Report of the Standing Committee

December, 2016 – September, 2017

The Standing Committee consists of four lay and four clergy members of the Diocese elected by the annual Diocesan Convention and authorized by the Canons of the Episcopal Church as the Bishop’s Council of Advice.

As the Bishop’s Council of Advice, the Standing Committee

- offers confidential support and recommendations to the Bishop on various matters, which vary according to the needs of the day.
- coordinates the Episcopal Mutual Ministry Review (EMMR). This year’s EMMR was held in May with representatives from the elected bodies of the diocese as well as at large individuals. Those participating represented the broadest possible cross-section geographically, age-wise, lay and clergy. A summary of the EMMR’s work is available through the diocesan web page.
- makes recommendations to the Bishop for those in the ordination process. The Commission on Ministry shepherds people from their aspirant status through all the steps of discernment: postulancy, candidacy, and ordination. The Standing Committee’s role begins when postulants apply to become candidates. The Standing Committee’s task is to track the paperwork and offer another set of impressions to the Bishop. The committee receives recommendations from the Commission on Ministry and adds its own recommendation to the Bishop, who makes the final determination at each stage in the process.

Since the 2016 Diocesan Convention, the committee has interviewed 8 people for ordination, and 6 more for candidacy, for a total of 14 interviews.

As the only nationally mandated committee in each diocese, the Standing Committee also represents the wider church in the election and consecration of bishops. In order to be consecrated, all bishops-elect must receive the consent from a majority of Diocesan Bishops and Standing Committees from across the Episcopal Church. Since the 2016 Diocesan Convention, the Standing Committee has consented to 11 episcopal elections.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. David Sweeney, President of Standing Committee