

To the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts  
Annual Report of the Standing Committee  
November 2018 – October 2019

As the council of advice to the bishop, especially concerning matters of ordination and real estate, the Standing Committee meets in person and by telephone video conference at least five times per year. We also conduct business by email. Our proceedings are recorded by minutes reflecting each meeting and telephone conference. Votes taken by email are confirmed at the following meeting, and the email string is sent to the Diocesan Archives, along with meeting minutes.

Since the last Diocesan Convention, we met in person on November 8, 2018, January 3, 2019, March 7, 2019, May 30, 2019, and September 5, 2019. We met by telephone and video on July 2 and 9, 2019. We also conducted votes by email, all of which were confirmed at subsequent meetings.

Much of our work is consultative in nature. We talk things over with representatives of parishes, the senior staff, and the bishop. Every year the Standing Committee invites the Commission on Ministry and persons in the ordination process to tea. The 2nd Annual Standing Committee Tea was held at the home of Nancy and Bill Stroud in mid-May.

A summary of our canonical actions follows.

On November 8, 2019, we elected The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud as President and Peter Kite as Secretary for the coming year.

#### *Episcopal Elections*

We consented to the elections of the following priests as bishops:

- Megan Traquair as Diocesan Bishop of Northern California
- Cathleen Chittenden Bascom as Diocesan Bishop of Kansas
- Kimberley D. Lucas as Diocesan Bishop of Colorado
- Mark D. W. Eddington as Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of the Episcopal Churches in Europe
- Cristobal Olmedo Leon Lozano as Bishop of Ecuador Litoral
- Kathryn Rossen Ryan as Suffragan Bishop of Texas
- Jonathan H. Folts as Diocesan Bishop of South Dakota
- Shannon MacVean-Brown as Diocesan Bishop of Vermont
- Bonnie A. Perry as Diocesan Bishop of Michigan
- Lucinda Ashby as Diocesan Bishop of El Camino Real
- Marty Stebbins as Diocesan Bishop of Montana

We did not consent to the elections of:

- Joseph Kerwin Delicat as Diocesan Bishop in Haiti
- Thomas James Brown as Diocesan Bishop of Maine
- Susan Brown Snook as Diocesan Bishop of San Diego
- Jennifer Ann Reddall as Diocesan Bishop of Arizona

#### *Ordained Ministry in Western Massachusetts*

- We approved the ordination to the priesthood of Ann Scannell.
- We approved Dianne Wilson as a candidate for ordination to the (vocational) diaconate, and subsequently approved her ordination.

*Property Matters in our Diocese*

This year, we voted:

- To approve an encumbrance in favor of Sunwealth Power Inc., on the property, Church of the Nativity in Northborough, to allow the installation and operation of a photovoltaic array.
- To approve the request of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Sutton, Massachusetts to secure a loan in the amount of Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) through the Diocese's parish loan program with United Bank for a term of four (4) years at the Wall Street Journal Prime Rate less 0.5%.
- To approve the sale of the property located at 20 Highland Ave., Wilbraham, Massachusetts, sometimes used and known as the Rectory of Church of the Epiphany, for a gross sale price of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000), on or before October 1, 2019.
- To approve the request of St. Andrew's Church in Longmeadow, Massachusetts to allow St. Andrew's to make a onetime principal payment in the amount up to \$22,500 to United Bank in connection with United Bank's August 19, 2015 loan to St. Andrew's. In all other respects the June, 2016 agreement between the Diocese and St. Andrew's in connection with both the 2016 loan between United Bank and St. Andrew's secured by the Diocesan Line of Credit with United Bank shall remain in full force and effect.
- To approve the sale of the property owned by Church of the Epiphany, Wilbraham and recorder as lot # 2187 in the town's GIS database on the following basis: Church buildings and approximately 10 +/- acres of land for a price not less than \$300,000; and the remaining 10 +/- acres of land for a price not less than \$120,000.
- To approve the request of Grace Episcopal Church, Oxford, Massachusetts to borrow up to \$30,000.00 from Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud  
President, Standing Committee  
November 5, 2019