

**Minutes of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester**  
**December 21, 2022**

**Present:** Mr. Floyd Bayley, the Rev. Nita Bird, Mr. Jeremy Cooney, Mr. Michael Davis, the Rev. Ruth Ferguson, the Rt Rev Stephen Lane, the Rev Cam Miller, the Rev. Ken Pepin, Ms. Elizabeth Salamone.

**Opening Prayer:** Michael D opened with prayer.

**Standing Committee Covenant:** Ken invited us to review the covenantal practices with each member reading aloud a portion. We then went around and did our “check-in” with each other, sharing what’s happening in our lives.

**November’s minutes** were discussed regarding summary of listening sessions: a more detailed summary will be the one made public by the Listening Session task force. November was minutes were then approved, with an action item for Ruth to upload the edited version of the minutes she’d initially sent to Ken and to the Bishop.

**Consent to Bishop Election:** The Standing Committee voted unanimous consent to the election of The Rev. Anne Jolly, Episcopal Diocese of Ohio. Motion made by Michael Davis and seconded by Nita Bird.

**Bishop’s Report:** Among other things, the Bishop’s report included prayer requests for pastoral concerns around the diocese, a need to clarify to some in the diocese what a “notice of accord” means, and some continued brainstorming around “regional ministry.” The Bishop and diocesan clergy and lay leaders have brainstormed a possible reconfiguration of the role of district dean that might include regional ministry in some form. The Bishop is committed to seeking input from around the diocese on what regional ministry might look like: he is engaged in conversations with council and others about healthy ways for the diocese to move forward and keeping our churches open even with fewer clergy.

**Reflection on Listening Sessions:** The Standing Committee shared some more reflections and experiences from recent listening sessions.

**Presentation of Timeline for Election Process:** Ken P presented a possible timeline for the search process consisting of the following: tentative date for search committee overnight, last listening sessions via zoom, finalization of application form for search committee and date of form to go public, compilation and publicity of document of listening sessions, formation of a SC focus group to prepare charge for search team, application deadline for search team, formation of search team and first meeting & charge to the search committee, formation of transition committee and slate presented to standing committee and diocesan convention, walkabouts for candidates and election convention.

Bishop Lane noted we will need a firm date for electing convention.

**Search Committee:** After Ken’s report, we discussed different possibilities around process of search committee formation. Members of the Standing Committee expressed desire to take more time to be intentional about formation and charge of the search committee, including nominations process, given the enormity of the work the search team will be responsible for. It was suggested that Jan 16 distribution of application forms be moved to later January or early Feb, and that this might delay the due date for applications.

In order to stay as close to the timeline as possible, a separate, longer S.C. meeting and/or a retreat day was discussed as an option so the full SC committee can work together on this, and the benefit of having Gary Butterworth lead this conversation if possible. Ken will work to coordinate dates and times for this with Gary and S.C.

### **Focus Committee Reports:**

Listening Sessions Focus Group has not yet met, and Ruth is in process of compiling notes.

Application for Search Team Group: Liz reported from the group's December meeting, noting the timeframe they put together would look different given the extra work & time the S.C. would like to take with work on search committee formation. However, her report was that the group's meeting was very productive, including criteria for those who might serve on search committee (skills, demographic considerations, time commitment)

### **Action Items**

- Ruth will upload edited November minutes into the shared drive
- Ken will work with Gary Butterworth & S.C. to find a date for a special meeting
- All: will complete notes from listening sessions and upload them into drive for focus group to compile
- All: submit names for search committee for S.C. to consider

**Once Around:** we went around and shared our thoughts about how the meeting went

**Closing Prayer:** Bishop Lane was asked to lead our closing prayer, which he led with special pastoral sensitivity.

**Adjourn** we adjourned slightly before 8:30

Our next scheduled meeting is set for January 25<sup>th</sup> 2022