

Minutes of the Standing Committee
September 1, 2020

Present: Anthony Alexander, Veronica Chappell+, Drew Dorgan, Kathy Hettinga, Susan Landin, Michael Nailor+, Nicolette Norris, Jeff Packard+, Patrick Pierce+, +Audrey Scanlan, Jim Strader-Sasser+, Greg Welin+, and John Wolgemuth

Opening Reflections: Nicolette chanted Psalm 121.

Standing Time with our Bishop: There were a variety of views expressed on each of the items that the Bishop proposed. These notes only capture a part of the wide-ranging discussion.

1. COVID – are we where we ought to be with our response to the virus?
 - a. Overall, we are doing the best that can be expected. Since we know this will be a long-term situation – we believe that we are invited to reimagine what the church of the future will be like in fulfillment of the Shaped by Faith initiative. There is a great intersection between COVID and racism that remains to be explored.
2. Bishop's Visitations – how to proceed?
 - a. General consensus is that in-person visits ought to be suspended until at least the beginning of 2021. A number of other ways of keeping in touch with parishes and people were discussed.
3. Clergy Day – topic: focus on COVID or on anti-racism or both?
 - a. In addition to endorsing both of these topics – the idea of how we create spaces for members of our church with a variety of political viewpoints was suggested.
4. Developments in Social Justice work
 - a. The lack of coordinated social justice/advocacy diocese-wide initiatives was discussed. A recent proposal for a young adult coalition for social justice activism was proposed. Details on the reformation of the anti-racism work of the diocese were provided.

Closing prayer and dismissal: Michael

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6 at 1 p.m. via Zoom.