

Section E

Reports of

Canonical Bodies

BISHOP'S REPORT

Dear Friends in Christ,

You may recall at our 149th Diocesan Convention I commended this diocese to a year of Jubilee, of resting in the Lord, through deeper fellowship, study and prayer. I know this recommendation has been followed with varying degrees of success throughout our congregations. Some parishes have said they were grateful for the permission to take a “day off” for the first time in what seemed like decades. Vestries have taken a step back, been more intentional about their life in Christ, paid more attention to the state of their collective soul. Others have been busier than ever.

My own record on this score has been mixed over the past 12 months. On the one hand, any year highlighted by a General Convention is going to be busier than most, and this was my first General Convention as a sitting bishop. It felt that the run-up to Salt Lake, the two weeks there, and the weeks immediately following, were white-hot with activity. Adding to this the round of ordinations, meetings of governing bodies, pastoral demands, visitations, a foreign mission trip, the move of our offices back to the Cathedral, and significant staff changes, it feels in the end that the year has been anything but restful. On the other hand, there were some very clear moments of peace: for the first time in years, I made a retreat during Holy Week, joining with the Benedictine brothers of Mount Saviour in upstate New York. There were other times of rest, away with my family, and even an occasional weekend! There is daily Morning Prayer with Betsy. And, as odd as it sounds, there are often times of rest on Sundays; as I drive to a visitation early in the morning, sometimes through the western Pennsylvania countryside, I am reminded of how blessed I am to be alive, and to be here!

Our three strategic priorities remain the same: Public Gospel, Missional Communities, and Leadership Formation. I think we are making progress in all three.

The Strategic Task Force 2.0 essentially morphed into an apostolic forum – the Listening Committee. This band of questioners visited all of our parishes, and I have received a detailed report on each interview. There are well over 200 efforts reaching out through our parishes to convey the love of Jesus Christ beyond their walls. These show we certainly have the capacity to extend the hands of the Lord into the world. Specific efforts to do this together as a diocese are becoming more common, such as the huge outpouring of support demonstrated by the women of the diocese for Jeremiah's Place in January, and the multiplication of “Ashes to Go” among a number of parishes at the beginning of Lent. I am very grateful to the Reverend Canon Cathy Brall for her oversight in both of these efforts, and for the Reverend Lou Hays, Sue DeWalt, and Bob Johnston in keeping the ball moving for the Listening Committee.

The Listening Committee showed us that most of our congregations are excited about their life together. As I go about the diocese, I see that people are simply more relaxed, confident and happy, that they are talking to each other and praying for one another, that they are less focused on the past and more hopeful about the future. Parishes are talking to one another about their mission, exchanging ideas, and exploring ways to cooperate. The number of parishes taking advantage of grants available through the Growth Fund and Advancement Society has been steadily increasing, and many congregations applied for and received mission grants through the 2014 budget, totaling over \$30,000.

I am finding as well a renewed interest in formation. Sometimes this can be as basic as discovering and sharing “best practices” for bringing people into our churches and helping them find their place. In September, St. Paul's in Mount Lebanon hosted a gathering to hear from Mary Parmer and to explore “Invite – Welcome – Connect.” Nearly 30 parishes participated, with attendance well over 100. I have

heard ongoing excitement about the results, and a widespread desire to follow up. I have also seen evidence of an increasing hunger for deeper formation in the Christian faith across all of our communities.

I am particularly concerned that we seize this present opportunity. Our churches will not succeed in becoming fully equipped for mission if our people are not deeply formed in Christ. This formation needs to take place on all levels of the church, from our children and youth to our seniors, all candidates for ordination, and most importantly, the leadership of parishes. To this end, Canon Jay Geisler and I have been laying the groundwork for an extensive partnership with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. In the fall of 2014, we offered a course entitled “The Anglican Way,” an introduction to Anglican history, theology and practice. About seven students enrolled. By contrast, this fall we are teaching a class called “Worship as Pastoral Care,” which has attracted double the number. Recent conversations with the new president, Dr. David Esterline, have shown me that PTS will be an invaluable resource as we build a program of formation to train both lay and ordained leaders for mission.

This will be helped by the recent appointment of the Rev. Canon Dr. Cathy Brall as Director of Field Education at PTS. I am sad to lose Canon Cathy, who has been so valuable a member of my staff for the last two years. Her gifts in mentoring those recently ordained, helping small parishes become stronger, her administrative gifts, her deep love of the Lord, and her capacity for analytical and strategic thinking have been wonderful contributions to the life of this diocese. However, in her new role she will be an important stakeholder on our behalf in the day-to-day life of PTS, which will help us greatly as the specific outlines of our partnership begin to emerge. And while this relationship with PTS grows, Canon Jay continues to work on our behalf with seminarians at Trinity School for Ministry.

