

2023 Annual Report of Standing Committee

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 in the appointed representatives from the Standing Committee to the Commission on Ministry and Finance Committee, detailed below.

In actions this year, the Standing Committee

- Affirmed candidacy and ordination of five people brought forward in the ordination process at the recommendation of the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry.
- Affirmed four Requests for Consent for Election of Bishops and two Requests for Consent of Bishop Coadjutor.
- Studied and read many materials about, for, and against the Request for Consent for the Election of Bishop in the Diocese of Florida. After long sessions of study and prayerful discernment, our Standing Committee voted against the Consent for Election of Charlie Holt.
- Received updates from Chad Linder, the Diocesan Canon for Finance and Operation.
- We also reviewed several property transitions presented by the Property and Finance Committees regarding Christ Church in Milton, St. Paul's Bloomsburg, St. Luke's Altoona, and St. Stephen's Cathedral Harrisburg.
- The Standing Committee worked to create a resolution last year for the Diocesan Reunification Discernment Committee to study the ways we may innovate and share resources at the Diocesan level as our Parishes are doing through Shaped by Faith. The Standing Committee worked to select representatives from our Diocese to work with representatives from the Diocese of Bethlehem to study similarities and differences between the two Diocese, which used to be one until the early 1900s. Standing Committee received regular updates on the work of this committee.
- 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 gun violence, LGBTQ+ issues, diocesan reunification, staffing, property, sabbatical planning and other issues affecting the wider church.

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, Standing Committee