

Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Date: January 13th, 2022 4:00pm

Present on ZOOM

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

Note: The Standing Committee had originally planned to be together in Naples for social gathering with Bishop Singh in order to bid our farewells as a committee and to catch up on any latest developments etc. Due to Covid we agreed to hold the meeting by zoom.

Opening Prayer: Ruth led us in a heartfelt opening prayer.

Previous Minutes: Seven approved the previous minutes. Michael was absent for the vote.

A vote of Consent for the Bishop of Ecuador was suspended until we vote by email at a later date allowing us more time to read the materials sent.

Bishops Report: Bishop Singh shared with us some memorable moments of his recent trip to South Africa. He then gave us an overview of what he has been doing in working with Bishop Lane in their working together in transition.. Bishop Singh let us know that he is keeping Bishop Lane up to date on two Title IV processes presently active in the diocese. Bishop Singh also spoke about the Diocesan Deans and their schedule and term of office giving Bishop Lane opportunity to acclimate himself to the process and also offers him some degree of flexibility in going forward.

Bishop Lane also offered some insights into his experience meeting with staff and diocesan deans. He also shared with the Standing Committee his general overview of the process going forward. Leslie asked a question of when exactly would the transition happen. Bishop Lane will be canonically in place by the 1st of February and on the 2nd of February will be leaving the diocese as it is his anniversary of fourteen years having been our bishop. Bishop Lane went on to clarify that the first few months of his provisional Episcopate is for us all to take a huge deep breath. He believes we need as a diocese to decompress, to pastorally listen to the experiences we have had of Prince to surface. For after fourteen years there is bound to be people who will miss him terribly and those who might be happy to see him moving on. His advice to us as Standing Committee is to allow these expressions to happen and not feel compelled to respond defensively or with anything other than. Thank you for sharing.

He later spoke about taking the time we need and not rush into the process piece. He described for us our role as overseeing the process of electing a new bishop and we will be working with a

consultant from the Episcopal Church to do this. The grunt work are to be done by two committees that we put together namely the Transition Committee and the Search Committee. Much has changed in the process in that we no longer committee members half around the world searching out candidates. It is much more streamlined and efficient.

Sharings:

We heard from Sen. Jeremy Cooney who was with us and had the opportunity to share a bit about his life and his experience with our diocese and it morphed into a voiced appreciation of the work with Bishop Singh. Other members also shared their thanksgivings and wishes to Prince. It was rather moving.

Next meeting of the Standing Committee will be February 23rd at 6pm.

Respectfully yours,

Ken

Secretary of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester