

Minutes of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Zoom Meeting 6:30 – 8:30 pm
March 22, 2023

Present: Mr. Floyd Bayley, the Rev. Nita Bird, Mr. Jeremy Cooney, Mr. Michael Davis the Rev. Ruth Ferguson, the Rt Rev Stephen Lane, the Rev Cam Miller, the Rev. Ken Pepin, Ms. Elizabeth Salamone.

Absent: Mr. Jeremy Cooney

OPENING PRAYER: Nita led us in prayer.

CHECKING- IN & READING OF COVENANTAL PRACTICES: the group took turns reading a portion of the covenantal practices, and went around sharing what's happening in our lives.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Michael motioned; Cam seconded; Nita abstained (didn't read

CONSENTS: Cam moved; Michael seconded

BISHOP'S REPORT / COUNCIL OF ADVICE: Dahn Gandell is retiring and doing supply work. Craig Hacker called in Hammondsport, starting March 26. Shana Hawks - Hornell and Livonia. The sale of St Peters Bloomfield has been approved by courts. Closing date anticipated in April.

St. Stephens, Rochester: conversations continue around its becoming a community center. St. Stephen's Vestry and diocese believe it should not sit empty (there have been issues of break-ins and also concern over fire, etc). Groups that meet there will continue as conversations are in process.

Bishop reported on renewal of vows today: it was well attended, there was good energy, and there were clergy who expressed desire for a retreat.

Report on diocesan youth retreat: numbers for youth retreat are well below threshold of what they should be in order to be financially feasible. Bishop will meet with youth to get a sense of what's going on. He suspects it has to do with overscheduling.

Report from House of Bishops: "Discipleship in these Days" was the theme. Bishops were led to engage the question: what's the process for making meaning in what we are doing as leaders of the church and in general? He noted that Michael Curry is going to be missed!

Update on Charlie Holt (Fla bishop candidate) consent process: House of Bishops broke protocol in discussing consent issues, given the concern of some bishops about homophobia and racism charges that have been brought against Holt. Bishop Lane noted that, in the past, bishops abstained from discussing consent issues as this could lead to lobbying and consensus seeking in the House of Bishops when the actual voting takes place at the local / diocesan level. Bishop noted that this is a place in our polity where local concerns and national concerns come together as we all ask: is this person suited to be a bishop of the church?

House of Bishops toured Legacy Museum in Montgomery, and engaged in conversations on history of racism. Bryan Stevenson was a guest speaker to the bishops.

Bishop reported that he and diocesan staff have been waiting to see the fuller weight of pandemic impact on parishes and are now seeing it. Parish incomes are way down. Two parishes asked for (1) 50,000 and (2) 60,000 for congregational development, funds which are being used to resource clergy

salaries. 40,000 has been given to Penfield and decisions about Penn Yan have been deferred. There are 5 or 6 other requests coming in for grants. Diocesan Council will have a workday on May 6.

RETREAT DISCUSSION

Parking & map will be sent out by Nita & Cam so retreatants can find their way around. All will meet at St John Chapel between 5 and 5:15 pm. Search Team would like S.C. to reflect on the origin of the listening sessions and how they relate to the search process. Ken suggests we share in the reading of the charge. The evening will be given over to prayer service and commissioning process. Julie, Keisha and Todd have met to discuss expenses and vouchers for the process, and with Steve Richards around IT issues.

FOCUS GROUPS: might one focus on formation of transition team? Might one focus on salary and expenses related to transition and salary.

HOW DID MEETING GO? Standing Committee processed the meeting, noting that we are much more relaxed and the Bishop even noted that we're laughing more than ever.

CLOSING PRAYER: Bishop Lane closed us in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.