

10/25/22 – The last section of the Commission on Ministry Report was updated to include additional names that were previously left out.



The Call of Love in
Our Time and Place

237TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OCT. 28-29, 2022

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 2021 - August 2022

The Diocesan Council met nine times during the 2021-2022 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 issues Council considered or discussed at each meeting.

September 18, 2021

- Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee about the proposed mission strategy to be sent to Diocesan Convention.
- Heard an update on outstanding 2020 parochial reports.
- Voted to endorse the 2022 budget summary and recommended favorable action by Convention on the budget resolution in the budget book.
- Heard a presentation about multi-year budget viewing and how it may be used by the Budget Committee and Diocesan Council for budget planning.
- Heard a report from the Convention Office about the 2021 Diocesan Convention planning.

October 21, 2021

- Voted to approve an assessment payment plan for St. Peter's, Salem.
- Heard an update from the Convention Office about the 2021 Diocesan Convention planning and preparations.
- Received the 2022 Diocesan Council meeting schedule.
- Voted to approve an additional allocation of funds from the sale of the 40 Prescott St. property to the Allston property project of up to \$1.5 million.
- Thanked Betsy Ridge Madsen, Diane Grondin, and Kathy McAdams for their time on Diocesan Council.

December 2, 2021

- Voted to endorse and authorize the Budget Process Pilot Program.
- Heard a report from the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.
- Gave feedback on the 2021 Diocesan Convention.
- Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Committee.
- Voted to approve housing allowance changes.

January 15, 2022

- Heard a report from the Task Force on Common Mission.
- Heard updates from the Treasurer's Office about the diocesan audit, outstanding assessment payments, and deadlines for the Parochial Report and Congregational Leadership Report.
- Voted to approve a housing allowance.
- Heard that the Executive Committee voted to approve a housing allowance at their meeting.
- Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee and discussed their role in the new goals.

February 17, 2022

- Received the diocesan audit report.
- Heard a report from Treasurer's Office about outstanding parochial reports and assessment payments.
- Voted to approve the following 2022 assessment adjustments: St. Paul Church, Dedham in the amount of \$3,600; Christ Church (Old North), Boston in the amount of \$10,000.
- Heard a report from the Missioner for Networking and Formation.

March 17, 2022

- Welcomed David Milam to Diocesan Council as a deanery representative for Taunton River Deanery.
- Heard a report from Treasurer's Office about the proposed 2023 assessment formula.

April 21, 2022

- Voted to approve the 2023 assessment formula.
- Heard a report from the Budget Committee about the 2023 budget planning.
- Heard a report from the Mission Strategy Committee about progress on tracking each mission strategy goal.

June 16, 2022

- Voted to approve the opening of a separate checking account for the bishop diocesan's discretionary funds.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office and Budget Committee about the 2023 budget.
- Heard a presentation from the Trustees of Donations about their structure and practices.
- Heard a report from the Mission Initiatives Committee about additional 2022 additional funding allocations.

August 11, 2022

- Heard a report from the Standing Committee about Bishops' Compensation.
- Voted to approve the 2022 Mission Initiatives funding allocations for new initiatives.
- Voted to designate the proceeds of sale of the property of the closed Church of the Good Shepherd, Fairhaven, for the establishment of a \$100,000 seed fund for property development, subject to continued reporting to the Diocesan Council, and for support of the position of missionary for property stewardship.
- Voted to approve a housing allowance.
- Voted to approve the assessment adjustment of \$10,000 for Church of the Advent, Medfield.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office about the draft 2023 budget.
- Thanked Cynthia Hallenbeck for her term as Interim Chief Financial Officer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Smith
Assistant for Governance and Administration

Standing Committee Report to Convention September 2021 – June 2022

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 9, 2021:

- VOTED to consent to the election of the Rev. Betsey Monnot as bishop diocesan of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa.

On October 14, 2021:

- VOTED to approve the following transitional deacons to the priesthood: Marcia Chanta Bhan, Hailey Jacobsen, Brett Johnson, Lauren Banks Killelea, Rowan Larson, and Kevin Neil.

