Minutes

of the

Standing Committee

**Date:** 10/3/17

**Place:** Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, PA

**Members Present:** Kate Harrigan, John Harwood, Greg Hinton, Barbara Hutchinson, Bruce Johnson, Sanford Schwartz, John Stevenson, Amy Swiernik, Linda Watkins, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer; Bishop Scanlan; Chad Linder (Canon of Finance and Operations)

* **Call to Order:** 2:03 p.m.
* **Opening Prayer:** John Harwood
* **Minutes:** The minutes of the 8/1/17 meeting have already been approved via email
* **Departing Members:** Barbara Hutchinson offered thanks and prayer for Committee members who are retiring (Churchill Pinder) or whose terms are about to expire (Greg Hinton, Bruce Johnson, Sanford Schwartz, Linda Watkins).
* **Consents to Election:**
* The Rev. Kevin S. Brown as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Delaware
* The Rev. Brian Lee Cole as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of East Tennessee
* **St. John’s Lancaster:** Chad Linder reported that St. John’s is now in full compliance with the terms of the Binding Agreement, and he recommended Committee approval of the proposed Line of Credit. Greg Hinton moved to approve; Amy Swiernik seconded, and the motion passed unanimously (with one member recused).
* **Electing New Members and Officers:**
* Barbara solicited names of clergy to replace Churchill Pinder for the duration of his term.

* The Bishop inquired about the background and current uncertainty over the Standing Committee’s process for electing new officers.

The process has been complicated in recent years by canonical changes that allow for 1) the election of lay members to the Presidency, and 2) the re-election of Committee members to a second three-year term. In 2012-13, the Committee responded to these changes by agreeing to elect a President of one order (clergy or lay) and a Vice President/President Elect of the other order—with the proviso, designed to provide for flexibility and/or continuity, that these officers would be eligible for re-election to the same positions in the following year. Since the current President is stepping down and the Vice President has declined the Presidency for 2017-18, the Committee must decide how to proceed after the Annual Convention.

In the course of discussion, Committee members expressed some perplexity and identified some problems with the process as it stands. They also wondered about the current practice of meeting to elect new officers immediately after the adjournment of the Annual Convention. Barbara suggested that we might conduct a more informed election via email in the week after the Convention. She has gathered the names of ongoing members who are willing to stand for the Presidency, and will prepare for the election by sending out profiles of the candidates. The Committee can review and address the other problems of its election process in future meetings.

* **Bishop’s Report:**
* The Bishop commended Barbara for her devoted service over the last few years, and discussed what would be required of the incoming President of the Standing Committee with respect to administrative abilities, commitment of time, and the relationship to the Bishop herself.
* The Bishop discussed her recent trip to Alaska, in particular her moving experience of the Episcopalian church community in the predominantly Native American town of Beaver in the northeastern part of the state
* **Candidates for Ordination:** The Committee interviewed and considered for approval several candidates for ordination
* Kyle Murphy, Candidate to the Priesthood

Greg Hinton moved approval; Bruce Johnson seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

* Michael Nailor, Candidate to the Vocational Diaconate

Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer moved to approve; Kate Harrigan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

* The Rev. John Shirley, Ordination to the Priesthood

Kate Harrigan moved approval; Amy Swiernik seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

* The Rev. Katie Pearson, Ordination to the Priesthood (via Skype).

Amy Swiernik moved to approve, Charlotte Weaver-Gelzer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

* **Closing Prayer:** John Stevenson
* **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:57 p.m.