

The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.
The Standing Committee meeting
Via Zoom Video conference 3/24/21

Present: The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh; the Rev. Cameron Miller (president); the Very Revs. Leslie Burkardt, Ruth Ferguson, Kenneth Pepin; Floyd Bayley, Joseph DaBoll-Lavoie, Michael Davis, Carolyn Mok (secretary).

The meeting was **called to order** at 4:02 pm.

Opening Prayer was given by Floyd.

Minutes from 2/24/21 were approved (moved Michael/seconded Floyd).

Consent agenda was approved (moved Michael/seconded Floyd).

Bishop's musings.

The diocese is doing well, and has improved her standing in the National Church as per the Church Pension Fund, based on full time clergy, clergy compensation, number of congregations, congregational revenue. . Missions have adapted, and important issues were addressed, such as racism. People were financially generous, as seen in donations to the Bishop's Appeal.. There have been decreased diocesan expenses because of minimal use of the diocesan building. Most congregations remained vital during the pandemic. Congregations are doing OK financially, thanks to the Paycheck Protection Program. There has been a decreased amount in grants from the Congregational Partnership Development Grants. The College of Congregational development has helped parishes thrive. There are more members in the parishes.

Areas of growth include:

- How do we re-engage people as stakeholders?
- More engagement in issues such as racism (via Racial Reconciliation, Healing and Justice Committee);
- Racial balance in clergy;
- Gender justice (there are 20 active women clergy, 26 men, 6 lesbian, 8 gay);
- Environmental sustainability, such as continuation of virtual meetings. Benefits of virtual meetings include: able to have excellent national speakers for book clubs, able to be more intimate, able to encourage more outreach and advocacy because of an improved sense of community.
- Connecting with people who are curious about us (evangelism).

Closing prayer offered by Ken.

Meeting **adjourned** at 5:14pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon,4/28/21 at 4 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn Mok