



The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

Standing Committee

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COMMUNIQUE

To: The Clergy and Congregations of the Diocese
From: The President of the Standing Committee
Subject: **Episcopal Election Process: Walkabouts in the Diocese**
Date: July 28, 2010

The Standing Committee has announced that there will be three (3) walkabouts in the Diocese for the final four Nominees in the Election process for the next Bishop of Springfield. The term “walkabouts” is used to describe the visit of the final Nominees for Bishop to the Diocese. It is a time of discernment and an opportunity for the Diocesan Family and the Nominees (and their spouses) to get to know each other better.

A. Invitation to attend Walkabouts:

The Standing Committee invites all members of the Diocesan Family to attend the walkabouts in the Diocese of Springfield and to have the opportunity to meet the Nominees of whom one would be our next Bishop. If you are unable to attend the walkabout closest to your home, you are invited to attend one of the others.

B. The Dates and Venues for Walkabouts are:

- Tuesday, August 31 - First United Methodist Church, Mt. Vernon, IL
- Wednesday, September 1 – St. John’s Episcopal Church, Decatur, IL
- Thursday, September 2 – St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Alton, IL

All walkabouts are schedule to commence at 6:30 p.m.

C. The Goal of the Walkabouts:

The goal of the walkabouts is to give as many members across the Diocese the opportunity to personally meet the four Nominees and to hear their responses to questions submitted by the Diocesan Family.

D. Invitation for Submission of Questions:

The Clergy and Communicant Members of the Diocese of Springfield are invited to submit questions to the Standing Committee at: standingcommittee@episcopalspringfield.org on or before *Sunday, August 15, 2010.*

E. Assimilation of Questions:

1. There will be nine questions – three to be asked at each walkabout - which will be identified by the Standing Committee as mandatory questions to which all four Nominees will respond. The Nominees will be asked the same three questions each night but a different set of three questions will be asked at each of the three walkabouts. The Nominees will receive these questions prior to the walkabouts.
2. There will be a “fishbowl,” containing ‘appropriate and non-embarrassing questions,’* of which the Nominees will select three questions at random.

Each Nominee will therefore answer a total of six questions at each walkabout during the formal session. The time for each Nominee’s question period is 20 minutes and the order of the appearance of the Nominees will be determined by random selection.

Please note:

* **Appropriate and non-embarrassing Questions:** The Standing Committee expects Diocesan Family members to submit questions that are not framed in an attack-oriented manner, i.e. questions that would not or do not attack a particular view, but instead seeks to elicit a perspective or information on the issue. For example:

An attacking question: Are you an individual who would not ordain women to the Episcopate?

A non-attacking Question: What are your views or feelings about ordaining women to the Episcopate?

The Standing Committee reserves the right to edit questions that can be perceived as attacking a Nominee’s view instead of eliciting information or a viewpoint. It is not the Standing Committee’s intention to eliminate any questions.

F. Format of the Walkabouts:

1. Each walkabout will begin with Devotions, Prayers and the Announcement of Instructions at which the four Nominees will be present.
2. Each Nominee will meet separately with the assembled gathering during which time the other three Nominees will be sequestered.
3. Each Nominee will begin his or her time with a short prayer.
4. After the formal session of the walkabouts, a social time for coffee and light refreshments is allowed for casual interaction with the Nominees and to ask any further questions.
5. The expectation is that the formal portion of the walkabout will last no more than two hours.

We look forward to seeing you at the Walkabouts.

Blessings!