



*Members One of Another*

236<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 12-13, 2021

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

## **Reports to be Received by Title:**

**Diocesan Council Report**  
**Standing Committee Report**  
**Commission on Ministry Report**

## **Diocesan Council Report to Convention September 2020 - August 2021**

The Diocesan Council met ten times during the 2020-2021 program year. Council received reports from the bishops and updates from committees and task forces. All meetings were held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unless otherwise noted. The following summarizes particular issues Council considered or discussed at each meeting.

### September 12, 2020

- Voted to endorse the proposed 2021 budget narrative and summary.
- Approved a timeline for the 2021 pandemic relief process.
- Heard an update about the status of the Paycheck Protection Program.
- Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee.
- Heard an update about Diocesan Convention planning.

### October 22, 2020

- Heard a report from the diocesan finance office about assessments.
- Voted to extend the payout timetable for the remaining funding for the Roxbury-Dorchester Power in Community mission hub as necessitated by the pandemic.
- Heard a report from the Racial Justice Commission.
- Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee.
- Heard an update about Diocesan Convention planning.
- Heard a report about the provincial synod gathering.
- Thanked the outgoing members of Diocesan Council, Debbie Phillips, Rob Kelleher, and Kristina Frances.

### December 3, 2020

- Heard a treasurer's report about the 2019 audit, year-to-date financial statements, and status of assessments.
- Voted to approve the 2019 diocesan audit as presented.
- Heard a summary of the pandemic impact report results.
- Voted to approve an assessment payment schedule for St. Mary's, Barnstable.
- Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee.
- Heard a summary of diocesan convention feedback.
- Heard a deanery report from the Concord River Deanery.

### January 15, 2021

- Heard an overview of the role of Diocesan Council members.
- Heard an update about the formation of the Assessment Formula Review working group.
- Voted to approve 2021 assessment adjustments for St. John's, Charlestown; St. Paul's, Natick; and St. Anne's, North Billerica.
- Heard an update about the number of pandemic impact reports received.
- Voted to approve the following Diocesan Council members to the Executive Committee of Diocesan Council: Tamara Sobers, Cris LaTorre, Michael Bent, Phil LaBelle, Betsy Ridge Madsen, and Dave Sullivan.
- Voted to endorse the appointment of the following members of the Assessment Formula Review working group, as approved by the Executive Committee: Ted Ts'o, Mike

Dangelo, Helen Gordon, Phil LaBelle, Connie Melahoures, Lori Mills-Curran, Derrick Muwina, Ed Rewolinski, Dave Sullivan, Andi Taylor, Win Treese, and Sarah Van Gulden.

- Voted to endorse the appointment of the Rev. Stephen Voysey as the assistant treasurer of the diocese.

#### February 18, 2021

- Heard updates from the Treasurer's Office about the Assessment Formula Review working group, the Budget Committee, and the status of outstanding assessment payments.
- Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee.
- Heard a report from the Mission Initiatives Committee.
- Heard a report from the Charles River Deanery.

#### March 18, 2021

- Heard an update about the Racial Justice Commission.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office about the draft 2021 assessment formula.
- Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee.
- Heard a report from the St. John's and St. James's Executive Committee about the restoration of the property.
- Voted that the diocese withdraw up to \$888,588 from invested funds for the following purposes: the additional costs of the renovation of St. Mark's rectory, Dorchester; phases II and III of the renovation of St. Luke's Chapel, Roxbury; the additional costs of phase I of the renovation of St. Luke's Chapel, Roxbury; and an existing conditions survey of St. Luke's and St. Margaret's, Allston. The withdrawal will be replaced from the proceeds of the sale of 40 Prescott Street.
- Voted that the diocese withdraw up to \$289,607 from invested funds for the maintenance, art preservation, and emergency roof and retaining wall repairs to property of St. John's and St. James's Church, Roxbury.

