

- In Philadelphia in 1789, a Standing Committee was referenced in the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church. 232 years later, the Standing Committee in the Diocese of Missouri continues as a council of advice for the bishop. The committee, composed of six clergy and six lay members, serves for four years after their election at convention.
- The duties of the Standing Committee have grown over the years. The committee reviews the Bishop-Elect documentation for all dioceses in The Episcopal Church, following the election of a Bishop, and provides consent. The committee monitors the progress toward ordination of those called to Holy Orders in the Diocese of Missouri. This past year, The Standing Committee monitored the progress of eight candidates for the Diaconate and the Priesthood in the Diocese of Missouri. Carter Whitson and Lisa Fox, our “Formation Team”, facilitated the candidate interviews for those called to Holy Orders in our diocese. The full Standing Committee approved five Bishop consent requests from other Episcopal dioceses as well.
- When a parish requires a loan or grant, those requests come before the Standing Committee. The Kelton and Alma White Memorial Trust makes funding these requests possible. The Standing Committee has a team dedicated to reviewing the documentation for a grant or a loan request. Loretta Go has led this team with The Rev. Leslie Scoopmire, The Rev. Steve Lawler, and The Rev. Kevin McGrane as team members. The Standing Committee receives recommendations for approval or disapproval from this team, following their review of each grant, loan, lease, or property sale request.

Annually, the Standing Committee presents a leadership training workshop. Following consultation with Bishop Deon, two workshops, rather than the usual single workshop, were placed on our schedule. “Vestry University 101” was first up. The team of Betty Bowersox, The Rev. Emily Hillquist Davis, and Matt Jackson shifted the workshop from the typical in-person event, to one held exclusively on Zoom. With the assistance of our Communication Director Janis Greenbaum, the transition to Zoom was a success. Taking the lessons learned from that first event, the Leadership Team created a “Stewardship Workshop.” These training sessions presented an opportunity for parishioners in the diocese to learn from each other and share best practices. Both workshops were well received.

- This past year, the Diocese created two special projects that the Standing Committee supported and will monitor going forward. The committee funded The Rural Revitalization Pilot Project, which is designed to strengthen rural parishes. We also funded the Strategic Visioning initiative. The Rev. Kevin McGrane, The Rev. Leslie Scoopmire, Dean Kathie Adams Shepard, and The Rev. Shug Goodlow received regular reports from the Strategic Visioning Task Force, along with the full Standing Committee.
- Helping to organize the different work inputs to the committee were key members of the diocesan staff. We want to thank Tracy Grisby, Diocesan Administrative Assistant, Executive Assistant Jillian Smith, and The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall for their advice and counsel.

- Now, 232 years after its inception, we look forward to the continued work of the Standing Committee supporting our Bishop and the Diocese of Missouri, with The Rev. Steve Lawler as the incoming president.

Thank you.