Our diocese has been blessed this year with an increase in the number of new clergy eager to work among you. I ordained John Mark Feuerstein and Lorena Ringle as vocational deacons, and Dan Isadore and Garrett Yates as transitional deacons, God willing, to be ordained as priests in the coming year. I ordained Bert Daly, Howard Gillette, and Frank Yesko to the priesthood, as well as ordaining Wally LaLonde as deacon then priest. Sadly for us, Wally soon accepted a call to New Mexico, resulting in the departure of two LaLondes – Wally and Kathy. However, in this past year we also warmly welcomed T.J. Freeman to Calvary Church and Nancy Threadgill to St. Mark’s, Johnstown.

Beyond our immediate borders, I see the foreign mission efforts of this diocese continuing to expand. In April, Dr. Mark Guy, Canon Jay Geisler and I visited northeast Uganda and conducted several workshops on alcohol addiction and recovery. Several parishes in our diocese already have mission commitments to that country, and I am hopeful that these ongoing efforts, as well as the work that Jay, Mark and I did through the good offices of Pilgrim Africa, will help us build further bridges to the Church in East Africa. However, we can also find plenty of opportunities for ministering to addiction closer to home. In September, Jay organized an overnight retreat for clergy on the topic of addiction in conjunction with the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Both Bishop Rowe and I attended. It was a great success, and I am hopeful this may become an annual event. On a similar front, I have agreed to join the board of the Foundation of HOPE as the representative of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania. This ministry provides chaplaincies to our local jails and pastoral care to those who have been released.

As I near the end of this report, I wish to say a word about General Convention. You have every reason to be proud of your deputies. The entire deputation worked diligently, for long hours, over two weeks with scarcely a break. In several instances, they made a difference for the good in emerging legislation. Our meetings together at the end of every day were a chance to review the business of the day, talk over our disagreements, be edified by each other’s specific knowledge and insight, and simply to enjoy one another’s fellowship. To my mind, our most significant action was to begin the process for the revision of the Book of Common Prayer. This can be a long, complex, and difficult journey. I personally hope we

will be very deliberate as we walk this road, and I'm grateful that the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies have appointed me to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music for the coming triennium.

In closing, I want to give thanks for all the people who work hard to support my ministry as your Bishop, especially my staff. I have already noted one change in the roster with Cathy Brall's departure, and there have been others. Our Archdeacon, the Venerable Jean Chess, stepped down in July after more than a year of dedicated service. Her hard work as Director of Administration spread across a bewildering number and variety of tasks. I am particularly grateful for her supervision of our move back to the Cathedral, a project that was accomplished on time and under budget; she worked closely with two particular angels who provided oversight of construction and design, Jean Adams of Calvary and El Vines of Saint Paul's, Mount Lebanon. For their hard work in getting us out of Monroeville and into Trinity, my entire staff deserves a huge round of applause. Jean has been replaced as Director of Administration by the Rev. Canon Ted Babcock, formerly Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Ted is already proving to be hugely helpful to me and has also accepted the position of priest-in-charge at St. Stephen's, McKeesport. Brent Hansen, having served faithfully as the coordinator for the Pittsburgh Youth Initiative, will take up other work beginning in January. Brent has taken wonderful care of so many of our young people over the past few years, and I have been blessed in getting to know him. I look forward to working with him in other ways in the years to come. The finance office continues to run with stellar efficiency under the guidance of our treasurer, Kathi Workman, and our financial and property assistant, Marlene Rihn. Kathi and Marlene are a formidable team, and are constantly looking out for me. I'm grateful to Dr. Joan Gundersen for her careful stewardship of the archives, especially during and after the move. I am able to communicate beyond the walls of my office mainly through the grace and competence of Rich Creehan and Andy Muhl. Canon Jay Geisler is my valuable assistant and advisor in many matters of formation; and Canon Scott Quinn continues to bless us all as Canon Pastor, at the same time as he takes up full-time ministry as Interim Dean of the Cathedral. Finally, I'm grateful for my executive assistant, Judi Rogers, who keeps my life in some semblance of order, and does so with grace and patience.

As we approach the celebration of 150 years as a diocese, may we always ask God for the grace to serve Him with renewed passion and dedication, that our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in all that we say and do, and our witness invite many others to know Him and love Him.

Faithfully your bishop,
+Dorsey

Statistics for September 1, 2014 – August 31, 2015

Episcopal Visitations	36	Marriages	1
Confirmations	52	Burials	0
Receptions	17	Ordinations	9 (Order of Deacon 5; Order of Priest 4)
Baptisms	3	Renewal of Vows	1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the end of 2014, we said goodbye to members Randy Amis, Jim Evans, Beth Hardie, and John Rogers. In addition, Dr. Leon Haley resigned in early 2015. We thank them for their service. The following were elected during the 2014 Diocesan Convention: Gerald Dalton, Mike Donadee, Lew Davis and John Hose. Kimberly Karashin and Steve Stagnitta were appointed by Bishop McConnell since the 2014 Convention. Currently, there are two vacancies. One will be filled by election at the 2015 Diocesan Convention and the other by appointment by the Bishop.

