

An Important Note From the Transition Committee

January 29, 2021

Dear Parochial Clergy and Parish Wardens,

The Transition Committee for the Election and Consecration of the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh has begun its work, and we are writing to request your help.



Our first role will be to introduce the candidates for bishop to the diocese. That announcement by the Nominating Committee of the slate of candidates is expected in mid-May, and thereafter the Transition Committee plans some exciting ways to help all the clergy, lay deputies, and parishioners in our diocese learn about the priests who may be called to be our next diocesan leader.

Our second task is to plan and execute the Electing Convention expected to be held on-line on Saturday, June 26, 2021, with the guidance of the Convention Planning Committee. Because some parishes may be choosing deputies now, we want to clarify who may serve at the Electing Convention in June.

The Canons of the Diocese specify that the terms of lay deputies “shall begin as of the first day of July preceding the Annual Convention for which they were first certified.” (Canon II.2.a) As for clergy, “no member of the Clergy shall be entitled to vote unless he or she shall have been, for at least six months immediately preceding the election, personally and canonically resident in this Diocese.” (Article XIV).

In practical terms, this means:

- Lay deputies who were in office for last October’s annual Diocesan Convention will continue as the deputies for the Electing Convention of June 26, as deputy terms do not expire until June 30th.
- New deputies elected or appointed by their parish this year take office on July 1, 2021, after the Electing Convention, but they will be deputies at the 156th annual convention in the Fall.
- If a deputy was unable to attend last Fall’s convention and was replaced by an alternate for that day, the original deputy retains the right of office for the Electing Convention of June 26.
- If one of your current deputies is unable to participate in the Electing Convention, or if a vacancy occurs among the parish deputation, the replacement of the regular deputy by an alternate or the results of an election to fill the vacancy needs to be certified by the senior warden or two vestry members and conveyed to the Secretary of Convention by contacting the diocesan office (see Canon II.2.b).

A list of deputies from your parish that we have on file [is available here](#). Please confirm the accuracy of this list to the Secretary of Convention by email to

convention@episcopalpgh.org no later than Monday, March 1, 2021. This is critical because the Transition Committee will be communicating directly with clergy and lay deputies prior to the Electing Convention, and we do not want to leave anyone out!

This is an exciting time for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, as we welcome candidates for bishop to Pittsburgh, elect our new bishop on June 26, say farewell to Bishop Dorsey & Betsy McConnell, and consecrate our new bishop on November 13. The Transition Committee plans soon to schedule an “informational” session “virtually” with you on how you and your parishioners can play a key role in all this.

In the meantime, please add this prayer to your worship services and keep all involved in this process in your prayers.

A Prayer for the Election of a Bishop

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, and those who offer themselves as candidates, that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

--Book of Common Prayer, P. 818

Warm personal regards,



Jon Delano, Chair, Transition Committee



Florence Atwood, Vice Chair, Transition Committee

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