

Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Executive Summary of the Standing Committee (SC) Meeting of February 21, 2024

On Zoom

Present: Bishop Paula Clark,, Toni Daniels, Wes Kimes, Jo Ann Lagman, and Kara Wagner Sherer.

Absent: Gerald Floyd

Guests: Canon Andrea Mysen (5:00 to 6:25), Canon TJ Houlihan (5:05 to 5:15), the Rev. Dr. Fulton Porter and Wanda Norris (both 5:15 to 6:06)

A quorum being established, Toni welcomed Andrea and called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM, and Wes offered the opening prayer.

Minutes

The following were approved:

- Minutes of January 10, 2024
- Executive summary of January 10, 2024

Meet the new Canon for Development

- Toni welcomed T.J. Houlihan, who introduced himself and described some first steps in the role: strengthening the Bishop's Appeal, re-energizing the giving society, and organizing meetings with people around the diocese, among other activities, then logged off.

A proposal for Trinity Chicago and St. Thomas Chicago

- The Rev. Dr. Fulton Porter, Rector of St. Thomas Chicago, and Wanda Norris, Chair of the Bishop's Committee of Trinity Chicago presented a Power Point of their three-stage process of discernment for a potential merger between Trinity and St. Thomas, two neighboring congregations in north and south Bronzeville. Fulton and Wanda addressed SC's questions.
- Wes moved that the SC support the Bishop's request to move forward with the discernment process for a merger between Trinity Chicago and St. Thomas Chicago (Canon 28.5(e)). Kara seconded. The motion carried.
- Toni thanked and said goodbye to Wanda and Fulton after the vote.

Canon to the Ordinary

Andrea shared with the SC the following items:

- The Diocesan Council authorized the formation of new Finance Committee for the diocese, whose work will begin in March 2024. The co-chairs will be David Arch and Pat Cornelius-Woods. Wes accepted the invitation to represent SC on the new Budget Committee.
- We have congregations that were started before current Illinois laws were on the books for establishing nonprofits or churches, and their incorporation status is in question. A project to be undertaken in 2024 is an inventory of all our congregations' legal status.
- Andrea will be helping SC develop an addendum to the 2023 SC guide "Selling or Mortgaging Parish Property." The addendum will list out the final documents needed at the end of a parish's sale or mortgage process.

President's Report

- After Andrea logged off, Toni led SC in some personal check-in time. For our March meeting, she'll invite a guest to guide us in how to meet our Anti-Racism training requirements in 2024.

Commission on Ministry

- Daphne attended the Postulancy Day for three discerners on February 16 representing SC.
- Toni is keeping track of the upcoming Postulancy Days and Candidacy Interviews so that SC will be represented.
- Kara said that she could attend the next Postulancy Day on May 17, 2024.

Consents on episcopal elections or on ordinations in our diocese:

We have no consents before us this month.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 2024. Toni will send out a poll about start time.

Adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daphne Cody, Secretary