

Annual Report 2021 – Standing Committee

December 22 Meeting:

- Consented to Bishop McConnell’s proposal of a Special Convention for the Election of the 9th Bishop of Pittsburgh on June 26.
- Discussed proposal for discernment retreat and anti-bias training.
- Approved compensation presentation for Bishop candidates.
- Bishop McConnell reported he has agreed with participating bishops to the appointment of the Reverend Brad Purdom, Canon for Congregations in the Diocese of Ohio, to serve at large on the Regional Disciplinary Board.

January 4 Organizational Meeting:

- Elected the following people to positions:
 - President: Noah Evans
 - Secretary: Lisa Brown
 - Chaplain: Steve Stagnitta
 - Liaison for Property Issues and Anglican Parishes: Annis Rogers
- Goals for the year:
 - Design and run the petition process for the calling of the next bishop.
 - Act as Ecclesiastical Authority for 2 months between Bishop McConnell’s retirement and the new bishop’s consecration. Most likely the bishop-elect will be available during that time; may want another local bishop to be designated as a consultant. Diocesan staff will need “order of operations.”
 - Support the Nominating and Transition committees.
 - Set norms for role of Standing Committee in Diocesan Council governance – create clearly differentiated roles, boundaries/purposes for Standing Committee. Set up guidelines for Standing Committee (note – Diocesan Council has guidelines).
 - Balance time and energy of participating members and their roles on both DC and SC.

January 11 Meeting:

- The Rev. Jonathon Jensen resigned his seat do to health issues. The Standing Committee elected the Rev. Neil Raman to fulfill vacated term of the Rev. Jonathon Jensen.
- Ratification of email vote to appoint Donna Byrom to be our diocesan lay representative on the regional disciplinary board on December 23, 2020.
- Consented to the election of the Rev. Paula E. Clark as Bishop Diocesan in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.
- Consented to the ordination to the Transitional diaconate of Brandon Cooper.
- Alerted of the resignation of Peter Sweet from Diocesan Council; need to fill vacancy.
- Commissioned Frances Dannenberg, the Rev. Eric McIntosh, and the Rev. Nano Chalfant-Walker to design and implement a retreat for the benefit of convention deputies that will focus on communal discernment, anti-bias, and will commission them to their task. In coordination with Transition Committee.
- The Rev. Neil Raman was appointed as Standing Committee liaison to Commission on Ministry.
- Began work on petition process for Bishop election.

February 9, 2021 Meeting

- Consented to the election of Joyce Donadee of St. Brendan's, Franklin Park to replace District 1 Diocesan Council representative Peter Sweet who had to resign for personal reasons.
- Approved a motion to the closure of St. John's Episcopal Church, Donora and Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood
 - RESOLVED, in accordance with Diocesan Canon XXV, Section 6, the Standing Committee consents to the determination of the Bishop that the criteria for closing the vacant parishes of St. John's Episcopal Church, Donora, and Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood, exist, and further, the Standing Committee consents to the Bishop's decision to close each of the said parishes.

March 9, 2021 Meeting

- Affirmed the change of the date of the fall Diocesan Convention from November 12-13, 2021 to October 15-16, 2021.
- Approved Paul Barker for ordination to the Vocational Diaconate.
- Appointed Eric O'Brian (Christ Church, North Hills) as a member of the Transition Committee.

March 25, 2021 Meeting

- Approve the ordination of Darrell Johnson to the Vocational Diaconate.

April 13, 2021 Meeting

- Voted on and approved the petition process for the Bishop election.
- Appointed Ordained and Lay contacts for Anglican Parishes as part of settlement agreement, the Rev. Annis Rogers and Dana Phillips.

May 6 Meeting

- Interviewed Erin Morey and voted to approve Erin Morey's application for Candidacy for Ordination to the Priesthood under Canon III.8.4.

May 11 Meeting

- Approved the recommended slate for Bishop of Pittsburgh by the Nominating Committee.
- Granted the request of the Reverend William Miller for release and removal from the ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church.

Other Episcopal Transition work in May:

- The Standing Committee received two completed petition packets to add candidates, Scott Gunn and Jeffrey Murph, to the bishop slate. Petition signatures were in order and the Standing Committee added the names to slate, pending qualification and background checks.
- The Standing Committee met and held interviews with Scott Gunn and Jeffrey Murph, Petition Candidates for Bishop, on May 27.
- Background and qualification checks are almost complete, and we hope to approve their final nominating before Meet and Greet week. Reference checks are complete.

- Due to Church Pension Group rules, Dorsey McConnell will retire as Bishop of Pittsburgh on September 1 instead of September 11. The Standing Committee will begin to serve as ecclesiastical authority on that day. Bishop McConnell will continue to serve the Diocese as a full-time contractor/consultant until September 11th, 2021.

June 8 Meeting

- Consent granted to the election of the Reverend Canon Ruth M. Woodliff-Stanley as Diocesan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina.
- Consent granted to Bishop McConnell's revised retirement date of September 1, 2021.
- Approved language for a motion to be filed in the Calvary Suit to eliminate, after 11 years, a requirement for obtaining court approval before the sale of Diocesan real estate.
- Drew lots for ballot order for electing convention.
- Voted to add petition candidates to the ballot, having completed background checks.

July 13 Meeting

- Approved and consented to the sale, disposition, and de-consecration of the former Church of the Epiphany, Avalon.
- Consented to Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan's ordination to priesthood .
- Consented to the election of the Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak as the IXth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.
- Formally added Pat Dunkis & Jill Gordon to the Transition Committee.
- Bishop-elect Compensation approved.
- Consulting Bishop LOA established with Audrey Scanlon of the Episcopal Diocese of Central PA.
- Bishop-elect to become Head of Staff of the Diocese on October 1.

August 24 Meeting

- Consented to the election of the Rev. Betsey Monnot as the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa.
- Consented to the release and removal of the Rev. Whis Hays from ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church.
- Discussed communication with the Diocese about Charlie Appel by the Bishop.
- Approved Bishop-Elect LOA –pending minor grammatical revisions.

Respectfully submitted,
 The Rev. Noah Evans
 President of the Standing Committee