The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

The Standing Committee

21 March 2018

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

Excused: Cameron Miller

The meeting was convened in the Diocesan offices at Saint Peter’s Church, Henrietta, New York, at 4:01 p.m.

An opening prayer was offered by Susan Woodhouse. She offered a Prayer for Creation (based on Geneses 9:16), and a biographical sketch of the author’s text.

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

The Minutes of February 18, 2018, were presented. Moved (Lois)/Seconded (Susan) Passed.

*[Todd Rubiano, CFO, and from Saint Luke’s Fairport: The Revd Deven Hubert, Dave Crocker & Ralph Henderson (Wardens), Gail Murray (past Warden) joined the meeting at 4:08 p.m.]*

The representatives of Saint Luke’s Fairport presented their proposed sale of church property.

*[The CFO and the Representatives of Saint Luke’s Fairport left the meeting at 4:25 pm.]*

Motion to give Standing Committee approval, as required by New York State law and the document provided by the diocese, for the sale of property owned by Saint Luke’s Fairport: Moved (Robert)/Seconded (Richard) Passed.

Cameron, *in absentia*, provided a written update on Trinity Geneva.

The Bishop’s report was considered. He highlighted:

* The Holy Tuesday Renewal of Vows for clergy at Saint Peter’s Henrietta
* The *Racism, Our Church, and our Region: The Complex Past* report by the diocesan task force which will be published very soon. A study document will be prepared for all congregations.
* Hopes for a celebration of the multi-cultural diversity that is the Diocese of Rochester and the initiation of an engagement in diocesan training regarding racial justice, reconciliation and diversity.
* Strengthening a diocesan relationship with Saint Augustine’s University (Raleigh, NC), an Episcopal college.
* A youth/children/young adult plan is being developed.
* A liturgical hub to share resources/best practices is under development.
* Diocesan numerical growth is continuing.
* Bishop Wright of Atlanta will lead a workshop on leadership April 16th at Saint Peter’s Henrietta.
* *ROC the Diocese* youth event is coming up in April.
* A confirmation retreat for recent/future confirmands will be held at the Curtis Museum in Hammondsport in the Spring.
* The HRA communication roll-out was accomplished.
* Les Kernan, Esq., is receiving the Daily Record Corporate Counsel Award.

A new person is to be interviewed by the Commission on Ministry for Postulancy for the Diaconate: Susan Ouillette of Incarnation Penfield.

Congresswoman Slaughter’s remembrance service will be at the Eastman Theatre on Friday. The Diocese will be represented, in the Bishop’s absence, by Canon Ross and The Revd Ruth Ferguson, Rector of Christ Church Rochester.

The Committee engaged the Bishop in conversation regarding:

* The United Methodist Church ecumenical agreement with The Episcopal Church which will be considered by the General Convention in 2021.
* The Prayer Book revision proposals that will be considered by General Convention in 2018.
* Evangelism in the 21st century and how do we do it.

He shared his personal reflections and the sense of the House of Bishops at this time.

Future scheduling of Candidacy interviews was discussed.

As required by our Behavioral Covenants the committee members shared their feelings regarding the process observed for today’s meeting. It was noted that the guests from Saint Luke’s Fairport were well-prepared. All agreed that having the congregation’s representatives come to our meeting was helpful.

Closing prayers from the *Saint Augustine’s Prayer Book* were read by Richard Hamlin. He reminded us that Jesus was present here among us as we prayed.

Prayer Requests:

Lois: Life and Ministry of Canon Bill

Bishop: Life and witness of Kiara, the family’s pet Lab

Carolyn: Life and Ministry of Congresswomen Louise Slaughter

Richard: March Against Gun Violence participants; the homeless and those in need in East Coast cities in this severe weather season

Sarah: Cameron’s healing and others who are suffering; REACH home that is closing and a clear path forward for permanent housing for the homeless in the area.

Motion to adjourn. Moved(Robert)/Seconded (Lois). Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hartney, Secretary