



The Very Reverend Tom Malioneck, *President*

Sue Ellen Ruetsch, *Chair*

BISHOP SEARCH NEWS

January 26, 2023

This week, the Profile & Search Committee is receiving training in interviewing techniques, such as formulating open-ended questions. This training continues training work begun last week in both Committees to ensure a fair and impartial election. We have found very helpful a video produced by the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington to train jurors about unconscious bias. You can view it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdjBbfdRLkA>. Of course, watching one video will not solve all problems. We are grateful to our election consultant, Dcn. Brian Nordwick, not only for bringing this important topic into focus, but for helping us learn to address it, systematically, as well as we can, trusting always, of course, in God's sovereignty despite even our sinful tendencies.

The Constitutions and Canons of the Episcopal Church bind us to follow the rules set by the Convention of the Diocese of Albany for the election of a bishop. Those rules call for the election of one lay and one clerical member of the Profile and Search Committee from each of the deaneries of the Diocese, and for six at-large members to be elected by the Standing Committee. In the event the seat of a deanery-elected member becomes vacant, the rule requires that the Dean of that deanery appoint a replacement. Father Bill Hinrichs was elected to serve as the clerical member of the Profile & Search Committee from the Metropolitan Deanery. Fr. Bill has resigned, and the Very Rev'd Brad Jones, Dean of that Deanery, has appointed Fr. Paul Hunter to fill that seat. We are grateful to Fr. Bill for his service and welcome Fr. Paul to the work of the Committee.

Once again, we want to remind congregations that are electing deputies to diocesan Convention that those deputies will also be involved in the election of the next Bishop of Albany. Only duly elected and certified deputies and canonically resident clergy may nominate additional candidates for Bishop during the open nomination period that will follow the initial work of the Profile & Search Committee. Also, since parish deputies will participate in voting, they will need to keep in mind that opportunities to meet the candidates will probably take place in July or August. And, of course, they will be the ones to attend the electing Convention that will probably take place sometime in September.

It is worth recalling that all of the members of the Profile & Search Committee, as well as the members of the Standing Committee, are volunteers, and many have multiple additional responsibilities in addition to their time- and labor-intensive Committee work. Please pray for them and their families. Pray that the Lord will sustain and refresh them, and that the Holy Spirit will fill and inspire them, grant them clarity, and keep them at peace amid difficult decisions for the good of our whole diocese and for the whole of the Church. To that end, we again ask every individual, congregation, and gathering to use in prayer, on a daily basis, the [Prayer During a Time of Transition](#).

[The Very Rev'd Tom Malioneck](#)
[President of the Standing Committee](#)

[Sue Ellen Ruetsch](#)
[Chair of the Profile & Search Committee](#)

Disciples Making Disciples