

Minutes of the Standing Committee of Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Date: Wednesday Aug 24th at 630pm
Meeting held on ZOOM

Present: Mr. Michael Davis, Mr. Joseph DaBoll-Lavoie, ,, The Very Rev's Leslie Burkardt, Kenneth Pepin, Ruth Ferguson; Mr. Floyd Bayley, The Rt. Rev Steve Lane Mr. Jeremy Cooney; The Rev. Nita Byrd;
Guests: Gary Butterworth, Steve Richards

An **opening prayer** on peace in the presence of our Creator.

Michael read for us the **Covenant** and we shared a **round robin** of how we are all doing.

Prepped and prompted by the Communications Director of the diocese Mr, Steve Richards we put together our much anticipated **zoom of introduction**. All remained within the 15 second each rule and there was absolutely no show boating which could be deemed as quite the success. Kudos to all of us.

Previous minutes The Committee voted to approve the following minutes of July 26th . Jeremy Moved and Floyed Seconded All present approved the minutes.

Consents: Michael will send the information for Virginia and we will vote on it in our September meeting

Bishops council of Advice. : Bishop Steve appraised us of some pastoral concerns of our clergy community as well as upcoming transitions. He addressed and updated with ongoing Title IV matters.

Staff Changes: Bishop Steve informed us of his allowing the Diocesan Deans structure to sunset. Beginning October 1, 2022 Virginia Tyler Smith will be the New Transition Officer part time. Deb Guduid May will continue as Discernment Officer and Johnnie

Ross will be Chaplain to the Retired (One year continued subsidy of Grace and St Andrews)

Parishes and Missions : The bishop and chancellor Greene are looking at a variety of small parishes that might be better served as Missions allowing for clergy to serve in more creative appointments as vicar. The Bishop would have more oversight in the missions as well as the Trustees.

Pandemic Protocols: A mixed bag. Looking forward to further discussion about the common cup. There is a wide variety of practice within the diocese.

Deacon Community: The bishop has met with the deacons and finds it in need of renewal. There is presently seven active deacons and some serving without any parish affiliation.

Constitutional Changes: The Bishop and Chancellor Greene will be preparing for our convention a way to include a process of petition highlighting the need for appropriate candidates for bishop to be properly vetted before the election with the purpose of eliminating the practice of nominations from the floor without messing with our constitution. A rule of order for electing a new bishop will include wording to that effect.

Gary Butterworth joined us at this point

Leadership Retreat

After a fruitful discussion we came to the consensus that we are going ahead and holding the in person retreat on Sept 16th from 6pm to 9pm and Sept 17th from 9am to 4pm. at St Thomas in Rochester. The Diocesan Staff will organize details.

Listening Sessions :

After more fruitful discussion we came to the consensus that we need to begin working on the details of these sessions. We agreed that the three person sub committee consisting of Michael , Nita and Leslie will pull together something for us as a committee to review prior to our next gathering.

We did agree that the ideal of visiting each parish in the diocese would not be as productive as we had envisioned. We thought that perhaps having a mixture of opportunities some parish based, some regional, some demographic groupings to gather the data necessary for us to move forward. We now envision offering both in person and zoom opportunities.

Parish Wide Survey

Although admittedly on its face may appear to be a quick and easy solution in practice it involved expertise and really removes the relationship building aspect of our gatherings from the equation. In consensus we nixed this idea from our plans.

Process review : All agreed that the meeting went well and was productive

Michael closed us with a **devotional prayer**

Our next meeting besides the Sept 16 and 17th Leadership Retreat we will on Wednesday September 28th at 6:30pm

Devotedly yours, Ken+