

Courtesy Resolution Thanking and Commending the Transition Committee

Resolved, That the 187th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Vermont offer heartfelt thanks to the Transition Committee and all those who assisted in its work over the past year to ensure a smooth and celebratory transition between the episcopacy of the Rt. Rev. Thomas C. Ely and that of our new bishop, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown.

Under the non-anxious leadership of the Rev. Todd McKee, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes on many facets of the entire transition process, and accompanied by its chaplain, the Rev. Carole Wageman, the Transition Committee held its first meeting on August 20, 2018, which was quickly followed by two one-day retreats in September 2018.

Work began early fall 2018 to secure a location and to plan how to celebrate Bishop Tom Ely's and Ann Ely's ministries in our midst. Ellen McCulloch-Lovell chaired a group that organized tributes at the 2018 diocesan convention, Bishop Tom Ely's last, as well as get-togethers in Burlington and Brattleboro in June 2019. They coordinated the procurement of gifts that would properly honor both Ann and Tom.

The pace of meetings intensified as 2019 progressed, especially once the BDNC had announced its candidates. A sub-committee, chaired by the Rev. Angela Emerson, organized the April walk-about interviews of the three candidates who came to Vermont and ensured that they had pastoral care and got a good sense of Vermont. The welcome packages the candidates received were wonderful, full of maple syrup, chocolates and more.

After the walk-about gatherings, attention shifted to May 18, 2019, with Roger Nicholls chairing a group that ensured a prayerful electing convention. The Rev. Rob Spainhour worked with Rock Point to prepare the bishop's house. Ann Guillot, a member of the Bishop Discernment and Nominating Committee, continued her role as shepherd for Bishop-elect Shannon through her move to Vermont, housed her until the bishop's house was ready, and assisted in the bishop-elect's selection of vestments, ring and pectoral cross.

It takes a village to accomplish something great, and these people all gave of their hearts, time and talent to ensure a smooth transition and celebrate the consecration of the Eleventh Bishop of Vermont. The next-to-last item on the proposed September 2018 draft of the time schedule for the consecration weekend reads, "Committee Members Go Home and Crash." Bravo to all.

Members

The Rev. Todd McKee, chair

The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Alison Crawford, recording secretary

Roger Nicholls, financial clerk

The Rev. Angela Emerson

Jean Hancock

Ellen McCulloch-Lovell

Elizabeth McEwen

The Rev. J. Robert Spainhour

The Rev. Robert Wilson

(In 2018, David McKay, Jeff Willcox, and Robert Barton also participated in preparations.)

Committee Chaplain: The Rev. Carole Wageman