

# Standing Committee Orientation

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Rev. 7 July 2025 by LRH II

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## Organization

1. The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Church in Colorado is governed by the National Canons of Episcopal Church, the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in Colorado, and the Bylaws of the Colorado nonprofit corporation known as The Bishop and Diocese of Colorado. and The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Colorado.
2. In most dioceses, there is an Executive Council that is responsible for its corporate and business affairs, and a separate Standing Committee that is responsible for canonical matters (chiefly ordination and real property alienation). In the Diocese of Colorado, the Standing Committee performs both functions and, under its articles of incorporation and corporate bylaws, constitutes the board of directors of the Colorado nonprofit corporation known as “The Bishop and Diocese of Colorado”.
3. There are ten elected members of the Standing Committee: two representatives, one lay and one clergy, from each of the five Regions.
4. In the absence of a bishop due to incapacity, disability, discipline, resignation, retirement or death, the Standing Committee serves as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese.
5. The following has taken place in practice: The ten elected Standing Committee members also are ex-officio members of their respective Regional Executive Committees and attend those meetings. When there is a vacancy for their Regional Missioner, the two Standing Committee members serve jointly in that capacity and share the responsibility for organizing and chairing meetings of their Regional Executive Committee until the office is filled.
6. Standing Committee members are nominated at Regional Convocations and elected by the Annual Diocesan Convention to serve a three-year term, to which they may be re-nominated and re-elected for one more three-year term. Terms are staggered to provide for some continuity while introducing new leadership. The Diocesan Standing Committee shall fill vacancies in its membership occurring between Diocesan Conventions until the

next Diocesan Convention. The Diocesan Convention shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

7. In addition to the ten elected members, the Standing Committee includes two ex-officio members, the Bishop and the Treasurer of the Diocese. All twelve members have full seat, voice and vote when considering corporate and business matters.
8. When acting as a Council of Advice, the Standing Committee and the bishop act in a particularly collaborative and mutual manner. The term, “spiritual elders” has been used to describe the advisory role of the Standing Committee.
9. Members of the bishop’s senior staff often attend Standing Committee meetings. Those senior staff members usually include the: Canon to the Ordinary for Mission & Operations; Canon to the Ordinary for Formation & Pastoral Care; Canon to the Ordinary for Transition & Wellness; and Canon to the Ordinary for Communications & Evangelism. The Standing Committee also appoints a chaplain, who is responsible for the time spent in spiritual formation at meetings and on retreat.
10. Should the Standing Committee need to conduct business in executive session, attendance can be limited accordingly.
11. The Standing Committee each year elects three officers from among its ten elected members: President, Vice-President, and Secretary who, along with the Bishop and Treasurer, make up the Executive Committee. Those three officers serve as the officers of the non-profit corporation. The Treasurer of the diocese serves as the Treasurer of the corporation.
12. The Executive Committee is responsible for preparing the agenda for each meeting and, between meetings, for conducting business not requiring action by the whole Standing Committee. The Standing Committee may delegate specific decisions to the Executive Committee. Members wishing to add items to the agenda shall contact the president well in advance of an Executive Committee meeting.
13. The Standing Committee meets monthly in-person and on Zoom. There are ten “regular” monthly meetings plus two semi-annual retreats, one in the fall and one in the spring. The semi-annual retreats are typically in November and April. Monthly meetings are typically held from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Semi-annual retreats are typically Friday afternoon until

Saturday afternoon at Cathedral Ridge. Costs associated with attending Standing Committee meetings are covered through the Standing Committee budget.

14. In some dioceses, Standing Committee meetings are chaired by the Bishop; however, in the Diocese of Colorado, Standing Committee meetings are chaired by the President.
15. In addition to their regular meetings, Standing Committee members also attend the Annual Convention where they have full seat, voice and vote. The Convention is usually held on the first weekend in October and rotates among four locations around the Diocese.
16. The annual calendar of meetings is prepared in advance of the new year with the advice of the Bishop to enable the Bishop to attend all meetings.

#### Roles of the Standing Committee, including ex-officio members

##### Fiduciary Responsibilities:

1. Present an annual budget for approval by Diocesan Convention
2. Oversee management of funds

#### Roles reserved to the elected members of the Standing Committee

##### Canonical Responsibilities:

1. Interview each candidate for ordination and certify that all documents are complete
2. Consent to the election of Episcopal Bishops
3. Oversee disciplinary proceedings
4. Serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of a Bishop, as defined in Section 4 above
5. Consent to alienation and encumbrance of real property (using the Property Advisory Committee, a sub-committee of the Standing Committee for advice); note that the Bishop must independently also consent to alienation and encumbrances
6. Serve as a Council of Advice to the Bishop

### Responsibilities of The Standing Committee when serving as a Council of Advice

(as described in Article II of the Bylaws of the Bishop and Diocese of Colorado, a Colorado Nonprofit Corporation) and the Standing Committee

1. To assist in supporting the Bishop in framing and implementing a shared sustainable vision.
2. To establish appropriate policies and guidelines in response to Diocesan and General Convention resolutions, and for other needs as they arise.
3. To allocate an appropriate level of funding to accomplish the mission and vision of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado.
4. To implement a process of helpful reflection and dialogue with and among the Office of the Bishop Staff and all advisory commissions and committees established by the Bishop.
5. To foster open communication and dialogue among all members of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, especially the clergy, laity, parishes, and regions in order to seek a greater sense of unity, growth, and well-being.
6. To model and facilitate healthy organizational behaviors among ourselves based on values of Christian love, healing, respect, restraint, and reformation.
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### Responsibilities of individual members of the Standing Committee

1. Focus on Strategic Vision, Planning, and Organization.
2. Serve as a communications link between the Standing Committee and their Region by providing reports from the Diocese to their Region and from their Region to the Diocese.
3. Attend all meetings of the Standing Committee and the Regional Executive Committee you represent.
4. Adhere to the principles outlined in “How We Choose to Work Together”.
5. Follow email protocols: to be determined.