

The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia Report of the Standing Committee (2024)

Your Standing Committee of our Diocese of Olympia is privileged to serve with you. Our primary role, when there is a Bishop Diocesan (or a Bishop Provisional, who has been granted ecclesiastical authority by the Diocesan Convention) in office, is to serve as the Bishop's Council of Advice. We are also a compliment of the Bishop's authority notably in matters of diocesan and congregational real estate decisions as well as reviewing and certifying the canonical processes for those in the ordination process. Standing Committees also are asked to give consent regarding any Bishop elected in the Episcopal Church. When the office of Bishop Diocesan (or Bishop Provisional, as above) is vacant for any reason, the Standing Committee serves as the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese. This year, the Standing Committee experienced a transition, as we started this cycle (Oct 2023-Oct 2024) with the Most Rev. Melissa Skelton as our Bishop Provisional, and she stepped down upon the ordination and consecration of The Rev. Philip N. LaBelle on September 14, 2024.

The Standing Committee is thankful for all the people and bodies who worked faithfully through this time of transition, especially the Joint Board, the Search Committee, the Transition Committee, the Diocesan Council, the Diocesan Staff, the Cathedral Staff, and our consultant through the Presiding Bishop's Office, Anne Schmidt, who was assisted by the Rev. Nathan Kirkpatrick, and all others who shared their gifts through this time.

Serving on the Standing Committee from the 2023 Diocesan Convention through the 2024 Convention are:

President: The Rev. Canon Elise B. Johnstone, St. John the Baptist, West Seattle

Co-Secretaries: The Rev. Jedediah Fox, Redeemer, Kenmore and Mr. Lawrence Sylvester, Trinity, Everett

Chaplain: The Rev. Jani Wild, St. Paul's, Bellingham

Joint Finance Panel Representative: Ms. Tsuneko Nakatani, Holy Cross, Redmond

Commission on Ministry Representative: Ms. Carole Loudenback, Good Shepherd, Federal Way

Joint Board (regarding Bishop Search and Election): The Rev. Stephen Crippen, St. Paul's, Seattle and Ms. Carole Loudenback, Good Shepherd, Federal Way

Ms. Connie Lightbody, St. John's, Kirkland

The following actions were taken by your Standing Committee from October 2023-September 2024:

Episcopal Elections, Ordinations and/or Consecrations of Bishops, and Diocesan Consents

- Consented to the Election of the Rev. Austin Rios as Bishop Coadjutor of California

- Consented to the Election of the Rev. Dorothy Sanders Wells as Bishop Diocesan of Mississippi
- Consented to the Election of the Very Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer as Bishop Diocesan of Rochester
- Consented for an election of a Bishop Suffragan for West Texas
- Consented to the Election of the Rev. Philip N. LaBelle as the Bishop Diocesan of Olympia
- Consented to the Election of the Rev. Julia Whitworth as Bishop Diocesan of Massachusetts

Vocations, Diocese of Olympia

- Certificates of Attestations were signed for Phillip Lienau, Theresa Newell, Lisa Ozaeta, Martin Pommerenke, Myra Rynehart Corcoran, and Robert Stevens, Transitional Diaconate, November 2023
- Certificates of Attestations were signed for Phillip Lienau, Theresa Newell, Lisa Ozaeta, Martin Pommerenke, Myra Rynehart Corcoran, and Robert Stevens, Priesthood, May 2024
- Voted in favor of candidacy for Adam Conley, James Wyatt, Karla Koon, Kelly Moody, McKenzi Roberson, Lia Shimada, Lynne Markova (all priesthood track), June 2024
- Voted in favor of candidacy for Anna Lynn, August 2024 (vocational diaconate track)
- Certificate of Attestation signed for Anna Lynn, Vocational Diaconate, September 2024
- Certificate of Attestation signed for Adam Conley, James Wyatt, Karla Koon, Kelly Moody, McKenzi Roberson, Lynne Markova, Transitional Diaconate, October 2024

Property Matters

- Authorized lot boundary adjustment for St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle: April 2024
- Authorized city intersection rebuild (with Sound Transit) for Christ Church, Puyallup: April 2024
- Gave permission for sale of house for Christ Church, Puyallup: April 2024
- Authorized encumbrance of property for security for grant for preschool renovations for St. Stephen's, Laurelhurst, Seattle July 2024

Gave Advice and Consent to the Release and Removal from Holy Orders (for reason of the cleric resigning) for:

- Cedar Monroe
- Michael Beaton Oakley

Voted to change the agreement of The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton as Bishop Provisional from .8 FTE to 1.0 FTE in January 2024 and extended her time with us through the ordination and consecration of the next Bishop Diocesan of Olympia on September 14 2024.

With the work of the General Convention Office, organized the request for consents from Bishops and Standing Committees for The Rev. Philip N. LaBelle as the Bishop-Elect of Olympia; a majority of consents were confirmed in July 2024.

In conjunction with Diocesan Chancellor Judy Andrews, signed Letter of Agreement with The Rev. Philip N. LaBelle as Bishop-Elect of Olympia (completed in late July 2024), submitted to Presiding Bishop's office.

Worked with Joint Board, Transition Committee, Diocesan Staff, and General Convention Office regarding the May Bishop Election, and the September Bishop Ordination and Consecration.