

Minutes of the Standing Committee October 7, 2025

Present: +Audrey Scanlan, Eric Hillegas+, Rick Breach, Jennifer Mattson+, Sarah Reid, David Wirick and Bob Davis, Jr.

Absent: Veronica Chappell+, Barbara Cross, David Luo, Kyle Murphy+ and Allison Carnahan+ who had tendered her resignation prior to the meeting.

Opening

Chair 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 the continuing theme of peace and community expressed in Bishop Scanlan's recent, second, pastoral letter issued to the Diocese. Bishop Scanlan reported that she continues to collect responses from church members to her letter and will later report the overall reaction.

Minutes of September 2nd Meeting

Committee Secretary Bob Davis, Jr. reported the approval of the minutes of the September 2nd Committee meeting by a unanimous majority vote of all Committee members voting by an email poll, such poll having been completed by September 7th and that the approved minutes were promptly thereafter provided to the Diocesan Office for deposit into the records of the Diocese.

Endorsement and Testimonial of Transitional Diaconate Candidate, Emma DiPace

After brief Committee discussion of materials distributed to Committee members prior to the meeting regarding the qualifications of Emma DiPace, the Committee discussed with the candidate her background of study, the unique role of pilgrimages in her formation and her reports of positive experiences with preaching and teaching, in English and Spanish, in congregations in the greater District of Columbia area during the current times of great change in the life of congregations there. After hearing Emma's expression of her call and her hopes to serve initially in a strong supportive role in her ministry and strong call to work with Spanish-speaking congregations, upon motion by Jennifer Mattson, seconded by David Wirick, those present on the Zoom call unanimously voted their endorsement of Emma DiPace to the transitional Diaconate in the Diocese, such endorsement promptly to be communicated to the Diocesan Office. 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 on October 7, 2025.

Standing Time with the Bishop

Bishop Scanlan reported on the ongoing reunification process, specifically:

Diocesan Convention – Bishop Scanlan reported great satisfaction and thanks for the hard and successful work of the many committees and groups and of the staff in both the Diocese of Central PA and Diocese of Bethlehem involved in the difficult and detailed work necessary to prepare for approval of the Plan of Merger, of various Rule and Canon revisions, staff adjustments, budget adjustments and approvals and operational adjustments necessary for orderly transition into a single unified diocese. She reported on completion of her visits to parishes and Convocations and receipt of the input received from the meetings of the various Convocations of the Diocese and that the experience was uniformly positive. She noted that while the delegates from both dioceses will meet in the same room, a majority of the issues and

approvals required will have to be done by separate vote of each diocese. She noted that convention members from the Diocese of Central Pa will have the benefit, for the first time, of electronic voting utilizing capabilities of cell phones and tablets. She also reported on the opportunities afforded to date to church members for public review and comment of proposed Permanent Canons for the Diocese of the Susquehanna which were in final form and made available for public review online starting September 5th. There will be a process allowing comment on the proposed Canons via Zoom meetings, as well as opportunity for those seeking amendments to submit their proposed amendments in time for review by delegates before the beginning of the Diocesan Convention. She expressed that she is looking forward to completion of creation of the Diocese of the Susquehanna in 2025 and, in 2026, turning her focus and energy to the work of the new Diocese, not its creation.

The Standing Committee Going Forward – The Committee members were reminded that the current proposed plan is that the Standing Committee of the new diocese will initially have 16 members, split 50/50 clergy and lay members, with 50% of the members coming from each diocese. Some Committee members will continue to serve due to the fact that the Canons now propose that the initial Standing Committee of the new diocese be pared down to its eventual 12-member size by the process of simply reducing the size in successive years as the terms of current standing committee members lapse and their service on the committee ends until the final size of 12-members is reached.

Partner Parishes - Upon inquiry by member Wirick, Bishop Scanlan reported that the Partner Parish pairings and initial contacts pursuant to the plan seem to be working well to build strong ties across the new Diocese of the Susquehanna and there is a good likelihood that they will continue after reunification has been finalized.

Pastoral Letter Thanks – Jennifer Mattson+, joined by others on the Committee, expressed thanks to Bishop Scanlan for her recent issuance of a second pastoral letter.

Expression of Thanks to Allison Carnahan+

Upon motion by Jennifer Mattson+, second by David Wirick, the Committee unanimously voted to express its gratitude to Allison Carnahan for her valuable service to the Standing Committee and the Diocese.

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

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, November 4, 2025.