

An update on the Search process for our new Bishop

Your Standing Committee has been working with the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, Bishop for the Office of Pastoral Development in the Presiding Bishop's Office and The Rev. Ann Hallisey, the consultant he recommended to guide us and ensure that we are doing everything we can to listen to the Holy Spirit, follow the Canons of the Episcopal Church, and to listen to the people of our Diocese in the process of selecting the Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Montana.

To that end, a Nominating Committee has been elected and has held its first organizational retreat. Each member was elected by their deanery (one lay person and one clergy person) to serve. They are: The Rev. Melinda St. Clair and Carolyn Rosen from the Billings deanery; The Rev. Theresa Kelley and Gretchen Swift from the Bishop Daniels deanery; the Rev. Steven Yurosko and Keith Kuhn from the Lake Missoula deanery; and The Rev. Steve DeHart and Mary Cavalier from the Bishop Tuttle deanery. They are developing a listening process so that all of the people of our Diocese have an opportunity to express their hopes, concerns, and prayers for our next Bishop. From that information and a possible survey, they will develop a profile of our Diocese that will become part of the posting for our next Bishop.

The Standing Committee is canonically responsible for the process. The Nominating Committee reports to the Standing Committee, as will the Transition Committee when it is formed. At the time of Bishop Brookhart's retirement (November 1, 2018), the Standing Committee will retain the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. It is our intention to call an Assistant Bishop to perform certain duties and responsibilities until such time as a new Bishop is called. The specific responsibilities of that Assistant will be determined and supervised by the Standing Committee.

A page has been set up on the Diocesan web site (diomontana.com) which will provide information to anyone interested. We plan to update it as often as possible. We also plan to include updates in the Diocesan newsletter on a regular basis. We thank you for your prayers, and your prayerful consideration of this process.

Your Standing Committee:

The Rev. Donna Gleaves, President
Rick Harden
Pru Randall

The Rev. Terri Grotzinger
Mary Messina
The Rev. Greg Smith