Lew Davis was elected Board Secretary for 2015. The Board also approved the appointment of Bob Johnston and Tom Moore as co-chairs of the Finance/Investments Committee, Mike Donadee as chair of the Property Committee, Bob Eley as chair of the Audit Committee, and Russ Ayres as chair of the *ad hoc* By-Laws Review Committee. The hard work of these chairs and their committees is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks are owed to the hardworking diocesan staff that supports the work of the Trustees. Kathi Workman does an excellent job keeping track of income and expenditures from the various endowments and managing distributions to the parishes invested in Pool 1. Kathi and Marlene Rihn help keep the diocese's surplus properties occupied and in good repair while we decide what to do with them. We continue to rely heavily on the wise counsel provided by our Chancellor, Andy Roman.

The focus and goal of the Trustees continues to be to manage the assets of the diocese to the glory of God and in furtherance of the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church in southwestern Pennsylvania. Highlights of the past year are summarized below.

Diocesan Endowment

Trustees have continued to rely on the services of Morgan Stanley to assist us in managing the diocesan endowment. Our Finance/Investments Committee oversees this work, meeting with Morgan Stanley representatives on a quarterly basis. The total endowment, including diocesan funds and funds dedicated to individual parishes and programs, declined from \$23.7 million as reported to the 2014 Convention to \$21.4 million as of the end of August 2015. This reduction reflects declines in the market overall in the past year, including fallout from recent events in Greece and China. Our current investment mix is approximately 60% equities, 30% fixed income funds and 10% cash and other alternatives.

Support for Parishes

Since the last Convention, grants and/or loans recommended by the Growth Fund Committee have been approved by the Trustees for the following parishes: Holy Cross, Homewood; St. Peter's, Brentwood; St. John's, Donora; and Good Shepherd, Hazelwood.

Support for Diocesan Mission

In June, the Trustees met at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, with members of the Budget and Assessments Working Group of Diocesan Council (BAWG) and our Bishop to work on the 2016 diocesan budget that is being presented to this Convention. This work involved many hard choices, but we were determined to develop another balanced budget. Our thanks go out to diocesan Treasurer Kathi Workman, BAWG members and Council President the Rev. Lou Hays for their time and effort in working through the budget process with us.

Also in support of diocesan mission, the Trustees authorized funds to assist the campus ministry at the University of Pittsburgh and funds to purchase prayer books and hymnals for churches in Uganda. In addition, the Trustees received a large bequest from the Estate of Margaret Zieg; about half of the bequest was used to pay for the relocation of diocesan offices to Trinity Cathedral and the other half was placed into the diocesan Growth Fund.

Support for Diocesan Properties

Trustees continue to evaluate underused diocesan properties and have taken steps toward the possible disposition of a number of properties. Additional approvals will be required from the governing bodies of the diocese before any of these properties can be sold or otherwise transferred. A vacant property in Allegheny Township near Leechburg has been listed for sale, and the former Christ the King Church in Beaver Falls has likewise been listed.

Support for Sheldon Calvary Camp

In March 2014, the Trustees authorized a contribution of \$100,000 over five years toward Sheldon Calvary Camp's Capital Campaign. In 2015, we paid the second installment of this commitment. As in past years, the Trustees authorized an annual grant from one of the diocesan endowments to support the camp's scholarship program. We continue to work with our Chancellor on a long-term lease between the Trustees and Sheldon Calvary Camp to assure that the camp will continue to have use of Board-owned property on the shores of Lake Erie to operate as a mission of the Episcopal Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph M. Karas
President, Board of Trustees

CANON FOR FORMATION

As Canon for Formation, I have focused on working with the Commission on Ministry on recruiting, preparing and examining those who believe they have been called to the diaconate and priesthood. By God's grace, we continue to be blessed and have had several ordinations in the last year and more possibilities in the future.

I continue to work with the seminarians at Trinity Seminary in Ambridge and, in addition, have begun to work with the seminarians at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS). In 2015, the Bishop and I taught two courses at PTS: the "Anglican Way of Theology" and "Liturgy as Pastoral Care." This dovetails nicely with Canon Cathy Brall working with students at PTS fulltime as the Director of Field Education.

In September, we had a Recovery Retreat in Foxburg, Pennsylvania, with the clergy of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The focus was in understanding addiction and its treatment. I wrote a grant to the Widows Corporation, which funded the full event. It was wonderful cooperating with the clergy of our northern neighbor.

Formation, however, is more than working with the clergy. In the upcoming year, we hope to expand formation from being focused on clergy to helping form the laity to carry out the mission of the Church as found in the Great Commandment:

Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22).

In addition to the Great Commandment is the Great Commission. It is Jesus' final statement before His Ascension: *Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. (Matthew 28).*

We are hoping that more laity will be able to attend the Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference, which is held each spring in April or May. This training conference has successfully completed its 15th year. The upcoming 2016 Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference is scheduled for May 20, 2016, and will feature the young, dynamic speaker and writer Shane Claiborne (www.redletterchristians.org/shane).

