

Annual Report of Standing Committee
2020
For the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania,
The Right Reverend Audrey Scanlan, Bishop

The Standing Committee organized itself this year to intentionally cover the 4 areas of responsibility canonically given to it—matters in The Episcopal Church, primarily affirmation or refusal of affirmation for bishops-elect; the Ordination Process; Diocesan Property, and Counsel to the bishop. This clarity of organization is seen in the Standing Committee’s current monthly agenda, and also in the appointed representatives from Standing Committee to the Commission on Ministry and Finance Committee, detailed below.

In actions this year, the Standing Committee

- Affirmed candidacy and ordination of 3 people brought forward in the ordination process.
- Affirmed all bishops-elect.
- Received regular updates from John Wolgemuth, Standing Committee’s representative to the Finance Committee headed by Chad Linder, the Diocesan Canon for Finance and Operation. John shared information on Fair Share, Budget, and parishes wishing to sell, purchase or encumber property.
- Acted as our bishop’s Council of Advice as she shared her involvement in the wider church, her decisions regarding parish configuration and leadership when appropriate, and as she came to us asking for our advice on pastoral issues and especially issues surrounding the COVID-19 epidemic including closing of churches, Holy Week services during a pandemic, and policies for safe re-opening of churches.
- Initiated Leadership Development Retreats which included members of the Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, Stevenson School for Ministry, our Bishop and members of her staff. We came together for one retreat this year and planned collaboratively, with the following goals:
 - Focus on the path toward lay licensed leadership.
 - Come to a common understanding of the essential qualities of lay leaders in our diocese and the opportunities for training and learning.
 - Understand and comprehend the implications of the demographics of our diocese regarding clerical leadership and need for more lay licensed leadership.
 - Understand the roles, core competencies, and formation process through the SSFM of lay licensed ministers.

The Standing Committee meets via Zoom on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 1 p.m., lasting 2-3 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Drew Dorgan, President of Standing Committee