



Clergy Call September 28, 2021

Bishop Porter Taylor opened the meeting with prayer.

Chief of Staff Mark Eastham then made several announcements.

1. A reminder that Clergy Retreat at Shrine Mont is Monday, October 18 through Wednesday, October 20. If you haven't yet registered and would like to attend, please take a moment to do so. The deadline to [register](#) is October 11.
2. The Standing Committee has extended the deadline for applications to serve on the Bishop Transition Committee. If you know someone who may feel called to this ministry, please share the application with them. The application is available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Korean](#) and [Vietnamese](#).
3. In October, the Search Committee for the 14th Bishop will host six [listening sessions](#) for lay and clergy to share their hopes for the next bishop diocesan. All listening sessions are virtual and require registration. The Search Committee will also distribute a survey seeking input from lay and clergy of the Diocese. The survey is open October 8-22. Please include the details about the listening sessions and survey in your parish bulletins.

Bishop Porter then introduced our keynote presenter, the Rev. Dr. J. Lee Hill, Jr., the Diocese's first Missioner for Racial Justice and Healing. Lee begins his ministry with the Diocese in early November. (You can read Lee's full bio [here](#))

In his address, Lee shared stories of some of his formative childhood experiences, which included integrating a Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop (of the Robert E. Lee Council in Virginia). He also spoke about the mentors who influenced and

helped to shape his path in the ministry of racial justice and healing. In reflecting on his new role in the Diocese, Lee said:

“I deeply believe in the power of dialog, of being at the table with one another, being in conversation with each other and allowing those conversations to radically change us as we learn about each other..... We have a major responsibility, I think, as a community of faith to not only address issues of heteronormity, racism and colonialism – our work is not to see these issues as divided issues – but to understand how they are interrelated. I am so excited about coming home and joining you in this work. I’m sobered by the realization that that this is going to be some tough work. It will demand a lot from us. It will invite us into very deep spaces where we have to hold out love and grace for one another. But we cannot be afraid of the challenge or fearful of what may come as a result of the challenge, rather to live into that space, to open ourselves to be changed even as we seek change. I’m so grateful for the opportunity and excited for the work that is ahead.... I want to be on this journey with you as we discover more about what this means to live as the Kingdom of God.”

Following Lee’s address, the Rev. Canon Abbott Bailey closed with prayer. There was no Q & A period. Any questions regarding regathering and COVID protocols for worship and church activities can be sent to Canon Bailey at abailey@thediocese.net.