

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany



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

May 9, 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 Standing Committee met on **April 24 and May 1, 2023**. Much of the business addressed was related to progress toward the Election of a Bishop. Major developments in that area have been announced separately; when additional information is reported, it will appear in a Thursday Election News e-mail.

The Standing Committee has also addressed these matters:

1. Appointed the Rev. Marian Sive Secretary of Convention, to serve until the next regular annual Convention on June 10, 2023.

2. Approved letters dimissory

- the Rev. Lora Smith to the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, effective immediately,
- the Rev. Barbara Ayers to the Diocese of Southwest Florida, effective June 30,
- the Rev. Rose Ann Felty to the Diocese of West Texas, effective immediately.

We thank them for their service to our Diocese and pray for the Lord to continue to bless their ministry.

3. Directed the President to send of a letter in support of a Creation Care grant application by Saint Luke's-on-the-Hill, Mechanicville, for the benefit of the Diocese of Toliara, Madagascar.

4. Consented to the election of

- the Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent as Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of Maryland
- the Rev. Charles Holt as Bishop of the Diocese of Florida
- the Rev. Ann Ritonia as Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces

5. Received with appreciation an initial report from the Task Force on Communion Across Difference. The Task Force was formed and charged to prepare recommendations for the next Bishop of Albany. The report presented to the Standing Committee was not required or requested, but was sent on the Task Force's own initiative to the Standing Committee. The text of the report is appended to this report [below](#) and can be viewed and downloaded as a [standalone PDF file](#) from the Standing Committee page of the diocesan web site.

6. Heard the report of the Standing Committee's Administration Subcommittee regarding projected staffing needs, documentation job descriptions, and staff organization.

7. Heard reports on programming and the progress of work at Christ the King Center.

Disciples Making Disciples

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8. Interviewed and consented to the ordination of Deacon Candidates Abigail Bee and Dennis Keegan.

9. Appointed to the Election Procedures Committee:

- the Rev. Marian Sive *ex officio*, as Chair
- Tom Bell, Esq., Assistant Chancellor, *ex officio*
- Lay Canon George Marshall
- the Very Rev. Sonya Boyce
- the Rev. Meaghan Keegan
- the Rev. Nathan Ritter

Under Diocesan Convention Rule 1A, the Standing Committee is to appoint “a maximum of six persons” to an Election Procedures Committee (EPC), whose job it is “to assist the Secretary of the Convention in the establishment and oversight of the election procedures and agenda.” Rule 1A places the EPC under the oversight and supervision of the Secretary of Convention. Members of the Committee need not be clergy. The Committee will recruit local volunteers for help with opportunities to meet with the Candidates and the conduct of the Convention itself. Please pray to discern whether you, or someone you might ask, is called to serve on the Committee, and notify Deacon Marian Sive or Father Tom Malioneck.

10. Adopted a Code of Conduct for the election of a bishop. Some of us in the election process have interacted more closely with one or more candidates, or have had access to non-public information about one or more of them. We are concerned lest anyone be influenced by our views or attitudes about, or toward, the candidates on the assumption that we are better informed. [Click here](#) to read the Code of Conduct.

11. Were briefed by the Secretary of Convention on the current status of nominations for elected offices in the diocese. These are summarized below as of this date. Please discern prayerfully whether you, or someone you know, may be called to serve the Diocese of Albany. Deans are asked to encourage congregations and individuals to pray humbly and to search their hearts.

Note that it is permissible to have more nominees than seats. Information on the composition of these bodies, terms of office, and manner of election are found in the [Constitution](#) and [Canons](#) of the Diocese.

