

Minutes of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Zoom Meeting 6:30 – 8:30 pm
April 26, 2023

Present: Mr. Floyd Bayley, the Rev. Nita Bird, 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: Liz 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: Led by Ruth; Cam motioned, Michael consented.

CONSENTS DISCUSSION:

1. Charlie Holt: as Bishop Coadjutor in Diocese of Florida: 6 opposed 1 abstain 1 absent.
2. Ann Ritonia, as Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries (AFFM):6 approved 1 abstained. 1 absent
3. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent as Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of Maryland: 6 approved 1 abstained 1 absent

BISHOPS REPORT

Reported Craig Hacker now in Hammondsport; Shana Hawks will be settling in to Savona and Hornell. Michael Hopkins, priest in residence at Church of Redeemer in Addison.

Work day with diocesan council, Floyd & Ken. PPP money came in and helped us a lot. Giving has remained up despite decline, however, parish revenue has been down. 18 grants a year of about 20,000 to parishes @ 300,000 a year. Some parishes will not be able to hire or attract priests.

Endowed funds restricted for regions in the diocese? Restructure d-staff. We currently have 9 FTES

Any significant transition in the budget will affect all parishes.

John Taylor: IT, director at Community Finger Lake colleges: pro-bono study of parishioners who are not returning and why they're not returning. This would be an outside, sociologist data-cruncher perspective that could be very useful to us in post pandemic as well as longer term understanding. He will be director of research.

Search Process: Gary Butterworth: Can Ken continue on as president; Paul Greene said "no" and it would need to be voted on at convention. However, Ken could be appointed as liaison to SC with Gary Butterworth: Ken would not vote but would attend meetings. He would have time-limited appointment by SC. We would then elect the president as usual.

Our constitution prohibits nomination by petition, so the Bishop is working with Paul to see if we can change protocol without having to call a special convention. The concern is that an election could potentially be contested.

SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT: Ken reported on a good first retreat and a good zoom meeting. Search team spent some time trying to understand the more problematic aspects of diocesan history of conflict, and spent time working on how to configure themselves into leadership. They will divide into 3 subcommittees: information; profile; education. Ken has notes he can send to us from conversations with the search team and Julie. Search team will send a survey.

APPOINTMENT OF FOCUS GROUPS:

The group agreed to form subgroups: one group will form the application, and send it out similar to the search committee application. (Liz will chair, Michael, Jeremy and Ken are on this focus group) and the other group will write the charge to the transition team (Cam will chair, Ruth, Floyd and Nita make up this focus group.)

HOW DID MEETING GO? The Standing Committee processed the meeting, noting that we continue in our strength and maturity as a committee.

CLOSING PRAYER: Cam Miller closed us with profound and heartfelt prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 36 pm.