

## Annual Report of Standing Committee

2019

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 7 people brought forward in the ordination process
- Affirmed all bishops-elect
- Invited Chad Linder, the Diocesan Canon for Finance and Operation, to our meetings to share information on Fair Share, Budget, and parishes wishing to sell, purchase or encumber property.
- Reviewed and offered consent to the Diocesan Financial Policy regarding the requirements when a parish wishes to purchase, sell or encumber property.
  - Approved the sale of land by St. Paul’s, Harrisburg.
  - Approved the sale of 3 rental units by St. John’s, York
  - Approved the conversion of a Construction Line of Credit relating to their recent capital campaign to a loan held, by St. John’s, Lancaster
- Approved a Standing Committee Policy regarding the involvement of Standing Committee members who are in the ordination discernment in other person’s ordination interviews: “that members of the Standing Committee who find themselves directed by the Bishop to begin a process of discernment for ordained ministry recuse themselves from any participation in interviewing of other candidates and review of other candidates’ questions and answers. This does not preclude them from participating in all the other work of the Standing 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.
- 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 three retreats this year, planned collaboratively, with the following goals:
  - Understand, refine, and graphically display the Ordination Process Flowchart
    - Define the different roles of the COM, Standing Committee, SSFM, and the Bishop in the ordination process.

- Come to a common understanding of the essential qualities of leaders in our diocese and the questions to be asked at each stage by both the COM and the Standing Committee.
- 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.

In a practice meant to keep pace with our Bishop's vision for this diocese, the Standing Committee has completed its fourth year of study to develop a leadership sense of missional focus on the changing church. Each year for the last 4 years, the Standing Committee has studied a book together. This year, the committee studied *The Agile Church*, by David Zscheile. Meetings now include 20 minutes of leader development spent in discussion of missional formation in congregations and levels of a church's judicatory.

The Standing Committee organized their work and ministry together by *The Way of Love*, setting items in their agenda according to each of the seven spiritual practices. This included time for contemplative prayer. We also adopted the Circle Way, which is a way of being together that begins with bringing forward our gifts for our time together, honors all contributions, shares leadership, and closes with reflections. These two practices have enabled trusted relationships to form, with a desire for deep listening to one another, and collaborative ministry within and beyond our meetings.

The Standing Committee meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every month but August, in the Diocesan House, starting at 1 p.m., lasting 2-3 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Barbara Hutchinson, President of Standing Committee