Position	Positions to be filled	Nominations to date
Cathedral Chapter	1 priest 1 layperson	2 1
Convention Representative to Diocesan Council	1 clergy (priest or deacon)	1
Trustee	2 offices (clergy or lay)	2
Disciplinary Board	1 clergy (priest or deacon) 2 lay	0 1
Deputies to General Convention <i>NOTE: Provisional deputies will not be elected until next year's Convention.</i>	4 clergy (priest or deacon) 4 lay	2 3
Standing Committee	2 clergy (priest or deacon) 4 lay (some unexpired terms)	3 2
Secretary of Convention	1 office (clergy or lay)	1
Treasurer	1 office (clergy or lay)	1
Assistant Treasurers	1 or more	0

12. Designated the Dean and Clericus of the Southern Adirondack Deanery to form a committee to assess and mentor a licensed lay preacher.

13. Appointed Mtr. Elizabeth Papazoglakis as a secondary point of contact for Child Victim Act litigation against the diocese.

14. Reminds congregations that full payment of stipend and travel costs must be given to supply clergy on the day of the service. [Click here for rates and further information.](#)

Pray for our Diocese, its congregations, people, clergy, leaders, Bishop candidates and their families.

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON COMMUNION ACROSS DIFFERENCE

Also available [here](#).

Though originally marked “CONFIDENTIAL,” the concluding paragraph leaves wider dissemination of the letter to the discretion of the Standing Committee.

We are grateful to the Task Force for the work they have done and for laying the groundwork for much-needed further dialogue among us.

The Episcopal Diocese of Albany Task Force on Communion Across Difference

April 12, 2023

Standing Committee of
The Episcopal Diocese of Albany
via email

Re: Update on the Work of the Task Force

The Diocese of Albany Task Force on Communion Across Difference (“CAD”) has met now a half dozen times since October 2022. We write the Standing Committee to give you an initial report on our work. We anticipate that additional recommendations will follow.

Thank you. First, we commend and wholeheartedly thank the Standing Committee for recognizing the need for healing in the Diocese regarding matters of faithful human sexuality. That need for healing is shared by ALL members of CAD, both “traditional” and “progressive.” We give thanks to the Standing Committee for organizing and supporting CAD to be a part of the healing process.

Healing and Hope within CAD. We are amazed at the faithfulness and spiritual gifts of CAD members. We are laity, deacons, priests, and bishops. We span the full range of views in TEC on matters of human sexuality. Yet we have been able to do far more than merely treat each other “charitably.” We have come to have profound respect and love for one another. We find ourselves flourishing together within our differing theological views. This bodes well for the mission of the Diocese of Albany.

Process within CAD. How has this “flourishing” come about? We have taken time to (i) pray and reflect together on Holy Scripture, (ii) share faith stories, and (iii) articulate our lived experiences of faithful marriage and sexuality. These processes revealed hurt within our members. Our pain reflects, we believe,

the widespread woundedness in the Diocese of Albany surrounding matters of same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ+ persons, the woundedness that showed itself at the last convention.

And yet, through honest sharing, love-filled listening, and prayer, CAD has found anger replaced by compassion and even joy. It is our goal, our hope, that this healing may extend to all corners of our Diocese.

CAD is Not Substitute for Convention. We understand all the good reasons for truncating convention. Given the unfortunate history in the Diocese of a lack of frank discussion of the merits and problems of same sex marriage, the prohibition of canonical amendments at the upcoming convention is viewed by some with suspicion– perhaps unfairly – as an attempt to avoid discussion of these issues.

That said, we the members of CAD agree that legal / legislative forums seldom provide an opportunity for healing on divisive issues, and sometimes -- as at the last Convention -- turn polemic and disrespectful. Therefore, CAD encourages the Standing Committee to work with us on providing smaller, non-legislative forums for promoting healing on divisive issues.

Small Group Healing. We propose small group gatherings throughout the Diocese of Albany which use the processes that have brought about healing and hope in CAD in the areas of same sex marriage and ordination / licensing of LGBTQ+ clergy. Members of CAD have offered to facilitate these forums with assistance from others.

Again, thank you for your support of our work. We pray that your work as the ecclesiastical authority may be fruitful and not overly burdensome. We leave to your discretion possible wider dissemination of this letter.

The Task Force on Communion Across Difference

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The Rt. Rev. Michael Smith
Convener

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The Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher Co-
Co-Convener