

Minutes of the Standing Committee November 4, 2025

Present: +Audrey Scanlan, Eric Hillegas+, Kyle Murphy+, Bob Davis, Jr., David Wirick, , Jennifer Mattson+, Sarah Reid, Veronica Chappel+.

Absent: Barbara Cross, David Luo, Rick Breach and noted again that Allison Carnahan+ has tendered her resignation prior to this meeting.

Opening

Chairman Eric Hillegas+ called the Zoom meeting to order once a necessary quorum had been reached.

Devotions

Chairman Hillegas opened the meeting with a short reflection on All Souls' Day.

Minutes of October 6th Meeting

Committee Secretary Bob Davis moved and Veronica Chappell+ seconded the approval of the minutes of the October 6th meeting, which were approved by unanimous vote.

Endorsement and Testimonial of Ordination of Joseph Pritchett

After brief Committee discussion of materials distributed to Committee members prior to the meeting regarding the qualifications of candidate Joseph Pritchett, the Committee discussed with the candidate his background of study and his experiences and growth in recent work with St John's parish, Lancaster, and the manner in which he is balancing his roles at Franklin & Marshall and with St John's. After hearing Joseph's expression of his call, Veronica Chappell+ offered a prayer of thanks and blessing for the ministry of Joseph Pritchett. After the candidate was excused from the meeting, upon motion by Jennifer Mattson+, seconded by David Wirick, those present on the Zoom call unanimously voted their endorsement and support of Joseph Pritchett for Ordination to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. It is noted that notice of formal endorsement by Committee Members was expedited as authorized by the Committee and its actual fully-signed Testimonial was completed with aid of the Diocesan staff.

Endorsement and Testimonial of Ordination of Ivan Ruiz-Swartz

After brief Committee discussion of materials distributed to Committee members prior to the meeting regarding the qualifications of candidate Ivan Ruiz-Swartz for ordination, the Committee discussed with the candidate his background of study and his experiences and growth in recent work with St John's parish, Western Run, in the Diocese of Maryland. After hearing Ivan's expression of his wide experience with all aspects of the life and full variety of priestly roles at St John's Western Run, Kyle Murphy+ offered a prayer of thanks and blessing for the ministry of Ivan Ruiz-Swartz. After the candidate was excused from the meeting, upon motion by Sarah Reid, seconded by David Wirick, those present on the Zoom call unanimously voted their endorsement and support of Ivan Ruiz-Swartz for Ordination to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. It is noted that notice of formal endorsement by Committee Members was expedited as authorized by the Committee and its actual fully-signed Testimonial was completed with aid of the Diocesan staff.

Consent to the ordination of Rev. Gregory Kimura as Bishop of San Joachim

After review of information provided by the Executive Office of the General Convention (GCO), those present consented to the election of Rev. Gregory Kimura as Bishop of San Joaquin. The motion of Consent was made by Jennifer Mattson+, seconded by David Wirick and unanimously approved.

Consent to the ordination of Rev. Shay Craig as Bishop of North Dakota

After review of information provided by the Executive Office of the General Convention (GCO), those present consented to the election of Rev. Shay Craig as Bishop of North Dakota, upon a motion of Consent by Veronica Chappell+, seconded by Kyle Murphy+.

Standing Time with the Bishop

Bishop Scanlan reported on the ongoing Diocesan Reunification process, specifically:

Standing Committee Transition – the meeting time of the unified Standing Committee of the Susquehanna Diocese is not yet determined. After noting that the Diocese of Bethlehem tradition is to meet on as as-needed bases, it was agreed that Bishop Scanlan propose that the unified Committee meet the 1st Tuesday of every month. Committee members also expressed their views on the possibility of scheduling one or more live meetings and considered asking the unified Diocesan staff to begin the process of helping the unified Standing Committee members to get to know one another by collection of photos and short biographical and contact information for a directory of the Committee.

Ongoing Unification Progress – Bishop Scanlan reported that excitement over the new diocese continues, that normal adjustments and decisions about the form, staffing and operation of the new diocese continue and that the transition is made much easier due to the high cooperation of both bishops in the process. The move of diocesan offices from the current office to St Paul's, Harrisburg, is still in process, with good progress being made with finalization of certain details of the lease of the space and of costs of necessary construction still to be worked out. During the discussion Bishop Scanlan relayed the historical significance of her election – she is the first woman Bishop in the history of the Anglican Communion to be the founding bishop of a new diocese.

Updates and Inquiries – Member Jennifer Mattson+ noted a recent event at St Thomas in direct response to a local Christian nationalist event. The parish confirmed ongoing support for public activities opposing racism and supporting food distribution in more recent months. Upon inquiry by David Wirick, Bishop Scanlan reported that the reaction to her recent pastoral letter remained mostly positive and that she has noted that one result seems to be that additional persons have offered their support for diocesan groups and ministries engaged in positive action and outreach in all of its forms.

Adjournment: Upon motion by David Wirick, second by Bob Davis, Jr., the meeting was adjourned. It was noted that approval of the minutes of the November meeting would proceed by Email poll of the members of the Committee.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, December 2, 2025.