

**Standing Committee transcript of video report for 115th Diocesan Convention
Sept 19-20, 2020
Submitted 9/1/2020**

Nancy Tanner, President

I have had the privilege of serving as President of your Standing Committee for the past 17 months. It has been a time of organization, reflection, and discernment surrounding the bishop search process and the covid-19 pandemic. It has also been a time of looking to the future with our hopes and dreams.

Before I begin with the Report of Standing Committee, I would like to introduce you to our members: Serving as Vice President is Rev. Lyn Briggs, Vicar of Resurrection Church in Centerville, Kurt Cook, a member of the Cathedral Church of St Mark, serves as Secretary, debi Kuwada a member of All Saints, Rev. Gabriel Atem assistant Rector at All Saints and serves the Sudanese congregation, and Rev. Isabel Gonzalez assistant at Good Shepherd. Our ex-officio members are Bishop Scott Hayashi, Canon Steve Hutchinson, Chancellor of the diocese, Rev. Dave Sakrison, Secretary of Convention, and Angie Rogers, our Administrative Assistant.

Some of you might not be aware of the duties and canonical responsibilities of the Standing Committee. So let me read through those quickly and then speak of how we have fulfilled those responsibilities.

Canon 21

The Standing Committee shall act as the Bishop's council of advice;

It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee to give consent for the ordination and consecration of bishops in other dioceses.

it shall be the duty of the Standing Committee to give consent for ordinations within the Diocese.

It shall be the duty of the Standing Committee, acting with the consent of the Bishop, to give consent for the encumbrance or alienation of all real property held or managed by the Diocese, Congregations, Institutions, or the Corporation.

The elected members of the Standing Committee shall serve as members of the Board of Trustees of the Corporation of the Episcopal Church in Utah.

The Standing Committee shall report to the Council the anticipated distribution from the perpetual trust for the budget of the Diocese for the next year and report the same to the Convention.

The Standing Committee shall perform such other work as it may be directed to do by the Convention or the Bishop.

The Standing Committee meets monthly to carry out those canonical responsibilities. Each meeting we receive and discuss reports from the Chancellor and the Bishop as standing agenda items.

During the last 17 months SC has given our consent to the Election of 13 Bishop

We have given to the Bishop our recommendation for ordinations of the following individuals within our Diocese.

- Recommended Alison Peterson as Candidate for Holy Orders and then subsequently recommended Alison for ordination to the diaconate. Alison was raised up from All Saints, ordained in Feb 2020, and continues to serve as Deacon there.

- We Recommended Deacon Brian Rallison for Ordination to the Priesthood. Brian was raised up from St Pauls SLC. Ordained in September 2019 and is serving as Rector at 2 parishes: Holy Innocents St Pauls /and Grace Church and the Incarnation in the Diocese of Pa.
- Recommended Deacon Elizabeth Ann Brooks Harden for Ordination to the Priesthood. Elizabeth is from Good Shepherd She was ordained in November 2019 and serves as Priest in Charge at St Luke's Brockport, NY in the Diocese of Rochester
- Last month Suzanne Miller was recommended as Candidate for Holy Order. Suzanne is from Good Shepherd

Among others items The Standing Committee also

- Approved the distribution from the Perpetual Trust for the 2020 Diocesan budget of \$3,355,294
- Approved the Resolution to combine the congregations of The Episcopal Church of St. Francis and San Francisco
- Approved the policy on Use of Proceeds from the Sale of Surplus Property
- Approved Housing Allowance Resolutions for the Clergy of the Diocese of Utah for 2020
- Approved the Resolution to combine the congregations of St. Stephen's and San Esteban
- Approved the Resolution to form a Diocesan Property Committee

In July 2019 the Standing Committee agreed to begin yearly visits to all congregations in the Dioceses of Utah. The goal was to meet with each congregation at least once every 12 months with representation from both Standing Committee and Diocesan Council. We began our visits in September 2019 and met with 9 congregations until March 2020 when church services were suspended due to Covid19.

Our visits enriched our connection with our fellow Episcopalians by giving us the opportunity to have conversations and answer questions. We look forward to resuming our visitation schedule as soon as we may all gather again.

In August 2019, When the Standing Committee proposed sponsoring people to go to the first Rooted in Jesus conference in January 2020, we approved the use of the 150th Anniversary Project Funds to cover the costs of sending up to 40 lay persons. However, because of the overwhelming response of grant submissions within the 1st 2 weeks, we amended our proposal and approved \$100,000 to cover expenses for lay attendees. Approximately 90 people, 15 clergy among them, representing 18 congregations, attended the conference in Atlanta.

The expectations were that people would get excited about Jesus, be exposed to creative ideas from around the wider church and bring home ideas to implement in their congregations and shared with all in the diocese

After the conference, the nation began to shut down little by little due to the coronavirus. Plans for sharing learnings at an April convention faded, but the learnings deepened as the participants reported they found themselves even more Rooted in Jesus. This was a good investment in the faith of the people of the Diocese of Utah with more to come from our many conference attendees.

In October 2019, Bishop Hayashi announce his resignation as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Utah effective October 2021. With that announcement, the Standing Committee began its task of overseeing and shepherding the diocese through the transition and election of a new bishop in accordance with our canons.

- We met regularly to build the necessary foundation to launch a bishop search and transition process and to lay the groundwork for calling the next bishop.
- On Oct 3rd, we met with the Rt Rev Todd Ousley, Bishop for the Office of Pastoral Development in the Presiding Bishop's office

- In November, we hired The Very Rev Ron Clingenpeel as search consultant to guide us through this transition
- In November, the bishop search website was developed and launched in conjunction with our Diocesan communications department
- In December, Rev Lynn Briggs drafted a search theology and prayer for the search of a new bishop that was distributed to all congregations.
- The Nominating Committee was elected in January 2020 and began their work with an Organizing and Training Retreat in Feb.
- An election calendar/timeline was developed in conjunction with the Nominating Committee
- Standing Committee developed a budget for the search
- The Transition Committee was appointed in May

In April, the Standing Committee agreed to the Nominating Committee's recommendation of a 60-90 day shift in the calendar due to the uncertainty around the covid-19 pandemic.

In July, with the ongoing effects of covid-19 we approved another date adjustment of approximately 9 months. Our primary reason for making this decision was to ensure the integrity of the discernment process for possible candidates. You will hear more about this from the Nominating Committee. We are currently in communication with the Presiding Bishop's office to confirm a new date for the consecration of our new bishop.

We are most grateful to Bishop Hayashi for his generosity to stay with us until that time.

The coronavirus pandemic has turned our world upside down. We haven't been together inside our buildings for over 5 months, however we can see each other's smiling faces on zoom! Classes and worship and zoom happy hours can include participants from around the globe. And people from ALL over the Diocese of Utah --- can connect with each other without the difficulties of travel. The Standing Committee proposes that, following Diocesan Convention, we host a Community Conversation on zoom once a month --- no agenda, but perhaps a question about faith and our Episcopal tradition to explore.

Please watch for details which we will send to your congregation so that you can join in the conversation.

In closing, I would like to share a couple of quotes:

Corrie ten Boom

'Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God. '

Gandhi

'The future depends on what you do today.'

So, let us be mindful of our work today and move forward into the future with our known God.

Thank you