

# Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

## Minutes of the Standing Committee

### April 3, 2018

Attendance: +Audrey Scanlan, Amy Swiernik, Anthony Alexander, Barbara Hutchinson+, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer, Drew Dorgan, Jim Strader-Sasser+, John Harwood+, John Stevenson, Kate Harrigan+, Patrick Pierce+, and Sarah Weedon+

Following our opening devotions, we discussed the filling of Sarah Weedon's position on the Committee. Charlotte has approached three candidates, two of whom have declined. We will know more soon.

Kate updated us on Bryan Weedon's condition as he battles brain cancer. Sarah Weedon deeply appreciates our prayers and expressions of concern. You can contact her at 5523 Blakeslee Avenue Harrisburg, PA 17111 H: 717-652-6690 C: 717-512-7436 email: [honeygramw@aol.com](mailto:honeygramw@aol.com)

#### **TEC Matter**

John Stevenson reported on bishop elections and the five searches underway. The diocese of Bethlehem will be soonest.

#### **Ordination**

Since the last SC meeting, a small group (Anthony, Barbara, and Charlotte) has reflected on ways to improve our process, not just with the scheduling with COM but the kinds of questions that each committee asks. Neither committee has been asking some questions about fitness for ordained ministry, and we need to address that. We are gathering information from other dioceses. We are getting closer to having a master calendar that fully identifies the steps in the ordination process.

Amy reported on three interviews at the March meeting of the COM.

#### **Property**

Drew reported on various property issues (Trinity-Renovo, Shamokin, New Freedom property) from the Finance Committee.

Charlotte reported on the Trustees' Meeting. Some highlights were discussions of the Fair Share and the Bishop's innovative curacy project, which is intended to increase diocesan interconnection, to provide small congregations with clergy coverage, newly ordained clergy with curacy experience in different sized congregations, and clergy mentoring in a multi-congregational context. This initiative will be funded by using part of a large bequest.

The Trustees also discussed how best to address the #MeToo issues. Finally, Bishop Audrey reported on the work of Michael Nailor's efforts to build convocation-wide resource teams.

### **Counsel & Advice**

Jim reported that the Design Team has gathered a large amount of data about our current state and has begun the analysis of how the data can inform our process of discerning a new, deeper sense of mission. (See Jim's update in the most recent Diocesan Update.) Charlotte and Barbara are working on a video presentation of the team's work.

Audrey reported on the Cathedral Study group. They are still in the data-gathering mode (survey and interviews, information from other dioceses).

The Sacramental Access group is likewise gathering information from other dioceses about how to provide sacraments to areas where priests are not available. Recommendations will be made to the Bishop in May.

"Standing with the Bishop" – we discussed chapters 2 and 3 in *Participating in God's Mission*. For our June meeting, Jim suggests that we read the chapter tied to the year of your church's founding PLUS chapter 8.

The Bishop discussed the need to fill the position of treasurer. Charlotte moved the appointment of Deborah McCloskey as the interim diocesan treasurer until October (because of Bonnie Chambers' long-planned resignation); Kate seconded the motion; and the Committee unanimously confirmed her appointment. We also agreed to send a letter of appreciation to Bonnie.

+Audrey also reported on the Diocesan support for the "March for Life" campaign. On the following day several people participated in a conference call, and there may be next steps as a result of the march and the conference call. This may be an opportunity for convocations to share their pain and vision for the future.

Finally, she talked about her "snow day" reflections about diocesan life, including new models for "being church," and shared materials that we, like Mary, will ponder in our hearts and discuss them in June.

We closed in prayer.

Reminders: **Spring Ordination Interview Meeting, April 17, 2018, 12:00 p.m.**  
**Next Standing Committee Meeting: June 5, 2018, 1p.m.**