

# The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany



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

November 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.*

At its meeting on **Monday, November 6, 2023**, the Standing Committee took up, among others, the following matters:

**1. Welcomed** Father Jeremiah Williamson, Bishop-Elect, who will now begin attending all Standing Committee meetings on a regular basis in order to familiarize himself with the range of matters specific to our diocese that require the Committee's attention, and so that the Committee can begin incorporating his perspectives in its decisions, in anticipation of his succession to the See of Albany. Father Williamson expressed great satisfaction with the October 26 meeting he had with priests of the diocese. He discussed plans to hold listening sessions around the Diocese and remotely after his arrival in January and before the Consecration, including sessions with deacons, wardens, and others.

**2. Voted to appoint** the Rev. Scott Garno to the position of Secretary of the Diocese, effective immediately, succeeding the Rev. Marian Sive. Father Garno will serve until the next Diocesan Convention, at which time a Secretary will be elected by Convention. Father Garno has occupied the position recently and is well qualified to take up these duties during this important transition. We are grateful to him for his willingness to accept this appointment.

**3. Instructed** the Convention Planning Committee under chair Janet Papa to make arrangements for the 156th Diocesan Convention. Fr. Williamson has expressed his preference for the kind of "family reunion" Convention we have had for many years. The Call to Convention will be issued once arrangements are ironed out.

**4. Approved** a proposal from the Oversight Board of Christ the King Center (CtK) to begin booking a small number of wedding receptions starting in 2024. The Board proposes these, not as an element of the core mission of CtK, but as a promising way to supplement the facility's revenues so as to support the work of the center.

**5. Reviewed a variety of important considerations** that will need to be addressed in anticipation of the Consecration of the Tenth Bishop of Albany. The Consecration Planning Team, led by the Rev. Dr. Molly James, Deputy Executive Officer of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, will convene for an initial meeting on November 16. The Standing Committee will hold an extraordinary meeting on Monday, January 20, to finalize logistical details that cannot wait until the next regular meeting.

*Disciples Making Disciples*

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**6. Accepted** a recommendation by the Dean of the Cathedral to have Bishop Doane's pastoral staff (crozier) professionally restored in time for use at the bishop's Consecration. The pastoral staff has not been used for more than a decade because of its deteriorating condition. Multiple proposals and bids were received; the work will be done by the Williamstown Art Conservation Center in Williamstown, Massachusetts.

**7. Welcomed** a briefing from the Rev. Tom Pettigrew regarding plans to receive and solicit financial donations and in-kind gifts surrounding the Consecration ceremony. A link ([HERE](#)) has been posted on the diocesan web site for those who wish to make a final contribution. Further information on gifts, including gifts in kind, will be sent soon through multiple channels.

**8. Granted** release and removal from Holy Orders to the Rev. Laurie Bartlett and the Rev. Stephen Scarff at their request. Bishop Smith will execute the necessary documents and formal announcement will be made through the usual channels.

**9. Resolved** a number of clergy deployment requests.

**10. Considered** health care plan options for the coming benefit year. Diocesan staff will be informed of details once plan enrollment is made.

**11. Received** a report from the Administration Subcommittee regarding the state of properties on South Swan Street in Albany. A "triage" day is planned in the near future in anticipation of clearing spaces for use by the new bishop.

**12. Welcomed** progress on plans to honor several individuals who have served the diocese with distinction in recent years.

**13. Heard** a report from the President of the Standing Committee regarding recent activities.

Please pray for us; your prayers are important and deeply felt.

Pray also for the priests' retreat, November 7-10.