

We, the members of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western NY stand in support of continuing the Partnership between the Diocese of Western NY and the Diocese of Northwestern PA. This is a commitment made by us as a Diocese in 2018 and ratified and extended in 2021 not only to the Diocese of Northwestern PA but also to Bishop Sean Rowe.

The extension in 2021 was due to the loss of opportunity to develop the Partnership as a result of the Pandemic. At the 2021 Diocesan Convention, the Standing Committees conveyed that they agreed to extend the period of time of the Partnership to have the opportunity to develop a common mission strategy, and in which there will be an evaluation of the partnership in October 2024 to decide whether to continue.

We, the members of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western NY stand in support of the work of Bishop Sean Rowe and the work of the staff of the Partnership to continue the work of this Partnership for the sake of the gospel and to work towards building deeper relationships and creating new opportunities for mission.

We stand in support of the joint work of the two Standing Committees of the Diocese of Western NY, and the Diocese Northwestern PA.

We stand in support of the joint work of the Commission on Ministry of the Diocese of Western NY and the Diocese of Northwestern PA and their work in supporting and guiding those in the process towards ordination.

We stand in support of the joint work of the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination of the Diocese of Western NY and the Diocese of Northwestern PA in their mission.

This commitment, we have made, is being looked at by other Dioceses across the US. It is the belief of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western NY that we need to continue to honor this commitment, and continue to work as a partnership for the sake of the gospel, and continue the mission and ministry that our Lord has called us to do.

**Mrs. Saxon Cobb Deck
The Rev. Nicholas Evancho
The Rev. Helen Harper
Mr. James Isaac, President**

**The Rev. Diana Leiker
Mr. Lawrence Mazuchowski
Ms. Josephine Robbins
The Rev. Kim Rossi**