

Standing Committee

The Role of a Committee Member

A member of the Standing Committee (SC) shall be a confirmed member of The Episcopal Church, resident in The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, and a communicant in good standing of a congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

There are eight positions on the SC, four clergy and four lay. All member terms are for four years. Diocesan Convention elects two members each year in November, one clergy and one lay. The standard diocesan process for applying to be elected is announced in June each year by the Office of the Bishop. The president and secretary are elected at the November meeting after Convention. The Constitution specifies how to fill a midterm vacancy. The president will produce and distribute the agenda a week before each meeting. The secretary will record the minutes and the president will distribute the document before or with the following month's agenda. A list of members' names are located on the diocesan website under Governance.

Members may expect to attend monthly meetings, augmented by the diocese's communications network. Meetings are customarily held on the third Friday morning of each month. Members may be invited to work on subcommittees. The bishop customarily attends SC meetings unless away at House of Bishops' meetings or on other necessary absences.

The Standing Committee:

Serves as the Bishop's Council of Advice, meeting on request of the Bishop or on the Committee's own accord;

Acts in matters such as recognizing new missions and missions becoming parishes, consenting to alienation or hypothecation of congregational or institutional property, consulting upon differences between a rector and vestry, approving the progress of individuals through the process for ordination to the diaconate or priesthood, approving the release and removal of individuals from the ordained ministry, consenting to the deconsecration of churches, and, consenting, along with other standing committees (consent of a majority of standing committees being required), to the election of bishops of other dioceses or filling a vacancy in the office of presiding bishop;

Serves as Ecclesiastical Authority for the exercise of specified episcopal functions when no bishop is authorized to act by reason of vacancy in office, bishop's absence from the diocese for more than six months, request of the bishop, or bishop's incapacity or suspension.

Acts according to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

What SC does by custom in this diocese:

Discernment: The Diocesan Commission on Ministry (DCOM) holds two or more discernment weekends with ordination nominees each year. SC members are invited and expected to participate actively. The Ordination Process Coordinator of the Office of the Bishop works with the DCOM co-chairs and the SC president to facilitate the documentation of ordinands and their interviews.

Interface with Board of Trustees (BOT): The BOT holds a planning retreat in January of each year. The Standing Committee attends with full participation.