#### April 15, 2021

- Heard a report about the bishop diocesan's sabbatical plan.
- Heard a report from the Assessment Coordinating Committee about pandemic relief.
- Heard an update from the Treasurer's Office about outstanding 2020 parochial reports.
- Voted to approve the 2022 assessment formula.
- Heard a report about the Episcopal Church Asset Mapping tool.
- Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee about their review of the survey results received from worshipping communities.
- Heard an update from the Convention Office about plans for the 2021 Diocesan Convention, to be held on November 12-13, 2021.

#### May 20, 2021

- Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee about progress on the mission strategy refresh.
- Voted to approve the creation of a diocesan Nominating Committee for proactive identification and recruitment of leaders for various diocesan leadership bodies.
- Voted that that the 2022 Assessment Formula revert to the income-based formula presented to Diocesan Council on March 18, 2021 with an aggregate assessment request of \$5,148,299 (a nearly flat year-over-year request), with tiers ranging from 0.5% to 14.5%, and that any assessment abatement or adjustment due to a review of Line A

income on a parish's 2019 Parochial Report or due to other unforeseen circumstances be offset by the availability of alternative resources.

- Voted to approve an allocation of \$150,000 from the anticipated sale of 40 Prescott St for the purpose of phase one of the 5-7 St. Luke's Rd, Allston property redevelopment.

June 17, 2021

- Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office about the 2022 assessment formula communications and response, the 2022 budget creation timeline, and goals for the Financial Advisory Committee.
- Voted to appoint Jack Wolfe and Judith Reed to the Financial Advisory Committee.
- Voted to empower the Financial Advisory Committee to select an investment manager to invest all or some portion of those funds currently being held at Fidelity.
- Heard an updated from the Convention Office about planning for the 2021 Diocesan Convention, which will be held virtually on November 12-13 with hybrid options for the first day.
- Voted to appoint Michael Dangelo to the Executive Committee of Diocesan Council.

August 12, 2021

- Voted to approve the allocation of remaining Together Now funds to the following mission hubs: \$67,445 to ProGente Connections and \$33,528 to Roxbury-Dorchester Power In Community.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office about the draft 2022 budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Smith  
Assistant for Governance and Administration

## **Standing Committee Report to Convention September 2020 – June 2021**

The Standing Committee's work includes matters pertaining to real estate, Stokes Loans, parish by-laws and/or constitution revisions, and the ordination process. The following is a summary of the votes taken by the Standing Committee over the past year. All meetings took place via Zoom due on the COVID-19 pandemic unless otherwise noted.

*On September 10, 2020:*

- VOTED to approve the vestry of Christ Church, Boston.

*On October 8, 2020:*

- VOTED to approve the following transitional deacons to the priesthood: Lawrence Civalo, Luke Ditewig, Tammany Hobbs Miracky, Melissa Howell, and Lauren Lukason.
- VOTED to consent to the election of the Rev.'s Diana Akiyama, PhD. as bishop diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Oregon.

*On November 12, 2020:*

- VOTED to elect the Rev. Julie Carson as president of the Standing Committee, Constance Perry as vice president of the Standing Committee, and William Boyce as secretary of the Standing Committee.
- VOTED to consent to the election of the Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler as bishop diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Wyoming.

*On December 10, 2020:*

- VOTED to approve the recording of the Preservation Restriction Agreement between the town of Orleans acting by and through the Orleans Historical Commission and the Church of The Holy Spirit which is a requirement of the grant of rehabilitation funds from the Town's Community Preservation Act Fund to the Church of the Holy Spirit, Orleans for rehabilitation of the Galley West structure.
- VOTED to approve the revised by-laws of St. Andrew's, New Bedford as submitted.

*On January 14, 2021:*

- VOTED with one abstention to approve the appointment of the Rev. Edwin Johnson as the president of the Disciplinary Board.

