

# The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany



The Very Reverend Tom Malionek, *President*  
Janet Papa, *Secretary*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS from the STANDING COMMITTEE June 7, 2022

As the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese while the office of Bishop is vacant (Constitution of the Episcopal Church, Article IV), the Standing Committee is responsible for a wide range of matters: a high volume of administrative tasks related to diocesan operations; the prayerful consideration and discernment of policies and strategic initiatives; and helping to ensure that urgent situations are addressed. The membership of the Standing Committee can be found at <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/standing-committee/>. The bios will be updated soon.

The Committee accomplishes this work, first and foremost, by remaining united in prayer and obedience to Jesus Christ as he is known in Scripture and the Breaking of Bread. Without this foundation, nothing reliably good can be achieved. The members of the Committee also devote a substantial portion of their time beyond formal meetings to help this diocese, with its many local missionary outposts, function in as effective and healthy a way as possible.

We renew our commitment to keep everyone in the diocese of Albany apprised of what is going on. Some matters — to cite just one of many examples, personnel — must, of course, be held in confidence.

Similarly, we will not comment, except in the broadest terms, on topics under deliberation until the Committee is ready to commit to a statement or action. Discernment is always a work in progress, best done in an atmosphere in which ideas and formulations can be tried on, without risk of being viewed as final or taken as a manifestation of firm belief or intent. Minds can change over time, and we want to allow the Holy Spirit ample opportunity to bring us to clarity, conversion, and commitment.

We welcome communication from throughout the diocese. We are aware of many proposals and initiatives, and many situations that beg to be addressed. The reality is that members of the Committee must always juggle other commitments. This always necessitates a certain amount of triage which some, in turn, may find frustrating and hard to understand. As we do for all and for one another, we ask that you view us as people of good will, and trust the Holy Spirit to guide us in deciding what to take up, when, and how.

At its meeting on June 6, 2022, the Standing Committee took the following actions, among others:

### **1. The Very Rev'd Tom Malionek was elected President of the Standing Committee.**

Father Tom (a/k/a “Father Time” since Convention) is also the Rector of Saint Paul’s, Kinderhook, and Dean of the Hudson Valley Deanery.

The President of the Standing Committee chairs Committee meetings and serves on, or as point of contact with, diocesan bodies and diocesan staff, and also as liaison with the Episcopal Church. The position has no independent authority or canonical influence over the affairs of the diocese, clergy, congregations, or people.

*Disciples Making Disciples*

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## **2. Hail and Farewell**

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The Committee expressed its heartfelt gratitude to Mother Kathy Alonge-Coons, rector of Grace Church, Waterford, for her service on the Committee, most recently as President since the 153rd Diocesan Convention. Father David Ousley, Interim Priest-in-Charge of Trinity Church, Plattsburgh, has also stepped down at the expiration of his term. We wish these two exceptional colleagues every blessing.

We welcomed back the Rev'd Dr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis, Associate Rector of Saint George's, Clifton Park, and Diocesan Transition Minister, as well as the Rev'd Jean DeVaty, Rector of the Church of the Messiah, Glens Falls, for a first term.

## **3. Mother Nancy Goff appointed Dean of the Southern Adirondack Deanery.**

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Mother Jean DeVaty has served for some time now as Dean of the Southern Adirondack Deanery. In joining the Standing Committee, she has asked to step back from that appointment in order to do justice to her new role.

Accordingly, the Standing Committee has appointed the Rev'd Nancy Goff, Priest-in-Charge of Zion Church, Hudson Falls, to serve as Dean of the Southern Adirondack Deanery. We ask that the congregations, clergy, and people of that Deanery welcome her and support her prayerfully and practically in that role.

## **4. Secretary of the Standing Committee.**

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Father Tom Malionek appointed Janet Papa, of the Church of the Messiah, Glens Falls, to serve as Secretary of the Standing Committee. She has served in that capacity with distinction, and we are glad to continue to benefit from her experience and expertise.

## **5. Diocesan Deputies to General Convention.**

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Confirmation was received that Mother Laurie Garramone will serve as clergy deputy from the Diocese of Albany to the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Baltimore, Maryland, July 8-11.

## **6. Consent to Bishop election.**

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The Committee voted to consent to the election of the Rev. Phyllis Spiegel as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah. Bishops-elect must receive the consent of the majority of Bishops as well as the consent of the majority of Standing Committees in order to be seated as bishop.

## **7. Reports and formal actions.**

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The Committee heard reports and/or took the needed formal action on a variety of other matters. Communications were received from the Cathedral of All Saints, the Chancellor of the Diocese, and the Diocesan Transition Minister.

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