

2020. What a year! 2020 will go down as one of the most remarkable years in recent history. Not only did we elect a new Bishop on the first ballot, we also turned into televangelists! While the COVID-19 pandemic caused us to shut down and embrace our inner tech geeks, the work of the Standing Committee continued.

According to The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, ARTICLE III.8 Standing Committee SEC. 4., “The Standing Committee shall be a council of advice to the Bishop, summoned by the Bishop whenever he or she shall desire. It may also advise the Bishop of its own accord. All proceedings of the Standing Committee, when acting as a council of advice to the Bishop, shall be confidential, unless the Bishop and Committee shall otherwise determine.” We were supported in ministry by Tracy Grigsby, Jillian Smith, Janis Greenbaum, and Zoom to name just a few.

As noted above, the most exciting event of the past year was the consecration of The Eleventh Bishop of Missouri in mid-June. The Rev. Deon Johnson came shortly before the country was shut down and was immediately thrown into the thick of ministry with Missouri. The pandemic meant that we were not able to celebrate Bishop Smith’s ministry among us or consecrate our new Bishop as we had hoped and planned. Bishop Johnson’s consecration was postponed for two months and was much scaled down but nonetheless joyful. I am truly grateful to Jane Klieve and her Transition Committee who worked harder, longer, and under changing circumstances to make the consecration of our new Bishop happen.

This past year, the Standing Committee gave consent to the election and consecration of eight (8) new bishops. We also approved four (4) individuals as candidates for the priesthood and the ordination of two of those persons (2) to the transitional Diaconate. Two (2) individuals were approved for ordination to the Priesthood and were ordained in the Spring. The ordination which took place here in Missouri was Bishop Deon’s first Episcopal act! We are excited about having so many wonderful individuals with their diversity of gifts coming through the formation process in the Diocese. They will be a blessing not only to Missouri, but to the church as well!

The Standing Committee also reviews changes to parish by-laws in consultation with the Chancellor. Church of the Good Shepherd/Town and Country and St. Timothy’s/Creve Coeur

submitted changes to their by-laws. As a friendly reminder, all proposed changes to a church's by-laws should be sent to the Secretary of Standing Committee in order to be presented to the Committee and the Chancellor.

Finally, we oversee the White Fund, which offers low or no interest loans to churches of the Diocese for major improvements and renovations. St. Paul's/Carondelet, St. Luke's/Manchester, and St. John's/Tower Grove all had revisions approved to their previous White Fund loans.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of the Standing Committee for the past two years. I am truly grateful for the trust you have placed in me, especially during a time of transition. I am completing my service on the Standing Committee, as are Mr. Brooke Forsythe and the Rev. Rebecca Ragland. Mr. Mike Fowlkes will serve as President, the Rev. Steve Lawler will serve as Vice-President, and Ms. Betty Bowersox will serve as Secretary. Their terms of service begin with the conclusion of this Convention and end with next year's Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Dawn-Victoria Mitchell, President