

# The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany



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

*The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese while the office of Bishop is vacant. Visit <https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/standing-committee/> for a list of Committee members.*

*These are highlights only. Some matters and details must remain confidential. We do not comment on deliberations until the Committee has taken action and/or is prepared to issue a formal statement.*

*We welcome communication from around the diocese. We must, of course, exercise discretion in setting priorities.*

*Please view us as people of good will, and trust the Holy Spirit to guide us all.*

At its meeting on September 19, 2022, the Standing Committee took up, among others, the following matters:

1. Heard progress reports about follow-up items from the last meeting on August 29.
2. Approved a grant from the Bishop Hogg Sabbatical fund. Apparently few clergy know or take advantage of this fund. Clergy of the diocese, take note! Deans of the diocese are asked to consider recommendations for someone to succeed Fr. Bob Haskell as administrator of the fund.
3. Appointed Deacon David Carlson to the Deacons' Council.
4. Appointed Teresa Mumby an additional co-signatory on certain diocesan bank accounts to succeed the Rev. Cn. Bob Haskell.
5. Appointed the Rev. Alistair Morrison Chair of the Commission on Ministry, to succeed Mtr. Sue Troiano. The Standing Committee expresses its deep gratitude to Mtr. Sue for her exemplary service to the Diocese in this role over many years. She passes on a well-organized system for the discernment and guidance of aspirants, postulants, candidates, and ordinands.
6. Confirmed the appointment of Father Bill Hinrichs and Mother Meaghan Keegan as interim Co-Executive Directors of Christ the King Center. Mother Meaghan succeeds Mother Jean DeVaty in that role.
7. Received a report of the Transition Minister, the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis, regarding vacancies in the Diocese of Albany, clergy search processes underway, and clergy seeking positions within the Diocese of Albany. The question has arisen about the reception of clergy from outside the United States, which is a detailed and sometimes challenging process under the Canons of the Episcopal Church, and can also become complicated and time-consuming under U.S. immigration law. Mtr. Elizabeth will research further to discover when, if ever, those options might reasonably be pursued.
8. Noted that Episcopal Church canons regarding clergy over age 72 have not been followed consistently. Clergy over 72 are reminded that authorization to minister or hold ecclesial office is limited to twelve months, subject to approval by the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority (Canons III.9.8 for priests and III.7.7 for deacons), renewable annually. It is the responsibility of the clergy to initiate the annual request for authorization. Clergy over 72 who wish to continue to minister for a successive 12 months should forward a request to Mtr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis.
9. Heard a report from the Oversight Board of the Christ the King Center regarding the status of Christ the King, current activities, successes, and challenges, and initiatives under consideration. The Board may

*Disciples Making Disciples*

580 Burton Road • Greenwich, New York 12834 • 518-692-3350 • [SCPresident@albanydiocese.org](mailto:SCPresident@albanydiocese.org)

issue further communications regarding Christ the King Center. The Standing Committee notes with deep appreciation the hard work and dedication of our entire diocesan staff, including diocesan staff whose duties are specific to Christ the King. An appreciation event is being planned.

**10.** Were briefed on issues currently before the Trustees of the Diocese.

**11.** Recognized the need for more detailed guidance regarding both Safe Church training and background checks for clergy and parish staff and volunteers. The subcommittee on Diocesan Life will make recommendations at an upcoming Standing Committee meeting.

**12.** The Episcopal Succession Subcommittee reported that the Diocesan Profile is finished and has been posted and is being distributed, as required, to all Dioceses, Bishops, and Standing Committees of the Episcopal Church. A very limited number of hard copies will be printed. The Profile and Search Committee will receive names in recommendation until November 15; see the diocesan web site (<https://albanyepiscopaldiocese.org/2022/09/14/more-info-2/>) for information and to submit names.

**13. TASK FORCE ON COMMUNION ACROSS DIFFERENCE.** The core group of the Task Force has held a planning retreat. The core members — Bishop Smith, Bishop Carol Gallagher, Mtr. Jane Brady-Close, and Fr. Scott Garno — met to begin to model a process of prayer, Bible study, and honest conversation across acknowledged difference, and to discern the remaining initial members of the Task Force from among the large pool of names submitted since August 24, when the call for volunteers was issued. Those being invited at this time strike a careful balance of viewpoints and span a range of demographic factors. To enhance the likelihood of finding a schedule that works for everyone, the size of the Task Force has been set at 14 (the four core members plus ten being invited). All who volunteered will be contacted soon. A preliminary calendar meeting of the initial 14 will be held at a mutually convenient time to work out a schedule going forward. The identity of the Task Force members will be announced thereafter.

The goal of the Task Force is to identify means of “mutual flourishing” within the Diocese, recognizing our wide differences in belief, experience, and culture. A significant part of the Task Force’s time and effort, especially at first, will thus be devoted to laying a necessary foundation of trust and building community. In-person meetings must, therefore, be the rule. The Standing Committee is committed to finding whatever resources may be needed to support that objective.

The Standing Committee will formally establish the Task Force membership but has no involvement or influence over the selection of participants, or over the operation of the Task Force. No other predetermined tasks, deadlines, or deliverables are being imposed on the Task Force; any that emerge will come from within. The Standing Committee thanks all who have volunteered, whether those who will participate in the inaugural cohort, or those who may become involved at some time in the future.

The sensitive nature of this work makes it impossible to predict when news or progress reports may be expected, but as we can share information, we will.

Faith in Jesus Christ entails living within the concrete reality of community. There is reason for hope that the Holy Spirit will use the Task Force as a means of grace, healing, repentance, and guidance; still, it will not be easy work. Accordingly, we respectfully but urgently ask everyone’s fervent prayers for this undertaking, and for the people involved in it. May God bring to fruition the good work beginning here.

**14.** The next meeting of the Standing Committee will take place in person at Christ the King Center, Monday, October 3, at 1:00 p.m. (Optional bring-your-own brown bag lunch at noon.)