



STANDING COMMITTEE

Episcopal Diocese of Delaware

Thursday, September 22, 2016

UPDATE ON BISHOP SEARCH:

We are pleased to report that the Search and Transition committees are hard at work. A clergy day is planned for Tuesday the 27th of September. The Reverend Thad Bennett will be present to facilitate the Search Committee's discussion with the clergy about the process, hope, dreams and wishes for the next bishop. A survey for the diocese as a whole is almost finished. It will be sent out electronically via email. It will be available on the Search and Transition [website](#). Listening sessions throughout the diocese are being planned for the weekends of October 15th, 22nd and 29th (Saturday morning, Sunday afternoon). More details to come on those dates. Listening sessions will also be held on Tuesdays October 18th and 25th. Again places and times to be determined.

Thank you for your prayers for the Reverend Mark Harris. Due to his illness he has asked to be replaced as the chaplain for the search and transition process. We are grateful for his work and wish him a speedy return to health. Our prayers will continue for him and his family. The Reverend Sarah Nelson has graciously agreed to take over that role. Sarah is the rector of St. James' Newport. She will be bring a deep spirituality and creativity to our work.

The members of the Standing Committee met with the Trustees on September the 8th to present the budget for the Search and Transition process. We want to explain to you how we crafted this budget. For the income, Bishop Wright and the Trustees have been setting aside money every year for the past twelve plus years to assure that the diocese had sufficient funds available when a call for an election was offered. Due to their fine stewardship and forward thinking, we are in a very good position with enough saved to cover the expenses for a quality search and transition.

As for the expenses, a subcommittee of the Standing Committee began by compiling the search and transition budgets of several local and regional dioceses. Having these for comparison and to make certain we didn't forget a category of expenses, they began to populate a draft budget based on actual numbers and best approximations. We have a standard letter of agreement with the consultant, the Reverend Thad Bennett, and with the Right Reverend Bud Shand for their work with the diocese. We have a contract with Lee Ann Walling to develop and maintain the Search and Transition website and email database. We have a contract with Joanne Warren to serve as the secretary for the two committees, thus freeing up the committees' members to broaden their work.

All other expenses required that we make practical and informed guesses as to those numbers. It was our working stance that we would budget expansively and then as the real numbers came in we would adjust. For example, the cost of the consecration itself. After consultation with those who planned the service for Bishop Wright we learned that they anticipated a venue that could seat 1,500 people. Working off of that number we researched venues that could accommodate that size. There were only two nearby. We priced out renting those sites. That is the number we put into the budget. Neither of those sites were contracted with to hold the event. We simply used their numbers for budgetary purposes. It will be the work of the Transition committee to select the site for the consecration. They will decide on the seating capacity needed, sound system requirements, reception etc. Once they have that data and have a selection, the standing committee will adjust the budget appropriately.



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Under “other transition costs” you will see line items related to traditional gifts given to a bishop. We have included those in our budget even though they will most likely be given to the bishop elect by friends, family, colleagues and the diocese. Our rationale for including them in our budget was that we wanted to make certain that our next bishop was able to have all these symbols of their office if friends and family could not afford them. In addition, there is money for the bishop to attend specific events for newly elected bishops that are held by the Episcopal Church. These events and classes are extremely helpful to assist the bishop in transitioning to his/her new role. These costs may be covered in the annual budget of the diocese, however, since that budget is not set yet we included them here.

As you can see, this is a working budget. As the committees’ progress in their work the budget numbers will firm up and be adjusted. We will give regular update to the Trustees and to you. If you have questions after looking at the [budget](#), please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Standing Committee.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Patricia S. Downing, President

The Rev. Mary L. Allen

The Rev. Paul Gennett

Ms. Teri Quinn Gray

Ms. Carol H. Kunz

Mr. Jon Rania

Mr. Bruce Vrana

The Rev. Max J. Wolf