

Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Date: December 15, 2021 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

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

Opening Prayer: Leslie led us in a reflection from Howard Thurman

Previous Minutes: None presented as this was our first official meeting following convention.

Round Robin: Members were asked to share a short auto biography highlighting why they have chosen to be on the Standing Committee. A rewarding sharing continued.

Bishops Report: Reflected his schedule since convention and his plans for transition. He expressed great appreciation for the many parishes and organizations he has been visiting and touched by the many blessings he has received. Notably accounted in one parish he was anointed on his forehead, his feet and a little three year old anointed his lips. The bishop will be traveling to South Africa leaving Christmas and returning by January 9th where he will self quarantine before continuing his visitations. He still hopes to take some time for spiritual renewal prior to his move to Michigan. Given he will be bishop of two dioceses Eastern and Western Michigan he has chosen to live in Stanwood MI which is centered between both. (Good Anglican decision!) He looks forward to the diocesan ZOOM party on his behalf on January 30th.

In addition, we discussed about the term limits of the diocesan deans which will be in September of 2022 and will then be in the hands of Bishop Lane to determine how we move from there. This will involve three deans as The Rev. Bill Daniel has found a new position in Tennessee. The bishop further commented how he really believes in the circles of sustainability that have supported the deans throughout their tenure.

The bishop updated us on Title IV cases in progress.

Of other noted news The Rev. Peter Peters will be celebrating 58 years of priesthood and the Very Rev. Bill Petersen will be celebrating 55 years of ordained priesthood this month.

Requests for Consent:

We unanimously consented to the following requests:

Rev. Elizabeth Bonforte Gardner as the XI bishop of Nevada

Rev. Matthew Crowden as the Bishop Coadjutor to West Virginia

Bishop Fraser Lawton as the Assistant Bishop for Dallas Texas.

Michael will be alerting us to the process in sending to these dioceses the proper signatures affirming our consent.

Discussion was had about having a bit more time to peruse the materials and the Canons and Constitutions of the Episcopal Church especially regarding electing assistant bishops who are already

consecrated as bishop. In a light hearted moment it was suggested that one of our members lead a guided retreat on the canons for us.

Review of the Covenant:

Ruth kindly read through the prepared covenant as agreed upon to be reviewed once per year. We all agreed it continues to be relevant and reflective of our practice.

Reflections on our meeting:

As is our tradition each member shared how they felt the meeting went. The following some of the adjectives presented: thoughtful, well planned, good open dialogue, hospitable, enlightened and respectful.

Closing Prayer: Joe led us in a prayer on Guidance

Next meeting of the Standing Committee will be January 13 in Naples (TBD) at 4pm. If not our normal meeting would take place on the 26th at 4pm
Stay tuned.

Addendum: Our plans to meet have changed to meet on ZOOM at 4pm on Thursday Jan 13th.

Respectfully yours,

Ken