

Minutes of the Standing Committee of Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Date: March 23rd, 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, The Rt. Rev Steve Lane Mr. Jeremy Cooney; The Rev. Nita Byrd;

An **opening prayer** for guidance was offered by Nita.

Each of us **shared** what we have been up to in the last month since we met.

Previous minutes The Committee voted to approve the following minutes of January 13th, 2022 and March 3rd, 2022. There was one abstention on the March 3rd meeting due to absence.

Bishop Steve reviewed with us his thinking around the **Title IV process** and some concerns about objectivity and how the “intake officers representing the disciplinary board should be represented by a man and a woman.” Discussion continued around our process in this diocese and its implications affecting the victims, the clergy, the greater diocese and our profile in the larger community

We then discussed the **normalization of the Common Cup** perhaps around Easter time. There remains a great deal of concern around readiness in some of our parishes while others have already gone ahead. The bishop emphasized that before a parish goes in this direction that the clergy should educate its Eucharistic Ministers as to the sanitary practices in distributing the cup as well as the efficacy of receiving communion under one form. If one receives the **bread only**, they are not being short changed on the fullness of God's grace. The bishop will speak to the clergy at the renewal of vows.

The hour then reached 7 pm as we awaited **Bishop Ousley to join us on ZOOM!** Sadly, we received notice that he was caught up in a pastoral emergency and could not join us. Leslie will contact him about a date next week and will get back to the committee.

We spoke somewhat about the process of electing a new bishop. **Bishop Steve, our ecclesiastical authority**, offered a clearer insight into his role after spending time with the canons. Bishop Steve has sought the Presiding Bishop's office for a consecration

date. He does not expect to hear back on this for some time. Discussion continued about finding some type of process that would insure that everyone would participate in the most effective manner possible. We all agreed to move forward on this only after we meet with Bishop Ousley.

We then discussed the upcoming candidacy **interview for the diaconate of Roch Whitman**. We decided once we receive materials such as his spiritual autobiography that we will formulate questions and share them with each other prior to his interview. Bishop Steve reminded us that the work of the Standing Committee is one of recognizing impediments and not the work of discernment which falls to the Commission on Ministry. It is a critical role and our signature implies our confidence that there is nothing standing in the way; moral or otherwise that would hamper the Church and its ministry.

Michael then brought to the committee that **St Peter's Geneva** is seeking a letter of support from us for a Sacred Places grant. He is working with Todd Rubiano to get a copy of the lease before moving forward and having Paul Green our chancellor to accompany us in this process.

Here are some of **our thoughts** of how our meeting went. Excellent, sobering , informative, found the candor refreshing, appreciative of the patience, pleased, group effort, building confidence, kind hearted, appreciated the confidential nature of our discourse, covered serious ground, great job!

Our next meeting will be **TBD** citing some scheduling conflicts.

Thanks, growing humbler by the day, Ken.