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From Your Transition Committee: Next Steps In Discerning A Bishop

May 27, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Transition Committee, we want to update you on what happens next in the Bishop Search process now that the Nominating Committee and petition processes are being completed, pending successful completion of background and qualification checks for the additional petition candidates.



As you know, we have five outstanding nominees to welcome to our diocese and from whom to discern our next bishop: **The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman, The Rev. Canon Scott A. Gunn, The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph, The Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak, and The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox.**

Please check out the Transition Committee's website for the latest information about these nominees at www.episcopalpgh.org/pebs. On this site, you will find lots of information about each, including a 5-minute video we asked each nominee to shoot telling us who they are and why they feel called to be the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh. In another week or so, you will see posted a Q&A video that Jon Delano is doing with each nominee.

We are also posting a video about the Diocese of Pittsburgh to which most of our parishes contributed. This will help our nominees know a little more about us and help us know about each other. We are also distributing a special coloring book for both the young and young at heart to describe the role of a bishop. You can see that coloring book and the video on our website.

Finally, we have set our Meet & Greet Week for mid-June when the bishop nominees are in Pittsburgh to meet you in person. We have four opportunities for [you to register in advance to attend just one](#) of these evening sessions (yes, we are being Covid-safe). They are scheduled from 6:30 to 9:30 pm as follows:

- Tuesday, June 15, [St. Michael's, Ligonier](#)
- Wednesday, June 16, [Christ Church, North Hills](#)
- Thursday, June 17, [Calvary, East Liberty](#)
- Friday, June 18, [St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon](#)

You may attend at any location you wish, but please attend only one session to allow more people to attend the others. We will also have two Lunch & Learn sessions for only clergy at Noon on Wednesday, June 16, at Trinity Cathedral, Downtown, and Noon on Thursday, June 17, at Holy Cross, Homewood. Clergy will need to choose one of these to attend, but if they cannot make either are certainly welcome to attend one of the evening sessions. More information to register for these will be sent to clergy separately.

Because of Covid, we will have no large plenary sessions as we did in the 2012 bishop search. Instead, those attending the evening programs will be assigned to one of five rooms for the evening. The bishop nominees will circulate room to room, answering questions you have written down. Again, **we need you to register in advance for one of the evening sessions, since we are limiting the overall numbers in attendance. Walk-ins can only be accommodated if we have space available.** [Please register here](#). Registration closes on Thursday, June 10th.

For those who are unable to attend or who prefer not to attend an in-person event during Meet & Greet Week, we have arranged a **Zoom Webinar** with all five nominees on **Friday morning, June 18, from 9:00 am to 10:30 am**. This is open to everyone, but, again, [we need you to register here](#).

If you have specific questions for our bishop nominees, we have created a form on our website for you to submit those questions. [You can find that form here](#). While we cannot guarantee that every question will be asked at one of the events, we will share all the questions with the nominees.

The choice of our next bishop is one that should be made prayerfully, guided by the Holy Spirit. While our clergy and lay deputies will exercise their own judgment, it should be informed by parish-wide discussion. We encourage parishioners to share their thoughts and desires with their clergy and deputies. To assist you in that, we have posted on our website the clergy and deputies eligible to vote at the June 26 electing convention. You can [find them here](#). Be sure to talk to them!

Finally, the electing convention of June 26 is an online convention open to all to watch. We will have more information on how to view the convention in the weeks ahead. Please know that once a nominee has become bishop-elect, we have asked that individual to address the Diocese of Pittsburgh before the Convention adjourns. You will want to stay tuned for that exciting moment!

Your Transition Committee with the diocesan staff have worked incredibly hard over the last few months to prepare for the next few weeks. We are especially thankful to all the volunteers who have helped along the way and will be assisting during the Meet & Greet Week. If you have any questions at all, please direct them to either the chair, vice chair, or any member of our committee.

Please continue to pray for our bishop nominees and this discernment process.

Yours faithfully,

The Transition Committee

Jon Delano, Chair

Florence Atwood, Vice Chair

The Rev. Canon Dr. Cathy Brall

Gerry Dalton
Maximillion Elliott
Kathy Farrington
Tom Moore
Eric O'Brien
Mary Ann Slater
The Rev. Dr. Julie Smith
The Rev. Luke Zerra
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The Rev. Dr. Don Youse, Chaplain
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