

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany



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

STANDING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

December 20, 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. Some matters and details are sensitive, personal, or not ready to report. We do not comment on deliberations.

We welcome communication from around the diocese. Please view us as people of good will, and trust the Holy Spirit to guide us all.

At its meetings on **December 5 and 19, 2022**, the Standing Committee took up, among others, the following matters:

- 1. Approved the candidacy** of postulants Dennis Charles Keegan and Abigail Hoff Bee for ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons.
- 2. Accepted**, with regret, the retirement of Clark Curtis from the position of Treasurer of the Diocese and from membership on the board of the Diocesan Development Fund and the Diocesan Finance Committee. We recognize with gratitude Clark's many years of service to our Diocese.
- 3. Appointed** Assistant Treasurer Teresa Mumby to serve as interim treasurer until the position is filled by election at the next Convention of the Diocese.
- 4. Consented** to the Release and Removal of Deacon Roy Van Dermark from the Sacred Order of Deacons in the Episcopal Church.
- 5. Consented** to the Election of the Rev. Anne B. Jolly as Bishop of Ohio.
- 6. Entertained a proposal** for a committee to explore and/or develop resources to help parishes learn to cope with financial strain. Terry Mumby and Father Tom Pettigrew (Church of the Holy Cross, Warrensburg) will serve as the initial organizers.
- 7. Approved canonical residence** in the Diocese of Albany for the Rev. Jason Radcliffe, Head of School of Augustine Classical Academy in Mechanicville.
- 8. Approved the continuation in Ministry** of the Rev. Sonia Boyce, Rector of Saint John's, Massena, as Priest-in-Charge of Saint John's, Massena, for one year from January 30, 2023.

Clergy approaching or past their 72st birthday are reminded that, pursuant to Canons III.7.7 and III.9.8 of the Episcopal Church, they must take the initiative to request, annually, permission to continue ministry (in the case of canonically resident clergy) or licensure (in the case of licensed clergy).

Disciples Making Disciples

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9. Approved the call of the Reverend Patricia Beauharnois to become Rector of Christ and Saint John's Church, Champlain, where she has been serving as Priest-in-Charge.

10. Approved a revised Clergy License Application and Covenant for Sexual Responsibility.

11. Received with regret the retirement of the Very Rev. Ken Hunter as Dean of the Susquehanna Deanery. Fr. Ken has served the Deanery and the Diocese well for many years in a variety of positions.

12. Appointed the Very Rev. Art Garno, rector of Saint John's, Delhi, and President of the Susquehanna Deanery, as Dean of the Susquehanna Deanery.

13. Consented to the granting by Assisting Bishop Michael Smith of a Leave of Absence to the Rev. Richard P. Erickson, deacon at Saint Paul's, Kinderhook.

14. Received a progress report regarding the rollout of Safe Church procedures for background checks that parishes will conduct on key employees and volunteers. Testing continues, and distribution of information to parishes is expected in early 2023.

15. Appointed Terry Mumby, Mother Meaghan Keegan, Christopher Fitz, Kyra Fitzgerald, Deacon Marian Sive, Warren Wright-Sedam, and Father Scott Garno to begin organizing a Virtual Convention Planning Committee. As previously announced, the 2023 Diocesan Convention will be held in virtual format in anticipation of an in-person electing Convention later in the year. This Committee will make provision for the smooth execution of the virtual format, which will include "satellite" sites to ensure that all clergy and Deputies have internet access and tech support as well as the opportunity to confer locally with their parish delegations.

16. Noted that the Christmas 2022 edition of the *Albany Episcopalian* will contain an opt-in reply card to enable recipients to continue receiving the *Albany Episcopalian* and to select the format in which it is delivered. An on-line signup option will also be provided in the near future. Please be aware that, in the future, only those who specifically request a print edition will receive one. The *Albany Episcopalian* will continue to be available on demand at <https://albanyepiscopaldioocese.org/the-albany-episcopalian/>.

17. Received with appreciation the report of the Christ the King Center Oversight Board.

18. Scheduled a meeting on Monday, January 16, 2023, with the Rev. Brian Nordwick, whom the Diocese has retained as a consultant in the process to elect the tenth Bishop of Albany.

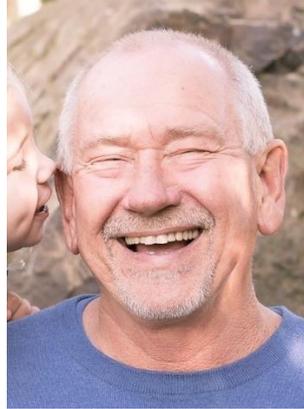
See below for an introduction to Deacon Nordwick.



As we approach the celebration of the Coming of the Lord as God-among-us, we on the Standing Committee give thanks for the faithfulness and devotion with which our diocese loves God and neighbor. We pray that all will hear Good News in the birth of the Savior; that all will be prepared to receive gratefully the miracle and mystery of the Light coming into our world and hearts, that we may become beacons of the Light amid the darkness. As we enjoy our favorites holiday treats and festive gatherings, may the Lord also open our hearts, our churches, and our homes to any who lack food or fellowship. God fill you all with peace, joy, good will, and hope now and forever.

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INTRODUCING THE REV. BRIAN NORDWICK



The Diocese of Albany is committed to doing everything possible to ensure that our process for electing the Tenth Bishop of Albany is spiritually faithful, respectful of all applicable canons, and takes into account best practices to identify the person God is leading us to elect.

To that end, the Standing Committee has engaged the assistance of the Rev. Brian Nordwick. Deacon Nordwick is one of several dozen consultants known to the Office of Diocesan Development, the Presiding Bishop's agency for working with dioceses as they elect a new bishop. We asked that office to recommend consultants and followed up on their response. After interviews with available candidates, we became confident that Deacon Nordwick is the best person to help us achieve our ends and to help us work with the Presiding Bishop's Office. Despite the travel distance, he stood out as having a real heart for the Diocese of Albany and our people.

After a 23-year career in international business, including responsibility as a conflict resolution mediator, Deacon Brian served 18 years as Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of El Camino Real. He has consulted for other dioceses and organizations throughout the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion on bishop and clergy transitions. He has extensive experience as well with short- and long-term strategic and mission planning and organizational growth and development. He has most recently consulted for the dioceses of Nevada and Oregon.

Deacon Brian has been ordained a vocational Deacon for over 28 years, after earning a B.A. in Theology from the California School for Deacons located at Church Divinity School of the Pacific. He subsequently served on the faculty of the California School for Deacons for 25 years, guiding people in spiritual formation and discernment of calls to ordained ministry – helping them to discern/re-discover their calls and ultimately the ministries they will live out in the Church. Other experience includes time as President of the Conference of Diocesan Executives. He is currently on the faculty of the Church Pension Group's CREDO program. He leads retreats centered around spiritual enrichment – challenging people to be accountable to their Christian faith – and assisting leaders to be more effective in their ministry.

He lives in Hollister, California. He is pictured with his granddaughter.

Deacon Nordwick will come to the Albany Diocese in mid-January for daylong briefings, information sessions, and work with the Profile and Search Committee on their discernment retreat. He will also meet with the Standing Committee as our diocese enters the next phase of the election process. We welcome Deacon Brian warmly and look forward to learning more from him about how best to go about discerning and electing our next bishop.

Please keep him and his family in your prayers.
