

Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Executive Summary of the Standing Committee Meeting of March 8, 2023

Present on Zoom: Miguel Briones, Daphne Cody, Toni Daniels, Jeannette DeFriest, Gerald Floyd, and Wes Kimes. Bishop Paula Clark entered the meeting to give her report.

A quorum being established, Toni called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Daphne led the opening prayers.

Minutes

Wes moved and Gerald seconded the approval of the minutes and executive summary of the regular monthly meeting on February 8, 2023. All approved.

President's Report

Toni reported that Louisa McKellaston will send an email message to us soon about an upcoming meeting with the bishop and with part of the Commission on Ministry to be held on March 22, involving next steps for persons nominated by their congregations for ordination. Standing Committee members will familiarize themselves with the ordination process and the Standing Committee's role in it.

Consents on episcopal elections:

Two bishop elections are before us for consent:

Bishop of New Jersey - the Rev. Sally French

Bishop of West Texas - the Rev. David G. Read

Jeannette moved and Miguel seconded that we consent to the Rev. French's election as Bishop of New Jersey. *The motion carried.*

Daphne moved and Gerald seconded that we consent to the Rev. Read's election as Bishop of West Texas. *The motion carried.*

Toni will submit these two consents via the new online process.

"Selling or Mortgaging Parish Property" Guide

Wes presented work done by the Standing Committee's task group made up of Wes, Jeannette, and Gerald. Their task had been to take an earlier document outlining the steps that parish leadership would take when desiring to sell or mortgage property, and to update the document by integrating what has been learned in the past couple of cases in the diocese, thereby creating a new easier-to-use guide. There was positive discussion, and after the whole Standing Committee's input, a few edits were made to help with clarity and specificity.

Jeannette moved and Daphne seconded that this version of the Selling or Mortgaging Parish Property Guide (still a draft at this time) be passed along by Toni to Bishop Clark and to Andrea Mysen for their review. *The motion carried.*

Next steps will involve Andrea checking the guide with diocesan chancellors with possible further edits by them before the document returns to the Standing Committee for final approval to be made ready for public dissemination.

General Convention 2024 Deputies

Diocesan Convention in November 2022 elected four Clergy Deputies and one Clergy Alternate and three Lay Deputies to attend the 2024 General Convention in Louisville, KY, June 23-28, 2024. That means we have two vacancies in our deputation: one Lay Deputy and one Lay Alternate. Standing Committee has the responsibility of appointing persons for these vacancies. Jeannette and Toni discussed the serious responsibilities of serving as a Deputy, which are not just for the five days, but for the full three years of committee work between Conventions. Jeannette and Toni agreed to be a task group to call some of the suggested laypeople and others in search of filling our diocesan deputation. They will report back at our next meeting.

Rules of meeting and business (“Group Norms”)

(Diocese of Chicago’s Constitution & Canons, Article 10, Section 3)

Wes facilitated our group in developing our own ground rules for working together throughout 2023, based on the line in Section 3 that says, “[The Standing Committee] may make rules of meeting and business and alter and repeal them from time to time.” We spent thirty minutes to begin this work of setting ground rules for ourselves, and we will pick back up on this work together at our next meeting. Wes is keeping track of our progress.

Commission on Ministry (COM) priesthood discernment overnight

Miguel reported that he and Daphne attended as “listeners” at the COM overnight held at St. James Commons on February 24-25, organized by the Rev. Greg Milliken from COM. Miguel described the holy and supportive atmosphere and the openness by which the four nominees brought themselves to the weekend. The listeners gave nominees a chance to articulate who they are as people and as leaders. Some of them had waited a long time for this weekend due to the pandemic and to the change to a new bishop. Miguel also pointed out that this was Bishop Clark’s first ordination discernment overnight as our bishop.

Bishop’s Report

Bishop Clark joined our Zoom meeting at this point, and heard the report given by Miguel about the Commission on Ministry discernment overnight. She added that one of the critical elements of the weekend was not able to happen due to a family emergency for Psychological Listener just two days before the overnight. Therefore, the four nominees could not be given a decision about their next step (Postulancy or not) at the end of the weekend as usual. After the psychological listener meets one-on-one with each of the four nominees, she will give the bishop the needed data. After that, the bishop will render her decisions and will directly notify each of the four nominees separately.

Regarding the rest of the Bishop’s Report, Bishop Clark was zooming in from the beginning of a House of Bishops meeting and was glad to be there. She reported that the Chrism Mass and Renewal of Vows would be taking place during Holy Week as is our custom, on April 4 at St.

James the Cathedral, and April 5 in Rock Island. She was delighted to report that Wes would be the one to administer the bishop's renewal of vows at that service.

Safe Church training

Toni reminded members that we each are responsible for taking the online Safe Church training modules, and that our deadline is Easter Monday, April 10, 2023.

Next Meetings & Adjournment

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM in person, St. James Commons. (Note that the April meeting is pushed back by one week to accommodate Bishop Clark's schedule.) Toni is interested in investigating a possible canonical change in order to provide a clearer pathway for electing Standing Committee officers after diocesan convention.

Toni adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daphne Cody, Secretary