

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

The Committee on Constitution and Canons (the Rev. Dr. Bruce Robison, chair; Ansley Westbrook, secretary; the Rev. Joseph Baird, Betsy Hetzler, Courtney Horrigan, the Rev. Shawn Malarkey, and, *ex officio*, Chancellor Andy Roman) met through the past year to discuss proposals from its members and from others within the diocese regarding changes to the Constitution and Canons that might better serve our diocese.

The committee has been engaged in an extensive study and conversation on the topic of parish governance. Specifically, we have been invited to explore whether policies and procedures in our congregations are developed and implemented in conformity with current parish bylaws, and whether those bylaws have themselves been reviewed and updated as necessary to conform with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and other relevant policies and guidelines of the diocese and of The Episcopal Church. While this project is still in early stages of development, we hope to develop resources to facilitate this process in congregational and diocesan contexts.

At the invitation of the Standing Committee, our committee has also begun to study questions related to the organization of diocesan governance. There is a desire to streamline, right-size, and refresh our governing bodies, and our committee in particular is in the process of identifying the constitutional and canonical concerns that would need to be addressed in this process.

While the committee will not be bringing any proposals to the 153rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh on either of these topics, we do hope to continue our conversations – both within the committee and in collaboration with others – in the coming year.

Faithfully,
The Rev. Dr. Bruce M. Robison
Chair