

The Standing Committee and the Nominating Committee continue to diligently address their tasks. The Standing Committee has been focusing on transition, and has named a Transition Committee to plan the “going away” party for the Brookharts as they retire. The Committee includes The Rev. Rick Johnson and Darien Scott, of St. Peter’s Cathedral; Gary and Holly Schwartz of Holy Spirit, Missoula; and Vicki Van Rensselaer of St. James, Bozeman. The Committee’s focus will shift to the search process following the Brookhart’s retirement.

The Standing Committee has been working with the Presiding Bishop’s Office of Pastoral Development, our Search Consultant, and our Chancellors to plan for our interim time between Bishop Brookhart’s retirement and the consecration of our 10th Diocesan Bishop. We have been talking with Diocesan staff about their concerns and recommendations, and continue to address the canonical responsibilities of the Committee.

Some folks have requested a variation of the prayer for the Bishop Search. We commend to you Prayer #13, BCP 818, and offer this new, shorter prayer for your use: Creator God, bless all those involved in the process of calling our next bishop. Bless the Standing Committee, Nominating and Transition Committees and all Episcopalians in our Diocese, that we may be bold, kind, deliberate, faithful and brave in Jesus the Christ.

Following is an update from the Nominating Committee on the Bishop Search.

Listening sessions: The parish listening sessions wrapped up this month with more than 600 members attending 40 sessions across the state, a participation rate of 43% of the diocese’s average Sunday attendance. The Nominating Committee, which led the sessions, is pleased with the response rate and thanks everyone who participated!

Diocesan Profile: Comments from the listening sessions and results from the online survey will be used to build the diocesan profile, which will be released this Fall when the application period opens. The profile is a written and visual representation of the diocese, its history, ministries, gifts, challenges, and hopes for the future. (Please submit pictures from your congregation for inclusion in the profile by emailing them to bishopsearch@diomontana.com.)

Subcommittees: In June, the Nominating Committee created three subcommittees to guide its work over the next year: (1) a profile subcommittee, chaired by Hope Stockwell of St. Peter’s, Helena; (2) a recruitment and screening subcommittee, chaired by the Rev. Stephen Day

of Ascension in Forsyth and Emmanuel in Miles City; and (3) an interview/discernment subcommittee, chaired by Mary Cavalier of St. Andrew's, Livingston.

More information about the search, including a timeline, is available at <https://diomontana.com/bishop-search/>

Questions and comments may be submitted at any time to bishopsearch@diomontana.com.