If anyone has any comments, ideas, or suggestions for improving the formation of the people of God (both clergy and laity) please contact me at 412-414-3337 or send me an email at: jgeisler@episcopalpgh.org.

Peace & Prayers,
The Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler

CANON MISSIONER

Editor's note: Canon Brall's report was submitted prior to her accepting the position of Director of Field Education at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in October 2015.

This year I've continued to focus on supporting the clergy and people of St. Barnabas, Brackenridge; St. James, Penn Hills; and St. Thomas, Canonsburg, in the pursuit of their mission and ministry. Each parish has differing needs and my role adjusts accordingly.

At St. Barnabas, I mentored Fr. Frank Yesko through his ordination to the priesthood in January 2015 and worked with the vestry on many details of parish life as this community grows spiritually and numerically. In Penn Hills, I have resourced the Rev. Eric McIntosh as he engages with issues of how the St. James worshipping community might best be introduced and encouraged to grow in the methods and ethos of Episcopal parish life. I helped connect St. James leadership with the New Visions Initiative program offered by the Black Ministries office of the Episcopal Church. St. Thomas in Canonsburg has experienced much transition this year with the January departure of their full-time Rector, Chuck Weiss, and the start of the half-time ministry for newly-ordained Deacon Wally LaLonde. I supervised Deacon Wally and supported the vestry as they began to rethink options for ministry over the long haul. Shortly before his priestly ordination, Wally accepted a call to full-time ministry in New Mexico and the parish learned he would leave in September. I am delighted the Bishop has asked me to serve as part-time clergy there for at least a year to help them process these transitions and find greater stability and hope.

A second focus has involved the Listening Committee visits to all our parishes. I attended all but five of these visits and found myself listening in particular for the many ways in which our parishes express their mission internally and beyond their walls. Visits to 35 parishes revealed that we have 236 unique missionary activities/events/programs that can be divided into ten General Categories (such as food or meal-based mission, children and youth mission, and music and arts-based mission). This list of mission projects is being prepared for wider distribution among our parishes and leadership. Some visits raised issues that required me to further engage with a parish to address a concern. Lastly, I reviewed the final parish reports to identify trends and opportunities that may be helpful to diocesan leadership.

This past fall I was privileged to lead a very capable and gifted team of fourteen women in a fun and successful diocesan-wide mission event, the Baby Shower for Jeremiah's Place, held at Calvary Church on January 10, 2015. Over 100 women attended and thoroughly enjoyed the fellowship. More than 85% of our parishes supported this event in some way and Jeremiah's Place received nearly \$11,000 worth of donations of much-needed items, gift cards and financial gifts. This event was designed to serve as a model from which other mission events could be planned and developed.

I participate in Commission on Ministry and Diocesan Council meetings, and have worked with the Budget and Assessment Working Group on the Mission Grant program for which several parishes have received grants. I bring a diocesan perspective to various other groups such as the Children's Ministry Team, the Calvary Camp Board, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. I'm also networking around other possible missional projects related to education and new church plants, at times with leaders from other Pittsburgh judicatories. Finally, I've been engaging clergy and lay leaders about Mary Parmer's *Invite, Welcome, Connect* workshop because I think she offers ideas to strengthen and grow our parishes.

With gratitude for the opportunities to serve Christ with you in mission,
Canon Cathy Brall+

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry is established pursuant to Title III of the Canons of The Episcopal Church and Canon XXX of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh in order to advise and assist the bishop “in the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons; and in the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefore.” (Title III, Canon 2, Section 2, Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, 2006)

Since the 2014 Diocesan Convention, the Commission on Ministry will have met six times, including the annual Winter Interview Day and Ministry Exploration Day. Highlights of the year include:

- The Commission and Standing Committee had informal interviews with seven individuals in the discernment/ordination process, five initial interviews with nominees, and one candidacy and ordination interview at the Winter Interview Day.
- The Bishop ordained John Feuerstein and Wally LaLonde to the Sacred Order of Deacons at Trinity Cathedral on January 10, 2015; Bert Daly and Frank Yesko to the Sacred Order of Priests at St. Barnabas, Brackenridge, on January 17, 2015; Howard Gillette to the Sacred Order of Priests at St. Peter’s, Brentwood, on April 11, 2015; Dan Isadore and Garrett Yates to the Sacred Order of Deacons at Trinity Cathedral on July 22, 2015; Wally LaLonde to the Sacred Order of Priests on July 25, 2015 at St. Thomas, Canonsburg; and Lorena Ringle to the Sacred Order of Priests on September 19, 2015 at Trinity Cathedral.
- On June 16, 2015, the Bishop received the Holy Orders (Priesthood) of Shawn Malarkey upon the recommendation of the Commission on Ministry and the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.
- One individual took General Ordination Exams in January.
- With the consent of the Standing Committee, the Bishop granted candidacy to Howard Gillette, Dan Isadore, Lorena Ringle, and Garrett Yates. Subsequently all were approved for ordination.
- The Commission and Bishop accepted the nominations of Mr. Dan Isadore of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park; Mr. Doug Kinsey of St. Peter’s, Brentwood; Mr. Garrett Yates of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park, Ms. Annis Rogers of St. Mark’s, Johnstown; and Ms. Kim Karashin of St. Peter’s, Brentwood, to be considered for Postulancy. Subsequently the Bishop, upon recommendation of the Commission, granted Postulancy to Mr. Isadore and Mr. Yates.
- Ms. Shana Hutchings, nominee of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park, withdrew her nomination and has moved with her family outside of the diocese.
- Ministry Exploration Day was held on May 2, 2015, at St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon. This year the name was changed to reflect the broader scope of the event. Approximately 25 people participated, including potential nominees for Holy Orders with spouses and clergy.

