

## **Minutes Of the Standing Committee April 1, 2025**

**Present:** +Bishop Audrey Scanlan, Eric Hillegas+, Jennifer Mattson+, Rick Breach, Kyle Murphy+, Barbara Cross, Sarah Reid, Veronica Chappell+, Bob Davis, Jr.

**Absent:** David Luo, David Wirick, Allison Carnahan

**OPENING:** The Zoom meeting was called to order and began with all present enjoying a music video created by St Thomas, Lancaster which welcomes all and presents an open, welcoming message to the viewer.

**Devotional:** Jennifer+ led the group in an opening devotional based upon video of public television icon Fred “Mr. Rogers” Rogers’ testimony before Congress some years ago focusing on human openness and selfless and respectful caring for all others without exception.

**Minutes of March 4, 2025 Meeting:** Upon Motion of Bob, Seconded by Barb, the minutes of the Committee meeting of March 4, 2025, were unanimously approved.

**Approval of Rev Angel Rodriguez as Bishop of Cuba:** After brief discussion of materials distributed prior to the meeting to the Committee, and a motion by Eric+, seconded by Veronica+, the Committee voted unanimously to consent to the election of Rev. P. Angel Roberto Rivera Rodriguez as Bishop of the Diocese of Cuba.

**Certification for Ordination of Joseph Pritchett:** Having received and reviewed information from the Commission on Ministry beforehand, the Committee interviewed Joseph Pritchett and upon ending the interview with a prayer by Eric+ for the ministry of candidate Pritchett, the Committee upon motion by Jennifer+, seconded by Veronica+, unanimously approved Joseph Pritchett for ordination to the transitional Diaconate.

### **Standing Time With The Bishop:**

Bishop Scanlan reported upon her wish to respond to this tumultuous time in our nation as people of faith. She shared a draft letter, “Finding Our Footing”, which she eventually intends to share with the Diocese. After fruitful discussion, the Committee voiced its support for the efforts of the Bishop to call all Episcopalians to thoughtful, prayerful action to bring the message of justice, love, patience and directed action to the people of the diocese. She indicated her plans to make a specific announcement aimed to focus the attention and resources of the diocese on the problems many are experiencing currently.

The Bishop also reported on her experience at the recent national meeting of Bishops and the concerns of Bishops attending that meeting regarding the state of the nation and of the church in these fraught times, with Christian Nationalism, refugees, and care for the vulnerable among the issues of concern of many Bishops.

Bishop Audrey also again reported on the progress of wide-ranging activities of the many joint committees addressing reunification with the Diocese of Bethlehem. Joint committees continue their hard work, reconciling organizational differences. Barb Cross added that one example of the work being done is the work of a committee on which she serves, preparing its report on desired changes of Title IV of the Canons reconciling current differences in the operation, procedures, and makeup of the Diocesan Discipline Committee. Bishop Audrey reported that all

convocations eventually will be provided a pre-Convention opportunity to learn about and support the various proposals for organization and operation of the reunified diocese.

**Adjournment:** Upon motion by Rick, second by Bob the meeting was adjourned.

**Next Regular Meeting: Tuesday May 6th, 2025.**