and Saint John’s (a neighborhood trauma recovery ministry) & 2 - Good Shepherd Webster and the Diocese of Costa Rica (a school/community building/church to be constructed in Costa Rica).

The Bishop proposed the Islamic Center in Rochester as the site of the 2018 Diocesan Convention, October 27, 2018. In accordance with Article II.1 it was moved to approve. Moved (Cameron)/Seconded (Susan) Passed.

Bishop Mark Lattime of Alaska has accepted the Bishop’s invitation to be the preacher.

As required by our Behavioral Covenants the committee members shared their feelings regarding the process observed for today’s meeting. They included: “Persons are willing to ask questions.” “There is a freedom in our conversations.” “There is evident trust between members and the Bishop.”

The closing prayers were led by Cameron Miller.

Prayer Requests:

Lois: Jenny

Cameron: Will

Bishop: Cara, Ruth, Sarah, the family pet dog, DACA young persons

Carolyn: Young people and their determination and advocacy

Richard: Peter

Susan: the World and our environment

Sarah: Peace and understanding with each other

Robert: his prayers *in absentia*

Motion to adjourn. Moved(Cameron)Seconded (Susan). Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hartney, Secretary