The Rev. Scott Russell, Rector of St. Brendan’s, Franklin Park, was elected at Convention to serve a three-year term on the Commission. The bishop appointed Steve Stagnitta of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park, and the Rev. Kris McInnes, Priest-in-Charge of St. David’s, Peters Township, to second three-year

terms as members of the Commission. The Rev. Lenny Anderson, Rector of St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset, concluded his term as member of the Commission, and we thank him for his faithful service.

I thank Bishop McConnell for his leadership and support, and each member of the commission for their service during the year: Carolyn Booker, St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg; the Rev. Lynn Chester Edwards, retired priest; Jessie Hipolit, Emmanuel, North Side; the Rev. Tim Hushion, Trinity Cathedral; the Rev. Kris McInnes, St. David's, Peters Township; Steve Stagnitta, St. Andrew's, Highland Park; the Rev. Ann Staples, St. Thomas, Northern Cambria; Daryl Walker, All Saints, Brighton Heights; and ex-officio as staff, the Rev. Scott Quinn, Canon Pastor, the Rev. Jay Geisler, Canon for Formation, and the Rev. Cathy Brall, Canon Missioner.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Louis B. Hays
Chairperson

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

The Committee on Constitution and Canons (Michael Braxton, chair; the Rev. Charlie Hamill, secretary; Randy Amis; the Rev. Bruce Robison; the Rev. Michelle Boomgaard; Kenneth Stiles; and Chancellor Andy Roman, *ex officio*) continued a conversation begun in 2013 at the request of Bishop McConnell to discuss the delicate subject of transitional status of parishes within the diocese. The focus of the committee's work was not aimed at finding ways to close down any parishes. Instead, the purpose of this discussion was to help the bishop and diocese look into new or better ways to offer pastoral support to these congregations, or perhaps canonical guidelines that enable the diocese to strengthen the health and stability of these parishes. All the while, the committee was cognizant of the sensitivities regarding trust for many of these congregations, especially in light of our diocese's recent past.

The committee discussed the subject at length, inviting both clergy and laity from the diocese to share their opinions and insights both in personal meetings and emails. At the 2014 Diocesan Convention, the committee presented all deputies with a survey to assess further sentiment on the issue. Finally, the committee met with members of the diocesan Listening Committee for insight concerning the many parishes they had visited, especially those that would be affected by a designation of transitional status.

The committee considered many tools that could be used to offer parishes that may be headed to or already within transitional status the means to develop into healthy, vibrant congregations, participating in the full life of the diocese. These include revisions to the definition of "transitional parish" itself and/or introducing an intermediate category, or a precursor to transitional status, that could be focused on the actions by which a parish could avoid the transitional designation, which to some seemed to have a punitive connotation. The committee looked at issues of transparency regarding the designation, a means of review or appeal of the status, and who would be responsible for making the designation. The committee also discussed from where pastoral and economic resources could be harnessed to assist these parishes, keeping in mind the concerns of smaller parishes that may think the diocese and larger parishes are over-extending their influence over them. The committee also examined the canons of other dioceses that have dealt with this matter and looked for applicable guidelines that could be gleaned from them.

The committee concluded that it should not take any immediate action to revise our diocesan canons on this topic, believing that the means of delivering the pastoral support that these parishes need to avoid or escape transitional status already exist without canonical intervention. The committee hopes the conversation will continue within other bodies of the diocese as to how we, as parishes and as a diocese, together can find new, better and more effective ways to assist each other in the care of souls.

In an unrelated matter, the committee will propose a revision to Canon II (see Preconvention Journal Section C – Action Items), which eliminates a redundancy, thereby making the canon clearer.

DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh was well represented at the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, held in Salt Lake City between June 25 and July 3, 2015.

General Convention is a two-house legislative body containing a House of Bishops, consisting of all bishops in The Episcopal Church, and a House of Deputies, consisting of four lay deputies and four clergy deputies from each diocese, plus alternates.

