

Attendance:

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

Minutes from the April 22nd meeting of the Standing Committee were approved.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Andy Jones

Special Convention

The Standing Committee unanimously adopted a motion for virtual convention to appoint a Bishop Provisional on Saturday, June 26 @ 10:00 am:

The Standing Committee, acting as Ecclesiastical Authority intends to convene a special convention of the Diocese of Milwaukee on Saturday, June 26 at 10:00 am, to appoint The Rt. Rev. Jeff Lee as Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee. The Standing Committee requests that the special convention be held virtually under Canon 4, Section 2.

The Standing Committee discussed the process and procedures of the special convention.

Convention roles for SC

1. Standing Committee member needed to act as President Pro-Tem of the convention (acting as ecclesiastical authority)
2. Motion is made – to elect +Jeff. Here is the verbiage: *RESOLVED that the Diocese of Milwaukee be placed under the provisional charge and authority of The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee for a period of two years, pursuant to Canon III, Section 13, of the Canons of The Episcopal Church.*
3. Standing Committee member speaks to the resolution (Resolved: That The Rt. Rev. Jeff Lee be appointed as Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Milwaukee)
4. A second is made to the motion
5. A vote is taken (Sara Bitner to guide voting process)
6. *Following the vote the Bishop will address us*

Provisional Bishop Designee report: +Jeff Lee

Bishop Lee reported that the Executive Council has approved funding for two full time positions

- Canon for Administration and Finance
- Canon for Ministries and Congregational Development

There was a robust discussion around this proposal and the Executive Council remarked that the very fact that there was an engaged questioning from that body represents the culture shift we are hoping to effect. Yeah!

One of the questions that came up:

Is reestablishing two diocesan positions that have been in existence in the Bishops office for a while too much like business as usual in the Diocese of Milwaukee?

Bishop Lee responded that this will not be business as usual – the way business gets conducted will be different will feel different.

We will be vigilant about the way that we conduct our business

An acronym that will guide our work at the diocesan offices:
Biff – Brief Informative Friendly and Firm

We will do back flips to be BIFF

We will be about Customer Service - Changing the culture means that members of the diocese should not flinch when something comes from the bishop or the bishop's staff – they should be eager to talk to us

The Bishop shared that we might engage Bishop Sean Rowe to offer us some training based on Amy Edmondson's work around Psychological safe space in organizations.

In brief:

Everyone in the org should not only feel free to say what's on their mind and heart, to disagree, and to offer critique. In fact, they should be expected to do it!

This stance or posture is operationalizing the Apostle Paul

This work will start with the Bishop's Team and radiate out to the rest of the Diocese.

Bishop Lee reported that he had been interviewed by Ministry Architects about the redevelopment work and search for a full time Chaplain at Saint Francis House. He reported that he was wowed by their professionalism and their understanding of church systems. Bishop Lee also reports that he has been taking lots of phone calls, answering lots of emails

and engaging in more and more face to face visits with people around the diocese.

Bishop Lee left the meeting

Ministry Liaison reports

St. Francis House – The Rev. Andy Jones

The Rev. Andy Jones reported that the search process, being managed by Ministry Architects is on schedule and on track to have a final list of candidates for review by mid July.

The goal is still to have a full time Chaplain in place for the beginning of the academic year this fall.

Way Forward Task Force – The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller

The Rev. Jana Troutman Miller has been in conversation with The Rev. Deacon Bill Dunlop.

The 28 page Diocesan Guideline document has been crunched down to a dozen pages

The Task Force has removed guidelines and text that was pertinent in 2020 but not in 2021

Additional edits will be made and then the updated will come to Standing Committee to approve via email

Haiti Project – The Rev. Andy Jones & The Rev. Jana Troutman Miller

The Reverends Troutman Miller and Jones reported that the Diocese of Milwaukee is still working to secure the services of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. We are asking them to function as facilitators in a process to rebirth the Haiti Project with

An ethos of mutual respect and partnership with our partners in Haiti

A streamlined budgeting and fundraising process

A clear understanding of the scope of the project

Clear job descriptions for the members of the team in the Diocese of Milwaukee

Congregational Development – Ms. Tammy Prather

The Standing Committee is in receipt of a letter from St. Peter's West Allis

The Standing Committee will defer response until after the Special Convention on June 26th.

Next meeting - Tuesday June 8, 6:30

Prayer was offered by Ms. Celia Fine

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.