

Executive Summary
Standing Committee Meeting
February 11, 2026

Attendees

Zoom: Bishop Paula Clark, Elsie Saldana, Judi Jordan, Wes Kimes, Daphne Cody, Jaime Briceño
Absent: Bryan Cones

1. Opening & Check-In
 - Meeting called to order by Daphne at 6:03 PM; quorum established.
 - Opening devotion: Daphne led a Vesper for Forgiveness.
 - Members introduced themselves and shared brief reflections on meaningful Lenten practices and current Lenten devotions.
2. Minutes and Agenda Approval
 - Clarification offered regarding revised January 14, 2026 minutes: Bryan had circulated updated versions from Rome, and the latest corrected version is in both email and Dropbox.
 - Motion to approve January 14, 2026 minutes: Motion by Elsie / Second by Judi; no discussion; motion carried.
3. Canonical Roles of President and Secretary
 - Daphne presented Article IV, Canon 12 of The Episcopal Church, summarizing the Standing Committee's duties: electing its own president and secretary, meeting according to its own rules, keeping records, and advising the Bishop when summoned or on its own initiative.
 - Daphne noted that there is no canonical requirement for monthly meetings, although monthly meetings are the current diocesan custom.
4. Bishop's Report – Bishop Clark
 - Title IV Collaboration: Bishop Clark reported regional work on Title IV led in part by Bishop Jose McLaughlin (Western North Carolina) and collaboration with Bishop Betsy Minot on a broader, multi-diocesan approach.
 - Parish models and consolidation: Bishop Clark plans to consult with the Diocese of New York (Bishop Matt Hyde) about small parish consolidation models in which priests oversee multiple very small congregations without formal mergers, to strengthen pastoral presence across tiny parishes.
 - Immigration advocacy: Bishop Clark described recent violent incidents involving immigrants, including the shooting death of Silverio Gonzalez (September 13) and the shooting of Miramar Martinez (five times) by border patrol/customs personnel (October 5); she sent a pastoral letter of solidarity to the Diocese of Minneapolis, signed an immigration

statement with other bishops, and participated in a video, noting that some advocacy details must remain private for safety.

- Upcoming communications: Bishop Clark previewed a video invitation to a holy Lent pilgrimage with a theme of “love, love, love, even in uncomfortable circumstances,” encouraging participants to test boundaries and practice love beyond comfort zones.

5. Episcopal Election Consents

- Diocese of Los Angeles – The Rev. Antonio José Gallardo Lucena: Motion that the Standing Committee consent to his election as bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles (Motion: Jaime / Second: Wes); Daphne called the vote and announced the result: five members voting, one absent, five yes; motion carried.
- Upcoming consents: Daphne noted additional episcopal elections expected shortly, including one from the Diocese of Alabama and another yet to be identified; she reminded the committee of the 90-day window for registering consents. Jaime observed that some elections may already have sufficient consents, and Bishop Clark explained that dioceses monitor consent thresholds in order to schedule consecrations, so timely submissions assist in planning.

6. Guidelines for Selling or Mortgaging Parish Property

- Wes presented the “Guidelines for Selling or Mortgaging Parish Property,” noting that the document is detailed but accessible and grounded in diocesan canons 22, 24, and portions of 20.
- Access and scope: Daphne shared that the guidelines are available on the diocesan website under “Forms and Resources” for clergy and parish leaders; Wes confirmed availability on Dropbox and clarified that the guidelines apply to diocesan-owned parish properties and not to mission congregations (whose property is held by the parish in the interim).
- Process overview (three phases):
 - Phase 1: Requires a vestry resolution and successful parish vote, with sample vestry resolution and draft ballot provided, plus guidance on electronic voting.
 - Phase 2: Requires a Standing Committee meeting where the parish presents the project, responds to questions, and seeks consent to list the property.
 - Phase 3: Requires the parish to engage an independent broker and appraiser, secure clear title, and submit documentation (sale contract, appraisal, title evidence, any proposed sale to a parishioner, tax implications, community concerns and their resolution, and a PowerPoint) for Standing Committee approval to proceed to closing.
- Current parish statuses and examples: Daphne asked Wes to help track parishes by phase; St. Gregory’s, Deerfield and Trinity, Highland Park are currently in Phase 2, while St. Luke’s, Evanston has an existing mortgage and is being monitored. Daphne cited recent examples such as a parish using a bridge loan for construction and non-traditional sales (e.g., corner

property sold to widen an intersection, part of a parking lot sold to a hospital), illustrating the breadth of possible cases under the guidelines.

- Recusal and conflicts of interest: Members briefly reviewed the practice of listing diocesan connections and recusing when potential conflicts arise; Bryan Cones (Trinity, Highland Park) is familiar with the guidelines. Jaime will obtain the form used by Bishop and Trustees for recording member connections.

7. Liaisons and Other Roles

- Committee liaisons: The committee discussed assigning Standing Committee members as liaisons to specific congregations for matters such as mortgages, sales, and cathedral-related needs; Jaime and Judi expressed interest in serving in these liaison roles.
- Commission on Ministry (CoM): The CoM is currently on pause for diocesan coordination work but is expected to resume; current co-chairs are Emily Culbertson (St. Christopher's, Oak Park) and Fran Holiday (retired). A Standing Committee liaison to CoM is needed to connect with the co-chairs, flag agenda items, and coordinate interviews; Jaime volunteered to serve in this liaison role.
- Additional roles: The committee discussed creating a chaplain role for opening and closing devotions and an "episcopal election consent researcher" role to assist with consent tracking. Jen Boyle Tucker will take a group photo at an upcoming in-person meeting for diocesan outreach.

8. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 8:00 PM (Motion: Jaime / Second: Elsie; motion carried).
- Next meeting: March 11, 2026, in person at St. James Commons, including a group photo.