

Minutes of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

November 16, 2022

On zoom

This meeting was recorded for the Rev Ruth Ferguson and the Rev Cam Miller who led a listening session in Wayne county.

Present: Mr. Floyd Bayley, the Rev. Nita Bird, Mr. Michael Davis, Ms. Elizabeth Salamone, the Very Rev Ken Pepin, the Rt Rev Steven Lane, Mr. Jeremy Cooney.

Absent: Ruth Ferguson & Cam Miller

Ken P opened with prayer; Michael D read the Standing Committee Covenant aloud; members of the committee “checked in” with each other about what’s happening in their lives.

Clarification was sought on consents for bishop elections: Ken was advised by Bishop Lane to connect with the General Convention Office to let them know he is the current S.C. president. Sarah B can help with that. They should be directly emailed to Ken P.

Ken asked for approval of previous minutes.

We hope Steve R can get updated S.C. minutes on diocesan website. People at listening sessions have asked to be able to see them as well.

October minutes will be voted on at the next meeting when people have the chance to read them.

Ruth will correct the October minutes to list Ken P as SC president.

Bishop’s Report Included:

- Bishop Lane observed that there is long term impact of pandemic on parishes, and that clergy in particular are feeling some exhaustion and are under stress about attendance, finance & pledges. In some parishes, income and numbers are solid.
- Bishop reports that there has been positive feedback overall with Diocesan Convention, and that there is mixed opinion about whether 2023 should be in person or zoom. He has some thoughts about surveying people and finding the right balance in saving people the time & money of travel while also offering other opportunities for diocesan fellowship.
- Bishop invites standing committee to share our feedback on convention.
- Title IV issues and diocesan disciplinary procedures were discussed.

Transition & Search: Listening Sessions

- The Standing Committee shared reports from listening sessions throughout the diocese.

Report from Ken on Conversation with Gary Butterworth

Gary asked when listening sessions would end and how we might move forward from there. Ken suggests a date in the beginning of January for anyone who missed a meeting and wanted to zoom and share anything.

They talked about a search committee application process with an application form. SC was in agreement that this was a good idea.

We will correlate material from the listening sessions into a final product to send to the diocese. This will reflect the common threads and themes. We will have two task forces that work in between meetings.

If these focus groups can get going in the next two weeks, material can begin to go out to the diocese and the process for forming a search committee will begin. Ken will send an email with further definition of the focus groups.

Action items:

1. Ken will send out definition of subcommittees.
2. Bishop Lane is going to work on healing for EDOR.
3. All: please use the shared drive and get acquainted with it.
4. All: please keep listening sessions as close to the original format as possible.
5. Please read October minutes AND November to approve at December meeting

Liz closed with prayer.

Faithfully,
Ruth