

Minutes of the Standing Committee September 2, 2025

Present: +Audrey Scanlan, Eric Hillegas+, Rick Breach, Barbara Cross, Sarah Reid, Veronica Chappell+, David Wirick and Bob Davis, Jr.

Visitors: Diocesan Property Manager, Stuart Scarborough+; St. Paul's Harrisburg Finance Committee member, Tyrone Powell.

Absent: Jennifer Mattson+, Allison Carnahan+, David Luo, Kyle Murphy+

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 Dante's *Comedy* and the role of faithful guides in our journeys of redemption.

Consent to Ordination of Robert Price as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Dallas

After brief discussion of materials distributed to Committee members prior to the meeting regarding the qualifications of Rev. Robert Price, upon motion by Bob Davis, seconded by Barb Cross, those present on the Zoom call unanimously voted their consent for Robert Price to be ordained as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Dallas.

Proposed Lease between St. Paul's Harrisburg and the Diocese

The Standing Committee considered a proposed encumbrance of space at St. Paul's in Harrisburg. Prior to the meeting, a summary of the lease agreement and plans for necessary upgrades and creation of individual rooms for diocesan staff were distributed.

Deacon Scarborough and Tyrone Powell were invited into the meeting and provided greater depth into the financial and practical considerations involved in lease negotiations .

Bishop Scanlan confirmed the Diocesan Finance Committee's approval of the proposed lease terms. She explained that the lease responds to plans for selling the existing Diocesan Office building, providing necessary flexibility for space requirements and diocesan staff as the Diocese of the Susquehanna reunifies, and offering financial support and recognition of St. Paul's unique ministry.

After a period of discussion of all concerns and issues identified by members of the Standing Committee, a motion to consent to the lease and the resulting encumbrance of portions of the property of St. Paul's was made by Bob Davis, seconded by Barb Cross, and unanimously approved by the Committee.

Standing Time with the Bishop

Bishop Scanlan reported on the ongoing reunification process, specifically:

Interim and Permanent Canons -- The canons necessary for orderly transition into a single unified diocese and the Permanent Canons for the Diocese of the Susquehanna are now in a form that will be 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.

Standing Committee -- The reunified Standing Committee will initially have 16 members, split 50/50 clergy and lay members, with 50% of the members coming from each diocese. The Canons now propose that the initial Standing Committee be pared down to its eventual 12-member size by the process of simply reducing the size in successive years as the terms of members lapse and their service on the committee ends until the 12-member final size is reached.

Diocesan Budgets -- The interim and unified budgets have, after much hard work, been prepared for approval by the Trustees of each diocese and will be presented to the diocesan conventions for approval. The budgets are planned for release on September 16th for public review and there will also be opportunities for public input via Zoom conferences after release of the proposed budgets.

The Reunification Process -- Upon committee members' inquiries about the general progress of the reunification, Bishop Scanlan reported all is proceeding on schedule and is going well. The formal Plan of Merger with its unique legal issues will be made public September 15th for any input that members feel appropriate. It will also be necessarily subject to approval by the conventions.

Barb Cross, serving on a reunification committee, reported that work is moving forward, aided by the Holy Spirit. According to Bishop Scanlan, diocesan staff adjustments necessary during and after reunification are coming into focus. Bishop Scanlan has also completed two of three "familiarization" parish visitations planned to parishes in the Diocese of Bethlehem, with a visit to a parish in Mt. Pocono scheduled soon.

Adjournment: Upon motion by Rick, second by Barb, the meeting was adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday, October 7, 2025.