*On February 20, 2021:*

- VOTED to approve the following postulants for admission into candidacy: Marcia Chanta Bhan, Benjamin Crosby, Adam Dawkins, Hal Edmonson, Isabel Geller, Dorothy Goehring, Clifford Goodridge, Lauren Banks Killelea, Dawn Tesorero, Michael Thompson, Atem Yak.
- VOTED to approve the sale of a parcel of land owned by Christ Church, Swansea to the Town of Swansea, as outlined in the property and sale agreement. Proceeds from the sale of the property to be dedicated to capital projects or an investment of funds from which no more than 4% be taken annually.
- VOTED to approve the final version of the bylaws from the parish of St. Gabriel's in Marion, MA as voted and approved at their annual meeting on January 24, 2021.
- VOTED to approve the vestry of Christ Church Boston (Old North Church)

*On March 11, 2021:*

- VOTED to approve the following candidates to the transitional diaconate: Benjamin Crosby, Hailey Jacobsen, Brett Johnson, Lauren Banks Killelea, and Rowan Larson.
- VOTED with two abstentions to approve the following candidate to the transitional diaconate: Kevin Neil.
- VOTED with one abstention to approve the following candidate to the transitional diaconate: Marcia Chanta Bhan.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts does not recognize that Emmanuel Episcopal Church has an ongoing obligation to repay the July 15, 2003 loan from their Rectory Fund. and be it further,  
Resolved that the Standing Committee reiterates that proceeds remaining in the fund be used in accordance with all other restrictions, as originally imposed.

*On April 8, 2021:*

- VOTED to approve the appointment of Liz Aguilo to the Disciplinary Board.

*On May 13, 2021:*

- VOTED to approve the following resolution:  
Whereas, resolution C019 of the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church called the church to confesses that, despite repeated efforts at anti-racism training as well as racial justice and racial reconciliation initiatives including the passage of more than 30 General Convention resolutions dating back to 1952, the abomination and sin of racism continue to plague our society and our Church at great cost to human life and human dignity; we formally acknowledge our historic and contemporary participation in this evil and repent of it; and  
Whereas, resolution A044 of the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church called us to recommit to study and respond to The Episcopal Church's role in slavery, its history with segregation and discrimination of people of color; and,  
Whereas, our diocesan mission strategy includes a commitment to "investing in ministries with communities of color and immigrant communities, drawing upon their unique strengths and supporting their health."; and,  
Whereas Canon 18, Sec. 1. states, "restrictions Applicable to Certain Property No consecrated church or chapel, nor any church or chapel which has been used solely for divine service, nor any property which is being used as a parish house or rectory, nor any land incidental to or regularly used in connection with any of the foregoing, shall be alienated or encumbered without the previous written consent of the Bishop, acting with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee;"; therefore be it  
Resolved, the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts will withhold its advice and consent, through December 31, 2031, to the alienation or sale of property held by the seven remaining historically Black churches in the Diocese of Massachusetts including Church of St. Augustine and St. Martin in Boston; St. Bartholomew's Church in Cambridge; St. Mark's Church in Dorchester; St. Mary's Church in Dorchester; Church of the Holy Spirit in Mattapan; St. Cyprian's Church in Roxbury; and St. John St. James Church in Roxbury; and be it further,  
Resolved, the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts consider renewing its decision to withhold advice and consent before its expiration on December 31, 2031.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts approve a Stokes Loan for Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown for \$80,000 over 15 years at 2.25% (via check), 1.5% (via ACH) to finance the renovation of their rectory including electrical, a kitchen renovation, renovation of two bathrooms, an addition of a hall bathroom and interior painting.

- VOTED that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts approve the easement between St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Framingham and the City of Framingham for the purpose of the city's planned roadway improvements.

