

Committee on Governance 2017 Report to Convention

The Committee on Governance (CoG) was formed by the 2010 Convention to provide an independent body commissioned to make specific recommendations regarding best practices, alignment with canons and existing governance structure meeting emerging needs. Its six members appointed equally by the Standing Committee and the Executive Council, and overseen by the Standing Committee, are asked by various bodies within the Diocese for recommendations in specific areas and also initiate recommendations by comparing canons to actual practices and analyzing the functionality of the Diocese on the whole. The Committee on Governance has no authority other than to make recommendations, which are presented in writing to the appropriate Diocesan bodies. We ask questions such as, *Are we in alignment with our own canons? How might our canons better reflect how we function? If so, how might the canons be changed to reflect a new reality? Is there a departure from our functionality and what is stated in the canons? Are our Diocesan canons at variance with our National canons?*

Over the last year, we addressed and responded to requests from governance bodies and the Bishop, and have on-going work to which we are in the process of responding. These include canon reviews, relevant studies, proposals and recommendations. Following are our key accomplishments:

Role and Authority of Interim Rector: Given the number of parishes in transition and some issues encountered over the past couple of years, the Standing Committee asked the CoG to explore the role and authority of interim rectors/vicars in the Diocese. We are in the process of reviewing the canons of 20 other dioceses as well as the canons of the Episcopal Church. The goal is to provide clarification in order to support interim rectors/vicars and vestries in cultivating a trusting, mutually understanding relationship so that they can move the congregation forward as a team.

Census Forms: To address recruitment needs of the Nominations Committee, a database had been graciously created and maintained by a member of our Diocese. This year, we not only facilitated the transfer of the database to the DioCal Communications group who agreed to take ownership of the tool and manage the data gathering protocol, we also recommended a database policy to the Executive Council. We expect that this will facilitate the identification, registry and recruitment of volunteers across the diocese to fill governance bodies while still protecting the privacy of individual Diocesan members.

In the coming year, we plan to focus on our continued work as an independent body assigned to assist the governing bodies of the Diocese in terms of best practices, including mechanisms for the Bishop's communications with the deaneries as well as deanery protocols.

Thanks to members of the committee for their work and dedication, which they took on in addition to responsibilities they have in their parishes. Also thanks to the Bishop, the Communications group and other governance bodies for their collaboration. It has been a pleasure working with all.

Ade Adekunle
Chair, CoG