

Job Description: Member of the Standing Committee

The Episcopal Church in Colorado

Overview:

The Standing Committee serves as the Bishop's council of advice and has canonical responsibilities related to episcopal elections, property matters, and providing consent for certain episcopal actions both within the Episcopal Church in Colorado and across The Episcopal Church.

Canonical Basis:

This role is grounded in the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly:

- Title I, Canon 12: Of Standing Committees:

https://www.episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/acts/acts_resolution-complete.pl?resolution=2006-A141

- Title III, Canons 6 and 11: Concerning Ordination and Consecration of Bishops:

<https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/21091>

- Title IV: Ecclesiastical Discipline: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/11/Title-IV-2022.pdf> (link may not be active)

Responsibilities:

1. Ecclesiastical Authority:

- Serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of the Bishop (Canon I.12.3). due to resignation, retirement, incapacity, disability, disciplinary procedure, or death.

2. Ordination Process:

- Give consent for candidates seeking ordination to the diaconate or priesthood (Canons III.6, III.8).
- Interview and assess readiness of postulants, candidates, and ordinands.

3. Episcopal Elections:

- Provide formal consent for the election of bishops in other dioceses (Canon III.11.3).

4. Property Matters:

- Approve any sale, lease, or encumbrance of property held by the Diocese or any parish, as required by diocesan and national canons (Canon I.7.3). Note that the Bishop must also consent to such transactions and the Bishop acts independently of the SC on these matters.

5. Note:

- Canon 9.6 is outdated and purports to give some duties to the SC that have been superceded by other canons.

6. Diocesan Leadership and Consultation:

- Serve as a council of advice to the Bishop.
- Actively participate in meetings for matters affecting the life and mission of the Diocese (specifically in preparation for the annual Diocesan convention)

Expectations:

- Attend Standing Committee meetings (monthly or as scheduled).
- Prepare for meetings by reviewing documents and prayerfully considering decisions.
- Collaborate with fellow committee members and diocesan leadership.
- Adhere to confidentiality requirements regarding sensitive matters.
- Engage in ongoing spiritual and leadership formation.

Term of Service:

- Members are elected to a three-year term at Diocesan Convention. Terms may be staggered to ensure continuity.

Eligibility:

- Must be a communicant in good standing in a parish or mission of the Diocese of Colorado. (See Constitution Article IV, Sec. 2)
- Clergy and lay members are elected separately as provided by diocesan canons.

Commitment:

- Estimated time commitment is 4–8 hours per month, with occasional additional time required for special matters (e.g., bishop elections,).

Contact:

- For more information or to express interest in serving, please contact the Office of the Bishop at info@episcopalcolorado.org.