

**In attendance:** Bishop Matt Gunter, 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 January 12 Minutes**

Moved – The Rev. David Mowers

Second - Ms. Celia Fine

Approved by unanimous vote

**Prayer** was offered by Ms. Tammy Prather

**New Developments/Actions**

- St. Matthew's, Kenosha  
The Rev. Matthew Butterbaugh has announced his decision to resign.  
His last Sunday will be Sunday, February 28
  
- Dates for conventions:  
June 26 – election of a Bishop Provisional  
October 9 – Diocesan Convention  
  
Bishop Lee would like for them to be in person if at all possible but is amenable to doing them on Zoom if need be  
  
Dates have been communicated to Diocesan staff and they will begin to look at venues that will allow us to book without risking our deposit if the pandemic changes our plans at the last minute
  
- St. Michael's, Racine  
Lots of water damage in the restrooms not noticed because of pandemic closure  
They have asked Executive Council to cosign a loan and the EC has agreed  
  
Even if the diocese is cosigning a loan, the parish will be encumbered therefore the SC needs to approve their request.  
  
We will invite them to come to the Feb 9 SC meeting.

- Licensing of Lay Ministers  
Standing Committee will approve all license requests for a one year period of time and then start fresh when Bishop Lee is with us
- Phone conversation with +Jeff Lee  
Set dates for convention  
Made him aware personnel matters

He is wondering about renting an office in Chicago or near his house so that he can do some of his work for us there. We don't have the budget to rent him an office space in Chicago - Standing Committee declines this request and hopes that he can find office space in a parish near his home.

**The Standing Committee entered into executive session to discuss personnel matters.**

### **Camp Webb**

Ms. Margaret Done reports that we are moving towards pairing up and using materials from the Diocese of Fond du Lac

Margaret is working with Canon Kevin Huddleston and doesn't believe that we are at risk of missing deadlines for reserving space or that we have any existing commitment to them

The Rev. Lars Skoglund, who will be helping to run our camping program this year, is excited to work with Erin Wolf from the Diocese of Fond du Lac

We will have an extended conversation about Camp Webb on Feb 9 when Rev. Skoglund is with us to talk about the water damage at St. Michaels

The Standing Committee recognized that future collaborative work with the Diocese of Fond du Lac would be a great thing.

### **New Business**

- St. Francis House Board

The Board is preparing to post a job description and to begin the search for a full time chaplain.

Standing Committee does not need to be directly involved in the process but will take responsibility for vetting the candidates through contact with their previous bishops

The Rev. Andy Jones will be the one to engage in the process with the Board as the Liaison from SC. If the Board wants to consult with Ms. Tammy Prather we will make that happen at a later date.

- Financial aid to parishes during pandemic - a process

We have had a call from The Rev. Joel Prather, VP of Executive Council, who is aware of some congregations that have been hard hit financially by the pandemic.

How do parishes go about asking for aid?

The Standing Committee recognizes that the Diocese needs a uniform system whereby assistance is requested, those requests are considered, and decisions are rendered and communicated.

The Standing Committee's understanding of the process is that:

Requests for aid are made to Executive Council  
Executive Council engages Mission and Development and the Finance Committee  
Mission and Development report to EC with recommendations to grant or deny  
Executive Council votes on the request  
The Ecclesiastical Authority concurs or denies

Mission and Development and Finance serve in an advisory capacity to EC and the Ecclesiastical Authority.

The authority to grant or deny lies with the Executive Council and the Ecclesiastical Authority

The Standing Committee recognized that this process has not always been followed.

The Standing Committee also recognized that we are in an extraordinary time in the life of the Diocese. We are in a time of episcopal transition, with a provisional not scheduled to join us until April first, while a pandemic accelerates the trajectory of change that we have all been experiencing for the last few years.

There are a lot of questions that need to be addresses as we find our way forward:

What is the pool of available resources to help people?  
How do we divide it up?  
Will small grants really make a difference?  
Might giving those grants hurt our ability to make a real difference later?

We also recognized that the diocese does not have a strategic plan to help us decide where to dedicate our resources.

How can we reach out to people and offer something helpful in an expeditious way with all of these questions yet to be answered, and with so many changes happening all at once?

Bishop Gunter asked if we could divide the congregations up and make phone calls...  
Can we call everyone and ask how they are doing?

How have you been hurt in our current situation?  
What do you need?

We are working to effect a culture change in this diocese

We have not forgotten you

We are working on your behalf

Maybe we will find out that a few dollars may be a big help  
Maybe we will discover other needs as well

Standing Committee member Ms. Margaret Done will get a list of parishes and parish leadership, recognizing that many of our parishes are being led by their Wardens at this time, and the SC will divide up the list and make phone calls.

A letter will be sent to parish leadership:

We are going to be calling you individually to see what your needs are  
If you don't feel comfortable coming to us we are going to come to you  
Set the stage for the new day

We want to let people know that this work starts with the Standing Committee.

The Rev. Andy Jones will compile a list of topics and talking points for the phone calls and for the letter to be sent to parish leadership

The Rev. Scott Leannah, President of Standing Committee, will engage our Search Consultant, The Rev. Ann Hallisey, to facilitate two gatherings, one for clergy, and another for clergy and parish leadership to move this work forward.

We hope to hold these gatherings in mid March.

At these meetings we will talk openly with diocesan leadership about

what we would like to offer to Bishop Lee when he arrives  
the changes in diocesan culture we are hoping for  
And we hope to begin the process of rebuilding trust, in the diocese in each other

The Standing Committee will write to clergy and to lay leadership in the diocese to describe our goals for these gatherings, to make clear that we will be engaging in a dialog, and to allay any anxiety this invitation might engender.

Along these same lines, The Way Forward Task Force has proposed/requested that the Standing Committee issue a pastoral letter about Covid:

Highlighting hope  
Not a reminder of the things you can't do  
Here are the things you can do  
Here are the things that are hopeful  
Here's what we are hearing

The phone calls the Standing Committee is going to be making might generate material for this letter

The Rev. Jana Troutman Miller and The Rev. Miranda Hassett, both members of the Way Forward Task Force, are going to start working on the letter and then present it to SC to add material

Ms. Tammy Prather will compile the information that we gather in our calls and will begin working on the Pastoral Letter

- Way Forward Task Force

The task force will issue new guidelines for outdoor meetings on Feb 4

The Task Force is working on new guidelines for funerals that will not require parishes to submit a plan or apply for permission to conduct these services.

Bishop Gunter will join us for our meeting on February 9  
We will invite The Rev. Ann Hallisey to join us as well

Prayer was offered by Ms. Celia Fine

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm  
Respectfully submitted, The Rev. Andy Jones