

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2020
via Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

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

Guests: The Rt. Rev. Jeff Lee, The Rev. Ann Hallisey

Advisers: Gary Manning, Sheryl Slocum

Introductions: New SC members were introduced to Bishop Lee and Ann Hallisey

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the meeting of October 13 were approved with one edit. Slocum will continue to take minutes for the rest of the calendar year. Jones, the elected Secretary, will take over in January.

Opening Prayer: Leannah

Discussion with Bishop Jeff Lee regarding Provisional role:

Bishop Lee began by stating that he has been praying for us. He has also been thinking deeply about us because the Diocese of Milwaukee is part of his history. He stated that he is eager to hear more about timelines and more about Ann Hallisey's role. Bishop Lee commented that his diocese has 2 conventions in a row in the near future; in spite of how daunting that can feel, he also feels enthusiasm for what is ahead.

Discussion followed about when to announce Bishop Lee's coming to the Diocese of Milwaukee. Letters of agreement were recently signed with the two future Assisting Bishops and will soon be signed with Bishop Lee. Hallisey commented that the sooner people have some information, the better it will be for everyone. It was agreed that people will need explanations about the roles of Assisting and Provisional Bishops. More discussion ensued about the importance of being pastoral in how we share the news. Bishop Lee will send his biographical statement to publish with our announcement and will help us to coordinate the announcement with his communication team.

Leannah will call Bishop Miller to impart the news to him. Prather and Troutman-Miller will request Kevin Huddleston to assemble the diocesan staff for an announcement. Shortly after the diocesan staff have been notified, we'll release the announcement to the diocese. After receiving the needed information from Bishop Lee's communication team, Leannah will write a first draft of the announcement and route it for SC members' comment. Bishop Lee left the meeting.

Next steps with Ann Hallisey's ministry in the diocese:

Discussion ensued with Hallisey's input about how to announce the upcoming transitions and how to best prepare so that the transitions will be as smooth as possible. It will be important for Peggy Bean, the Canon for Congregations, help us with her institutional memory. We need to learn everything she has been doing. For the time being, we'll put all of her work with parishes

on hold so that she can help us document what she does and what she knows that nobody else in the diocese knows. Prather pointed out that we need to be sensitive to the past issues with Canon Bean and other staff members' pay. Discussion followed about how this can be rectified. Hallisey suggested that we seek advice from the Chancellor.

Hallisey explained that she would like us to assist in identifying a task force to help with the deep listening that we need to do before engaging a search committee. With the task force, Hallisey can develop a plan for what her continuing work here will look like. She will submit possible names to Jones. She will also outline for him the kinds of skills will be helpful for task force members to have. Hallisey left.

Letters of Agreement

Leannah reported that Letters of Agreement with Bishop Gunter and Bishop Whitmore have been signed. Bishop Gunter mentioned his upcoming role as Assisting Bishop for us in a Fond du Lac diocesan Zoom meeting. This is another reason why we should announce our plans as quickly as possible.

Pension conversation report

Prather reported that insurance is the most salient issue we may encounter in hiring a retired bishop to be our Provisional. If elected as Provisional Bishop, a retired bishop will be able to continue on his current insurance, but after that, insurance would become more complicated. An alternative would be for the retiring bishop to resign from his diocese. In the short term, that option would be more expensive for us, but there would be no later complication should he continue in the Provisional role for more than 2 years. Bishop Lee is aware of this issue and that he must make a choice about how he would like to handle it. He has said he will talk with Clayton Crawley and will let us know.

Standing Committee liaison assignments:

Leannah presented the table below.

Proposed Standing Committee Liaison Connections

Commission on Ministry	Celia
Diocesan Staff	Jana and Tammy
Camp Webb	Margaret
Finance	Andy
Way Forward Commission	Jana and Dave (they're members)
Executive Council	Scott attends
Search Committee (when re-formed)	Tammy
Diocesan Clergy (pastoral care)	Scott
Ann Hallisey	Scott and Tammy
Provisional/Assisting Bishops	All
Title IV issues	Jana
DeKoven Center	Marcus
Hospitality Center	Marcus
Trustees of Funds and Endowments	Marcus and Andy

SC members liked agreed that the liaisons are a good idea. The SC liaison will be the go-to-person for these committees during the transitional time.

Status of the weekly online diocesan worship service after Jan. 1, 2021:

Leannah emphasized that we are simply collecting preliminary ideas at this point. Prather suggested posting a list of all the online Sunday morning offerings around the diocese. People whose parish does not offer an online service—and even those whose parish does—would be able to choose where they want to attend. Possibly, a different parish could be highlighted each week. It was suggested that the group who has been planning the weekly diocesan worship would like to help us celebrate the “big ones” (e.g., Palm Sunday, Easter, etc.) together as a diocese. Otherwise, the diocesan worship service would be discontinued.

Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at UW Whitewater:

Leannah reported that Mindy Valentine-Davis contacted him about some money that she has. Leannah will arrange to talk with her and will report at our next meeting.

Standing Committee meeting frequency:

Leannah asked if we should meet more often than once per month now that we have more responsibility. All agreed that meetings should be more frequent with the hope that they would be shorter. We can always cancel a meeting if nothing is coming up. It was agreed that meeting every 2 weeks is a good goal. Leannah will bring a tentative calendar to the next meeting in order to select meeting dates for the coming year.

Our next meeting:

The meeting will be online on December 15. Mowers will walk us through the materials he mentioned in the October meeting.

Staff liaison report:

Prather and Troutman-Miller have nothing to report due to Diocesan Convention.

Property Sale – Janesville:

Jones has nothing to report because he hasn't heard anything from them.

Old/New Business:

Completed

Closing Prayer: Slocum