

Standing Committee Meeting Minutes
December 14, 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. Matthew Gunter

Advisers: Gary Manning, Sheryl Slocum

The meeting began at 6:32 with formalities while everyone was getting connected

- Attendance
- Approval of Minutes – Unanimously approved

Troutman-Miller opened the meeting proper with prayer

Overview: Standing Committee as Ecclesiastical Authority:

- Mowers presented the canons pertinent to the role of the SC in a diocese without a bishop. His succinct, clear report was greatly appreciated. Mowers will make his slides available to all members of the SC.

Report on the Presentation of Letters of Agreement to Executive Council:

- Prather reported that both Chancellors and the Parliamentarian were present to answer legal questions. The Parliamentarian felt the language of the Letters of Agreement might mislead some to believe that all three Bishops are Visiting Bishops until Lee is elected as Provisional. Prather checked to be sure that our intentions were clear, and the answer was “Yes.” Prather reported that she received no pushback about Bishop Lee. Leannah and Troutman-Miller concurred that the responses they have received have been very positive. Fine commented that the Rev. Ian Burch reported there have been no negative responses from his parish.

SC Liaison reports:

- Leannah pointed out that the Liaison assignments have been updated (the revised Table is at the end of this document).
- Commission on Ministry report by Fine – Three individuals are currently beginning the discernment process. There was conversation about how they might move forward with Bishop Lee as Provisional, but it was agreed that the COM will not know until our Provisional Bishop is in place. Of the current class, two were approved as postulants and two were advised to wait because Bishop Miller had not told them where to attend seminary. The COM asked Burch to continue on in his current position as President, and he is willing to do so. The Deacon School had two postulants who were ordained in the past year. The COM discussed the possibility that the Deacon School needs to be revised. If so, maybe the SC and the COM can collaborate on this. The question arose as to who in the diocese will be assembling applicants’ materials. During the past year, Burch did

this himself, but the COM probably needs a staff person who can do this and also transition it to electronic instead of paper format. Fine and Burch plan to meet quarterly unless there is need for more frequent communication.

- Camp Webb report by Leannah – Leannah and Done will work on this, but decisions need to be made soon.
- Diocesan Staff by Prather and Troutman-Miller – Prather and Troutman-Miller have completed their current assignment of notifying the staff of who will be succeeding Bishop Miller and when those successions will take place.
- Finance Committee – Jones reported that he will attend the Finance meeting next week. Requests from parishes for financial aid have been coming to the Finance Committee. In their email conversation, the FC noted that they are not the decision-making body in this situation. They created a set of criteria which they are forwarding to the Executive Council with the recommendation that the EC should take this on.
- The Way Forward Task Force – Troutman-Miller reported that they met this evening before the SC meeting. The Task Force is fairly certain that there will be no new recommendations on meeting in person at least through February. Although Wisconsin's Coronavirus numbers have come down a bit, the state still is not in a safe place. As for Easter, the Task Force would like to look carefully at the rubrics as well as at what Chicago is doing, especially in regards to outdoor gatherings. At every meeting, the Task Force notes any changes in the CDC guidelines and re-evaluates how safe it would be to meet in person. At this point, it is expected that the impact of the vaccine will be slower rather than faster. Manning expressed gratitude for the work of the Task Force. Jones commented that it should be openly stated that the decisions are coming from the Task Force, not just the Bishop. Troutman-Miller responded that the Task Force plans to emphasize at their upcoming meeting with the Wardens and Treasurers. Discussion followed to the effect that the Task Force should summarize where they are in one paragraph and publish it in the Diocesan E-News and the Clergy News & Notes, asking the clergy to put the paragraph in their parishes' newsletters. Prather added that it may be helpful to show the SC's support by stating that two members of the SC are on the Way Forward Task Force.
- Ann Hallisey/Search Committee – Prather reported that Jones was planning to speak with Ann regarding people who will be on the Search Committee, but Jones hasn't heard from Ann. Jones and Prather will be in touch with Ann regarding the status of the list.
- Diocesan Clergy – Leannah stated that he is trying to be of help to diocesan clergy who contact him with questions and concerns.
- DeKoven Center – White will serve on a committee for the DeKoven Center, so he will become the SC Liaison with DeKoven. Troutman-Miller mentioned that one of the

diocesan historians is very interested in the DeKoven Center. White agreed that having more involvement is a good thing.

- Hospitality Center – White thanked Prather for stepping into the Liaison role that he could not fulfill due to a conflict of interest with his civic role in Racine. Prather said she is excited to be the SC Liaison and has had a good conversation with the Rev. Seth Raymond. Raymond stated that he has realized that housing is an issue that they must become involved in. Prather will join the Hospitality Center's Action Committee.

Bishop Gunter arrived and was invited into the meeting.

- Introductions followed. Leannah informed the Bishop about the SC Liaisons and our optimism for this coming time of transition. Bishop Gunter responded that he is looking forward to getting to know the SC and to learn more about our hopes for the diocese. Bishop Gunter had several questions.
 - He must have a conversation soon with the Diocesan Title IV Intake Officer, Troutman-Miller.
 - The Bishop requested that the SC notify him if there are other people he should meet with.
 - The Bishop has been contacted by a priest who is not resident in Wisconsin, but who needs to renew his license. According to Mowers' presentation, the SC has the authority to do that. Bishop Gunter will put the priest in contact with Leannah.
 - Bishop Gunter reported that he was contacted by another priest who wants to change residency. Bishop Gunter recommended the priest to wait until the Provisional Bishop is in place.
 - The Bishop asked if any ordinations or confirmations are currently scheduled. There are none.
 - Troutman-Miller summarized the position of the Way Forward Taskforce and stated that they did look at the Diocese of Fond du Lac's plan to see how our plan compares.
 - Leannah will send Bishop Gunter an invitation to the SC January meeting.

Bishop Gunter left the meeting.

Liaison Reports (continued)

- St. Francis House – Jones stated that they are meeting this evening. They are at an interesting point as they move towards hiring a full-time chaplain. Currently, they're working on the job-description.

Old/New Business

- It was agreed that, beginning in January, the SC will meet twice monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Slocum

Manning and Slocum left, and the SC went into Executive Session.

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
De Koven Center	Marcus
Hospitality Center	Tammy
Trustees of Funds and Endowments	Marcus and Andy