

Bishop Search Committee Updated Timeline

Hello from The Search Committee:

We apologize for how long it's been since you've heard from us, but we had a bit of a delay in our Profile creation and have decided to change the timeline "a bit." We also paused to allow for all the clergy to serenely get through Holy Week. As Provisional Bishop Steve suggested, it wouldn't be a great time to release a profile and expect to get many responses. Wise words.

SO here is our new working timeline:

- **Week of April 6**
 - Polish up the Profile and pictures
 - Work on the Website landing page for Search & Transition

- **Week of April 13**
 - Search Committee Chairs and Consultant meet with the Standing Committee
 - Standing Committee recruitment for a Diocesan Communications Consultant
 - Continue work on the Website Search & Transition landing page
 - Review final draft of the Profile with Search Chairs & Consultant

- **Week of April 20**
 - Standing and Search Committees meet with the Diocese via Zoom (TBD)
 - Redrafting of the Profile is completed & shared with Search, Transition and Standing Committees

Saturday, April 25 - 10am-2pm at the Diocesan Center, UNCONSCIOUS BIAS TRAINING with Dr. Ursie Bankhead, in preparation for our interviewing candidates.

- **Week of April 27**
 - Standing and Search Committees meet with the Diocese
 - Work on the Website Search & Transition landing page is completed
 - Profile is posted online on Friday, May 1st (will coincide with 1 yr to Installation)

May - Recruitment begins and continues throughout month. 1st round of interviews to be conducted via Zoom/Teams calls

June - Finalist Candidates will be invited to our **July 17-18 Retreat**

August - Hand Election Slate over to the Transition Committee and prepare for the next phase

As we finally enter the recruitment stage, we ask for your prayers as we discern together our next steps. It is both a daunting and exciting time for us to begin fresh. We ask for your continued patience as we progress on our timeline. As you have felt, aspects of the search process have moved more slowly than we initially anticipated. Some of these are logistical, but much of it is more foundational. What has become increasingly clear in this interim period is just how much work we have to do—not only to search for a bishop, but to more clearly understand who we are as a diocese. We are working closely with Fr. Luke Fodor, as President of the Standing Committee to remain on target for the hand off to the Transition Committee.

Through the listening sessions and the Holy Cow survey, we heard something both encouraging and challenging. There is a deep and abiding love for local congregations across Western New York. People are invested, rooted, and committed to their parishes in meaningful ways. At the same time, there is a profound hunger for something more—a desire for a more unified, collaborative, and connected diocesan life.

Part of what has slowed us down, then, is not simply delay—it is the recognition that the search for a bishop must be grounded in a clearer sense of who we are and who we are becoming. We are trying to do that work with integrity, rather than rushing past it.

That said, we also need to be candid: we have not communicated as clearly or consistently as we should have. This has been named repeatedly as an area for growth, and we take that seriously.

To begin addressing this, the Standing Committee is in the process of engaging a communications consultant who can help us strengthen how we share information, tell our story, and remain in closer, more transparent contact with all of you and with the wider diocese. This is not a cosmetic fix—it is a necessary investment in the health of our common life.

In the coming weeks, you can expect more regular updates, clearer timelines, and more coordinated communication between committees.

The Spirit is at work—often in ways that are quieter and slower than we might prefer, but no less real. Thank you for your faithfulness. And thank you for continuing to lean into this work with hope.

- Lisa F. Yaggie & Rev. Nicholas Evancho, *Search Committee*
- Rev. Devon Anderson, *Search & Transition Committee Consultant*
- Rev. Luke Fodor, *Standing Committee President*