On November 4, 2021:

- VOTED to approve a \$62,045 Stokes loan for Parish of the Epiphany, Winchester, for capital projects for the property located at 70 Church Street, Winchester, Massachusetts.
- VOTED to approve a \$40,000 Stokes loan for Christ Episcopal Church, Cambridge, for capital projects for the property located at 0 Garden Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- VOTED to approve a lease between St David's Church, Yarmouth and Sunwealth LLC for a solar array. rectory, with any remaining proceeds to be placed into the congregation's endowment.
- VOTED to approve the sale of 871 square feet of property owned by All Saints Episcopal of the North Shore/Danvers to their abutter to resolve an encroachment, as long as this action does not put the church property out of compliance or increase non-compliance with the Zoning By-Law of the Town of Danvers.
- VOTED to approve the bylaw revisions for Church of the Redeemer, Lexington as presented.
- VOTED to appoint the following alternates to General Convention: Debbie Phillips as 3rd clerical alternate; Alec Vaughn as 1st lay alternate, Susannah Perkinson as 2nd lay alternate, and Kevin Miller as 3rd lay alternate.

On December 9, 2021:

- VOTED to elect William Boyce as president of the Standing Committee, the Rev. Debbie Phillips as vice president of the Standing Committee, and the Rev. Kate Elledge as secretary of the Standing Committee.
- VOTED to approve Benjamin Crosby, transitional deacon, to the priesthood.

On January 13, 2022:

- VOTED to approve the bylaws of Grace, Vineyard Haven as presented.
- VOTED to approve the Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton as the assistant bishop of the Diocese of Dallas.

On February 10, 2022:

- VOTED to approve the following postulants for admission into candidacy: Joshua Cavanaugh, Curtis Coppersmith, Katherine Hoyer, Paul Keene, Joseph Kimmel, Adwoa Lewis- Wilson, Margaret Lias, Elizabeth Marshall, Eva Ortez, Max Sklar.

- VOTED to approve the bylaws changes for Redeemer, Lexington as presented.
- VOTED to approve the bylaw changes for St. John's, Gloucester as presented.
- VOTED to withhold consent for the election of Rev. Brian K. Burgess as the bishop diocesan for the Diocese of Springfield.
- VOTED to approve the election of the Rev. Juan Carlos Quiñonez as bishop of the Diocese of Ecuador Central.
- VOTED to approve the vestry of Old North Church as presented.

On March 10, 2022:

- VOTED to approve the following candidates for ordination into the transitional diaconate: Curtis Coppersmith, Adam Lee Dawkins, Hal Edmonson, Isabel Roberts Geller, Dorie Goehring, Joseph Kimmel, and Elizabeth Marshall and the following candidate for ordination into the diaconate: Clifford Goodridge.
- VOTED to approve the bylaws for St. Mark's, Burlington as presented.
- VOTED to approve the bylaws for St. Anne's, Lincoln as presented.

On April 9, 2022:

- VOTED to appoint Mr. James Dilday to temporarily fill the vacancy on the Standing Committee.
- VOTED to approve the ordination of Adwoa Lewis-Wilson into the transitional diaconate.
- VOTED to approve the ordination of Dawn Tesorero to the diaconate.
- VOTED to approve the purchase of property at 25 Whits Lane by St. James, Wellfleet to be used for summer housing for visiting priests.
- VOTED to consent to the election of the Bishop of Idaho.

On May 12, 2022:

- VOTED that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts approve the lease between The Cathedral Church of St. Paul and Café 26 as presented.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts approve a Stokes loan for St. John's, Jamaica Plain for \$100,000 over 15 years at 2.25% (1.5% if direct debit) to pay for tower masonry repointing and belfry louver repairs.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts approve the sale of the Church of the Good Shepherd and its rectory both located on a parcel at 357 Main Street in the town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts 02719 for a minimum base price of \$400,000 (80% of its appraised value).
- VOTED to approve the bylaws for Christ the King, Lynn as presented.
- VOTED to pass the following resolution:

Resolved, that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts rejoices and celebrates the admission of Christ The King Anglican Community Church as a mission in union with the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts as adopted by the 236th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. and be it further,

Resolved, that the Standing Committee express its lament for 22 years of the sin of racism, xenophobia, and colonialism committed against the people of Christ the King Anglican Community Church, transgressing our Baptismal Covenant to Respect the Dignity of every human being, by lay and ordained leadership of St.

