

**Minutes of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester**  
**Zoom Meeting 6:30 – 8:40 pm**  
**September 27, 2023**

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

**OPENING PRAYER:** Ruth Ferguson led us in prayer.

**EXPERIENCES OF TRANSFORMATION THIS SUMMER?** The group opened sharing events of transformation in personal lives over the past summer.

**APPROVAL OF AUGUST MINUTES:** Cam motioned and Michael seconded. Minutes were approved.

**CONSENT DISCUSSION:** SC unanimously consented to election of Jeremiah Wilson as 10<sup>th</sup> bishop of diocese of Albany with Nita motioning and Liza seconding; SC consented to election of John Harmon as 14<sup>th</sup> bishop of Arkansas, with Cam motioning and Michael seconding.

**REPORT TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION:** SC approved Ken's written report to be given at Oct 29 convention and thanked him for his honest, well written document

**BISHOP'S COUNCIL OF ADVICE / BISHOP'S REPORT**

- Bishop Lane brought SC up to date on Title IV process with former EDOR Bishop Singh, and allowed for questions.
- Bishop reported that House of Bishops was slated to meet in person but met for a briefer period over zoom, and some of the working dialogue was centered around church decline, citing that decline in numbers is not matched by decline in giving. Bishop also offered to share slides on statistics re: the changing nature of ASA and who's in our pews these days.
- Bishop reported on change of status for 3 churches:
  - Trinity, Canasarega and St. Stephen's, Rochester will be dissolving
  - St. John's in Sodus will move to status of mission church
- Bishop outlined diocesan convention items: protocol for changing rules of order which are always adopted at previous convention and resolutions
- Bishop reported on upcoming diocesan staffing changes that will be spread out over the next two years so that there will be some overlay; noted that smaller staff fits the changing needs of our diocese (now 42 congregations) in terms of less paid hours and job positions needed – job of diocesan discernment officer will be dissolved and this work will be absorbed by COM and position of deacon coordinator will also be ending. Todd will be going half time through to retirement; Kristy will retire late 2024 or early 2025. Bishop said most important full time positions will continue to be that of benefits manager, transition and deployment.

- Bishop outlined process for nomination for EDOR bishop by petition and SC's role in that process: SC decides how nominations are framed and announced, including timeline for the process, and suggested the SC might want to appoint a task force for this
- Bishop reviewed process / roles around slate of candidates that search team and standing committee will take on, noting search team presents candidate slate for SC's approval
- Bishop went into executive session to discuss other issues

**REPORT FROM BISHOP SEARCH TEAM: Julie Cicora and Keisha Stokes**

- Search Team has formed deep bonds with one another, and Julie reported that each meeting begins with contemplative prayer
- Julie reported that candidates were highly impressed with our portfolio, noting that words like "imagination" and the picture of the scaffolding were attractive, compelling, exciting, and honest about where we are as a diocese and what we hope for.
- Julie and Keisha reported excitement and surprise around the number of candidates we expected in the beginning of the process and the actual number of those who applied: we'd guessed we might have 2 to 5 applicants and there were 27 nominees, 23 of whom were interviewed.
- Interviews were recorded
- Candidates have clearly researched who we are as a diocese
- The slate is very diverse, and all candidates impressive; it will be a challenge to present 3 – 5 nominees to SC!
- Bishop, Todd, and Paul (chancellor) will also meet with candidates at appropriate time: Bishop Lane brought this up as a timing question
- Monday, Nov 13 the Search Team will present the candidate slate to the SC and this will be an in-person celebration as well as a meeting; Ruth, Julie and Keisha will work on logistics for dinner (where and what)

**OUR NEXT MEETING AS STANDING COMMITTEE:** October 25, dinner in or near Victor. Ken will let us know place and time.

**HOW DID THE MEETING GO?** Members took turns sharing thoughts on the meeting.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Floyd closed us in prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.