



THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALBANY

Mr. Christopher Cassidy, President
The Rev'd Thomas J. Pettigrew, Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEE COMMUNIQUE FOR NOVEMBER 2025

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Rev. Kathy Alonge-Coons	1 st / 2026	Barbara Breen	2 nd / 2028
The Rev. Lynne Curtis	1 st / 2028	Chris Cassidy, President	1 st / 2028
The Very Rev. Art Garno	2 nd / 2028	Jean Stevens Lauria	2 nd / 2026
The Rev. Tom Malionek	2 nd / 2026	David Malsan	1 st / 2027
The Rev. Derik Roy	1 st / 2027	Sue Ellen Ruetsch	2 nd / 2026
The Rev. Tom Pettigrew, Secretary	1 st / 2027	Gary Sorensen	1 st / 2027

The Standing Committee met for its regular meeting on November 18, 2025, at the Christ the King Center in Greenwich.

The Committee voted to consent to two Episcopal Elections: Gregory Kimura as Bishop of San Joaquin; and Shay Craig as Bishop of North Dakota. In the Episcopal Church, after a Diocesan Convention elects a Bishop, before they are ordained and consecrated, the bishop-elect must receive consent from a majority of the Standing Committees of all Dioceses, and, separately, from a majority of Bishops who exercise jurisdiction.

Christopher Cassidy delegated the chair to Fr. Pettigrew for the purpose of considering a request to confirm the issuance of a loan by the Diocesan Development Fund (DDF) to St. Stephen's, Delmar, where he is a parishioner. The Diocesan Development Fund is established by Diocesan Canon 9.3. It may lend funds to "the Parishes, Congregations, Corporations and Institutions of this Diocese for new construction, remodeling, major improvements, equipment, furnishings, emergencies and lend funds for other diocesan ministry needs." The committee confirmed the loan to St. Stephen's from the DDF in an amount up to \$140,000. The proceeds of the loan will be used to build a new curtain wall for the church. This new wall will become the new exterior front wall of the church building. The current exterior wall consists of a number of glass windows which are prone to cracking and leaking, but is still structurally sound and will remain in place. Fr. Art Garno and Chris Cassidy abstained.

The Committee consented to the sale of a parcel of land in the Town of Hamden, County of Delaware, belonging to St. John's, Delhi. According to the parish, the parcel was given to them many years ago, is remote, and has never been used by the parish. The parish had not had the property on the market but received an offer from an interested party.

Fr. Garno reports that the parish inquired with a local real estate agent who confirmed the offer was a fair price for the land. He also stated that selling the land will remove the property from the parish's liability insurance cost, and that the proceeds will be used for the operating budget and bringing the Parish Assessment up to date. Fr. Garno, who is the Rector of St. John's, Delhi, abstained from voting.

The Standing Committee gave its consent to the Nomination of Ms. Peg Newell from All Saints', Round Lake, to serve on the Board of Episcopal Charities of Albany. If appointed by the Board, she will begin her term in January.

The Bishop reported that the Trustees have received an update on the Swan Street Engineering Report. The most pressing issue continues to be the roof of the four buildings. The roofs have been patched and repaired many times over the years. An early estimate to replace the roof over the four buildings puts the cost at around \$100,000. This study and consideration of the repairs is part of a longer conversation about diocesan properties including the Swan Street buildings, the Guild House (Cathedral), and Christ the King. The Bishop noted the importance, in this process, of getting outside perspectives from those who have done development and property work.

The Trustees also had further discussion on the transition of ADIT out of current software system into a new system. The drive to move the funds to a new management system is driven by the antiquated and cumbersome software currently used, which is costly, and also can only be operated by one person. These two "fail points" put the whole fund at risk should one or both fail.

Transition Ministry

The Bishop reported that we have a number of churches in the search process right now. We do not, however, have a significant number of applicants, which is a change from earlier in the year. The Bishop encouraged anyone who may know of clergy looking for work to reach out and encourage them to consider a parish here in Albany. In October, St. Luke the Beloved Physician in Saranac Lake welcomed the Reverend Denise Cabana as their new rector. The Reverend Matthew Stromberg has been called as Rector of St. Luke's in Catskill. He begins his ministry on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025.

Bishop's Time / Items / Council of Advice

**A primary function of the Standing Committee is to act as the Bishop's "council of advice." In order to facilitate frank and honest discussion, some matters the bishop brings to the Committee are privileged. Not all topics raised by the bishop are reflected in this Communique.*

The Bishop announced that the following persons have been appointed to the Sanctuary Task Force created by resolution at the 2025 Diocesan Convention: Jim Prout (St. John's, Troy & ADK Mission), Dick Walker (St. John's, Essex), The Rev. Ken Hitch (St. Eustace, Lake Placid), Jay White (Trinity, Plattsburgh), Ruth Basantes (St. Stephen's, Schenectady), The Rev. Dr. Jenn Dorsey (St. John's, Cohoes), The Rev. Patti Johnson (Co-Chair of the Diocesan Mission Committee), Laurie Speanburg (Holy Name, Boyntonville), Wendy Bopp (St. Paul's, Kinderhook), Matthew Gregory (Holy Spirit, Schenevus), The Rev. Dr. Bill Lytle (Christ Church, Hudson)

Since the advice and consent of the Standing Committee is needed to approve the date and location of the Annual Diocesan Convention for 2026, discussion was had on tentative dates. Most of the feedback about holding the Convention at CtK was positive, and the Committee agreed that the savings to the dioceses by holding the convention at CtK was beneficial to the financial health of both the Diocese and CtK. Since CtK needs to make booking arrangements with other groups, we need to make a decision on dates. The Bishop will get the available Fall dates from CtK and the committee will consider this matter again next month.

The Bishop received a communication from the Warden of the Adirondack Mission requesting permission to move forward with listing property in North Creek. The bishop was unsure if the Committee had previously given permission. Mtr. Alonge-Coons recalled that this had been given approval by the Standing Committee and Trustees in 2023. The consensus of the Committee was that no further action on its part was needed at this time.

Next Meeting:December 16, 2025