

Minutes of the Standing Committee of Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

May 25th meeting of the Standing Committee in Regular Session

Date: Wednesday May 25th ,2022 at 6:00pm

Meeting held on ZOOM

Present: Mr. Michael Davis, Mr. Joseph DaBoll-Lavoie, The Very Rev's Leslie Burkardt, Ruth Ferguson, Kenneth Pepin; Mr. Floyd Bayley, Mr. Jeremy Cooney; The Rev. Nita Byrd; Mr. Jeremy Cooney, The Rt. Rev Steve Lane,

Guest: The Rev Dr. Gary Butterworth

The Very Rev. Ruth Ferguson welcomed us with an **opening prayer** focusing on the victims of gun violence in the wake of recent shootings in Buffalo and Texas.

There were no **consents** to process this month.

Minutes were approved by Floyd and Michael. All present were in favor.

Bishops Advisory Report

Acknowledged the spread of COVID among the clergy and the potential for new variants and waves to follow as we enter into an endemic phase of this virus. Even with the vaccines and other remedies Covid is taking a toll on our emotional well being adding to the stress levels and anxiety all around us.

Secondly, Bishop Steve shared with us the smaller and shorter General Convention and some of the plans still yet to be in place. There will be a delegation of 4 clergy and 3 lay and 1 bishop from Rochester,

July 7th thru 12th

Thirdly Bishop Steve gave us updates on the Diocesan Dean program and Title IV

We approved the **LOA** for our consultant and commissioned Michael our president to sign on our behalf Motioned by Ruth and seconded by Nita All present approved.

Discussion We entertained the thought of meeting soon as a committee to entertain questions posed by the bishop to the diocese at large. We hope by having such a forum ourselves it might help us to gather a better sense of where we are as a committee with regard to questions of vitality, readiness and vision. We also spent some time discussing our feelings about creative approaches to our future as church and the process of electing a new bishop.

Ruth brought out the idea that we need a “Crash Course” in where we are as an Episcopal Church that our consultant Gary might be able to help us with.

Our consultant Gary Butterworth arrived via zoom and he accepted our invitation and wanted to begin with a hearing of what we are thinking as a committee. A few of us shared some of our thoughts and then he led us through a wide brush view of the process and particularly the role of the Standing Committee in it.

- He acknowledged that we have time and if we would like to be more creative with the process we could.
- He would like us to have an in person overnight retreat as a Standing Committee with him as starting point to the process.

- He added that the dioceses that are successful in getting a greater number of applicants are those that are most transparent willing to show ones challenges as well as accomplishments. Authenticity is a greater value than the usual splash.
- He will also provide us with materials.

Other business

We agreed to communicate by email in setting up our next meeting.

There was no other business to discuss.

Jeremy closed us with a collective and heartfelt **prayer** for healing, peace and calm.

Your dutiful scribe (who is a bit under the weather)

Ken

