

Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Executive Summary of the Standing Committee Meeting of April 19, 2023

In person at St. James Commons

Present: Miguel Briones, Daphne Cody, Toni Daniels, Jeannette DeFriest, Gerald Floyd, Wes Kimes, and Bishop Paula Clark

After supper together, a quorum being established, Toni called the official business meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Gerald led the opening prayers.

Minutes

Gerald moved and Jeannette seconded the approval of the minutes and the executive summary of the regular monthly meeting of March 8, 2023. *Motion carried.*

Bishop's Report

Bishop Clark reported that she will not be present at our next meeting on May 10 due to her participation in the orientation program for new bishops called Living Our Vows, taking place in Richmond, VA. On that same trip east, she'll be receiving an honorary degree at Virginia Theological Seminary (congratulations!) as well as being part of a group of Bishops Against Gun Violence who will be meeting with members of Congress.

As we the Standing Committee had authorized on February 2, the property at Trinity, Chicago was indeed vacated, and a temporary replacement vestry for that congregation appointed (Canon 28). The temporary vestry consists of: Robert Neal as warden (St. Thomas Chicago), Adetayo Adegoke as treasurer (St. Paul and the Redeemer Chicago), Newland Smith as secretary (St. David's Glenview), Andrea Flynn (St. Edmund's Chicago) and Don Huddleston (Trinity Chicago). Their first priority is accounting forensics, currently underway. In addition, the official retirement paperwork came through for the former rector the Rev. Ray Massenberg.

On April 18, the Bishop & Trustees authorized Bishop Clark's move from the current diocese-owned episcopal residency to a condo closer to St. James Commons. Having been more suitable for the previous bishop's needs, the current house will be sold, and then a condo within walking distance to the diocesan offices will be purchased. A realtor is being consulted.

President's Report

Toni reported that she's been working with one of the diocesan chancellors Richard Hoskins to clarify procedures for what is often an awkward transition each November when a newly-elected Standing Committee (SC) must immediately choose officers. Is a canonical change needed? Toni read out to us Article 10, Section 3 of the canons pertaining to this matter and told us that Todd assured her that SC can still function as the Ecclesiastical Authority if necessary, even if specific officers haven't been elected yet. We may wish to create a plan prior to November in order to help the next SC but without interfering with their process of choosing officers.

Discussion followed regarding recruitment for diocesan governing bodies. Among the topics explored: whether there's a functioning Nominating Committee for the diocese, what level of skills and experience is needed for SC, and how much general education about governance is needed throughout the diocese. Suggestions were made regarding inviting and informing people about these matters, and some of the ideas were: to write feature articles in the e-blasts (such as "Meet your Standing Committee"), to offer online informational forums for people to log on to learn what the various bodies do, and to send a recruitment-minded letter to all wardens.

Miguel, Wes, and Daphne volunteered to work on a timeline for implementation of some of these ideas. Toni asked that they keep her informed. Suggested working name for this task is "SC public relations campaign."

"Selling or Mortgaging Parish Property" Guide

Bishop Clark said that Andrea Mysen is still in process with this.

Consents on episcopal elections:

Three bishop elections are before us for consent:

Bishop Coadjutor of Florida - the Rev. Charles Holt

Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries (AFFM) - the Rev. Ann Ritonia

Bishop Coadjutor of Maryland - the Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent

Wes moved and Jeannette seconded that we hold a vote regarding the consent of the Rev. Charles Holt as Bishop Coadjutor of Florida. Toni asked us to vote YES to consent, or NO to withhold consent. The NO's were unanimous. *Consent will not be given.*

Daphne moved and Miguel seconded that we consent to the Rev. Ritonia's election as Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries (AFFM). *The motion carried.*

Jeannette moved and Gerald seconded that we consent to the Rev. Schofield-Broadbent's election as Bishop Coadjutor of Maryland. *The motion carried.*

Toni will submit these three results via the new online consent process.

General Convention 2024 Deputy Vacancy appointments

It falls to Standing Committee to appoint persons to fill vacancies in our diocese's deputation to the 2024 General Convention in Louisville, KY, June 23-28, 2024. Jeannette and Toni propose Judy Jordan from St. Paul and the Redeemer, Chicago to serve as the Lay Deputy and Todd Burton from Emmanuel, Rockford to serve as Alternate Lay Deputy. Each of these persons have indicated their interest in fulfilling these roles.

Daphne moved and Wes seconded that we hereby appoint Judi Jordan to serve as Lay Deputy and Todd Burton to serve as Alternate Lay Deputy to represent the Diocese of Chicago. *The motion carried.*

Toni and Jeannette will inform Judi and Todd as well as the deputation captain Louisa McKellaston.

Rules of meeting and business (“Group Norms”)

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

This item was tabled until our next meeting.

Commission on Ministry: nominee interviews March 22

Wes reported that he participated in the meeting on March 22 of the Commission on Ministry to interview persons nominated by their parishes for diaconal or priestly ordination. He shared that the following five persons: Stephan Quarles (St. Paul’s, Peoria), Margaret “Peggy” Taylor (Church of Our Saviour, Chicago), Shannon Page (Church of Our Saviour, Chicago) and Arlicia Corley (St. Martin’s, Chicago), and Dorren Gersten-Briand (Emmanuel, La Grange) were each interviewed, with all five being recommended for going forward in the next steps toward postulancy.

Next Meetings & Adjournment

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM on Zoom

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM in person, St. James Commons.

Toni adjourned our meeting at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daphne Cody, Secretary