

Standing Committee Report
Rick Harden
President Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of the Diocese met 22 times since last year's Diocesan Convention in July 2019 (16 times by videoconference and 6 in person).

The purpose of the Standing Committee is to stand as Body of Advice and Counsel to the Bishop, and to serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in the event there is no Bishop Diocesan. The Standing Committee also considers requests from other Episcopal Dioceses requesting consents for the elections of Bishops, and to consent the Consecration of Bishops-elect. Many of the concerns and materials the Standing Committee work with require both discretion and confidentiality, particularly with regards to personnel (primarily clergy) and properties, so the Committee meets in Closed Sessions.

In addition to those routine matters which come before the Standing Committee, the Committee works with the Bishop to review the spiritual health and vitality of the Diocese, consider whether or not to consent to the sale or purchase of real properties, consider and consent to the ordination of persons to the Diaconate and Presbyterate, and other duties as outlined in the Constitution and Canons of both TEC (The Episcopal Church) and the Diocese of Montana.

Members of the Standing Committee through December 2019 were: Cynthia Benkelman, All Saints, Columbia Falls; The Rev. Bradley Wrth, All Saints Columbia Falls; The Rev. Jean Collins, St. James, Lewistown; Mary Messina, St. James, Lewistown; The Rev. Donna Gleaves, St. Peter's Cathedral, Helena; and Rick Harden, St. Peter's Cathedral, Helena. During the 2019 Diocesan Convention, two new members were elected: Laura Catlin, St. James, Bozeman; and The Rev. Terri Grotzinger, Holy Spirit, Missoula. An extension was granted by the Convention for the two members who would typically rotate off following the Convention to remain on until the end of the December 2019. Those two individuals were The Rev. Donna Gleaves and Mary Messina. The extension was granted due to the nature of work the Standing Committee when it serves as Ecclesiastical Authority. The new members joined the committee meetings in November.

In January of this year, two members of the Standing Committee, Mark Clew and Bishop Marty began videoconference/phone interviews with four candidates for the new Camp Marshall Director. In February we narrowed the candidates down to two and interviewed the two at Camp Marshall on the 13th and 14th of February. These finalists were outstanding, and the decision was hard but we selected David Campbell as the new Camp Marshall Director.

Other items included consents for multiple Bishop-elect, staff transitions at Camp Marshall and the hiring of Mark Clew as the

Camp Marshall Site Manager, 2020 planning for Camp Marshall camping season, the development of an LOA (Letter of Agreement) for the hiring of Priests to be used as a template within the Diocese, and the Ordination of Bishop Marty.

The Standing Committee was proud to turn over the reins of the Diocese to Bishop Marty which allowed us to return to the more typical responsibilities of the Standing Committee.