

The Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
The Standing Committee
Annual Report 2016

President: The Rev. Barbara Hutchinson

Vice President: Mrs. Sarah Weedon

Secretary: Mr. Sanford Schwartz

Members: The Rev. Kate Harrigan, The Rev. Gregory Hinton, Dr. Bruce Johnson, The Rev. Patrick Pierce, The Very Rev. Churchill Pinder, Mr. John Stevenson, Dr. Samuel Ward, The Rev. Linda Watkins, Mrs. Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer

The Standing Committee has two major areas of roles and responsibilities: 1) “Standing In” for the bishop, when there is a vacancy in the position, and 2) “Standing With” the bishop, which involves understanding and living into being the bishop’s Council of Advice.

We began our ministry this year by completing an extensive review of the Canons and Constitutions of The Episcopal Church and The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania to gain clarity on our various roles and responsibilities as a Standing Committee. This evaluation was centered largely on Title III (Ministry) and Title IV (Ecclesiastical Discipline).

We also focused our energy and ministry on exploring in detail the Standing Committee’s role in the ordination process. We have entered into a collaborative relationship with the bishop and the Commission on Ministry in exploring representation of the Standing Committee on the Commission on Ministry and have worked out the details of this plan, so that the Standing Committee may enter into a fuller relationship with those in the ordination process. We interviewed John Shirley and approved him for Candidacy for Ordination.

One of the ways we have lived into our role of “Standing With” the bishop, we have encouraged the bishop to share with us her passion and vision around shaping our diocese to become a missional church. We hope to continue to educate and form ourselves around this concept to assist the bishop in leading the diocese toward a greater focus on joining God in the neighborhoods in which we live and serve. We also have walked closely with the bishop as she has developed a plan around restructuring of the diocesan staff, mission and ministry and as she has shared it with the Standing Committee, Council of Trustees, and convocations to receive input so that a collaborative plan may be presented to the Diocesan Convention.

It has been a deep joy to work closely with the bishop and members of the Standing Committee this year as we have clarified our roles and responsibilities and have committed ourselves to support our bishop in our shared ministry.

Faithfully submitted,
The Rev. Barbara Hutchinson
President