

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

The Very Rev. Dr. Stanley W. Sawyer, President

Under the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church (Article IV), each Diocese is to have a Standing Committee which shall be the Bishop's Council of Advice. The makeup of the Standing Committee is determined by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

In our Diocese the Standing Committee consists of 3 clergy and 3 lay members, serving three year terms. Each year Council elects 1 clergy and one lay person to serve in place of those who rotate off.

It has been a privilege for me to serve as President for this conciliar year, and to share in this special ministry with John Rector, our Secretary, The Rev. Cameron Randle, Helen Sharpe-Williams, the Rev. Andie Rohrs, and Rusty Bishop. John and I rotate off at the end of Council, and Cameron will serve as President for the next year. We are honored to have served this year with Bishop Susan during her first full year as Bishop of Southern Virginia. We are blessed by her love of the Lord and her pastoral gifts which have led us through this time of Pandemic and will lead us into the future to which God is calling us.

During this year whether meeting in person, or on Zoom, we have carried our canonical duties: These include Episcopal elections which require the approval of a majority of the sitting Bishops and of the Standing Committees of the Church. We have, along with the Bishop, given approval under Canon XXVII for several parishes to encumber their property in order to do some exciting expansions and renovations. In other instances we have given approval for the sale of church property. And, we have had the joy to exercise our responsibility to approve and recommend to the Bishop for ordination as Deacons or Priests persons who have completed their course of study. We are grateful for the excellent work of the Commission on Ministry in and throughout the discernment and educational process leading to ordination.

A heartfelt thankyou goes to our Diocesan Staff for all the support they have given us. They are a blessing! And thanks as well to our Chancellor, Sam Webster, who patiently listened to and answered my questions on numerous occasions.

On behalf of the Standing Committee, thank you for the opportunity to have served our Lord in this special ministry.