The Diocese of Pittsburgh deputation consisted of: the Rt. Rev. Dorsey McConnell (House of Bishops); the Reverends Jim Simons, Nancy Chalfant-Walker (co-chair), Scott Quinn, and Bruce Robison; and lay deputies Steve Stagnitta (St. Andrew's), Jamie McMahan (Calvary), Mary Roehrich (St Andrew's) and Jon Delano (St Paul's, Mt. Lebanon). The alternate deputies attending were the Rev. Bill Geiger, Michael Braxton (Calvary) and Joan Gundersen (Redeemer). I want to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their work and dedication to this ministry.

Among our deputation, several had important assignments affecting legislation:

- Jim Simons chaired the Dispatch of Business for the House of Deputies, which controls the legislative calendar. Also, Jim is an elected member of the Executive Council.
- Bishop McConnell served on the Special Legislative Committee on Marriage.
- Steve Stagnitta served on the Congregational Vitality Committee.
- Bruce Robison served on the Church Pension Fund Committee.
- Jamie McMahan served on the Stewardship and Development Committee.

More than 250 pieces of legislation were acted on by Convention. A highlight was the election of a new presiding bishop. The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry from the Diocese of North Carolina was elected on the first ballot in the House of Bishops, with a count of 121 out of 174 votes. The House of Deputies concurred, 800 to 12. Bishop Curry is a very energetic person who is very interested in growing the church and revitalizing it through evangelism. He will be installed at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, on November 1, 2015. The term of the presiding bishop is nine years.

A budget of \$125 million was passed for the next three years. This includes \$2.8 million for evangelism initiatives (including church planting, church growth, and digital evangelism). The church planting initiative consists of planting 30 new congregations in inner city and Latino communities. This was part of the work done by the Congregational Vitality Committee. In addition, Mission Enterprise Zones were funded for an additional three years, to allow congregations to request grants.

The Structure Committee reduced the number of standing committees (those meeting between convention) from eleven to two: Liturgy and Music; and Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons.

Two resolutions were passed regarding marriage equality. One approved trial liturgies and the other changed the wording of the canon on marriage to be gender neutral.

A complete summary of actions can be found on General Convention's website, www.generalconvention.org. Please feel free to contact any of us who attended.

Respectfully yours,
Steve Stagnitta
Deputation Chair

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council exists by virtue of Article XI of the Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Its responsibilities are summarized in Section 1 of Canon V as follows: “The Diocesan Council shall act on behalf of the Convention when the Convention is not in session. In particular, it shall evaluate the policies, programs, and other activities of the Diocese, make recommendations to the Convention, and give general oversight to the work, mission, budget and human resources of the Diocese. The Council shall perform such other functions and tasks as the Convention may assign to it.”

Since the 2014 Annual Convention, Council has met six times: December 1, 2014, and February 2, April 13, June 1, September 14, and October 5, 2015. Minutes of these meetings are or will be available from the diocesan office. In addition, in January, Council acted under Section 9 of Canon XVII (electronic voting) to approve a housing allowance for a member of diocesan staff; in June, approved via electronic vote a mission grant application from St. Thomas, Canonsburg; in July, approved via electronic vote four mission grant applications (Advent, St. Brendan’s, Calvary, and St. Paul’s, Kittanning) and one grant from the Diocesan Mission and Faithful Remnants budget for Marc Jacobson’s ministry in the Philippines; and in August, approved a housing allowance for the Rev. Dan Isadore and the term of office and compensation of the new Director of Administration, the Rev. Ted Babcock.

Meetings consist of reports from the Bishop, Canons to the Bishop, President of the Standing Committee, President of the Board of Trustees, Chancellor, Treasurer, and the chairs of various diocesan committees and organizations, and action items as needed.

December meeting: Council approved a revised 2014 budget; approved a grant to Good Shepherd, Hazelwood, for emergency plumbing repairs; approved the transfer of \$55,000 to be made available for mission grants during 2015; approved allocation of funds in support of the Millennium Development Goals pursuant to the Lambeth 0.7% resolution; and elected Council officers for 2015.

February meeting: Council approved revised assessments for St. Stephen’s, Wilkinsburg, and St. Thomas, Canonsburg, and revised the 2015 diocesan budget. Council appointed Kevin Hipolit, Emmanuel, North Side, to a three-year term on the Growth Fund Committee.

April meeting: Council approved the use of up to \$150,000 for the cost of Trinity Cathedral renovations until reimbursed from a pending bequest to the diocese; approved grants to Emmanuel, North Side, and Good Shepherd, Hazelwood; and approved a mission grant to Good Shepherd, Hazelwood.

June meeting: Council approved the Treasurer’s report as submitted, and approved five mission grants as recommended by the Budget and Assessment Working Group: St. Barnabas, Brackenridge; St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon; St. Matthew’s, Homestead; Atonement, Carnegie; and All Saints, Brighton Heights.

