

The Episcopal Diocese of Central PA
The Standing Committee
April 5, 2016

Those in Attendance:

Members present: Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer, Kate Harrigan, Greg Hinton, Barbara Hutchinson, Bruce Johnson, Patrick Pierce, Churchill Pinder, John Stevenson, Sam Ward, Linda Watkins, and Sarah Weedon,

Diocesan Staff present: The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan

Postulant: John Shirley

Members excused: Sandy Schwartz

1. Kate Harrigan opened the meeting with prayer at 2:00 p.m.
2. Interview with Postulant John Shirley. John was interviewed by the members of the Standing Committee and then approved as a Candidate for Ordination.
3. Standing Committee's Role in the Ordination Process. We discussed the following topics:
 - a. The meaning of "review the documents" which is our charge at the approval for ordination to the transitional diaconate.
 - b. The possibility and role of a Standing Committee member on the Commission on Ministry
 - c. Setting standards for Criminal Background CheckThe small task group (Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer, Kate Harrigan, Barbara Hutchinson) will evaluate the feedback given and make a report at our next meeting.
4. Standing Committee's Role in Title IV: Ecclesiastical Discipline. The members reviewed the report by the task force (Sandy Schwartz, Patrick Pierce, John Stevenson). There were no questions and much acclamation of the clarity of the report and the expertise of our Vice-Chancellor. This report requires the final approval of our Chancellor.

5. Approval of persons elected as Diocesan Bishops and the creation of episcopate positions. The Standing Committee conferred their consent for the election of
 - a. The Rev. Dr. Douglas E. Sparks as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Northern Indiana
 - b. The Rev. Patrick Bell as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon
 - c. Election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles
 - d. Election of a Bishop Suffragan for the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas
6. Council of Trustees Report. Linda reported on the major topics of discussion at the recent COT meetings: restructuring of diocesan staff and committees, ongoing comprehensive review of the Canons & Constitutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA, creation and action of the Social Justice Committee, review of relationship of Diocese to The Episcopal Home and Camp Mt. Luther.
7. “Standing With” the Bishop. Bishop Scanlan updated the Standing Committee members on active and pending Title IV investigations, presented the proposed restructuring of Diocesan staff, Council of Trustees, and the creation of Mission Resource Teams to orient the diocese toward the mission field. The following people volunteered to be a part of a group to finalize this plan for presentation at the October Diocesan Convention: Kate Harrigan, Patrick Pierce, Churchill Pinder, and Sam Ward.
8. Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer closed the meeting with prayer at 4:00 p.m.
9. Our next meeting is June 7th at 2 p.m.