

Standing Committee Diocese of Rhode Island  
Meeting minutes for September 19, 2023. 4pm on "zoom"

Present: The Rev. Susan Wrathall President. The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Habecker, Secretary. The Rev. Kevin Beesley, Mr. Orvill Forbes, The Rev. Jackie Kirby, Mr. David Monroe, Dr. Rebecca Silliman, Dr. Grant Willis

Call to order at 4pm.

Opening Prayer: The Rev. Kevin Beesley

1. The By-laws from Holy Spirit Church in Middletown were discussed. The Sr. Warden from Holy Spirit was able to be present to participate and get clarifications for any needed corrections or updates.

Dr. Willis and Dr. Silliman were the lead members of the Standing Committee to review and report on these By-Laws. Three updates and corrections were pointed out for the Sr. Warden.

- a. Page 4. Calling the Rector. The Vestry cannot override the Diocesan Bishop's negative decision of the person called.
- b. Item 48 on the Checklist. This covers what to do when a member of the Vestry resigns. Sec. 10.19 in By-laws needs to be updated.
- c. The By Laws need to include the requirement to send all Diocesan and National church reports at the deadlines that are set. (i.e. parochial report, Convention delegates, etc.)

The Standing Committee agreed that with these changes done, there was no need for the Standing Committee to meet with Holy Spirit again. Many thanks were sent to Holy Spirit via the Sr. Warden for the good work of their committee.

2. The minutes of the July 18th. meeting were approved as presented.  
Silliman/Monroe.

3. Two names were presented for the Standing Committee's vote of their elections as Diocesan Bishops.

a. For the Diocese of Albany. The Rev. Jeremiah Williamson. Dr. Willis/Dr. Silliman. 8 votes to approve. No nays. No abstentions.

b. For the Diocese of Arkansas. The Rev. John T.W. Harmon.  
The Rev. Kirby/Dr. Willis 8 votes to approve. No nays. No abstentions.

4. This ends the regular business meeting. The regular "Time with the Bishop" is scheduled for a later date due to his meeting with the House of Bishops.

Respectfully Submitted

The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Habecker  
Secretary

The rescheduled "Time with the Bishop" meeting September 26,2023  
4pm on "zoom"

Present: Bishop Knisely, The Rev. Susan Wrathall, The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Habecker, The Rev. Kevin Beesley, Mr. Orville Forbes, Mr. David Monroe (arrived at mid-meeting), Dr. Rebecca Silliman, Dr. Grant Willis.

Absent: The Rev. Jackie Kirby

Minutes are kept at the Bishop's request of decisions voted on by the Standing Committee.

1. The Bishop shared his plan to ordain Drake Douglas, a seminarian, as a deacon while he is a senior at Yale Divinity School. (The SC will vote at a later time) Drake will be able to become a priest in June 2024 and be appointed to serve a congregation as P-I-C.

2. The Congregation of St. George's, Central Falls, a specialized Hispanic Ministry site, would like to move the congregation to St. Luke's, Pawtucket and continue their special ministry there. The Standing Committee is asked to approve their new status from a Parish to a Mission church. Dr. Silliman/Mr. Forbes.

6 yes votes. No nay votes. No abstentions.

notice of this decision will be sent to St. George's Church.

3. The Bishop announced his appointment of a new Diocesan Theologian.

He asked the Standing Committee to concur with his decision to give Canonical Residence to The Rev. Dr. Emma Dawn who will assume this new position.

Canon Habecker/Dr. Willis 7 yes votes. No nay votes. No abstentions.

(Mr. Monroe arrived for this vote)

4. A discussion of the Title IV disciplinary Canons was shared with the Bishop.

Bishop Knisely closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting time with the Bishop adjourned at 4:47.

Respectfully Submitted

The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Habecker

Secretary

note: Canon Habecker will give the opening prayer at the October SC meeting.