

Minutes of the Standing Committee of Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

July 27th meeting of the Standing Committee in Regular Session

Date: Wednesday July 27th,2022 at 6:30pm
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,; The Rev. Nita Byrd;

Absent: Mr. Jeremy Cooney, The Rt. Rev Steve Lane,

The Floyd welcomed us with a heartfelt **opening prayer** focusing on the discernment of electing a bishop.

Michael read for us "**The Covenantal Practices**" which we agreed is a practice we should consider each month we meet.

Minutes of the May 25th regular meeting were moved by Floyd and seconded by Leslie. All present were in favor.

Minutes for the Special Meeting in May were moved by Ruth and seconded by Floyd. There were two abstentions based on absence on the occasion..

We consented to the election of the bishop of Louisiana moved by Ruth and seconded by Leslie All present were in favor.

We consented to the election of the bishop of Connecticut moved by Leslie and seconded by Nita. All present were in favor,

Review of our retreat day: The overall consensus was positive as we felt that the retreat was helpful to kickstarting our process. We also agreed that we appreciate Gary Butterworth and his skills as a facilitator and consultant. We then got right into two of the tasks that flowed from the retreat.

The first was to discuss **a letter** we would write to basically update where we are as a Committee to the diocese focusing on our commitment to communicate.

Ruth and Michael were going to put together the frame of the letter and get it to us by a shared drive which we could edit and proof by Tuesday August 2nd.

The second we kicked around ideas of creating a **short video** with the help of Steve Richards our Communications guru. Joe came up with a much more workable plan to offer a **zoom** which we agreed to create at our next Regular Meeting on Aug 24th. We will consult with Bishop Steve and Steve Richards via Sarah who Nita will contact. Points that were accentuated were that we wanted it to be brief and to have Michael our president speak for us and perhaps have it somehow attached to Bishop Lane's monthly message.

All this in a wider effort to build a stronger relationship with the Diocese.

The Task force of Michael, Nita and Leslie met earlier this day and began to discuss how we will move forward in the coming weeks and months. They believe we need a timeline. They talked about the listening sessions and how we might break up into two or three members all working with the same script and questions to visit each parish beginning with the Southern tier. We all agreed the task is challenging yet incredibly important. Questions were raised as to how this will dovetail with the bishop's plan to meet for listening among the leadership team of council, trustees, district deans etc.

Ken shared that he contacted Paul Greene our Chancellor to see how best we can formulate a resolution for the diocesan convention to change our Constitution to present the Petition Process in lieu of the present practice of nominating from the floor. The Petition process offers time prior to convention to do the necessary background checks etc on potential nominees. Paul said that he would like to see if other dioceses have done this so as to draw from the language that would most fit our circumstances. Gary did not know offhand of any dioceses where the constitution needed changing but referred me to Mr Little from Vermont who is familiar with this process. Ken communicated that to Paul and will check with him next week as to where we are at.

We felt it is necessary for us to meet more often.

After some discussion we agreed to meet on **Tuesday at 2:30pm**. for those able to make it. The Task force has its plans and agenda to meet.

In addition to those plans we have the letter to work on and perhaps other business.

We went around the group and shared how we felt the meeting went. Adjectives like helpful, positive, encouraging, were balanced with concerns about transparency,

impatience, anxiety and need for listening to the quieter more introverted voices among us.

Our next regular meeting will be Wednesday August 24th, 2022 at 6:30pm via zoom.

Joe ended our session with a **prayer** of thanksgiving embracing those who are suffering around us.

From your lovable yet sometimes grumpy old secretary.

Ken+