

Report of the Transition Committee to the 220th Diocesan Convention

In late 2002, when Bishop Joslin asked me to chair the Transition Committee for the new bishop, I had no idea just how much work would be involved – not so much for me, but rather for the scores of talented and dedicated people from every part of the Diocese who willingly and lovingly gave of their time and talents to ensure that the transition from our Assisting Bishop to our new Bishop went as smoothly as possible and fully reflected our gratitude for what God has done in and for the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey.

At Convention 2003, I asked for volunteers to serve on the four subcommittees into which the Committee would be divided to do its work. The response was overwhelming – more than 60 people signed up to participate in the work of the Committee.

The vast majority of the work of the Committee was done by the Subcommittees, ably led as follows: Subcommittee to Support for Bishop Joslin and Diocesan Staff, The Rev. Frank Hebert, St. Peter's, Freehold, chair; Support for the Bishop-elect and Family, The Rev. Stephen White, Princeton University, chair; Consecration, the Rev. Richard Kunz, All Saints' Princeton and The Rev. Dr. Virginia Sheay, retired, co-chairs. and; Communications, the Rev. Robert Legnani, St. Stephen's, Beverly, chair. Maddy Patterson, All Saints', Princeton, served as clerk of the Committee and Bob Fox, St. John's, Somerville, served as the Committee's treasurer.

Among the accomplishments of each subcommittee are:

Support for Bishop Joslin and Diocesan Staff

Organized a luncheon to thank Diocesan staff for their hard work and dedication in serving the Diocese over the past several years.

Organized a Choral Evensong and gala reception to honor and thank Bishop Joslin for his service to the Diocese as Assisting Bishop and collected a purse to be presented to the Joslin's.

Support for the Bishop-elect and Family

Assisted Bishop-elect and Mrs. Councill in all aspects pertaining to their relocation to New Jersey, including help in finding a home, moving their belongings from Illinois, and settling into their new home and community.

Coordinated Convocation Meetings with the Bishop-elect.

Consecration

In close consultation with the Bishop-elect, planned and organized all aspects of the Service of Consecration and Ordination of the Bishop, including invitations, programs, all logistics and site preparation at the Cathedral.

Organized the reception, which followed the Consecration.

Communications

Ensured that information about the work of the Transition Committee and about the Service of Consecration were effectively communicated to the Diocese and produced the Consecration Commemorative Booklet

Secured coverage in daily and weekly newspapers throughout the Diocese of the Consecration and of the Bishop-elect's Convocation Meetings.

Total expenditures for all aspects of the transition are not expected to exceed \$127,500.

As a result of the work of these subcommittees, and the literally hundreds of people who contributed to their work, the transition, in all its aspects, met or exceeded the expectations I had for its work. I cannot thank them enough.

Thanks are also due in abundant measure to the Diocesan Staff, whose worked tirelessly to support the work of the Transition Committee, and to the staff of Trinity Cathedral, without whom the work of the Committee would not have been accomplished.

It was an honor to have been asked to chair this committee, and a privilege to have worked with all those who gave so much to make this period of transition a time of healing, hope, and new beginnings for the Diocese and the God we seek to serve in and through it.

Submitted by Bob Bostock
Chair