

## Minutes of the Standing Committee

September 6, 2019

St. Thomas Church, Lancaster, PA

Present: Anthony Alexander, John Wolgemuth, Amy Swiernik, Barbara Hutchinson+, Drew Dorgan, Susan Landin, Michael Nailor+, Nicolette Norris, Jeff Packard+, Patrick Pierce+, +Bishop Audrey. Guest: Chris Streeter+

Absent: John Harwood+, Jim Strader-Sasser+

1. We opened in prayer.
2. Barbara thanked all of us for our service on the Standing Committee this year. There are 4 clergy and 2 lay nominations for consideration at convention. Barbara asked us to be in prayer about leadership for the upcoming year. We need to elect a President, Vice-President, and Secretary.
3. We unanimously approved a Bishop-elect: The Rev. Martha Stebbins, Diocese of Montana.
4. We reviewed the Finance Policy regarding Parish Borrowing/Property Encumbrance and various application forms for actions covered by the policy. Consensus was that the work was clarifying for us and for parishes.
5. We held a substantial discussion about members of the Standing Committee who find themselves called into the process of discernment. Michael moved and Drew seconded a motion that members of the Standing Committee who find themselves directed by the Bishop to begin a process of discernment for ordained ministry recuse themselves from any participation in interviewing of other candidates and review of other candidates' questions and answers. This does not preclude them from participating in all the other work of the Standing Committee. Motion passed unanimously with Amy abstaining.
6. Audrey reviewed for us her work on a variety of priorities of the national church. She looks forward to intentional meetings with the Diocese of Bethlehem and the Diocese of Central New York about common concerns and solutions.
7. Chris Streeter reviewed for us the plans made for the 3 elements in the Shaped By Faith initiative: parishes working in clusters, increased discernment with access to the Stevenson School for Ministry, and the celebration of our history/future. The "hard roll-out" of the plan will come at the Convention of the Diocese in October.

Our next Standing Committee Meeting is October 1 at 1 p.m. in the Bishop's Parlor. Kyle Murphy will be interviewed for his ordination to the priesthood.