

Standing Committee Report to the 107th Diocesan Convention

This report reflects the actions of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Olympia from October 2016 through October 2017. The Standing Committee held regular monthly meetings throughout the year. At the Nov. 2016 meeting, Karen McCarthy Casey (2019) was elected President and the Rev. Bill Fulton (2017) was elected Secretary. Ms Kathryn Rickert (2017) agreed to continuing serving as Chaplain; Ms. Deede Woods (2018) agreed to serve as our representative to the Commission on Ministry, a position she fulfills as a full voting member of the Commission; Jim Beckwith agreed to serve as our representative to the Joint Finance Panel. The remaining members of the Standing Committee are The Rev. Alfredo Feregrino (2019) and The Rev. Cynthia Espeseth (2018). Rev. Espeseth resigned from the Standing Committee in July when she accepted a call out of state. The Standing Committee choose to leave her position open until the election at the Annual Convention in Oct. 2017.

The following actions were taken by the Standing Committee during 2016 and 2017:

Mutual Ministry Review (MMR)

According to the Bishop's Letter of Agreement (LOA) signed in Jan. 2017, the Standing Committee is the governing body charged with working together with the Bishop to conduct an annual MMR. This is not a performance review, rather, it is an opportunity to consider how well we are working together as the Diocese of Olympia to achieve agreed upon vision and goals. In 2016, the Standing Committee, with considerable input from Bishop Greg and the other Governing Bodies, reviewed Bishop Greg's LOA. It had not been revised since his arrival in 2007. The culmination of this year long process is a transformational vision for the Diocese. This vision, together with its four guiding principles continues to be our guide through the MMR processes.

The Clergy and Congregational responses to the introduction of this new vision at last year's convention were gathered and collated by various themes and this information helps to inform our inquiries in 2017.

It slowly became apparent to the Standing Committee that to enable the Diocese to thrive under this new vision the transformation from a hierarchy led to congregation driven context would require a transformation in our ways of being a Diocese, and Governing Boards within the Diocese. It would require proactive listening, creative experimentation, and grace filled patience to consolidate new ways of being church into new sets of practices. It would require prayer and grace.

To this end, the Standing Committee

- At our Governing Board retreat in January, generated a set of goals to guide our particular transformation into Standing Committee practices for the new vision.
- Received training in listening and storytelling from The Reverends Alissabeth Newton and Arienne Davison.

- Received additional training in site visitations and data gathering to help track local particularities.
- Began visiting the properties of each church property proposal as it came before us, listening on-site to project leaders from the church. We have tackled a wide variety of property requests, some small yet important to the life of the parish, and one very large and complicated.
- Worked with the JFP creating a step by step guideline to assist congregations who wish to bring a property transaction to the attention of the Diocese. We are currently combining our process document with a similar one created by the Board of Directors to produce one easily accessible guide ready for use by early 2018.
- Continue to grow in awareness of both GB relationships and congregational particularity. Our seven members joining with members of other governing bodies to celebrate with the Bishop at ten Sunday visits. Where we learn local context, where we listen and absorb extraordinary ministry, and where we bring a presence of the larger Diocese.
- Began a more supportive role for the Postulant and Candidacy processes, praying by name at our meetings, learning their stories and actively participating in Candidacy Days.
- Partner with the Bishop both within our meetings and in our communities. Paying careful attention to his particular goals for this year we seek ways to collaborate within our canonical mandates. Listening attentively to his needs and requests we continue to offer confidential pastoral support and prayer.
- Honor our own growing edges for adaptive and technical leadership, reading and sharing communally the wonders and joys of discovering the new vision coming to life in our diocese.

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

- Consented to the Election of The Rev. Carl Waller Wright as Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries
- Consented to the Election of The Rev. Canon John Taylor as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Los Angeles
- Consented to the Election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Haiti
- Consented to the Election of The Rev. Canon Gretchen Mary Rehberg as Bishop of the Diocese of Spokane
- Consented to the Election of The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows as Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis
- Consented to the Election of The Rev. David Rice as Bishop of the Diocese of San Joaquin
- Withheld consent for the Election of Jennifer Brooke-Davidson as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Texas due to their low level of giving to the national church.
- Consented to the Election of The Rev. Samuel Rodman as Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina
- Consented to the Election of The Rev. Kevin S. Brown as the Bishop of Delaware
- Consented to the Election of The Rev. Brian Lee Cole as the Bishop of East Tennessee

Priesthood / Diaconate

- Approved Candidacy for Ordination to the Priesthood for Christi Chapman, Megan Mallarkey, Doug Dornhecker, Julie Mallett
- Accepted the removal and release of a resident priest from the Diocese of Olympia
- Approved Elaine Patricia Grodt Trinity, Everett for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate in October 2017
- Approved William Thaete, St. Bede's, Port Orchard for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate in October 2017
- Five members of the Standing Committee attended Candidacy Day in September 2016 where they participated in interviewing postulants who are seeking to move toward candidacy for ordination to the priesthood. Approval was given at the following SC meeting.
- Six Standing Committee members joined the Commission on Ministry in Sept 2017 to interview two candidates for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate. Our opinions were given and the COM voted.
- The Standing Committee gratefully received a report from Bishop Greg that the new process for all postulants to meet with a financial planner has been put into place in the Diocese.

Property Matters

- Approved a proposal by St. Paul's, Mt. Vernon, to enter into an agreement with the City of Mt. Vernon to sell 10 acres of property. They must return to the JFP at time of sale.
- Approved a proposal by St. Alban's, Edmonds to sell former rectory and property.
- Approved a proposal by St. James, Kent, to grant an easement from St, James, Kent for ingress and egress to Sun Vista LLC Apartments.
- Approved a proposal by Trinity, Seattle for a sale and development project for their non-historical property, subject to specified conditions.
- Approved a proposal by Christ Church, Blaine for sale of old parsonage and property with stipulation that power of attorney be retained by the Diocese.

Other Matters

It has been a privilege for me to serve this past year as President of the Standing Committee, to work closely with Bishop Greg who is a wonderful mentor and friend in this ministry of remembering, reconciling, and transforming. It has also been especially gratifying to participate in learning and growing within the relationships of the Diocesan Staff and Standing Committee. I look forward to meeting many more of the good people of this Diocese, visiting with your congregations as we continue living our vision for the Diocese of Olympia.

Faithfully,

Karen McCarthy Casey

President of the Standing Committee