

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany



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

February 7, 2023

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.

The **February 6, 2023**, meeting of the Standing Committee began, as always, with prayer. We spent time reflecting on the Scriptures assigned to the Liturgy of the Word for the day.

The Committee then took up, among others, the following matters:

- 1. Consented** to the election of the Rt. Rev'd Melissa Skelton as Bishop Provisional for the Diocese of Olympia, and of the Rev. Justin Holcomb as Bishop of the Diocese of Central Florida.
- 2. Appointed** Barbara Breen of Saint Mary's, Lake Luzerne, to the vacant lay seat on the Standing Committee. She will serve until the next Diocesan Convention, when the Convention will elect a layperson to occupy the seat for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- 3. Approved** a form for the Annual Report required of Deacons, and a draft Deacon Covenant, with great appreciation for the excellent work of the Deacons' Council of the Diocese.
- 4. Accepted** the requests of Candidates for Ordination to the Sacred Office of Deacons for assignments following their anticipated ordination in June. Appointed a committee to plan the ordination.
- 5. Supported** the Provincial Leadership Council of the Synod of Province II of The Episcopal Church and approved payment of dues to the conference.
- 6. Received** proposed guidelines for the granting of funds from the Hogg Sabbatical fund for clergy recently revised by a committee chaired by the Rev. Bill Hinrichs, and expressed great thanks for the hard work of the Committee.
- 7. Welcomed** an encouraging report by the Rev. Jacob Evans on the activities of the Loaves & Fishes ministry based in Albany during 2022.
- 8. Discussed** at length diocesan staffing proposals.
- 9. Dealt** with certain clergy deployment and licensure matters.
- 10. Approved** funds to support the continued operation of the Task Force on Communion Across Differences.

Disciples Making Disciples

580 Burton Road • Greenwich, New York 12834 • 518-692-3350 • SCPresident@albanydiocese.org

11. Heard reports from Bishop Smith on the Task Force on Communion Across Difference, and from the Bishop and Fr. Tom Malionek on the Communion Partners' meeting in January and the recently concluded Deeper Walk with God retreat.

Remember that news about the search for the Tenth Bishop of Albany is now reported on a separate Election Thursday e-mail.

Please pray us and for the Profile and Search Committee.