



**THE STANDING COMMITTEE
Annual Report to Diocesan Convention
27-28 October, 2017**

The Standing Committee is a body of four lay and four clerical members elected by the convention. We serve as one of the three governing bodies of the Diocese alongside the Bishop and Convention. In our role, we act as the Bishop's council of advice and consent within key areas of importance in the life of this diocese and the wider church including congregational status, property and ordination among others. Our regular meeting schedule is monthly except August.

An outline of key accomplishments for the 2016-17 year is included with this report. The narrative will focus on three areas. The first will highlight the past year as one of great transition for both this committee and the diocese. Each year, we transition two members off and welcome two new ones. At the end of last year, we lost an additional two members to clergy moving out of state. Fifty percent of Standing Committee members were new this year! In addition, all four of the members who left were women creating a multi-year challenge to return gender diversity to this body. At the same time, there were major changes in key diocesan staff positions including Formation Ministries, the Communications Group and the Executive Assistant among others. Finally, we all lived through the painful decline and loss of our beloved Cn. Stefani. It was, indeed, a challenging year of transition! However, we are better and stronger and well positioned for 2018 having done this together.

The second area of highlight has to do with our Episcopal Institutions. Some of us will remember the year of 2017 as the year of litigation and judgment. It is fair to say everything that has come between the Episcopal Diocese of California and Episcopal Senior Communities has taken a toll on both sides. The time to move past this is now. We are a family with a common purpose and mission. In 2017, the Standing Committee initiated a process to renew and grow our relationships with the work of our amazing Episcopal Institutions. We met with four institutions this year including Episcopal Community Services, St. Dorothy's Rest, the Bishop's Ranch and Clausen House. We will continue a renewal schedule with other institutions in 2018 and are implementing a process to stay very connected with all of this important work annually.

Finally, we continued our focus and commitment started last year by my predecessor Lori Walton to shorten Standing Committee meetings to not more than 2.5 hours. Why is this important? Four to five hour meetings are intimidating and exhausting for existing members and a great hindrance to recruiting new clergy and lay members, especially the lay order. It is not an easy task given the scope of our responsibilities. However, we are committed to the continuation of this change in meeting length without compromising the quality of our work in the diocese.

It is not possible to adequately thank my colleagues and friends in this body for such gifted and passionate service to our church. They will be appropriately recognized at convention. It has been my distinct privilege to serve among and with them these past four years and I will always remember.

Ron Hermanson
Standing Committee President, 2016-2017

2016-17 STANDING COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Partnership with CoM

- Testimonial for ordination reviews/consents – Eight (8) including three (3) to the Transitional Diaconate and five (5) to the Priesthood
- Candidate interviews/recommendations – Five (5) YTD 9/30 with none planned for October

Parishes, Missions and Institutions

- Trinity+St. Peter's/SF – hosted the third (of three) annual, time-line meetings with the Priest-in-Charge and Vestry to review progress of combining two congregations, the building retro-fit and fund-raising. A second presentation later in the year focused on the potential year end decision to move from parish to mission status. In separate action, consented to a space use lease agreement with the music group Chanticleer.
- St. Luke's/Walnut Creek – granted a requested change of status from parish to mission.
- Christ Church Sei Ko Kai – consented to a lease agreement with the Alta Plaza Preschool. In separate action later in the year, consented to a solar panel lease agreement.
- All Souls/Berkeley – approved the redevelopment of property to re-purpose for housing and parish use.
- St. Clare's/Pleasanton – consent to a parking lot agreement with Chabad/Pleasanton
- Christ Church/Alameda – consent to a lease agreement with the Head Start Preschool
- St. Paul's/Walnut Creek – consent to a ground lease option (retroactive to 11/15) and consent to exercise of first amendment in 2017 for development of St. Paul's Commons
- Provided support for the Bishop and Chancellor through the year-long courtroom litigation and judgment with ESC. Completion of this phase is expected by 10/31/17.
- Approved three (3) new Board members for the Episcopal Impact Fund per Canon XVII.
- Initiated a multi-year renewal of Diocesan Institutional relationships with SC. Met with four (4) institutions in 2017. Reviewing canonical requirements for Board composition and a request to include SC in routing of an annual report.

Communications

- Provided liaisons to eight (8) diocesan boards and committees including Commission on Ministry, Executive Council, Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees, Diocesan Institutions, Committee on Governance, Nominating Committee, Executive Compensation Committee and Episcopal Elections. However, the Nominating and Executive Compensation Committees had little to no activity throughout the past year.
- Continued monthly conference calls between SC Officers and Bishop and the monthly agenda slot for the Bishop's office on the SC meeting agenda to facilitate transparency and communications.
- Prepared the annual report of SC to be presented at diocesan convention

Education and Training

- Annual SC planning retreat and orientation at St. Dorothy's Rest/Sebastopol (11/11-12, 2016)
- Occasional reviews of one or more sections of the Canons as they may apply to a current SC item of business

Miscellaneous

- Continued focus on the initiative started in 2016 to shorten SC meeting times to 2.5 hours.
- Consent to the request to call for an election of one (1) Coadjutor Bishop
- Consented to the election of five (5) Bishop, one (1) Suffragan Bishop and one (1) Coadjutor Bishop candidates
- Laid out a 2018 proposed leadership slate for a vote by the new SC at October convention
- Hosted the Chair of CoG for an annual committee report and approval of a proposed 2017 agenda
- Approved the annual nomination of church attorney for 2017
- Joined Executive Council and the Bishop's senior staff for the annual, joint meeting and dinner (12/16)
- Consented to the Renunciation of Holy Orders by one member of the clergy
- Appoint a new member of CoG for 2017 and appoint the Chair
- Approved a proposed slate of three candidates for the Regional Disciplinary Board of the Episcopal Church
- Initiated an ad hoc project to document SC member roles and responsibilities with special focus on the officers. Draft results are now available and may be posted on the DioCal website when finalized.