

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
THE ELECTION COMMITTEE
Highlights of the Meeting of the Election Committee
February 27, 2010
Diocesan Center, Springfield, IL

Meeting began at 10:00 a.m. with an opening prayer.

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

Members absent: S. Pearson

Clarification of Minutes of Feb. 13: The Standing Committee clarified that the decision regarding nominations from the floor has not been made. The Standing Committee is the body to decide this, not the Election Committee.

Profile Committee:

1. Add to map an additional parish symbol in Madison County.
2. To the one page History: Add two sentences to the second to the last paragraph “Philosophically and theologically, the Diocese as a whole could be characterized as more conservative than liberal, although several parishes likely would describe themselves as more liberal. For the most part, the clergy and laity of the Diocese consider themselves loyal to The Episcopal Church and a part of the larger Anglican Communion.”
3. Additional pictures will be added to show the life around the Diocese. S. Gore will get pictures to Fr. Gene to post to the profile.
8. A short description of positive activities that happen in parishes around the Diocese will be created by J. Hill and distributed to committee for input/feedback. The intent is to include information in the profile that adds some life to the Diocese and directs interested parties to additional sources of information about the Diocese.

Survey Committee:

1. Approximately 50% of the surveys have been processed. The total amount of responses is approximately 700. It is anticipated that the compilation will be completed within 2 weeks. M. Stiehl will help compile written comments. The profile will be posted on the website next week and the final results of the survey will be posted when it is finished.
2. In the summary of the survey, use the average Sunday attendance for 2008 which is 2083 to figure percent participation.
3. Include definition of terms to help others understand the scores. For example, “The number of people who ranked this item as one of the top 5” or “The number of people who answered this item”; Explain “spoiled”
4. In ranking, add the number (1) through (5) in another column to help people interpret the scores
5. Change percentage score to one decimal point

Nominations Committee:

1. **Nomination process and procedures description:** It should read in the nominator packet, “The Election Committee is responsible for facilitating the in-gathering of information about all nominees and will forward to the Standing Committee all information collected on the nominees. The Standing Committee will forward information on all qualified nominees to the Nominating Synod. It is the responsibility of the Nominating Synod to select the final Candidates for the next Bishop of Springfield.”

2. The process and procedures description will be included in the nominator and nominee packets rather than having three separate documents.

3. **Authorization /Release Form:** A standard format for the authorization/release was distributed and it replaces page 5 in the nominee package.

4. **Essay question process:**

Determined areas that the group wants to include in the essay question section:

- Personal/spiritual journey
- Present issues within the broader church
- Mediation/conflict resolution skills
- Qualifications that related to needs of Diocese; What are the issues of the Diocese?
- Pastoral approaches; Experiences with various ministries
- Leadership

Questions:

1. Provide an autobiographical sketch of your personal and spiritual journey, including your rule of life. Include information such as: Describe involvement in renewal movements. What books/authors/theologians are important to you? What have you read within the last 60 days? What do you do for fun?

2. A bishop is called to “guard the faith, unity and discipline in the Church.” (BCP 517) How do you understand this charge as it relates to the current crisis and other challenges within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion? Give examples of how you exercised leadership regarding these issues.

3. Describe a polarizing situation in your ministry and what you did to help resolve and heal the divisions. Describe a difficult situation in your ministry that you felt you did not resolve very successfully. In retrospect, what would you have done differently?

4. Based on your reading of the Diocesan Profile and any other knowledge you have, what do you see as your greatest challenge as the Bishop of Springfield, and what excites you most about becoming our Bishop?

5. What have you done in the following ministries on both the local and diocesan level? Youth, young adult, Christian education, college and university, rural team ministries and yoked congregations, Episcopal Church Women, camps and conferences and any other specialized ministries.

6. Describe your liturgical style including use of music.

7. Characterize your leadership style and your strengths, and describe a situation where you’ve applied them.

Discernment Meetings and Prayers: will be discussed next meeting after survey tabulation is completed.

Next meeting: Sunday, March 14, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. at Diocesan Center.

Topics to discuss at next meeting: Survey results, essay questions, reference questions, discernment meetings.

Adjournment: Following the reading of prayers, the meeting concluded at 2:10 p.m.