

The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester  
The Standing Committee  
Via Zoom Video Conference  
28 April 20

Members present: The Rev. Robert Picken, the Right Rev Prince Singh, the Very Rev. Leslie Burkardt, Joseph Da-Boll-Lavoie, the Rev. Cameron Miller, Carolyn Mok, the Rev. Kenneth Pepin, Susan Woodhouse.

The meeting was **called to order** at 4:01 pm.

**Opening prayer** was offered by Carolyn.

The **consent agenda** was presented and approved:

**Minutes** from March were corrected. Moved: Ken/seconded Susan.

Mr. Gregory Kremer's file for ordination to the diaconate was reviewed. It was noted that Mr. Kremer will not be able to attend a formal CPE course because of the exigencies of the COVID 19 pandemic. The Bishop said that Mr. Kremer is already doing pastoral care as the lay pastoral leader at his parish, and that arrangements will be made for a community based CPE class. It was also noted that CPE is not a requirement for ordination to the diaconate. Rob will talk to the chairs of the Commission on Ministry about the CPE requirement for ordination to the priesthood.

**Consent** to the ordination to the diaconate of Mr. Kremer was given. Moved; Cam/seconded Susan.

**Consent** to the ordination to the diaconate of Ms Keisha Stokes was given. Moved: Carolyn/seconded Ken.

### **Bishop's report.**

Deployment. The Bishop reported how difficult it is to find priests in the tradition search model. Finding appropriate people in the diocese and placing them as lay pastoral leaders while they continue on their ordination process has worked well in this diocese.

Diocesan Convention. Convention is scheduled for October 30,31. The area is still observing physical distancing due to the COVID 19 pandemic, and it is not known if we will be able to gather in person by then. A plan would be that parishes would prepare as an unit before convention, and we could gather virtually. The gathering would be basic, which would only include the bishop's address, the review and passing of the diocesan budget, election of diocesan officials. This would be in accordance with the diocesan canons. It would be important that this process should be seen and experienced as transparent. A virtual convention would have the added benefit of lower costs, which is a concern noted by Diocesan Council. There are precedents for this, as the House of Bishops has met virtually.

Resumption of services in churches. We discussed when services could be held in the parishes. It was agreed that we should follow the advice of our elected officials and public health directors. The Bishop promised to be cautious to protect everyone.

**Province II synod.** Unlike the Diocese of Rochester, the provincial synod has to meet in person. Representatives to the synod would be the delegates to the General Convention: the Revd's Billy Daniel, Virginia Tyler Smith, Johnnie Ross, Leslie Burkardt; Sarah Peters, Julie Syracuse, Carolyn Mok, Kathleen Stokes. The Rev Dahn Gandell would continue to go as a clergy representative when she finishes her leave of absence. Moved by Cam/ seconded Joe.

**Feedback** was given.

**Closing prayer** was led by Ken.

The meeting was **adjourned** by unanimous consent @ 5:27.

The next meeting in May is to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyn Mok, secretary.