

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD  
**THE ELECTION COMMITTEE**  
Highlights of the Meeting of the Election Committee  
April 10, 2010  
Diocesan Center, Springfield, IL

Meeting began at 10 a.m. with an opening prayer.

**Members present:** T. Kobel, J. Hill, D. Maurer, S. Pearson, E. Langford, The Rev. E. Stormer, The Rev. G. Pence, C. Evans, H. Gore, S. Gore, J. Patterson, M. Stiehl, K. Schmitt, The Rev. S. Black, K. Gehrand

**Members absent:** none

Minutes from March 14, 2010 approved with no changes.

**Nominee Package:** The package was shared with the committee. The Standing Committee made a few changes to what the Election Committee created. Most of the essay questions created by the Election Committee were included. The first question regarding "Who is Jesus Christ?" was added since it was rated as very important on the survey sent to diocesan members. A DVD about the Diocese was produced and will be shared with nominees. Fr. Gene created a sample letter to accompany the nominee packet and the committee offered editing suggestions (mostly grammatical).

**Survey:** The comments from the survey were reviewed. The committee decided not to analyze or categorize the comments, and suggests the Standing Committee use the comments in their entirety and share them with nominees. H. Gore will create a introductory paragraph describing how the comments were tabulated and that there was no ranking of comments, and a description of the types of comments, such as "comments about the survey," "comments about what people want in new bishop," and "comments about views of past " etc. The comments from the survey will not be made public. They will be shared with nominees to help them better understand the diocese.

**Nominations:** Four nominations have been submitted thus far and 8 are expected in the mail within the next few days. The information about nominees that was shared with the committee is not to be shared with anyone outside the committee. None of the nominees have gone through the background check process and it is expected that only after nominees have passed the background check will information about them be shared.

**Reference Checking:** It was suggested that a smaller committee handle the reference checking in order to standardize the process rather than having 15 people conduct the reference checks. The decision about how many to include in the committee will be made once all nominees are identified (at next meeting). It's possible that each committee member will check references for 2-3 nominees.

All information collected during reference checking will be included in a booklet about the nominees. These booklets will be disseminated to the Nominating Synod delegates and clergy. It was suggested the booklet be constructed in a ring binder with tabs for each candidate.

The Election Committee decided to change reference question “d” (listed on Minutes of March 14) to “Has *NN* mentioned any candidates for Holy Orders? Explain.”

Add the following reference questions:

1. Would you want to have *NN* as your bishop; why?
2. Do you know anyone else who can speak to me about *NN*?

Questions for reference checking (repeated content from Mar 14 meeting)

- a. How do you know *NN*?
- b. Have you ever worked with *NN* on a project? Describe how it is to work with *NN*?
- c. Has *NN* led a program of evangelism? Explain.
- d. Has *NN* been involved in discernment of candidates for Holy Orders? Explain.  
(Changed as noted above)
- e. Has *NN* been involved in youth programming? Explain.
- f. What do you see as *NN*'s strengths? How about weaknesses?
- g. Describe *NN*'s decision-making style or process.
- h. Has *NN* been actively involved in a capital campaign or stewardship campaign? Explain.
- i. Has *NN* been involved in creating a budget? Explain.
- j. Does *NN* visit the sick, elderly and those in need? Explain.
- k. Has *NN* been involved in developing ministries and talents in laity? Explain.

**Discernment Meetings and Prayers:** Possible dates were suggested by Fr. Gene; he will check with the parishes to confirm the possibilities about the May dates.

1. Show video and have hard copies of profile available to distribute
2. Share and answer questions about survey results
3. Discuss status of election process; what has been done, what has yet to be accomplished
4. Time to pray for Diocese and candidates
5. Discuss positive goals; hopes for the future (that a future bishop will be able to use for a 5-year plan)

**Next meeting:** Saturday, May 15 at 1 p.m. at St. Paul's in Alton

**Topics to discuss at next meeting:** Reference checking process

**Adjournment:** 12:30 p.m.