



February 11, 2020

Beloved in Christ:

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia wants to take some time to bring everyone up to speed on the work we've been doing since Bishop Klusmeyer announced the call for a Bishop Coadjutor.

Following the announcement, the Standing Committee met and spoke with Bishop Todd Ousley in late 2019. Bishop Ousley, who serves on the Presiding Bishop's staff for the Office of Pastoral Development, provided us with names of consultants who could walk with us through our process of discernment. In early January, we hired The Rev. Gary Butterworth to serve as our consultant.

Gary led a retreat for the Standing Committee on February 7-8, where the group spoke more in depth about the process from start to finish. One of the tasks during the retreat was to identify a Chair for a Search and Nominating Committee. The Committee has done that and is pleased to announce that The Rev. Deacon Al Prichard will serve as the Chair. Further, The Rev. Stan Holmes has agreed to serve as Chaplain to the Committee.

The Standing Committee's next step will be to populate the Search and Nominating Committee. We'll be seeking representatives throughout the diocese to serve and will do so through an application process. An application form will soon be distributed for individuals to apply. The form will be sent via email on the diocesan listserv WVMission. Clergy and Wardens are encouraged to print copies for their congregations. Deanery representatives are also encouraged to ensure that congregations have received the application as well. Our expectation is to have that committee in place by March 8th.

Moving forward, the Standing Committee will be seeking to utilize various means of communications available to the diocese to disseminate information. As we enter this time of discernment, we invite you to use this prayer throughout the process:

A Prayer for the Bishop Coadjutor Search

Almighty God, you have created each person with many and varied gifts and joined our lives together as members of the Diocese of West Virginia. Look graciously upon us as we search for our 8th Bishop, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries. Give us minds to discern your will, courage to follow where you lead, and hearts to love as you command, to the glory of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. John Valentine, President
The Rev. Joshua Saxe
The Rev. Jordan Trumble
The Very Rev. Paul Hicks

Ms. Barbara Hinkle
Mr. Benjamin Hardesty
Mr. Philip Steptoe
Ms. Monika Jaensson