

**Standing Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 13, 2020**  
**via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Margaret Done, Celia Fine, Andy Jones, Scott Leannah, Gary Manning, Dave Mowers, Tammy Prather, Sheryl Slocum, Jana Troutman-Miller, Marcus White

**Opening Prayer:** Marcus White

**Introductions:**

Our two new members, Ms. Margaret Done and the Rev. Dave Mowers, were welcomed. Introductions followed.

**Action Items:**

1. Organization of the Standing Committee

Leannah asked the two outgoing SC members, Manning and Slocum, if they would be willing to stay on in an advisory capacity until January 2021. Both agreed to do so. Leannah moved that Gary Manning and Sheryl Slocum continue as advisors to the Standing Committee until the transition from Bishop Steven Miller to the Visiting Bishop is accomplished in January of 2021. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Leannah announced that the new SC must elect a President. He stated that he is willing to continue in that capacity if no one else feels called to the role. Scott Leannah was nominated for President of the Standing Committee. It was seconded and unanimously passed.

Leannah announced that the new SC must elect a Secretary. Slocum is willing to continue taking meeting notes until January, at which time the new Secretary will take over. Andy Jones was nominated for Secretary of the Standing Committee. It was seconded and unanimously passed.

2. Approval of the minutes from September 15, 2020

The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Report on Bishop Miller's Retirement:**

Troutman-Miller reported that the diocesan convention showing of the video celebrating Bishop Miller's 17 years with the diocese turned out well, and the Bishop seemed genuinely moved by it. The following week, the diocese's gifts were presented to him during the staff luncheon. Again, the Bishop was visibly touched by the gifts. Earlier, the drive-through farewells at St. Mary's Dousman went well; both the Bishop and Cindy remarked about how much they enjoyed it. In the end, the Bishop said his unconventional pandemic-time farewell was just as good if not better than the traditional party. All in the SC express gratitude to the many people who helped make this a meaningful farewell for the Bishop and the members of the diocese.

**Report on Diocesan Staff:**

Prather and Troutman-Miller reported that there has been no activity other than the tremendous amount of work that went into the online Diocesan Convention. Future discussions will need to happen about staffing. For example, in March, Deacon Marge Kiss stepped back from her temporary role with diocesan finance. We want to be sure to honor her work in that role. The Rev. Kevin Huddleston will probably be the best person to follow up with Deacon Marge. Prather and Troutman-Miller will check with him to see if this seems appropriate.

**Report on Assistant Bishop(s):**

Leannah explained that we will use the term “Visiting Bishop” for the two bishops who will assist us until we have a Provisional Bishop. The first Visiting Bishop’s term will begin on January 1, 2021; he will serve until February 15, 2021. From February until April the second Visiting Bishop will assist the Standing Committee if needed. Situations that would call for the assistance of a Visiting Bishop are a Title IV proceeding, a pastoral emergency, etc. The Visiting Bishop may briefly attend SC meetings. Liz Orelup will draw up Letters of Agreement for us to sign with the visiting bishops.

**Report on Provisional Bishop:**

Leannah explained that, like an interim rector, the Provisional Bishop will exercise their office to help us reorganize and prepare for calling the next Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee. The Provisional Bishop will be elected by the diocese and will work on a part-time basis. Currently, the plan is to call a Provisional Bishop for up to 2 years with an option to extend the position to a third year. During that time, the diocese will reengage the search process. It is likely that the Provisional Bishop will need a vehicle as well as a place to stay when we need him/her to be in residence. Leannah has a sample Letter of Agreement for a Provisional Bishop. Orelup suggests that no announcements be made until we have signed Letters of Agreement from all three bishops, at which time the current Bishop should be notified before the announcement goes out to the diocese.

Discussion followed about how we can be sure that we as a diocese do the deep work that needs to be done so that we can hire with a vision for the future rather than just falling into the security of patterns we’ve followed in the past. It was agreed that it would be helpful to have Ann Hallisey give us some advice. Leanna suggested we invite Ann to our November meeting. Other opportunities for this “deep work” will be the clergy retreat at the beginning of the year (we hope Ann will be willing to lead it again) as well as the time with the Provisional Bishop. Jones commented that this kind of a process will allow the search committee to do the real search work. Troutman-Miller suggested that COVID has given us this extra time to do this work. Discussion followed about the future work of the search committee. Jones and Mowers reminded the SC that we need to be communicate in a clear and timely manner with the diocese. Perhaps a monthly letter from the SC would help members of the diocese feel comfortable with the process we’re undertaking. At this point, the Bishop is still the diocesan authority, but after he has sent in his official letter of resignation to the Presiding Bishop and after his final day in office, we must remember that members of the diocese will need to hear from us.

It was decided that Leannah will create a draft of a statement from the SC to be published in the Diocesan E-News. He will send it to us for comment via email so that we can be sure we communicate our intentions clearly.

A question was raised about what is going to happen with The Way Forward task force. This is something the Bishop is taking care of, so the SC has not discussed it. Troutman-Miller and Mowers are both on the task force; they will keep us informed.

Prather would like us to engage in a conversation about just what it means for us to take on more ecclesiastical authority. Leanna stated that this may mean various members of the SC take on roles as liaisons to various committees. Mowers will send us the canons regarding standing committees via Dropbox.

Troutman-Miller mentioned that another area we must be thinking about is the relationships between the Wisconsin dioceses.

**Report on the Property formerly known as Lazarus House:**

Leannah shared a note from Bishop Miller to us about his idea of giving the Lazarus House property to Trinity Janesville. Discussion followed. It was decided that we need more information. Jones will contact the Rev. Kathy Monson Lutes to ask about the implications of such a gift for the parish. Jones will communicate with us via email after his conversation with Monson Lutes. Any decisions that are made can be recorded in future SC minutes.

**Next Meeting:**

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10. Manning will send out the Zoom invitation.

**Closing Prayer:** Sheryl Slocum