

# The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany



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

November 8, 2022

*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. There are necessarily some items and details on which we cannot report or comment.*

*We welcome communication from around the diocese, asking that all of us treat one another as people of good will, and trust the Holy Spirit to guide us all.*

At its meeting on **Monday, November 7, 2022**, the Standing Committee took up, among others, the following matters:

1. Interviewed and approved the application for Candidacy of Tami Roessler for ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons.
2. Appointed the Reverend Bill Hinrichs, the Reverend Marian Sive, and Jean Lauria to the Bishop Hogg Sabbatical Fund Committee. The Committee's first task will be to update and publish the requirements and criteria for clergy sabbatical grants.
3. Consented to the election of the Rev. Elias Garcia Cardenas as Bishop of Colombia.
4. Reviewed and decided a deacon deployment matter involving a leave of absence.
5. Received a report from the Chair of the Profile and Search Committee regarding the current and upcoming phase of their work. While the Profile and Search Committee continues to have responsibilities in the process of discerning the Tenth Bishop of Albany, the Standing Committee now assumes active leadership of the overall process. If you have questions about the flow or timing of the process, [click here](#). We are at the point in the process that begins at 15:42 in the video.
6. To ensure that all canons, regulations, rules, and procedures are properly followed, authorized the negotiation and conclusion of an agreement with an election consultant qualified by the Office of the Presiding Bishop for Pastoral Development. More details will be available once the contract is concluded.
7. Designated the President of the Standing Committee to attend the January meeting of the Communion Partners.
8. Received a report from the Diocesan Life on parish screening of clergy, lay leaders, staff, and volunteers to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in compliance with civil law, national and diocesan Church canons, and insurer requirements. Detailed information on sound practices, how to initiate background checks, and appropriate release forms, is being prepared for dissemination to parishes and will be announced soon.

*Disciples Making Disciples*

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**9.** Were briefed on the status of ongoing litigation.

**10.** Were informed by the Transition Minister that the Rev. Peter Schellhase will now serve both as Rector of Saint Michael's, Colonie, and also as Priest-in-Charge of Saint Boniface, Guilderland.

**11.** Accepted with regret the retirement of Carol Drummond, chair of the Convention Planning Committee. We all owe Carol a great debt of gratitude for the dedication, hard work, efficiency, creativity, and impressive gifts she has brought to the process of organizing and directing our annual Diocesan Convention for many years. Although our format has had to change, we cherish memories of a Diocesan Convention that was arguably the best and most unique on the planet, the envy of many another diocese; most of that is due to Carol. We offer her our heartfelt thanks and pray that the Lord will reward her richly for her selflessness, generosity, and faithfulness.

**12.** Are pleased to announce the composition of the Task Force on Communion Across Difference:

- Bishop Michael Smith
- Bishop Carol Gallagher
- Tammy Boyd, Christ Church, Ballston Spa (Upper Hudson Deanery)
- Joyce Cole, Bethesda, Saratoga Springs (Upper Hudson Deanery)
- Lisa Longe, Saint Ann's, Amsterdam (Western Mohawk Deanery)
- Patty Midura, Saint Mary's, Lake Luzerne (Southern Adirondack Deanery)
- Philip Schwartz, Christ Church, Hudson (Hudson Valley Deanery)
- Carter Wilkins, Saint Paul's, Greenwich (Upper Hudson Deanery)
- Deacon Helene Patterson, Saint Stephen's, Schuylerville (Upper Hudson Deanery)
- Deacon Alicia Todaro, Saint Paul's, Troy (Metropolitan Deanery)
- Mother Kathy Alonge-Coons, Grace Church, Waterford (Metropolitan Deanery)
- Mother Jane Brady-Close, Saint Andrew's, Albany (Metropolitan Deanery)
- Father Scott Garno, Saint Stephen's, Delmar (Metropolitan Deanery)
- Father Glen Michaels, Adirondack Mission (Northern Adirondack Deanery)

Please pray for the Standing Committee; the Task Force on Communion Across Difference; and for the Bishop election process.

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