September and October meetings: Results not available for this report. Minutes will be available from the diocesan office.

The following Committees have continued to function over the past year: Budget and Assessment Working Group, chaired by Kathy Baird of St. Peter’s, Blairsville; Social Justice and Outreach, chaired by Nancy Lapp of Holy Cross, Homewood; Resolutions, chaired by Jeff Dunbar, St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon; Nominations, co-chaired by the Rev. Vicente Santiago, Advent, Jeannette, and Jon Delano, St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon; and Compensation, chaired by Jim Neral, Christ Church, North Hills. Joe Baird, St. Peter’s, Blairsville, serves as Judge of Assessments, and Linda Getts, St. Thomas, Oakmont, serves as Assistant Judge of Audits.

Report of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee

Since our last Convention report, the Social Justice and Outreach Committee has undertaken several projects and promoted a number of causes, employing various forms of publicity and personal contact.

The Community Gardens, aided by our grants last summer, resulted in significant contributions to food banks and the needs of participating churches and organizations. Additional funds for these grants were provided by Outreach committees from St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon (last year, and again, this year) and Christ Church, North Hills. The number of gardens and grants we offer has been growing each year, and we plan to continue this program.

In the fall, we sponsored a panel discussion, "May Peace be with You," a holy discussion on gun violence. It was held on Saturday, October 25, at Calvary, and about 40 persons and friends of the diocese attended. Chuck Weiss planned the program and moderated the panel, which included representatives from Cease Fire PA, the Center for Victims, and the Pittsburgh Police.

We provided the optimum number of volunteers needed for our day at the Food Bank, November 22. As usual, this is an opportunity for fellowship among churches of our diocese as well as the service provided.

Our recommendations for the distribution of 2014 Lambeth funds included: \$1000 to Episcopal Relief & Development to respond to the Ebola emergency, \$1000 to Episcopal Appalachian Ministries, and \$1,053 for Jeremiah's Place. Our recommendations were accepted.

In January, we were one of the sponsors of the diocesan-wide baby shower for Jeremiah's Place. This was a great success and this new ministry is going well.

Also in January, we were one of the sponsoring organizations of the satellite Trinity Wall Street conference, "Creating Common Ground," hosted by St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon. This was preceded by the November showing of the film, "Inequality for All," sponsored with PEP, as a "teaser" for the upcoming Trinity Wall Street conference.

Our committee also serves as a conduit for special needs and programs that come to our attention. In the past year these have included Operation Safety Net (which provides meals for street people particularly during bad winter weather); PIIN's various advocacy and action programs; ECW's collection for Christmas on the River through the Seaman's Church Institute; the Greater Pittsburgh Literary Council (for which we ran a special appeal for volunteers in *Grace Happens*); Rural and Migrant Ministries, which we have supported in the past through Lambeth funds; and, we made a special donation to the emergency needs of the Coal County Ministry from our budget. The work of the Diocese of Jerusalem in the Holy Land was brought to our attention by a representative from the American Friends of the Diocese. This resulted in a letter request to our diocesan delegates to General Convention asking for their studied consideration of the resolutions concerning justice and peace in Israel and Palestine.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

As of the time of submission of this report, no resolutions have been offered. The Committee will take appropriate action on any resolutions presented after the date of the submission of this report.

Report of the Budget and Assessment Working Group

This group meets regularly to evaluate requests from parishes for reduced assessments or grants funded by the diocesan operating budget. It then recommends action to be taken by Diocesan Council. Members also work with the Bishop, Treasurer, and Board of Trustees to develop the diocesan budget for submission to Annual Convention. On occasion, members of the group work with parishes to assist with financial issues. Current members of this committee include: Kathy Baird, St. Peter's, Blairsville, Chair;

Joe Baird, St. Peter's, Blairsville; Courtney Harder, St. David's, Peters Township; the Rev. Vicente Santiago, Advent, Jeannette; and the Rev. Lou Hays, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon.

I would like to thank all members of Diocesan Council for their faithful service since last year's Annual Convention, and those who regularly attend and participate in Council meetings. It has been a privilege serving as President of Council and with Terlene Brown, Vice President, and the Rev. Carol Henley, Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Lou Hays
President of Diocesan Council

ARCHDEACON AND DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

The key accomplishment of this past year was the renovation of the third floor of Trinity Cathedral and the move of the diocesan offices from Monroeville back to the Cathedral. I am especially grateful to my co-project managers Ell Vines and Jean Adams, to our team from Jendoco and to the Cathedral staff including Steve Fekete, James Moore, Father Tim Hushion and Dean Scott Quinn. I also appreciated the flexibility of the diocesan office staff during this time of transition.

Andy Muhl and I established a publication schedule and submission guidelines for *Grace Happens*, which has helped make the production of our electronic newsletter more efficient. I assisted the Rev. Leslie Reimer, and her task force, in developing our diocesan response to the new Pennsylvania Child Protection Laws and we convened a diocesan leadership day in May to begin deepening how we make our parishes safer places for children. My work at the national church level included the initial conversion of the diocese to the new electronic institutional and employee roster systems implemented by the Church Pension Group as well as logistical support of our deputation to General Convention.

