

Minutes of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Zoom Meeting with Gary Butterworth
5 – 8pm
January 19, 2023

Present: Mr. Floyd Bayley, the Rev. Nita Bird, Mr. Jeremy Cooney, Mr. Michael Davis [left early for vestry meeting] the Rev. Ruth Ferguson, the Rt Rev Stephen Lane [left early for vestry meeting] the Rev Cam Miller, the Rev. Ken Pepin, Ms. Elizabeth Salamone.

Absent: Mr. Jeremy Cooney

OPENING PRAYER & INTRODUCTIONS: Ken P opened with prayer, and then we wished Gary B a happy birthday. New members, Cam M and Liz S introduced themselves to Gary B.

REPORT FROM FOCUS GROUP ON APPLICATION FOR SEARCH TEAM: Liz S and members of focus group 1 shared with Gary B their work and conversation about qualities for candidates for search team. Gary B advised also that (1) chair should be someone who is on top of email communications, (2) work toward a group who's not "the usual list of suspects" (deans, current heads of committees, etc) but a diverse group who are equally invested in the process, that (3) the chaplain appointed to process is not a voting member of the search team, and that (4) the chair be someone with good people chemistry who's good at building a team. Team should also have good writer/writers with good communication skills. Members should be good at confidentiality.

Perhaps recruit someone who will work with Steve R on diocesan communications and/or managing the communications process.

SC discussed having search team read "What We Heard" summary of listening sessions when applying, perhaps having an open ended question on the application along the lines of "What stood out for you when reading this document" i.e, how will this inform your work on the search team?

REPORT FROM FOCUS GROUP ON LISTENING SESSIONS: Ruth F and members of focus group 2 shared with Gary some of the highlights of the listening sessions, and got feedback about whether the document is good to go as is.

SC discussed publicizing application & "What We Heard," along with intro to that material, via website, email, and hard copy mail. These will officially come from Ken P as SC president.

COMMUNICATIONS & WEBSITE: SC will post both listening summary and search application on website. Bishop L and Gary B advised that search team not have an electronic footprint on diocesan website, but to create their own domain. Firewalls are important for confidentiality.

FOCUS GROUPS? Ken P asked if focus groups were working and the SC affirmed this is a good way to break into groups and get things done. Focus Groups will emerge depending on the tasks at hand.

GARY B ON SEARCH PROCESS AND TIMELINE: Gary walked us through the process and the SC role in it, sharing documents from the diocese of Missouri and Vermont to talk about search team, transition team, and election process. SC liked the more detailed protocol that Vermont used.

This was a lengthy discussion with many questions from SC.

Gary will send SC a write out of proposed timeline.

The timing we present to people is important and should be something that is doable, including the time we give them to work on application for search team. We went through a timeline of the process from beginning to end.

Search team will develop their own survey for diocese using an assessment tool of their choice. SC expressed hope that search team will be open and transparent, and follow the listen sessions summary when creating our diocesan profile.

Profile should be short, succinct, & honest.

Standing Committee is present for part of 1st retreat to give the official charge to the search committee. 2nd retreat will result in a slate given from search com to standing com. SC then votes to receive slate. SC has sole responsibility for processing petitions.

Gary told us we don't want a long time between walkabout and election – should be 2 weeks at least.

Transition is most difficult time for candidates as they begin to work with new people overseeing a more administrative process: Gary suggested we appoint “transition shepherds.”

DOES SC WANT A THEOLOGICAL STATEMENT? This was discussed, and Ruth and Nita will work on this as part of the SC's communication of the search & calling of bishop; we will also use the BCP prayer for election of bishops.

WHO CAN VOTE? SC discussed guidelines for who can vote at convention, with Gary B noting that our canons are confusing around this issue.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SEARCH AND TRANSITION TEAMS: the transition team can be more fluid and open as different tasks on the timeline arise, but the search team is not a fluid group and is closed and confidential.

Gary B closed with prayer.

Faithfully,
Ruth

ACTION ITEMS

- Ken P will work with d-staff and Steve R to publicize application and “What We Heard”
- Cam M will “ghost write” an intro to “What We Heard” to go out with it for Ken to edit and approve
- Cam will research retreat center possibilities for the 2 retreats
- Gary will send SC a timeline in writing for our Jan 25 meeting
- ALL OF US will share names for search team and chaplain at Jan 25 meeting, preferably before via email.
- Ruth & Nita will work together on a theological statement to present to SC between its Jan 25 and Feb mtg
- Ken P will work with one of our chancellors for clarity on canons and voting for retired clergy