

Minutes of the Standing Committee
January 7, 2020

Present: Anthony Alexander, Veronica Chappell+, Drew Dorgan, Kathy Hettinga, Michael Nailor+, Nicolette Norris, Jeff Packard+, Jim Strader-Sasser+, Greg Welin+, John Wolgemuth, +Audrey Scanlan, Chris Streeter+ (Guest)

Absent: Susan Landin, Patrick Pierce+

Opening Reflections and Prayer: Drew

Roadmap to Ordination

Drew worked with Bruce Johnson, Commission on Ministry vice-chair, to supplement the diagram. Drew reminded us of how intensive the relationship is between people in process and the Commission on Ministry. Our liaison to the Commission on Ministry needs to be more fully utilized as we consider candidates. Three people in our diocese are taking the General Ordination Exams this week. We remembered them in our prayers.

Approval of Bishop Elections

Anthony moved and Veronica seconded a motion to approve Lennon Yuan-Rung Chang as Bishop of Taiwan. Passed unanimously. Kathy moved and Jeff seconded a motion to approve Susan Haynes as Bishop of Southern Virginia. Passed unanimously.

John shared with us his liaison report of the Finance Committee. Previously via email he had provided us with November balances. He briefly outlined the end of year financial picture of the Diocese.

“Standing” time with the Bishop:

- Bishop out of the Box continues. There was a live nativity in December. Tomorrow she will bless animals at the PA Farm Show. She is always on the lookout for new/innovative ideas.
- Bishop outlined several ecumenical efforts. She met with Upper Susquehanna Synod ELCA and discussed sharing parochial ministries. We are working with the Lower Susquehanna Synod ELCA on a collaborative mission center, while they are making contributions to Stevenson School for Ministry. VELI and SSFM have held collaborative sessions with ELCA bodies. Lancaster Seminary will be celebrating its linkage with SSFM in February.
- Bishop has made an open letter available – representing Young Peoples’ Congress and their advocacy of the PA Values Act (proposed legislation about LGBTQ inclusion as a protected class under PA law).
- Bishop is holding additional meetings with Dioceses of Bethlehem and Central New York regarding collaborative opportunities.
- Annual Clergy Conference and first “Shaped by Faith” event will both have noted speakers this year.

Shaped by Faith Initiative:

- Three convocation projects currently launched: West Branch, Northern Tier, Susquehanna. Standing Committee members invited to attend meetings. Two Convocations scheduled for liftoff: Lancaster (RIM parishes) and Altoona.
- How can Standing Committee members participate/support Shaped by Faith?
 - Attend convocation meetings
 - Participate in 5-week learning opportunities
 - Receive quarterly updates of Shaped by Faith to Standing Committee
 - Recommend the use of the Shaped by Faith Collect
 - Create a Manifesto for Digest by SC supporting Shaped by Faith or a
 - Create a social media video push/testimonial by lay people
 - Prepare an annual meeting presentation/video offering
- Discussed intricacies of dealing with parishioner feedback on the initial surveys of Shaped by Faith.

Drew will start a Standing Committee manifesto in support of Shaped by Faith and share it with members for comment.

Diocese Website includes contact information and minutes for the meetings of the Standing Committee. Go to diocesecpa.org>About Our Diocese>Standing Committee.

Outstanding business items of Gender Equality and Clergy Compensation surveys were noted.

We adjourned after praying the Shaped by Faith collect.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4 at 1 pm at Mt. Calvary Church, Camp Hill.