It has been an exciting year for the diaconate in Pittsburgh. John Mark Feuerstein and Lorena Ringle were both ordained as vocational deacons. The community ministry of Deacon Ann Staples received national coverage via an article in *Episcopal News Service*.

This past year has deepened my understanding of our diocese and I am grateful for all I've learned. I look forward to supporting the Rev. Canon Ted Babcock as he assumes the role of Director of Administration.

The Rev. Jean Chess

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

This report covers business of the Standing Committee from November 2014 through August 2015. In accordance with the canons of The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Standing Committee took the following actions:

Gave consent to the episcopal elections of:

- David Mitchell Reed as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of West Texas
- Robert Stuart Skirving as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of East Carolina
- Peter Eaton as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Southeast Florida
- Audrey Cady Scanlon as Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
- James Russell Kendrick as Bishop Diocesan of Central Gulf Coast

Approved for Candidacy for Holy Orders:

- Walter Joseph LaLonde
- Garrett Yates
- Daniel Isadore
- Lorena Ringle

Approved for Ordination to the Diaconate:

- John Mark Feuerstein
- Walter Joseph LaLonde
- Garrett Yates
- Daniel Isadore
- Lorena Ringle

Approved for Ordination to the Priesthood:

- Francis Michael Yesko
- Herbert Thaddeus Daly, Jr.
- Howard Gillette
- Walter Joseph LaLonde

Filled the following vacancies in diocesan offices:

- Jim Simons, Standing Committee
- Scott Russell, Diocesan Council
- Michelle Boomgaard, Constitution and Canons
- Teri Dillon, Diocesan Council

Other actions:

- Consented to reception of orders of Shawn Malarkey
- Approved clergy releases for Rodney Whitaker and Carl Eyberg
- Consented to closure of All Saints, Bridgeville; St. Martin's, Monroeville; Christ the King, Beaver Falls; Prince of Peace, Hopewell

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre
Betsy Hetzler, Secretary

TREASURER

Responsibilities include overseeing the diocesan accounting system; serving as financial liaison to the Trustees, Council, Property Committee, Growth Fund Committee, Audit Committee, Budget and Assessments Working Group, and Compensation Committee; providing financial/employee benefit assistance to parishes/diocesan organizations; and managing the returned properties with guidance and assistance from the Trustee Property Committee. I am grateful to diocesan and Trinity Cathedral staff and the many volunteers who spent countless hours working on the renovation and move of the diocesan offices to the cathedral during 2015.

Accomplishments since the 2014 Convention include:

- The 2014 audit was completed and an unqualified opinion rendered by Maher Duessel.
- Assisted three parishes in obtaining \$22.3k in grants from The Advancement Society to defray costs for various building maintenance projects.
- Instituted an annual Treasurer's Training workshop with 21 attendees in March 2015 (original February date with 39 attendees was postponed due to snow). Topics included financial reporting, clergy/lay compensation and payroll, internal controls, taxes and IRS guidelines, parochial reports and parish audits.
- Instituted payroll processing through ADP using Episcopal Payroll Services to provide monthly payroll processing to parishes with five or less employees at greatly reduced rates (monthly cost ranges from \$11.55 to \$17.75). Contact Marlene Rihn for information.
- Instituted "volunteer audit teams" for parishes unable to find qualified volunteers.
- Received \$6.2k bequest from the estate of Frank Alton. Bequest was designated for Chaplaincy Fund and deposited into Morgan Stanley Pool 1.
- Received notice of \$497k unrestricted bequest from the estate of Margaret Zieg. Trustees approved use of \$257k for Cathedral renovations/move to Cathedral and remaining \$240k to Growth Fund held in Morgan Stanley Pool 2.
- Issued Growth Fund grants of \$36,550 to five parishes in December 2014 and \$19,500 to three parishes to date in 2015. Disbursed Growth Fund loan of \$29,650.
- Disbursed Parish Mission Grants totaling \$31,275 to ten parishes within the diocese. \$23,725 remains in the fund and is available for additional parish mission projects. Applications are available on the diocesan website.
- Provided \$163,743 in financial support from operating budget to four parishes resuming their participation in the diocese and two additional parishes in need of financial assistance.
- Provided \$27k in Community Outreach Grants, \$20k to Sheldon Calvary Camp Capital Campaign, \$18,888 in Emma Locke Trustee Grant to Sheldon Calvary Camp for scholarships, and \$5k mission grant to Inabaknon Heritage Society, Philippines.

Work continues on the development of formal written policies and procedures relating to accounting and fiscal matters, employee handbook, investment policy, and fraud.

It continues to be my privilege to serve as Treasurer for the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Faithfully,
Kathi Workman