

Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Executive Summary of the Standing Committee (SC) Meeting of June 12, 2024

On Zoom

Present: Jaime Briceño, Daphne Cody, Toni Daniels, Gerald Floyd, Jo Ann Lagman, Bishop Clark

Guest: Canon Andrea Mysen

Absent: Wes Kimes

A quorum being established, Toni called the meeting to order at 6:09 PM, and Gerald offered the opening prayer.

Minutes

The following were approved: Minutes and Executive Summary of May 8, 2024

Extracanonical action for Parish to request Mission status

- Canon Andrea Mysen had emailed prior: a parish asked if it's possible to seek mission status.
- There is no canonical provision for this.
- SC discussed: would SC ever act outside the canons, and would SC be interested in discussing a parish's request to become a mission?
- SC recognized the need for congregations to have some pathway options to downsize graciously.
- the inquiring parish is exploring multiple pathways to remaining sustainable and vibrant in their neighborhood.
- SC would like to find a wellness screening checklist for all parishes to do for self-assessment.
- Bishop Clark has some resources on this.

Hypothetical closing parish's control over proceeds of property sale

- Andrea asked SC to consider to what extent a parish which is closing might direct the proceeds of the property sale if the property sale closes after the congregation closes.
- SC is interested in studying and discussing this further.

Disclosure criteria for clergy convicted of sexual abuse of minors

Bishop Clark sought advice from SC about the criteria for disclosing names of clergy who have been either convicted of sexual abuse of minors or for whom there was documented credible evidence of such. After discussion, SC advised the bishop:

- to bring disclosure criteria more in line with today's standards
- to communicate clearly when disclosing to the public why disclosure is happening now, and
- to communicate clearly when disclosing to the public what the diocese is currently doing to prevent child sexual abuse in the future

Andrea logged off the meeting at 6:48 PM.

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

- Daphne moved, and Jaime seconded, to consent to the ordination of the Rev. Philip N. LaBelle as Bishop of Olympia. *The motion carried.* Toni will submit the consent electronically.
- Jaime moved, and Gerald seconded, to consent to the ordination of the Rev. Julia F. Whitworth as Bishop of Massachusetts. *The motion carried.* Toni will submit the consent electronically.

Commission on Ministry Postulancy Day May 17

Jo Ann reported that the Postulancy Day was postponed to an unconfirmed date in August 2024.

Guidelines for the Sale or Mortgaging of Parish Property document

Toni reported that Wes will go over the newest version at a subsequent meeting. Wes sent copies to the SC prior.

Guardrails on parishes' non-property assets

- Jaime raised the question about whether there should be a canon whereby a diocesan governing body would have some controls/guardrails on parishes' assets, besides property.
- Currently, the canons direct that SC must consent to sale of property/mortgage encumbrance. What about other assets, such as cash or market investments?
- SC agreed this would be worth exploring.

Task groups

Toni suggested SC organize into subgroups to take on some of the questions raised in tonight's meeting.

- Jaime and Wes will team up to study possible guardrails on parishes' non-property assets
- Toni and Daphne will look into the question of closing parishes' ability to direct property sale proceeds, and
- Jo ann and Gerald will explore pathway options for parishes wishing to downsize (such as requesting mission status)

Ratification of email vote: Sale of Parish Property at 105 Maple St, Lombard

Daphne moved and Gerald seconded that we ratify our email vote that took place from May 14-20 that consented to the **closing of the sale** by Calvary, Lombard of 105 Maple St, Lombard.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2024, in person at St. James Commons (diocesan business suspended for the purpose of subcommittee work)

NOTE time change for July: 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

Toni adjourned our meeting at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daphne Cody, Secretary