

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD

THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

Highlights of the Meeting of the Election Committee

December 5, 2009

Diocesan Center, Springfield, IL

Attending: The Rev. Canon Eugene A. Stormer, Chair, The Rev. Sheryl Black, Mr. Charles Evans, Mr. Keith Gehrand, Mr. Harry Gore, Mrs. Therese Kobel, Mrs. Elisabeth Langford, Dr. David Maurer, Mr. Joseph Patterson, Dr. Steve Pearson, The Rev. Canon Dr. George Pence, Mrs. Kathie Schmitt, Mrs. Martha Stiehl, and Ms. Sierra Gore

Absent: The Rev. Charles Reischman and Mrs. Jane Hill

The meeting began at 10:05 with prayer after which the Chair, Fr. Stormer, reviewed the charge and timeline as given by the Standing Committee of the Diocese to the Election Committee.

The Standing Committee's charge is as follows:

- Develop a Survey and subsequently a Profile that contains the facts and statistics about our diocese, our goals, and the kind of bishop we seek. This also includes a brief history of the diocese.
- Prepare Nomination Guidelines and Forms that will be made available to the prospective candidates for Bishop
- Prepare Questionnaire that would be answered by prospective candidates
- Contact interested Nominees and mail Questionnaires to them
- Activate process of Screening (background checks)
- Compile Booklet of Nominees which are to sent to delegates of the Nominating Synod
- Coordinate the visits (walk-about) of those candidates who are nominated at the Nominating Synod

In light of very little documentation with regards to the previous search process 18 years ago, it was mentioned that several examples of documents and forms needed for the search of a new bishop can be found on the websites of other dioceses who are either currently in a search process or have just completed the process of electing a bishop. The Chair provided a list of those websites. In addition, the information provided by the Episcopal Church headquarters mostly deals with the process of election and the verification needed and therefore are not helpful in creating the documents the Committee needs.

One notable difference between this process and the one that elected Bishop Beckwith is the ascendancy of the internet and video. It was discovered that many dioceses presently utilize the internet and produce videos in addition to paper documents. The expectation is that the diocesan web site will be a medium that would provide both paper and video documentation that can be useful to the process. However, the use of the internet is not to be exclusive, denying those in the diocese who are unfamiliar with computers and the internet from the election process.

The following subcommittee assignments were made:

Profile Committee on Statistics and Facts: Keith Gehrand, Terry Kobel, and Elisabeth Langford

Survey Committee: Rev. Sherry Black, Harry Gore, Steve Pearson and Martha Stiehl

Nomination Forms and Questionnaires Committee: Chuck Evans, Joe Patterson, and Kathie Schmitt

History Committee: David Maurer and Rev. Canon George Pence

Profiles of the Diocesan Organizations: Sierra Gore

The Profile Committee on Statistics and Facts will have access to the statistics of congregation's parochial reports published in the diocesan journal. The hope is to use reports between 2006 and 2008. Reports from 2009 would not be available in time for the publishing of the profile.

One of the primary tasks of the Survey Committee would be to ascertain how or whether to use a survey in gathering information from the diocese. It was mentioned that some dioceses have used focus groups or simple parish surveys provided by vestries and bishop's committees.

The major task of the Nomination Forms and Questionnaires Committee is to design forms that will gather the necessary information about the candidates and develop simple guidelines of the eligibility for nomination according to the diocesan canons and those of the Episcopal Church. This committee will also activate the process of background checks.

The History Committee will need to update the diocesan history which was last produced in 1977 and to include parts of the early history as found on the diocesan website.

There was also the discussion of the use of Prayer and Focus groups throughout the diocese but that topic will be readdressed.

The next meeting of the Election Committee is scheduled for January 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at the Diocesan Center, Springfield. At that time each subcommittee will report on its preliminary work in accomplishing its tasks.

The various subcommittees met together briefly to organize their work.

Sierra Gore led the final closing prayer and the meeting concluded about 12:15pm.