

## **Standing Committee Report to the 2018 Diocesan Convention**

This report reflects the actions of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Olympia from October 2017 through October 2018. The Standing Committee held regular monthly meetings throughout the year. At the Nov. 2017 meeting, Karen McCarthy Casey (2019) was elected President and the Rev. Steve Danzey (2018) was elected Secretary. The Rev. Helen McPeak (2020) agreed to serve as Committee Chaplain; Ms. Deede Woods (2018) agreed to continue serving as our representative to the Commission on Ministry, a position she fulfills as a full voting member of the Commission; Jim Beckwith continued to serve as our representative to the Joint Finance Panel. The remaining members of the Standing Committee are The Rev. Alfredo Feregrino (2019), The Rev. Arienne Davison (2021), and Roberta Newell (2021)

### **The following actions were taken by the Standing Committee from November 2017 through October 2018:**

#### **Episcopal Elections, Ordinations and/or Consecrations of Bishops, and Diocesan Consents**

- Consented to the Election of Brian Lee Cole as Bishop of East Tennessee;
- Consented to the Election of a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Virginia;
- Consented to the Election of the Rev. Carlye J. Hughes as Bishop of the Diocese of Newark;
- Consented to the Election of the Rev. Mark Andrew Cowell as Bishop of the Diocese of Western Kansas;
- Consented to the Election of the Rev. Canon Kevin D. Nichols as Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem;
- Consented to the Election of the Rev. Canon Michael Buerkel Hunn as Bishop of the Diocese of Rio Grande;
- Consented to the Election of a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of Texas;
- Consented to the Election of the Very Rev. Joseph Kerwin Delicat as Bishop Coadjutor of Haiti.

#### **Diaconate and Priesthood, Diocese of Olympia**

- Certificate of Attestations were signed for William Thaete and Patricia Grodt, Diaconate, Oct 2017;
- Certificate of Attestation was signed for Brian Gregory, Priesthood, Feb 2018;
- Certificate of Attestation was signed for Brian Lennstrom, Priesthood, June 2018;
- Certificate of Attestations were signed for Emily Austin, Michelle Couch, Elizabeth Van Dyke, and Barbra Weza, Diaconate, Oct 2018;
- With the direction of our Standing Committee representative to the COM, Deede Woods, we have wrestled this year with the spiritual and Canonical accountabilities to those in postulant and candidacy process. We look forward to a Summit gathering this winter with others under direction of the Bishop, to bring greater clarity to this vital and precious time.

### **Congregational Property Matters**

- Approved a request by Holy Family of Jesus Cambodian Episcopal Church to sell a vacant parcel of land on church property;
- Approved a request by Emmanuel Church, Mercer Island to obtain a bank construction loan, and then permanent loan, for the purpose of constructing a Rectory Home on Emmanuel Church property;
- Approved a proposal request by Trinity, Seattle for the sale of air rights above the historical church building with the option to sell additional feet to the property developer. This with a no-build easement and covenant to be approved by the Diocesan Chancellor;
- Approved a request by St. Stephen's, Seattle, to sell a house on St. Stephen's Church property. The proceeds will be placed in a Capital Fund to facilitate needed repairs;
- Working closely with the Board of Directors we saw completion and web-site publication of a new Guide To Congregational Transactions, clarifying the sometimes complicated process of contacting the Diocese for assistance and approval for Church loan and building proposals. And we seek your input as we all work with this new material.

### **Mutual Ministry Review**

According to the Bishop's Letter of Agreement (LOA) signed in January, 2017, the Standing Committee is the governing body charged with working together alongside the Bishop to conduct his annual MMR. This is not a performance review, rather, it is an opportunity to consider how well we are working together as Governing Bodies within the Diocese of Olympia to achieve our agreed upon vision and goals.

Embracing the new Vision for the Diocese, the Standing Committee continued to review our specific agreed upon goals with the Bishop, pausing and revising, and adding as needed. We continue to join with other GB members as the Bishop celebrates his Annual Visits with congregations. Learning local context, we share the joys and discoveries of growing parish life. We plan onsite visits with the leadership of churches proposing property changes to our committee.

As a body we completed the IDI training and are incorporating its lessons and growth into a monthly meeting review.

Partnering with the Bishop both within our meetings and at events in our Diocese, we give careful attention to his particular goals, seeking ways to collaborate within our canonical mandates. Listening attentively to his needs and requests we continue to offer confidential pastoral support and prayer looking forward to our mutual time of discernment next year.

Given similar work was being done by all the Governing Bodies, we choose this year to take advantage of the Bishop's Mutual Ministry Review process to consider carefully where we are now, as a Diocese, after 10 years of collaboration and older goals accomplished, and a new vision and principles declared. We asked "Where do we want to be 10 years from today?"

Modeling the MMR process, we interviewed each Governing Body, - the Board of Directors, the Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, the Staff and the Bishop - with the purpose of evaluating our new vision. We asked all to consider where their pride lies today as they look not just at their personal Governing Body accomplishments but across the Diocese as well. And we asked them to begin to consider what qualities they might look for in leadership of such a Diocese.

We have gathered our thoughts and words, considered the themes and patterns, and considered what does this data say about us?

Now, however, we are wondering, what are you thinking, out there in all of Western Washington? If each of you could choose, what are the most important issues the Diocese needs to address in the next ten years? And, what leadership qualities will be needed to address them?

And so, as we move into 2019, we are looking toward a year of discernment for the Governing Bodies as well as the Diocese. Walking once again about the Diocese, we will gather your thoughts and compile them into a Diocesan review that Bishop Greg can take with him into his sabbatical time of discernment.

In the urgencies of this messy world we have been given this gift of discernment time. A wise person once said, "We cannot practice God's love alone." Please begin now to talk with the folks in your congregations, plan to bring a car full of friends to the WalkAgain sessions, and help us wonder what it is that the Diocese of Olympia can do for Western Washington.

It has been my privilege and my honor to serve as your Standing Committee President for this past year. To work together with Bishop Greg, who continues to be a generous teacher of new meanings for leadership and love.

It has been especially gratifying to participate in shared learning and I am especially grateful for opportunities to grow in relationships with the Diocesan Governing Bodies. I look forward to meeting many more of the good people of this Diocese, during visits with your congregations, as we all continue to grow in our vision for the Diocese of Olympia.

Faithfully,  
*Karen McCarthy Casey*