The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

The Standing Committee

20 December 2017

Attendance: Members - Sarah Peters, Michael Hartney, Lois Giess, Susan Woodhouse, Robert Picken, Carolyn Mok, Cameron Miller, Richard Hamlin; Bishop - Prince Singh   
 The meeting was convened in the Diocesan offices at Saint Peter’s Church, Henrietta, New York, at 4.01 pm.

An opening reflection on Advent (Zephaniah & Charlie Brown) was offered by Richard. Topic: “Don’t be afraid.”

The Agenda was presented. Moved (Richard)/Seconded (Susan) Passed.

The minutes of November 29, 2017, were presented. Moved (Robert)/Seconded (Carolyn) Passed.

The consent for the election of a Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Virginia was considered (Title III.11.9(b)(2)). Moved (Robert)/Seconded (Lois) Passed.

Correspondence received from members of the Advocates: The Reverend Marilyle Sweet Page (copied to the Standing Committee), The Reverend Dennis Wienk (addressed to the Standing Committee), and The Reverend Gary Sawtelle (addressed to the Standing Committee) was considered. All members and the bishop participated in the conversation. It was decided that the President will write a response that acknowledges receipt of the correspondence addressed to the Standing Committee.

*[4.45 pm Chief Financial Officer, Todd Rubiano, and members of Saint Peter’s Geneva, The Reverend James Adams and Bill McGowen, joined the meeting]*

Information regarding historic tax Credits for Saint Peter’s Geneva was shared. The Standing Committee was asked to give its written consent to the encumbrance that Saint Peter’s Church enter into a lease agreement with Saint Peter’s Academy. Moved (Michael)/Seconded (Cameron) Passed.

*[5.04 pm The Chief Financial Officer and members of Saint Peter’s Geneva left the meeting]*

*[5.06 pm Chief Financial Officer, Todd Rubiano, rejoined the meeting.]*

Motion: Move to Executive Session (with the bishop and Chief Financial Officer present) for the purpose of discussion of matters related to Trinity Church Geneva at 5.07 pm. Moved (Susan)/Seconded (Carolyn). Passed. Abstention: Cameron

*[5.13 pm The Chief Financial Officer left the meeting.]*

Motion: Moved to exit the Executive Session at 5.14 pm. Moved (Lois)/Seconded (Richard) Passed. Abstention: Cameron

The Bishop’s report was considered. He highlighted: a) the ordination of Michael Laver as Priest at Saint John’s Sodus; b) Krista Cameron is retiring as Rector of Saint Luke’s Brockport; c) Abi John is the Rector of Good Shepherd Savona; d) Saint Stephen’s has Sandra Cordingley as the covenanted supply priest; e) the Task Force for Christian Education and young people has been formed. A vision/plan will be presented to the Diocesan Council; f) the list of Postulants was shared; g) Roja’s book is coming together; h) Christmas Eve he will be at Saint John’s Wellsville.

The Bishop spoke about the Church of South India and its ecumenical orientation. There are many Church of South India (CSI) congregations in the United States. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is being developed nationally between the CSI and The Episcopal Church. He has been asked to convene the discussion in New York City. *\**

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

As required by our Behavioral Covenants the committee members shared their feelings regarding the process observed for today’s meeting: “This could have been a difficult meeting; but the process worked well.” “The process respected opinions.” “There was recognition of hurt.” “The President’s leadership was appreciated.” “Appreciation of the wisdom of the committee.”

Prayer Requests:

Lois: Canon Hanson wishes everyone well. The repose of the soul of Ruth Atwater.

Cameron: former parishioner, Will Clarkson

Bishop: a friend

Carolyn: our national leaders and wise decisions

The closing prayer for the Christmas season was offered by Lois.

Moved to adjourn (Michael)/seconded (Richard). Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hartney, Secretary