

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany



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

December 19, 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, December 18, 2023**, after praying together, the Standing Committee took up, among others, the following matters:

- 1. Bishop-Elect Jeremiah Williamson** brought us up to date on the progress of his family's plans to relocate to the Diocese of Albany. Please pray for a smooth transition, closings on property sales in Colorado and the purchase of a house in Loudonville, and for travelling mercies.
- 2. Received an update** on plans for the Consecration, with the highest possible priority focus on acoustics in the Cathedral and streaming of the event. A detailed plan has been developed and bids are being solicited.
- 3. Approved** the minutes of the December 4, 2023, Standing Committee meeting.
- 4. Were informed** of developments in Child Victim Act lawsuits in which the diocese is named as co-defendant.
- 5. Renewed** the license of the Rev. Sally Heiligman to officiate in the Diocese of Albany for one year.
- 6. Granted letters dimissory** to the Rev. Carolyn Bartkus to the Diocese of Dallas.
- 7. Resolved** other clergy issues.
- 8. Accepted** the retirement of the Rev. David Ousley as Dean of the Northern Adirondack Deanery, and thanked Fr. David for his leadership and service in that role.
- 9. Appointed** the Rev. Andrew Cruz Lillegard Dean of the Northern Adirondack Deanery.
- 10. Consented** to the election of the Rev. Austin Keith Rios as Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of California.
- 11. Received the report** of the Administration subcommittee on work being done to ready properties on South Swan Street for future use by the Bishop.
- 12. Learned** of progress in arrangements to hold the next annual Diocesan Convention in person at the Silver Bay YMCA facility.
- 13. Heard a report** on matters before the Trustees of the Diocese, including progress on ADIT reform; proposed sales of parish properties; and contingency planning.

Disciples Making Disciples

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The next Standing Committee meeting will be held Monday, January 15, 2024. This will be the first in-person meeting with Bishop-Elect Jeremiah. The Standing Committee remains the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese until the Bishop assumes jurisdiction at his Consecration.

Please pray for peace in our world and for continued spiritual growth and healing in our Diocese.

God grant that the remainder of Advent be a time of renewal and refreshment for all, and the Christmas season a source of blessing and joy, especially to those for whom this time of year is a difficult one.