



The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

Standing Committee

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October 29, 2009

Dear Diocesan Family:

On October 23, 2009 at the 132nd Synod of the Diocese, the Standing Committee unveiled the process and timeline for electing the next Bishop of Springfield. The purpose for writing at this time is to share with the wider diocesan family the election process and timeline and to invite you to recommend names of clergy and lay members in the diocese who you believe will be equipped to serve on the Election Committee.

During our retreat in August this year and after much prayer and reflection, the members of the Standing Committee decided on an election process which they felt was best suited for our diocese at this time. The process is not unique to the diocese since a similar procedure was used to elect the current Bishop of Springfield in 1991.

The process began with the announcement of The Reverend Canon Gene Stormer as Chair of the Election Committee and the outline of the process at our just concluded Diocesan Synod. The next step is the formation of an Election Committee which, in consultation with the Standing Committee, will prepare the groundwork for the nomination of candidates for the election. The Election Committee will be responsible for developing a diocesan profile, nomination guidelines and form, a questionnaire to be answered by prospective candidates and to coordinate the visits (walk-about) of those candidates who are nominated at the Nominating Synod. As a result, the duty of the Election Committee is not that of a Nominating Committee who chooses or nominates candidates for the election but to be facilitators, assisting in the election process by engaging in specific tasks.

The timeline for the Election Process is as follows:

- **February 17, 2010 (Ash Wednesday):** The Election Committee completes the Survey, Diocesan Profile, Nomination Guidelines and Forms and sends Nomination Guidelines and Forms to interested Candidates.
- **April 4, 2010 (Easter Day):** Deadline for receiving Nominations for Episcopate Election. Election Committee contacts Candidates and mails Questionnaires to them.
- **May 13, 2010 (Ascension Day):** Deadline for Candidates to respond to Questionnaires.
- **June 29, 2010 (Sts. Peter and Paul):** Initial Screening (Background Checks) of Candidates. Election Committee completes compilation of Booklet of Candidates and sends to Nominating Synod delegates and churches in the diocese.

- **August 6-7, 2010 (Transfiguration):** The Nominating Synod (comprising of Synod delegates elected at the Annual Meetings in January 2010) convenes to nominate the final list of Candidates for Bishop Coadjutor. The number of the final slate of Candidates will be determined by the Standing Committee prior to the Nominating Synod.
- **August 31 – September 2, 2010:** Candidates will visit the diocese (Walk-about) to meet its members and for the diocesan family to ask questions of the Candidates.
- **September 17-18, 2010:** The Electing Synod (the same delegates at the Nominating Synod) convenes to elect the Bishop Coadjutor.

Following the election, the name of the Bishop-elect with appropriate testimonials and documentation, will be forwarded to the Presiding Bishop who will notify the Bishops exercising jurisdiction, and to the Standing Committee of each diocese for their consent. We expect the Consent process to conclude on January 18, 2011, which would be the required 120 days as stipulated by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church. We hope the consecration of our next Bishop will take place either in February or March 2011, but the date will be determined in consultation with the Presiding Bishop's Office.

The Standing Committee is also accepting recommendations for clergy and lay members of the diocese to serve on the Election Committee. We desire individuals who possess gifts or skills that would be needed to achieve the above-mentioned responsibilities and a willingness to meet the time commitment necessary in order to accomplish the goals of the eighteen month process. Please complete the attached recommendation form and return it by **November 15, 2009** to the mailing address on the form or email it to: standingcommittee@episcopalspringfield.org

Please permit me to add that members of the Standing Committee are prepared to visit your church, if you so desire, to outline and answer any questions that members may have concerning the election process. You may contact me at 618-632-6168 or email at: frtony@stmichaelsofallon.org or standingcommittee@episcopalspringfield.org to schedule a visit.

We encourage you to engage in prayer throughout this process. We have formulated prayers and intercessory petitions which may be included in the Prayers of the People in Rites I and II of the Holy Eucharist as well as to be used in Morning and Evening Prayer. These prayers can be found on the diocesan web site on the *Bishop Search* page – *Discernment Resources*. We also invite you to use the website: www.episcopalspringfield.org and the diocesan newspaper, *The Springfield Current*, for updates and information as to how the process is unfolding. Our intention is to keep the diocesan family informed on a regular basis or as information is received.

Do keep us and the Election Committee in your prayers as we engage in the task of guiding and facilitating the process of the election of our next bishop.

Blessings to all!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Very Rev. Dr. Anthony B. Holder
President, Standing Committee