



December 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you know, at this past Diocesan Convention, I asked for the creation of the position of Assistant Bishop. This position is a Canonical position, and in order to create it, I needed to ask the Standing Committee for their consent to take it to Convention.

At Convention, I asked for the creation of this position.

The Standing Committee gave its consent, unanimously.

The Diocesan Convention approved the creation of the position by a 98% approval.

From there, I returned to the Standing Committee, to ask their consent to appoint the Rt. Rev. Mark Van Koevering for the position of Assistant Bishop. The Standing Committee gave its unanimous approval.

With this background, I contacted Bishop Van Koevering and asked him to join me in West Virginia as the Assistant Bishop.

Bishop Van Koevering was born in the United States, and lived in the UK. He spent years as a missionary to Mozambique, and was ordained priest. He married Helen, who is also ordained, where they both have served in Mozambique. About 13 years ago, he was consecrated Bishop of Niassa, where he has served since. Under his episcopacy, the Diocese has nearly doubled in size, and has begun looking at creating new dioceses.

For the past couple of weeks, Bishop Van Koevering and Helen have been working on a Visa for Helen. With the help of both Senator Manchin and Senator Capito, the Visa has been granted, and the two will be flying to West Virginia next week.

I ask your prayers for Mark and Helen, their family and the Diocese of Niassa, as we make this transition.

I look forward to a great and warm welcome for them, to West Virginia.

After they settle into Charleston, we will work on a schedule of visitations, which will come out in January.

Welcome Bishop Mark and Helen!!!

In Christ,

The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer
Bishop of West Virginia