

# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE



## Episcopal Transition Update

### From the Standing Committee

As part of our committed effort to communicate regularly with the Diocese about the process for discernment, election and consecration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Maine, the Standing Committee offers the following information about the next steps in the Transition timeline located on [episcopalmaine.org](http://episcopalmaine.org).

If you missed the information in the Call to Election letters from Bishop Lane and the Standing Committee, you can review them at [episcopalmaine.org](http://episcopalmaine.org).

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

**October 28**—Diocesan Convention considers enabling legislation.

**October 28 – Nov 10**—If the enabling resolution passes as presented, the Standing Committee receives nominations for persons to serve on one of two committees—Discernment or Transition—via an online application form on Diocesan website (there will be a link posted on 10/28).

**Nov 1 and Nov 15**—Standing Committee meets to review incoming nominations and prayerfully discern membership of Discernment and Transition Committees and committee chairs.

**On or about Nov 20**—Standing Committee contacts appointees individually and then announces the committee chairs, the members of each committee, and the chaplain.

**Dec 1-2**—Discernment and Transition Committees, Chaplain, Chancellor and administrative staff participate in a training retreat with the Standing Committee and our Episcopal Church Consultant, the Rev. Canon Rick Callaway. This meeting will be held at the Westin Harborview in Portland and signals the official beginning of the search process. Overnight accommodations will be secured by the Bishop's Office and the meeting will include time for Eucharist with Bishop Lane and the Diocesan Council.

### WHAT ARE THE ROLE AND DUTIES OF EACH COMMITTEE?

**Discernment Committee** will work with our Consultant from The Episcopal Church, and do the work of listening to voices from across the Diocese. They will gather input via surveys/interviews and collect other data to create a *Profile of the Diocese of Maine*. They will do the work of seeking out, interviewing and discerning candidates to create a Slate of Nominees for the election. This will include hosting a discernment retreat in Maine with all the finalists. Their work will come to a close as they present the Slate of Nominees to the Standing Committee for approval.

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**Transition Committee** will organize and execute “walkabouts” with the slate of nominees, including any nominees added by petition, through the diocese and organize and execute the electing convention. They will then work with the next Bishop and family as s/he moves to Maine. They will also coordinate with Diocesan leaders and staff, as well as the Presiding Bishop's office, to help plan the service of Ordination and Consecration. The Transition Committee will work with Diocesan leaders and the Lanes and to assure that their farewell transition is a wonderful celebration of their years of ministry in the diocese.

### **WHAT IS THE EXPECTED TIME COMMITMENT FOR THOSE WHO SERVE?**

**Discernment Committee** will accomplish the bulk of its work between December 2017 and November 2018 (about 12 months).

**Transition Committee** will accomplish the bulk of its work from the time the slate is announced through the February 2019 electing Convention and end with the Consecration on 22 June 2019 (about 8 months).

Committee members should be prepared for a busy schedule of meetings (some face-to-face and some electronic) as well as at least one additional retreat event. Interviews, walkabouts, meetings etc. will require travel to diverse parts of the Diocese. There will be no required travel outside the Diocese.

### **WHAT GIFTS, TALENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS IS THE STANDING COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR IN PEOPLE WHO WILL SERVE ON THESE COMMITTEES?**

1. **Residence:** clergy members (Priests or Deacons) must be canonically resident in Maine; lay members must be communicants in good standing in a parish or mission in Maine, and must be at least 15 years old.
2. **Knowledge:** members must be knowledgeable about the Episcopal Church— our traditions of liturgy, music, vestries, parish/mission life— and of the ways our churches and our society are changing.
3. **Energy:** able and willing to
  - a. Attend frequent meetings, some in person, some electronically (video on computer), weekly as needed;

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- b. Prepare for meetings, doing the required research and reading to prepare the on-line Diocesan Profile (Discernment), and then application and reference documents and essays needed to be familiar with candidates.
- c. Plan and execute logistics and content for meetings, retreats, “walk abouts”, etc. (There will be a part-time, professional administrative support person to staff Discernment and Transition Committees.)
- d. Provide hospitality for candidates and their families.
- e. Collaborate with Diocesan Staff and Presiding Bishop’s Staff to plan and execute Electing Convention and Consecration (Transition).

### **4. Skills:**

- a. Able and enthusiastically willing to work electronically, using the internet and the video capabilities of your computer. If you have no computer, able to access a computer with a reliable connection where your use will be confidential.
- b. Listen well to others on your committee, and to those who will be Bishop candidates and their references. Able to express your point of view and accept the viewpoints of others.
- c. Able to negotiate as you seek what is best for the whole diocese and The Episcopal Church. Ability and willingness to foster consensus.
- d. Able to maintain boundaries and keep strict confidences.

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### **IF I WANT TO NOMINATE SOMEONE TO SERVE OR IF I WANT TO VOLUNTEER MYSELF, WHAT DO I DO?**

After enabling legislation is passed by the Diocesan Convention on 28 October 2017, the online nomination form will be available by visiting [www.episcopalmaine.org](http://www.episcopalmaine.org). Nominations will be received from October 28-November 10.

Prior to that, we ask that you pray and meditate upon gifts and talents required by the process, talk with your clergy and parish community members, and discern if you feel you or someone you know is called to serve the people of God in this way.

### **IF I HAVE FURTHER QUESTIONS, WHOM DO I CONTACT?**

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