

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany



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

Code of Conduct for the Election of a Bishop

May 4, 2023

We, the members of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Albany, are aware that our constitutional and canonical responsibilities for the affairs of the diocese, including the election of a bishop under Rule 1A, necessitates access to certain information not publicly available, and that we are required and authorized to exercise discretion regarding the handling of such information. We have been guided, in this respect, by best practices known to the Presiding Bishop's Office of Diocesan Development and shared by Bishop Search consultants who work closely with that office.

Members of Convention (canonically resident clergy or certified lay deputies) have a duty to vote their consciences in the election. Even if we are members of convention, however, our role in arranging for or overseeing the election, which may entail contact with or access to information about candidates, may appear to endow our statements, opinions, or attitudes with disproportionate weight and us with influence. Consequently, with a view to establishing and maintaining a level playing field for all whose names may be placed in nomination for the Tenth Bishop of Albany, we hereby undertake and commit ourselves to the following standards of conduct:

1. We will refrain from nominating or seconding any nomination.
2. We will maintain impartiality toward all of the candidates, both in our interactions with them and in all statements and attitudes regarding them, so as to avoid giving the impression of endorsement or disapproval based on information not publicly available.

We enjoin the members of the Profile & Search Committee, the Election Procedures Committee, Diocesan officers, Diocesan Staff, and others in positions of authority to adopt this code as well.

Furthermore, while our procedures are superficially similar to secular electoral processes, we, as the church, the Body of Christ, are called to a different and higher standard. With faith in the Holy Spirit's guidance and governance, we labor in prayer to know God's choice of bishop in our diocese, and ask that God's will, and not our own, be done. We vote in obedience to God's will, not to assert our own.

Candidates come from a variety of geographic areas and have differing responsibilities and time constraints. Official events and communications sponsored by the Profile & Search Committee and the Election Procedures Committee are the appropriate way for all candidates to get to know the diocese and for the diocese to get to know the candidates on an equal footing. Consequently, we ask all candidates to decline invitations and to refrain from visits to or contact with members, parishes, groups, etc., of the diocese outside of official events for all candidates.

We further charge the nominees to refrain from communications or activities that could be interpreted as lobbying or campaigning at any level —individual, congregational, or deanery. Similarly, we discourage parishes, deaneries, interest groups, clubs, or individuals from engaging in campaigning or electioneering on behalf of candidates. Parishes, groups, and members of the diocese are likewise discouraged from

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inviting candidates to be guest preachers, workshop leaders, or otherwise to visit or communicate outside of the ordinary scope of their ministry.

We are advising all candidates not to engage in one-on-one communications with individuals or groups within the diocese, whether asked to share information or views, or to answer questions.

Please continue to join in prayer for our diocese, the clergy and lay deputies who will vote, and for the candidates and their families.

The undersigned commit themselves to these standards of conduct, and to prayer.

The Standing Committee

The Very Reverend Tom Malioneck
Sue Ellen Ruetsch
Janet Papa
Deborah Bisner
Barbara Breen
Christopher Cassidy
The Reverend Jean DeVaty
The Very Reverend Arthur Garno
The Very Reverend N. Bradley Jones
Jean Stevens-Lauria
The Reverend Dr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis
The Reverend Derik Roy

The Reverend Marian Sive

Secretary of the Diocese

The Profile & Search Committee:

Sue Ellen Ruetsch, Calvary, Burnt Hills (Upper Hudson Deanery) — Chair
The Very Reverend Dr. Tom Papazoglakis (Upper Hudson Deanery)
The Reverend Kathryn Boswell (Saint Lawrence Deanery)
John Dietrich, Zion, Colton (Saint Lawrence Deanery)
The Reverend Paul Hunter (Metropolitan Deanery)
Jennifer Firth, Saint John's, Troy (Metropolitan Deanery)
The Reverend Tom Pettigrew (Southern Adirondack Deanery)
Barbara Breen, Saint Mary's, Lake Luzerne (Southern Adirondack Deanery)
The Reverend David Sullivan (Northern Adirondack Deanery)
Franny Preston, Saint Luke's, Saranac Lake (Northern Adirondack Denary)
The Reverend Laura Miller Susquehanna Deanery
Helen Reilly, Saint James, Oneonta (Susquehanna Deanery)
The Reverend John Thompson (Hudson Valley Deanery)
David Palmquist, Christ Church, Hudson (Hudson Valley Deanery)
Holly Chamberlin, Saint John's, Johnstown (Western Mohawk Deanery)
The Reverend Jack Whritenour (Western Mohawk Deanery)
The Reverend Jonathan Beck (at large)
The Reverend. Justine Guernsey (at large)
The Very Reverend David Ousley (at large)
Pat Outhouse, Saint John's, Delhi (at large)
Keith St. John, Cathedral of All Saints, Albany (at large)
Judith Sweet, Calvary, Burnt Hills (at large)
The Reverend Darius Mojallali (Priest Chaplain)

The Election Procedures Committee as of May 4, 2023:

The Reverend Marian Sive — Chair

Tom Bell, Esq., Assistant Chancellor *ex officio*

Lay Canon George Marshall

The Very Reverend Sonya Boyce

The Reverend Meaghan Keegan

The Reverend Nathan Ritter