

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany



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

October 17, 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.

At its meeting on **Monday, October 16, 2023**, the Standing Committee took up, among others, the following matters:

1. Heard from Bishop-Elect Jeremiah Williamson about his plans. Fr. Williamson and Jennifer will be arriving on Monday, October 23, for a week of house-hunting and meetings.

On Thursday, October 26, priests of the diocese are welcome to join Fr. Jeremiah for lunch and a listening session at Saint George's, Clifton Park, from 12:00 noon to 2:30 p.m.

Attendees must **RSVP** by October 20 to 518-692-3350, ext. 1, or diocese@albanydiocese.org. This will be an in-person session only (no remote attendance option will be available). Free of charge, but donations to defray the cost of the meal are welcomed (suggested: \$20).

Fr. Williamson plans to hold other listening sessions, both in person and on line, once he arrives in Albany in January, as well as other ways of beginning to make contact with parishes.

2. Approved the sale of two parish properties and directed the disposition of proceeds from the sales.

3. Accepted the resignation of the Rev. Marian Sive as Secretary of the Diocese and of Convention, with heartfelt thanks for her generous service as we prepared for the election of the Tenth Bishop of Albany.

4. Stands ready to approve signature of the Covenant between the Diocese and the Bishop-Elect once drafting is complete, the Covenant is cleared by the Treasurer and Chancellors, and has been sent for comment to, and approved by, Diocesan Council. The goal is to sign the Covenant during Fr. Jeremiah's visit from October 23-27.

5. Received a report regarding preparations for the Consecration and Enthronement of the new Bishop on Saturday, February 24, 2024. The Office of the Presiding Bishop takes the lead in planning; a small local planning committee is being assembled to assist; this local committee will reach out to others as needed for specific elements of the event. Experience and lessons learned from the Special Electing Convention are being taken into account.

The Local Planning Committee includes Fr. Tom Malionek; Cathedral Dean Leander Harding; Mtr. Meaghan Keegan; Sue Ellen Ruetsch; and Canon Brian Nordwick as *ad hoc* adviser and consultant. Others may be recruited as needed.

Disciples Making Disciples

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

Contributions to defray expenses, gifts and donations toward gifts for the new bishop, and offers to volunteer time and service, are all welcome. Anyone who wishes to offer or arrange to donate or contribute should send an e-mail to BishopXGifts@albanydiocese.org and someone will be in touch. Individuals, parishes, and organizations within the diocese may wish to pool resources or contribute to specific items or ways to recognize and celebrate the new Bishop.

Final decisions will be based on Fr. Jeremiah's needs, preferences, and the necessity of avoiding duplication.

Consideration is being given to restoration of Bishop Doane's ceremonial crozier.

6. Welcomed a report from the Administration Subcommittee regarding diocesan properties on South Swan Street and the extensive work that needs to be done there.

7. Noted efforts underway toward the planning of the next annual Diocesan Convention.

8. Were informed of current and upcoming clergy transition matters.

9. Received a briefing on matters under consideration by the Trustees of the Diocese including property sales and transfers, ADIT, audits, and insurance.

The Standing Committee will meet next in person on Monday, November 6.