

**To the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
Annual Report of the Standing Committee
November 2019 – October 2020**

Members:

The following are the elected members of the Standing Committee for 2019 – 2020:

Clerical Members:

- Rev. Carolyn Jones, Christ Church, Fitchburg (2023)
- Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud, Church of the Atonement, Westfield (2021)
- Rev. Samuel Smith, St. Paul's, Stockbridge (2020)
- Rev. Tanya Wallace, All Saints', South Hadley (2023).

Lay Members:

- Mr. Peter Kite, St Stephens', Westborough (2020)
- Ms. Phyllis Larson, Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield (2022)
- Ms. Christina Loy, Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, (2023)
- Ms. Wende Wheeler, St Andrew's, Longmeadow (2021)

General:

As the council of advice to the bishop, especially concerning matters of ordination and real estate, the Standing Committee has met in person three times and by Zoom Meeting four times during the period. We also conduct appropriate votes by email in a manner approved by the chancellor. Our proceedings are recorded by minutes reflecting each meeting and Zoom conference. Votes taken by email, which must be unanimous without abstention or absence, are confirmed at the following meeting. Minutes, and certificates of votes are kept on file at Diocesan House.

During the period since the last Diocesan Convention, we met in person on November 14, 2019, January 7, 2020, March 5, 2020; we met by Zoom Meeting on November 26, 2019, May 14, 2020, June 18, 2020, and September 24, 2020. 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. A summary of our actions follow.

On November 14, 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 Rev. Susan B Hayes as Bishop Diocesan of Southern Virginia.
- The Rev. Dr. Lennon Yuan-Chang as Bishop Diocesan of Taiwan.
- The Rt. Rev. Mark Allen Von Keovering as Bishop Diocesan of Lexington, KY.
- The Rev. Canon Frank S. Logue as Bishop Diocesan of Georgia.
- The Rev. Deon K Johnson as Bishop Diocesan of Missouri.
- The Rev. Paulsen Reed as Bishop Diocesan of Oklahoma.

- The Rev. Craig Loya as Bishop Diocesan of Minnesota.
- The Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry as Bishop Diocesan Alabama.
- The Rev. Diana Akiyama as Bishop Diocesan of Oregon.
- The Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler as Bishop Diocesan of Wyoming

Ordained Ministry in Western Massachusetts

We recommended Rev. Deacon Eric Elly for ordination to the priesthood.

We recommended Kevin-Antonio Smallwood for ordination to the transitional diaconate and subsequently for ordination to the priesthood.

We recommended Dianne Wilson, Jason Burns and Racheal Essing for ordination to the vocational diaconate.

We recommended Joel Martinez and Phillip Shearin for ordination to the transitional diaconate.

We recommended that Peter Feltman-Mahan be admitted as a candidate for ordination.

Property Matters in our Diocese

We approved the sale of property that had been used by these parishes:

- The rectory at St Thomas' Church in Auburn.
- The Church buildings of St Thomas' Church, Auburn.
- The buildable lot of land which was part of the grounds of Epiphany Church, Wilbraham.

We approved the request of SCEC Southwick to restructure their outstanding debt.

We approved a request from Grace Church, Amherst to grant an easement on their property to Eversource.

We approved the request of Good Shepherd, West Springfield to use up to \$5000 of the proceeds of the sale of the church building for the parking lot project at Grace Lutheran Church, where Good Shepherd is "nesting" in shared ministry.

Approved the de-consecration of the property know as St Luke's Church, Lanesboro.

The 119th Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts:

We approved that the following priests, who are canonically but not geographically resident within the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, be seated with voice and limited vote:

Rev. Nancy Ballie Strong; Rev. Pam Mott; Rev. Mac Murray.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud
President, Standing Committee