

## Standing Committee Report to Diocesan Convention 2015

The Standing Committee, a body of four lay and four clerical members elected by Diocesan Convention, serves as one of the three primary governing bodies of the diocese between conventions and acts as the Bishop's council of advice and consent in several key areas of life of the diocese and wider church, including congregational status, property, and ordination. Meeting monthly, we deliberate closely with our bishop and the bishop's staff and help sustain the healthy governance of our life together in Christ throughout this diocese.

We are grateful this year to report that our collegial relationship with Bishop Marc and Executive Council is stronger than ever. Much of our work during the last twelve months has followed the economic and missional fortunes of our congregations. While we have worked with our leadership to face and resolve some challenging situations, we have also had the great pleasure of helping welcome one new congregation to the diocese and the Episcopal Church, New Skellig in Fairfax, and seeing another, Christ the Lord, Pinole, move from mission to parish status. We also followed the ongoing development of mission initiatives in our midst, including the ongoing collaboration at Holy Spirit Church in Contra Costa, the vision unfolding at Trinity-St. Peter's, San Francisco, and the Braid Mission in the Mission Bay and Dogpatch neighborhoods.

Looking forward, we plan to continue to deepen our communication and work alongside the Commission on Ministry as we adapt together to the growing diversity of paths by which our candidates for Holy Orders approach ordained ministry. We will also continue to work through the Committee on Governance to identify areas where our diocesan governance can best adapt to the changing needs of our people and our diverse communities and institutions in their carrying out the Gospel.

I am personally grateful to each and every member of the Standing Committee this year for their diligence, collegiality, and prayerful, passionate commitment to the life of the Church. It has been a privilege to serve alongside them and our bishop.

The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer, BSG  
Standing Committee President