

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD
THE ELECTION COMMITTEE
Minutes of the Meeting of the Election Committee
March 14, 2010
Diocesan Center, Springfield, IL

Meeting began at 2:30 p.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

Members absent: M. Stiehl, K. Schmitt, The Rev. S. Black, K. Gehrand

Diocesan Profile:

1. In Summary of Diocese history, add the following to the end of 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.” As sentences were originally identified in the minutes of Feb. 27th.

Survey:

1. Approximately 100 surveys remain to be compiled. M. Steihl is typing comments. S. Pearson has a program which can analyze the written comments.
2. Discussion ensued about what to do with comments. It was suggested the comments be analyzed for common threads with Steve’s program. H. Gore suggested he redact the comments to remove names and libelous content. The committee concurred with this strategy. The next step will be for the committee to review the written comments and to decide on key words to use in the analysis.

Nominations:

1. Nominee package:

Once a nomination has been sent in, the nominee package will be sent to the candidate. In addition, a video will be sent which includes Fr. Holder, Archdeacon Denny and Fr. Stormer describing things about the Diocese and showing the buildings and offices that the Bishop would use.

2. Vetting candidates:

Discussion occurred related to what important skill sets are needed for the Diocese. Examples of skills that are important for the next Bishop might include: financial skills, pastoral skills, conflict resolution skills, etc. The committee is responsible for contacting references. Reference questions need to be developed for the references provided by the candidates. Questions also need to be developed for individuals the committee wants to contact from the candidates’ past positions, such as vestry members, administrative assistant, treasurer, etc.

Questions for personal reference checks

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

Discernment Meetings and Prayers: Need to wait to have survey completed before we discuss or schedule the meetings. The committee reviewed the purpose of the meetings based upon what Fr. Stormer presented several meetings ago. It is Fr. Stormer's intention to lead all the meetings using an appreciative inquiry process focusing on the future and what we need from a new bishop.

Next meeting: Saturday, April 10 at 10 a.m.

Topics to discuss at next meeting: Reference questions finalized, discernment meeting dates, survey comments analysis (key words), review nominations that have been submitted

Adjournment: 5:10 p.m. after an Irish Blessing.