*On June 9, 2021:*

- VOTED to appoint the Rev. Debbie Phillips to fill the vacant term of the Rev. Elise Feyerherm.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts gives its advice and consent Bishop Alan Gates, pursuant to Diocesan Canon III.7.8, that he may pronounce that The Rev. Daniel Horgan is released and removed from the ordained Ministry of this Church and from the obligations attendant thereto, and is deprived of the right to exercise in The Episcopal Church the gifts and spiritual authority as a Minister of God's Word and Sacraments conferred in Ordination.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Smith  
Assistant for Governance and Administration

## **Commission on Ministry 2021 Report to Convention**

The Commission on Ministry (COM) has the privilege of working with the Bishops as they select and guide the formation of postulants and candidates in preparation for ordination to both the diaconate and priesthood. Our work is supported by many others, including sponsoring parishes and clergy, parish discernment committees, internship and field education parishes, seminaries, spiritual directors, and the families and friends of postulants and candidates.

Members of the COM serve as liaisons to parish discernment committees, advisors to postulants and candidates and meet monthly with the Bishops and Canon for Ordained Vocations. They work in collaboration with the Standing Committee to make the ordination process accessible and to improve coordination and communication among all those who participate in the work of discernment in this diocese.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance and guidance of many in this diocese and beyond who help to form the women and men who are called to ordained leadership in the church. We particularly value the contributions of clergy and laity in preparing postulants and candidates for diaconal ministry and for the support of divinity school faculty.

We are grateful to all the members of the COM and the chaplains to our postulants and candidates who worked particularly hard during the COVID 19 pandemic. We especially thank the Rev. Dr. Michael Melendez who is completing a term of service on the COM. We would also like to thank the Rev. Dr. Edith Dolnikowski for her unwavering support and guidance to both the members of the COM and the postulants and candidates in the ordination process.

### **COM Statistics for 2021**

In 2020 the Commission received commitment forms from eleven inquirers, all of whom submitted applications for postulancy after having worked with their parish discernment committees. All eleven applicants were invited to interview and six of them were admitted to postulancy on June 1, 2021, five for the priesthood and one for the diaconate.

The COM continues to award scholarship assistance to those preparing for Holy Orders. Funding for this assistance comes from a diocesan endowment created in 2001 to support theological education and from donations to the Bishops' discretionary funds received during parish visitations. This year the COM awarded \$55,000 to ten postulants and candidates. Scholarships ranged from \$1,500 to \$15,500 per person. These scholarships help to address both living expenses during formation and also, in some cases, the significant amount of debt incurred by those in the ordination process, which has long-term effects on employment decisions.

The commission reports the following data for the past year:

Since our last Diocesan Convention ten transitional deacons were ordained to the priesthood. On June 5, 2021 the Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris ordained seven candidates to the transitional diaconate at Emmanuel Church, Boston.

As of July 1, 2021 there were thirty-six people in the ordination process as postulants, candidates and transitional deacons – thirty-two for the priesthood and four for the diaconate.



They come from twenty-eight sponsoring congregations throughout nine deaneries in the diocese.

The average age of the six new postulants this year:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Priesthood</b>	<b>Diaconate</b>	<b>Combined</b>
2021	38	53	40

The average age of new postulants over the preceding years:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Combined</b>
2020	38
2019	45
2018	28
2017	42
2016	44
2015	38
2014	50
2013	43
2012	41
2011	36
2010	47
2009	45

Our current membership roster is as follows (as of October 2021): the Rev. Dr. Margaret Arnold, the Rev. Dr. Richard Burden, the Rev. Lynn Campbell, Dr. Laura Crain, the Rev. Edwin Johnson, the Rev. Dr. Kapyra John Kaoma, the Rev. Eric Litman, the Rev. Sarah Mato, Mr. Graeme Mills, Mrs. Kay Ridgard, the Rev. Dr. James Weiss and the Ven. Patricia Zifcak. The Rev. Anoma Abeyaratne, the Rev. Virgilio Fortuna, the Rev. Dr. David Killian and the Rev. Leslie Sterling serve as Chaplains to our postulants and candidates.

We want to thank the members of the COM for their deep commitment to this ministry. Our diocese is blessed to have these wonderful souls at work, discerning the future leadership of the church. It is our privilege and joy to work with them.

Faithfully Submitted by:  
Graeme Mills and Kay Ridgard  
Co-chairs, Commission on Ministry