Stephen's Episcopal Memorial Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. and be it further,

Resolved, that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts resolves to supporting the parish and strongly urges the Bishops, staff, and Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts to commit the resources needed to see the success of this mission for a period of no less than 5 years. And be it further,

Resolved, that the Standing Committee recognizes that the sinful patterns of racism, xenophobia, and colonialism are not unique to this parish and that these patterns pervade our church. Therefore, the Standing Committee refers this specific experience to the Racial Justice Commission and petitions them, as authorized by the Diocesan Convention, to further identify, publicly name, and work to dismantle these corrosive patterns in our life together. And be it further,

Resolved, that the Standing Committee request a memorandum of understanding between the leadership Christ The King Anglican Community Church and St. Stephen's Episcopal Memorial Church be in place no later than March 30, 2022 and that a copy of such memorandum be provided to the Standing Committee by its meeting in September 2022. And be it further,

Resolved, that the Standing Committee calls on St. Stephen's Episcopal Memorial Church to collaborate and support Christ The King Anglican Community Church; and the Standing Committees calls on other worshipping communities, especially those in the North Shore Deanery, to also lend their support.

- VOTED to consent to the election of The Very Rev. Dr. Douglas Scharf as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida.

On June 8, 2022:

- VOTED to consent to the election of the Rev. Phyllis Spiegel as bishop of the Diocese of Utah.
- VOTED to approve a Stokes Loan for Christ Church, Plymouth for \$100,000 over 15 years at 2.25% (1.50% if direct debit) to repair leaks and adding gutters in the parish hall; repair and paint the parish hall stucco; make extensive repair of church stone veneer due to water intrusion; and replace narthex roof and flashing to stop the water intrusion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chelsea Smith
Assistant for Governance and Administration

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY 2022 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. The COM is committed to identifying and addressing racial and other biases in our discernment and formation programs, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration with the Standing Committee and the Racial Justice Commission to continue this vital work.

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. Eric Litman who is completing a term of service on the COM this year and we welcome Ms. Rachael Chagat as a new member of 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 2022

In 2021 the Commission received commitment forms from fourteen inquirers, eight of whom submitted applications for postulancy after having worked with their parish discernment committees. Seven applicants were invited to interview and all of them were admitted to postulancy on June 1, 2022, five for the priesthood and two 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 \$54,000 to eight postulants and candidates. Scholarships ranged from \$4,000 to \$13,500 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 seven transitional deacons were ordained to the priesthood. On April 25, 2022 one candidate was ordained to the transitional diaconate by The Rt. Rev. James Tengatenga on behalf of The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates at All Saints Chapel at the University

of the South, Sewanee. On June 4, 2022 the Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates ordained two candidates to the diaconate and eight to the transitional diaconate at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Boston.

As of July 1, 2022 there were thirty-three people in the ordination process as postulants, candidates and transitional deacons – twenty-nine 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 seven new postulants this year:

Year	Priesthood	Diaconate	Combined
2022	43	60	43

The average age of new postulants over the preceding years:

Year	Combined
2021	40
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 2022): the Rev. Dr. Margaret Arnold, the Rev. Dr. Richard Burden, the Rev. Lynn Campbell, Ms. Rachael Chagat, Dr. Laura Crain, Dr. Melva James, the Rev. Edwin Johnson, the Rev. Dr. Kapya John Kaoma, the Rev. Eric Litman, the Rev. Sarah Mato, Mr. Graeme Mills, Mrs. Kay Ridgard, the Rev. Dr. James Weiss, the Rev. Diane Wong 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