

Report of the Standing Committee to the 133th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Colorado - October 8-10, 2020

Purpose: The Standing Committee serves three primary purposes: 1) It has canonical functions and responsibilities per the national canons of the Episcopal Church as well local canons; 2) It functions as the legal Board of Directors of the non-profit Colorado corporation known as "The Bishop and Diocese of Colorado;" 3) It serves as a council of advice for the Bishop regarding the life and ministry of the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

In its canonical capacity, the Standing Committee serves as an arm of the Episcopal Church charged with consenting to the election of Bishops and it interviews every candidate for ordination as part of its responsibility to certify to the Bishop their completion of the requirements for ordination.

In its corporate capacity, the Standing Committee approves the annual budget, approves Diocesan policies and compliance, approves requests for property alienation and encumbrance, approves board appointments to Diocesan Institutions, and communicates with congregations as needed.

In its role as the council of advice to the Bishop, the Standing Committee participates in both strategic planning and ongoing review of policy and finance for the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

Current Membership: Officers:

The Rev. Terry McGugan, High Plains Region, Christ Church, Denver, President
The Rev. Amy Lythgoe, Front Range Region, St. John's, Boulder, Vice-President
Mr. Jim Wolfe, High Plains Region, Good Shepherd, Centennial, Secretary
The Rev Kim Seidman, Chaplain (Non-member)

Members:

The Rev. Charles Brumbaugh, NW Region, St. John's, Breckenridge
Ms. Jan Johnson, NW Region, St. Peter's, Basalt
The Rev. Lucas Grubbs, SW Region, St. John's, Ouray
Mr. Ken Rodgers, SW Region, St. Patrick's, Pagosa Springs
The Rev. Jeremiah Williamson, Sangre de Cristo Region, Grace and St. Stephen's
Colorado Springs
Mr. Harry Tourney, Sangre de Cristo Region, Ascension, Pueblo
Mr. Rick Parker, Front Range Region, All Saints, Loveland

Members ending terms:

The Rev. Charles Brumbaugh, NW Region, St. John's, Breckenridge
Mr. Jim Wolfe, High Plains Region, Good Shepherd, Centennial, Secretary
Mr. Harry Tourney, Sangre de Cristo Region, Ascension, Pueblo

Structure: Each of the five regions of the Diocese elect two members, one clergy and one lay, to serve a term of three years, with the possibility of re-election to one additional term. After a second consecutive term, a member must serve a year's hiatus before being eligible to run for any additional terms.

In addition to the ten elected members, The Standing Committee includes two ex-officio members: the Bishop and the Diocesan Treasurer, Jay Swope. The Diocesan Chancellor, the Director of the Colorado Episcopal Foundation, and members of the Bishop's Office attend meetings as their expertise and experience are needed.

The Standing Committee each year elects a President, Vice-President, and Secretary from among its members, who serve, along with the Bishop and the Diocesan treasurer, as an Executive committee to respond to corporate needs and undertake delegated duties between regular meetings.

The Standing Committee typically meets five times a year for a day and a half, usually in January, March, May, August, and November. We also participate in the Annual Convention in October and conduct an annual two-day planning and visioning Retreat during the Spring. Meetings include time spent in spiritual formation as inspiration and guidance for the deliberations that follow. During the months of May thru August 2020, the Standing Committee has met monthly to act as Council of Advice for the Bishop during rapidly changing circumstances precipitated by our present responses to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Primary Strategic Issue: Since the last Convention, the most important strategic issue to which the Standing Committee has devoted considerable time has been acting as a Council of Advice to the Bishop as she and her office have developed direction, guidelines, and vision for the parishes of the Diocese in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the summer, the committee has also begun to discern long-term strategies to address the possible financial, structural, and pastoral ramifications of the Covid-19 pandemic on the life of the Church. The Standing Committee sees its primary role for the foreseeable future, apart from its canonical and non-profit board responsibilities, as working alongside our Bishop to strategically discern the way forward during these uncertain times, to assure the continuation of the mission of the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

Close: Each member of the Standing Committee feels privileged to serve and exercise with the Bishop, the Regions, and Congregations the responsibility for the continuing health of the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

Submitted by The Rev. Terry McGugan, Standing Committee President