

Present: Bishop Matt Gunter, The Rev. Ann Hallisey, The Rev. Scott Leannah, President, Ms. Margaret Done, Ms. Celia Fine, The Rev. Andrew Jones, The Rev. Dave Mowers, Ms. Tammy Prather, The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, Mr. Marcus White

Approval of minutes from Dec. 15, 2020

Approved with date of meeting corrected.

Motion to accept - Celia

Second – White

Prayer: The Rev. Dave Mowers

Discussion with Bishop Gunter – Processing the events of January 6th and the potential for further unrest on January 20th.

Bishop Gunter will write to all three dioceses in the state of Wisconsin, offering a pastoral word and prayer resources.

Bishop Gunter will contact the deans of all three diocesan cathedrals to coordinate prayer vigils to be held at the time of the inauguration. All three cathedrals will offer people the opportunity to sign up to pray in shifts, ala a Maundy Thursday Vigil. The hope is that all three will be able to set up online video feeds so that people across all three dioceses will be able to join together in prayers for peace and for the nation.

Bishop Gunter's office will coordinate with diocesan staff to prepare a press release.

Items for review and decision

- License renewal for Fr. Matthew Olver – license to celebrate granted
- A letter required under pastoral directive has been received from a clergy person in the diocese.
- Disciplinary Board formation and appointment of Intake Officer
Members of the title IV Disciplinary Board were elected at the October 2020 Diocesan Convention but that group has not been trained and we have not named an Intake Officer.

The Rev. Debra Trakel will provide the required training and help the board get organized

Standing Committee will approach a member of the clergy with experience in Title IV issues about standing as Intake Officer.

Discussion with The Rev. Ann Hallisey: A 20-minute discussion: *Diocesan dynamics: “accountability”, diocesan culture, etc.*

The Standing Committee discussed the need to shift diocesan culture to one of mutual support, trust, and respect.

The Standing Committee acknowledged the compounding stressors of an episcopal transition, pressures on parishes from the ongoing pandemic and lockdown, shifts in the culture and paradigm in which we minister that were happening even before Covid, and a diocesan culture in which asking for help could be a risky and even costly thing to do.

How do we begin to build a culture in which we have the freedom to be creative, to do our best work, to respond to the pressures that face without pointing fingers or blaming?

The Standing Committee recognized that hard decisions will need to be made in the years ahead, but in this time of transition and great anxiety, we are working to effect a shift in the way that we are in communion with one another and with the office of the Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee.

The Standing Committee committed to naming, whenever we hear or see the behaviors, attitudes, or language that falls short of the community we are trying to build; in our interactions with one another, with the diocesan bodies we are engaging, and with our colleagues in the diocese. Naming the change we are trying to effect is a powerful tool in creating the change.

The Standing Committee committed to providing pastoral support through its members, through the care of our visiting bishops, and to lean heavily on the leadership of the Provisional Bishop as we all work together to bring about this culture of mutual support, trust, and respect.

The message of the Standing Committee, during this time of transition, and prior to the arrival of our Provisional Bishop will be:

Here we are – we are not abandoning you – we know you are here!

What do you need?

What can we communicate to Bishop Lee for you?

Additional items for review and decision

- St. Boniface and Deacon Terry Garner's request to reach out to Deacon Cathy Milliken for support for a brief period of time.

Terry is also in charge of the Safeguarding program and the Standing Committee wondered if he would continue in the role. Standing Committee member Margaret Done is also working in that program and reports that we aren't doing much during this time.

The request was approved by Standing Committee.

- Camp Webb Margaret

The standing Committee wondered, if we aren't allowing our folks to worship is it responsible to let our kids come to camp?

Margaret Done has some names of folks who might want to help with Camp Webb, but this might not a year to do traditional camp. It may be a time to reimagine camp.

It was noted that Lutherdale, the site we have been using for our camping ministry is offering full camp this year and that they are willing to rent space to us for individual days

Margaret is working to keep track of deadlines for Lutherdale

Bishop Gunter has a staff person who would be willing to be in consultation with our camp team.

New business

Diocesan Guidelines re: Covid and Ash Wednesday

Dave Mowers, a member of Standing Committee and The Way Forward Task Force reported the Task Force's request that the Standing Committee issue a statement about liturgies for Ash Wednesday

Dave Mowers volunteered to draft a Pastoral Directive – allowing for communion under special circumstances, a walk through imposition of ashes, and explicit permission to allow the practice known as ashes to go.

It was also noted that The Way forward Task Force has formed a sub group led by The Rev. Miranda Hassett to talk about Holy Week liturgies and practices.

The Rev. Jana Troutman Miller, member of the Standing Committee shared an online To Do List – a living document to be placed in drop box to help the Standing Committee track its work.

A closing prayer was offered by Ms. Celia Fine

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 26 @ 6:30 pm