

September 28, 2015

*From morning to evening conditions change;
all things move swiftly before the Lord. (Ecclesiasticus 18:26)*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

At the beginning of the busy Fall season, I keep the above verse on my desk as a reminder that change is a sign of God's creative work and something to be expected and embraced. In our congregations, even as we rush headlong into the beginning of new classes in Christian formation, myriad church events, and unfamiliar choir anthems, so, too, does our Diocese anticipate and prepare for a season of change. And in this season, as we are wisely assured by the author of Ecclesiasticus ben Sira, no matter what changes we may be called to navigate, the one thing that never changes is God's presence and faithfulness.

At the Standing Committee meeting in August, we accepted the resignations of the President of the Standing Committee, the Rev. Frank Allen and the Rev. Kirk Berlenbach with both sadness at their departure and thanksgiving for their good and faithful work over many years. At our September meeting, I (the Rev. Kathy Andonian), was elected President and the Rev. Hillary Raining was elected Secretary. Mr. Mac McCausland remains as the Vice-President. Following the Diocesan Convention in November, the Standing Committee will hold its regular annual election of the Executive Committee and make Committee assignments for all members of the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee will be present at all of the Pre-Convention meetings to discuss the resolution to be presented at the Diocesan Convention which would authorize the Standing Committee and Bishop to initiate a working group tasked with investigating the incorporation of the Diocese of Pennsylvania as a not-for-profit corporation. This would align our organizational structure with that of most other Dioceses in the Episcopal Church. The goal of this effort is to streamline and improve governance structures in the Diocese, improve transparency, ensure that each governing body is assigned clear areas of responsibility and tasks and are given the tools by which to perform their obligations, and otherwise to improve the mission and life of our Diocese. If the resolution is passed, there will be opportunities for members of the Diocese to review and comment upon the findings and recommendations of the working group; any proposals for changes will be presented to the 233rd Convention next year for review and approval. We hope that the Convention will support this effort that, at its conclusion, will allow us to focus greater time, attention, and resources on mission and ministry in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

We commend to your prayers the ongoing work of the Search and Nominating Committee whose members are receiving names and beginning their discernment of those whom the Holy Spirit is calling to be on the slate of nominees for our next Bishop Diocesan. Please also include in your prayers the members of the Election and Transition Committee who are making preparations to facilitate the introduction of nominees to the Diocese, oversee the Calling

Convention, and plan multiple celebrations in 2016. Please also continue to pray for Bishop Daniel and the Diocesan staff who continue their good work with unfailing commitment and grace in this season of change.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Standing Committee with your questions or perspectives. We are blessed to serve with you as, together, we meet the challenges and chances that lie ahead with confidence in God's creative work, Christ's grace, and the Spirit's call.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rev. Kathryn Andonian

revkathy@churchoftheholyspirit.us

215-234-8020

on behalf of the Standing Committee

Ms. Debora Brown

Ms. Jane Cosby

Mr. Mac McCausland

Ms. Pat Smith

Mr. Paul Yaros

The Rev. Hillary Raining

The Rev. Deidre Whitfield