

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

This report covers the business conducted by the Standing Committee from October 2019 through September 2020. The Committee met every month except August 2020 (including 3 meetings in February). From April 2020 onwards, all of our meetings have been by Zoom teleconference.

Episcopal Consents

Diocese of Taiwan (the Rev. Dr. Lennon Yuan-Rung Chang)
Diocese of Southern Virginia (the Rev. Susan B. Haynes)
Diocese of Lexington (the Rt. Rev. Mark Allan Koevering)
Diocese of Georgia (the Rev. Canon Frank S. Logue)
Diocese of Missouri (the Rev. Dean Kevin Johnson)
Diocese of Oklahoma (Bishop Co-adjutor) (the Rev. Poulsen C. Reed)
Diocese of Minnesota (the Very Rev. Craig Loya)
Diocese of Alabama (Bishop Co-adjutor) (the Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry)

Interviews and Consents to Ordination

The Rev. Deacon Geoffrey Royce (interview and consent to ordination to the vocational diaconate)
Mr. Paul Barker (interview and consent to candidacy to the vocational diaconate)
Ms. Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan (interview and consent to candidacy to the priesthood)
Mr. Brandon Cooper (consent to candidacy to the priesthood)
Ms. Erin Morey (interview for postulancy for priesthood)
Mr. Jim Miorelli (interview for postulancy for priesthood)

By-law revisions

St. Mark's, Johnstown
St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset

Vacancies on Diocesan Boards and Committees

Vice Chancellor (newly-created position) (Suzanne DeWalt, Esq.)
Board of Trustees (Andrew Thiros)
Diocesan Council (Kathy Baird)
Disciplinary Board (the Rev. Deacon Lorena Ringle)
Commission on Ministry (the Rev. Sara Irwin)

Property Issues

Allegheny Township – sale of vacant property on terms approved by the Board of Trustees.
St. Andrew's, New Kensington - return to secular use and sale of church building on terms approved by the Board of Trustees.
Trinity Church, Beaver - return to secular use and sale of church building on terms approved by the Board of Trustees.

Our main focus, as always, has been on serving as Council of Advice to the Bishop and overseeing a number of important projects that the Diocese has taken up. Among these, the following are worth noting:

- Living into the 2018 Agreement with 9 ACNA parishes. In 2019-20, we began the informal visits with the ACNA parishes pursuant to the Agreement, and a number of us participated in those successful meetings.
- Continuing to develop a closer relationship with the Commission on Ministry, to help both bodies to better fulfill their canonical responsibilities in the formation of new ordained clergy. We held a successful evening-long meeting with the Commission and several candidates in February as part of this process.
- Working with our Chancellor on the development of a Regional Disciplinary Board that will combine resources in this area with our neighboring Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Western New York, Ohio, Southern Ohio and West Virginia.
- Enthusiastically supporting our Bishop and our newly-appointed Canon the Rev. Eric McIntosh as they begin work on the Beloved Community initiative.

This is my last year on the Standing Committee, and I will always be grateful for this opportunity to serve our Diocese. My heartfelt thanks go to former members Darrell Powell and the Rev. Leslie Reimer, current members Lisa Brown, Bob Johnston, Steve Stagnitta, the Rev. Noah Evans, the Rev. Jonathon Jensen, the Rev. Eric McIntosh, the Rev. Annis Rogers, Bishop McConnell, Bishop Price and Andy Roman for their unfailing wisdom, humor and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Russell Ayres
President
September 8, 2020