

Standing Committee Meeting
January 14, 2020 -- 6:00 p.m., St. Mary's, Dousman

Present: Marcus White, Jana, Celia, Scott L. Andy Jones, Tammy Prather Gary Manning
Excused: Sheryl Slocum

Opening Matters:

The meeting was called to order by Leannah. The opening prayer was offered by Manning.

In light of the unplanned, extended absence of the Committee's elected Secretary, Manning and Troutman-Miller volunteered to serve the Committee as "Secretaries Pro-Tem" until Slocum's return. Manning and Troutman-Miller were appointed by acclamation.

Episcopal Election Consents:

Fine moved to consent to the episcopal elections of the Diocese of Missouri, the Diocese of Georgia, and the Diocese of Missouri as a slate.

The motion was seconded by Jones.

The vote to consent was unanimous.

Episcopal Search Process Update:

Leannah updated the Committee relative to the next steps in the Search. The Diocesan Search Consultant, the Rev'd Anne Hallisey will arrive in the Diocese on Sunday, January 19th. She will rent a car, and stay at the DeKoven Center for the ensuing week. The Consultant has indicated she will not need any sort of "hospitality" provided for her. White mentioned that, due to his new position with the Johnson Family Foundation at Wingspread in Racine, he would be available to the Consultant if need be.

Leannah noted the Rev'd Cathy Monson-Lutes would be coordinating the gathering of materials and hospitality for the upcoming clergy retreat (January 20-22), and that the Rev'd David Simmons was working on worship planning for that event. The Consultant has supplied the agenda for the clergy retreat to Leannah. She will submit receipts for reimbursement following her time in the Diocese.

Prather updated the Committee on the plans for the Search Committee organizing retreat (to be conducted at DeKoven Center on January 24-25). The agenda has been finalized with input from the Rev'd Ian Burch and Ms. Jan Watter, co-chairs of the Search Committee.

The retreat will focus on: getting acquainted, arriving at a decision-making process, talking about the protocols for listening sessions, gathering diocesan histories, and then dividing into subcommittees.

The Consultant plans to meet via Zoom with the entire Search Committee once per month, and meet via Zoom once per with the Co-Chairs.

Prather will provide the Standing Committee with a list of Search Committee Subcommittees.

Continuing Discussion Concerning Retirement Date for Bishop Miller:

The Committee discussed the draft of a letter to Bishop Miller relative to confirming the timeline for his retirement. The Committee agreed the final draft should be forwarded to the Bishop by e-mail and USPS as soon as possible in order to allow a timely response prior to the Committee's next scheduled meeting on February 11, 2020. The Committee unanimously endorsed the letter in its final draft form, while also recognizing minor edits were yet to be made.

New Business:

Leannah noted that the Search Process Consultant had requested a Charge to the Search Committee from the Standing Committee, a Theological Statement from the Standing Committee, a Prayer for the Search Process from the Standing Committee, and that the Standing Committee name a Chaplain to the Search Committee.

The Charge: The Standing Committee reviewed several documents from other dioceses in order to get an idea of how to proceed to compose such a document. Jones volunteered to take several of the templates provided, and compose a draft for further discussion.

Theological Statement: Manning volunteered to create a draft of a theological statement.

Prayer for the Search Process: Manning volunteered to create a draft of a Search Process Prayer, and to distribute same to the Standing Committee in order to expedite the finalizing of the Prayer.

Chaplain Discussion: The Standing Committee unanimously endorsed the appointment of the Rev'd Martha B. Berger as the Chaplain to the Search Committee, and upon her acceptance/availability to invite her to join the Search Committee for the organizing retreat with the Search Consultant.

Closing Prayer: Troutman-Miller; Next Meeting February 11, 2020, 6:00 p.m. St. Mary's, Dousman