

From the Nominating Committee:

It's been a year of starts and stops for our committee. After the excitement of beginning the search for our new bishop and an inspiring training retreat led by the search consultant, the Very Rev. Ron Clingenpeel, we were fired up and ready to move forward. To receive your feedback, an online survey was developed and listening groups were planned, but the dawning awareness of the coronavirus pandemic put that on hold.

As we've waited for indications of what's coming next, the Nominating Committee has focused on the mechanics of calling a new bishop. We planned to conduct interviews by video call and watch sermons online, but we had assumed there would come a time for meeting with the final candidates in person.

Given the extended timeline of the pandemic, would that be possible, and was it even necessary?

We are not the only dioceses asking these questions, and after an in-depth conversation with the search committee co-chairs from another diocese we found our way forward. Because the Nominating Committee members agree that waiting until in-person meetings are possible will help us identify the best candidates, we recommended to the Standing Committee a timeline adjustment for the search process.

Now that the Standing Committee has made that decision (see the accompanying article for details), our next task is to rework our timeline around the new framework. Engaging with the people of the diocese is our top priority, and we hope to recapture the excitement we felt at the beginning of the search. We will be meeting soon to make those decisions and will communicate regularly throughout the coming months.

Most of all, we've been sustained by our trust that the Holy Spirit is at work in all of this. We are confident that God is calling a wonderful new leader into our midst, and we promise to do our part to support that process. Please join us in praying for the bishop search and staying as safe as we can.

Michael Carney, Committee Chair