

Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Executive Summary of the Standing Committee (SC) Meeting of March 13, 2024

In person at St. James Commons, with hybrid participation by guests

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

Guests: Canon Crystal Plummer and Ed Manning (5:05 to 5:15 PM), Varsie Geisler, Anita Biletzky, John Boies, and John Vainet (5:30 to 5:48 PM)

A quorum being established, Toni welcomed Crystal and called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM, and Kara offered the opening prayer.

Minutes

The following were approved:

- Minutes of February 21, 2024
- Executive summary of February 21, 2024

Anti-Racism Training Mandate for SC

Crystal Plummer (in person) and Ed Manning (Zoom) from the diocesan Anti-Racism Commission reported:

- Please encourage congregants to take Crossroads anti-racism training on the way to Becoming Beloved Community. Crystal provided a sheet with all the upcoming Crossroads trainings.
- The “Foundations” training event is on April 20
- May 11 is the one-day training that our diocese is hosting at St. Mark’s in Glen Ellyn. Participants contribute \$20 each to defray costs.
- SC need not take training all on the same day.
- Sacred Ground was also discussed, and attendance and participation in Sacred Ground is encouraged by the Antiracism Commission and by the bishop.

Crystal and Ed left the meeting.

Sale of Parish Property: 230 Somonauk St., Sycamore

Having previously submitted all the necessary documentation, representatives from St. Peter’s Sycamore, led by warden Varsie Geisler, logged onto Zoom and reminded SC of the pertinent steps of their process in seeking to sell a house (not the rectory) owned by the church. SC was satisfied with the responses to the questions they asked. The St. Peter’s team logged off the call.

- Daphne moved that the SC consent to the sale of 230 Somonauk St., Sycamore, Illinois by St. Peter’s Sycamore. Jo Ann seconded. *The motion carried.* Toni will contact Varsie.

Bishop’s Report

- Bishop’s Chaplain Luis Garcia is out on medical leave. Deacon Daryce Hoff Nolan will fill in for the next few visitations. Please pray for Luis!
- Rev. Sue von Rautenkranz will be the guest speaker for the two Chrism Masses during Holy Week, with the topic “The Future is Diaconal.” Sue will also accompany the bishop to the Joliet Deanery for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

- The bishop's staff will take a retreat on March 20, with the Rev. Jennifer McKenzie as the retreat leader. One focus will be to review and assess the responses from breakout groups in the January 20 diocesan Onboarding session.
- The new diocesan Finance Committee is underway, and the bishop met with co-chairs Pat Cornelius Woods and David Arch to set goals and charges. She thanked Wes for agreeing to serve as the SC representative.
- General Convention in July will elect a new Presiding Bishop, and the bishop reminded SC of the process for choosing a new Presiding Bishop. For our Chicago deputation: since Jeremy Froyen left our diocese and thus needed to resign his post as First Alternate (Clergy), the bishop has appointed Jess Elfring-Roberts to take his place, and Jess has agreed.
- The exploration between Trinity Chicago and St. Thomas Chicago for a potential merger is continuing.
- Negotiations are continuing regarding the sale of 65 E. Huron St, Chicago.
- The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings will begin the in-person part of Mission Leadership Review after General Convention, that is, no earlier than July 2024.
- The bishop took a few minutes to help clear up any potential misunderstandings that may be emerging in the Diocese regarding Youth and Young Adult Ministry, to which the bishop is firmly committed. Melissa Rau will be conducting listening sessions and in-person interviews about this aspect of our diocesan mission, including Camp Chicago, on pause for 2024. SC suggested that the bishop address pastorally the families who are affected by the pause.

Consents on episcopal elections and/or ordinations in our diocese:

- Toni moved, and Kara seconded, to consent to the ordination of Dorothy Sanders Wells as Bishop of Mississippi. *The motion carried.* Toni will submit the consent electronically.
- Kara recused herself to another room. Daphne moved, and Jo Ann seconded, to consent to the ordination of Kara Wagner Sherer as Bishop of Rochester. *The motion carried.* Kara returned to the meeting. Toni will submit the consent electronically.
- Jo Ann moved, and Wes seconded, to consent to the ordination to the priesthood of Cynthia Rigali Lund in this diocese. *The motion carried.* Toni will notify Louisa McKellaston on the bishop's staff. The bishop noted that Cynthia's ordination date is set for May 9.

Commission on Ministry

Jo Ann will do the Postulancy Day on May 17, 2024. Gerald will do the Postulancy Day on September 13.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

Toni adjourned our meeting at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daphne Cody, Secretary