

In Attendance:

The Rev. Scott Leannah, Ms. Tammy Prather, The Rev. Dave Mowers, Ms. Celia Fine, The Rev. Andy Jones, Ms. Margaret Done, The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, Mr. Marcus White

Minutes from the last meeting will be reviewed at our next meeting

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller

Ministry Liaison Reports

- Saint Francis House

The Rev. Andy Jones shared a Proposal from Ministry Architects for a 38 month partnership with St. Francis House as the SFH Ministry goes through a restart process, developing a vision for the ministry, sustainable structures and programming, and calling a new full time staff person.

Funding for this partnership is in place, coming from the surplus realized during the tenure of a part time Chaplain, and from the proceeds of the SFH endowment, which have not been touched in several years.

Given that we can put considerable resources into the Campus Ministry at the flagship campus of the UW system without drawing money from the rest of the diocese – the Standing Committee was left asking, “why wouldn’t we?”

The Standing Committee also believes that this partnership may help set us up to do similar work in the rest of the diocese – watching the way they do things at SFH might help us with campus ministry in the rest of the diocese

Standing committee agrees that SFH Board should go forward with this conversation.

- Commission on Ministry

Ms. Celia Fine has checked in with the Chair of the Commission on Ministry, The Rev. Ian Burch

We have 3 aspirants

1 person who finished the process and was asked to wait a while is waiting in the wings

If we can have in person meetings Rev. Burch would like to hold a weekend retreat at redemptorist at the end of September/early October

The COM needs materials from aspirants by the end of July/early August

Rev. Burch asked the Standing Committee to look into the amount of support that the diocese is willing to give to seminarians.

- Clergy Personnel Issues

The Rev. Scott Leannah reported that The Rev. Brad Toebben, Rector of St. Paul's Milwaukee, has accepted a call to a parish in Oregon.

The Wardens were told today (march 23rd), a letter will be going out to the parish.

The Rev. Toebben's last day will be April 26

St Paul's is interested in an interim

The Standing Committee entered into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues of a sensitive nature.

- Camp Webb

Ms. Margaret Done reported that The Diocese Fond du lac's camp materials are live. Their administrator will create materials specific to the Diocese of Milwaukee. The Diocese of Fond du lac is welcoming camp staff from the Diocese of Milwaukee to apply for positions this summer.

Camp Schedule for 2021 includes

1 week for HS

4 days for MS

7 days for Elem

Grown up and me – 3 days

2 weeks divided into 3 sessions

- The DeKoven Center

Mr. Marcus White reported that the DeKoven Center has established an Archive Committee.

The DeKoven Center holds archives for several entities

There is an expert in Chicago who will help

There is another person from a museum in Racine who will help

This is an important part of the DeKoven Center's mission

Mr. White has joined the property committee which is currently working on assessments of the physical plant.

Lots of good ground work is being done!

- Parishes in Transition

Ms. Tammy Prather is spending 6 – 8 hours a day talking with people in parishes. She reports that

20% of our parishes don't have clergy

Another 25% don't have full time clergy

A request has been received for Ms. Prather to enter into dialog with the clergy who are responsible for the Deacon's School. This has raised questions about how Deacons have been formed and cared for in the past. There is some pain here.

In this time of transition, when responsibilities and authority are unclear or unassigned it has been difficult to walk with parishes in transition or distress. Ms. Prather is working to collect data and information for Bishop Lee's arrival. He will likely need our help ranking the parishes and issues that need his attention most urgently.

Resolution on returning to worship in all parish churches in the diocese

The Revs. Jana Troutman-Miller and Dave Mowers reported on their March 23rd meeting with the Way Forward Task Force.

The meeting was held to review and receive feedback on the proposed changes to the Diocesan Covid Guidelines developed at a March meeting between The Revs. Troutman-Miller, Mowers, Leannah, and Bishop Lee.

The Way Forward Task Force made good suggestions and offered helpful language for the proposed changes.

After discussing the proposed changes and the recommendations from the Way Forward Task Force, The Standing Committee voted unanimously, motion having been made by Mr. Marcus White and seconded by Ms. Celia Fine, to adopt the following:

Dear Friends in Christ,

- Effective immediately, every parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee will be able to hold indoor worship services at 25% of the capacity of the church. Parishes are expected to calculate the appropriate number to get to 25%.

- Parishes may opt to hold multiple worship services in one space in the same day, provided they have taken the necessary steps regarding ventilation and or HVAC to ensure the safety of all present.
- Parishes no longer need to contact the Way Forward Task Force and receive permission from the Standing Committee to hold worship services. The Guidelines from the Way Forward Task Force are a valuable and trusted tool and are to be utilized by parishes when they make decisions about gathering safely.
- No parish is required to offer indoor worship at this time. Parishes are encouraged to take the appropriate time to plan for offering services safely before doing so.
- Our incoming Provisional Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Jeff Lee, is aware of and supports these changes. Bishop Lee is impressed by and thankful for the ministry of the Way Forward Taskforce and plans to engage with the Task Force as soon as possible after his arrival on April 1, and looks forward to continuing to partner with its members as he begins his ministry with us.
- Unforeseen circumstances related to the pandemic may cause this policy to change.

God's continued blessings upon us all as we seek to do God's will in our common life in this diocese.

Standing Committee, Diocese of Milwaukee, March 23, 2021

New Business

The Standing Committee voted unanimously to extend its gratitude, on behalf of the diocese, to The Rev. Bill and Amy Dunlop for their commitment and hard work as members of the Way Forward Task Force. A letter and a gift expressing our appreciation, will be sent to them right away.

Prayer was offered by Ms. Celia Fine

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted
The Rev. Andy Jones