STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING
August 12, 2019 - 10:00am

Present: Lucinda McMurry, Tom Pope, Keila Thomas+, Amy Dafler-Meaux+, Jim Trimble+
Other: +Mark VanKoevering

1. Opening Prayer by Bishop Mark 10:20am

2. Candidacy Interview with Seminarian David Goodpaster 10:21am

3. MOTION 10:55am
Recommend David Goodpaster to be a Candidate for Holy Orders - Diaconate
Presented: Jim Trimble+  Second: Keila Thomas+  Passed

4. Check-In for SC members 10:55am

5. Discussion about the Mutual Ministry Process 11:53am
- Some stated concerns could be concerns for any candidate. They are legitimate, but are not prohibitive
- “We don’t know all he brings, but what he does bring, we need”

Today’s Process:
   a. Deliver feedback to +Mark of what was gathered
   b. Deliver feedback to Diocese – 1 page letter

6. Bishop Mark’s Response to Questions 12:25pm
- Place of strength and solidarity that many in Diocese haven’t recognized – a lot of healing has happened. People have stepped up and taken on responsibility to things they can handle.
- Dreams and outlooks have been put on-hold during this time since the suspension of Bp. Hahn.
- Gifts helpful at this time: patient, peacemaker, reconciler.
- Steps to deal with specific issues of mistrust have been positive – more open than he expected.
- A fear: we really don’t want a bishop, but need to have one. Haven’t felt that on a personal level.
- Unhealthy – when a priest is called, the inequality of stipends and the fact of negotiating the stipend with a Vestry. General Convention is set up as an unhealthy relationship with bishops, and clergy/deputies. Placing blame on the other house is undercurrent throughout the system. Important issues of the Church have no depth of discussion.
- Your role in influencing the future of GC and Episcopal system: ideas on borrowing from other areas of the Anglican Communion.
- Concerns: excited by responses to Envisioning/Visioning work – a direction God is leading us that people can relate to. Dismayed after meeting with a group of big-church rectors whose response was less enthusiastic.
- Ambition: to see ourselves as one church – the Diocese of Lexington, rather than a collection of local congregations. Less about programs and more about change in culture – a long-term process.
- Joys: seeing how much life there is while traveling around, even in smaller communities. More at ease with smaller churches, rather than a cathedral (personality). The most remote and
smallest communities have the greatest desire to be connected, and want to engage in the Visioning. Bigger churches feel they don’t need it, and are unwilling to invest more money or time in the Visioning Process – ok with the concept, though.

- Outstanding staff at Mission House – want to see the churches flourish, and how to communicate to make that apparent.
- Expensive to have a bishop – what do we get out of this?
- Has no desire to just be a ceremonial figure showing up and smiling. Really want to see us grow, and see this change of seeing one another as part of the same church, and supporting each other. See clergy as working together, not as isolated communities.
- He comes from a more orthodox theological position than the stated place that the Episcopal Church is in. Interesting journey – discovered that the Church is broader than I thought – very healthy for us, and have moved beyond the rancor. Can I live within this reality, and still be a leader and listener for all people? I think so.
- A move away from ‘belonging,’ or a club mentality, to truly ‘following’ Jesus Christ. How can we be intentional about being multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-socioeconomic – to truly reflect the communities we serve? What really matters? And then explore those issues.
- Currently 62, and has never thought of working through 72. Wouldn’t want the assumption to be a ten-year commitment, but then again, not a two-year commitment. A good patch of time together.
- Unable to perform a same-sex marriage, personally. Unable to give consent to the Bishop of Maine. Tension: The Episcopal Church has seen this as blessing and he has given oath to follow the Constitution and Canons of the EC – even though, personally, he is still in a place of learning on this issue. Tradition-Scripture makes it difficult to reconcile. Reason-Experience has shown him a new way. Also, he does not inhibit any clergy for performing same-sex marriages. Priests are offered the latitude to perform or not, and the bishop should be allowed that same latitude.

**Will Bishop Mark be willing to stand for election as Bishop Diocesan?**

“Yes. I don’t want to go anywhere else.”

**How do we allow people to get to know Bishop Mark, and for Bishop Mark to know us?**

In this size diocese, he’s fully able to engage each congregation, not just on the yearly Sunday visitation and celebration, but also in the other aspects of lives of these faith communities.

**7. MOTION**

1:41pm


Offered: Amy Dafler-Meaux+ Seconded: Tom Pope **Passed**

**Bishop Mark accepts the invitation.**

**8. MOTION**

2:00pm

Approval of May and June Minutes

Offered: Lucinda McMurray Seconded: Tom Pope **Passed**

**9. Next Meeting:** Monday, September 9, 2019 at 10am, Mission House

Agenda Items: Summary of Mutual Ministry responses, approving August minutes

**10. MOTION:** Adjournment of meeting

2:08pm

Offered: Lucinda McMurray. Seconded: Tom Pope **Passed**