

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESE OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2025

Present: +Bishop Audrey Scanlan, Barbara Cross, Sarah Reid, Kyle Murphy+, Veronica Chappell+, Bob Davis Jr., Sarah Reid, Eric Hillegas+, Rick Breach, David Wirick, Allison Carnahan+.

Absent: Jennifer Mattson+, David Luo

Opening Prayer: Reordering the Devotions to be held later in the meeting, Chair Eric+ opened with prayer.

Access to Information of the Diocese on ShareFile site: Upon discussion that some members of the Committee have experienced difficulties accessing information on ShareFile, Eric+ explained the basic process to access and use ShareFile and agreed to send out an email with pointers for use and useful links to members of the Committee.

Consent to Diocesan Reunification: The Committee has received a request that, pursuant to Canon 1.10.6, it give its consent to the reunification of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania with the Diocese of Bethlehem to form the new Diocese of the Susquehanna. No discussion being needed on this request in light of the Committee's prior approval of such reunification, upon motion of Barbara, second by Bob the Committee voted its unanimous consent to such unification. Eric+ will notify the national church of the consent.

Interview: Emma DiPace, seeking Candidacy for the Priesthood
After the Committee shared basic information regarding Emma, she was admitted to the zoom meeting. She discussed highlights of her time preparing for the priesthood, especially the variety of people, parishes and other sources of formation with which she has been involved. The Committee were especially interested in her experience in multilingual worship and ministry and in encouraging the growth of congregations. Emma also shared that she seeks life/work/study balance by running, often praying while running. Following this, there was a period of questions from the committee, after which Emma was asked to share how she sees her road ahead. David offered a prayer for the candidate, after which she was released from the meeting for the committee to vote on her candidacy.
Upon Motion by David and Sarah's second to approve her candidacy, the Committee approved Emma's entry into Candidacy by unanimous vote.

Devotions: Allison Carnahan joined the meeting and led the Committee in devotions.

Standing Time With The Bishop:

Bishop Scanlan initiated discussion relating to a potential Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship in a diocesan parish, and possible Standing Committee involvement under Canon 3.9.15. The Committee heard a prompt statement of recusal from one of our members, Barbara Cross, from this date and time forward from all discussions, communications, and actions relating to the Title III Dissolution Process and asked the members of the Committee to honor her recusal as a matter of fairness to all parties involved in the ongoing process. No decisions as to any immediate Committee actions were proposed as neither the Vestry nor Clergy involved have requested a conference with Standing Committee. Eric+ committed to making relevant portions of Canons available to Committee members.

Bishop Scanlan+ also reported that the Reunification Transition Committee will soon meet at an upcoming retreat, noting that Barb is a member of that committee and reported further that all transition working groups have been organized.

Adjournment: Upon motion of Veronica+, second by +Audrey, the meeting adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting: February 4, 2025 .