

Standing Committee Official Acts September 2009 through June 2010

A note from the co-secretary of the Standing Committee:

The official acts listed below provide just a glimpse of the work of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Massachusetts. The Standing Committee serves as the bishops' advisory committee as well as fulfilling canonical roles of providing advice and consent on issues relating to congregational by-laws, real estate alienation and encumbrance, and the ordination of persons as deacons, priests, or bishops. The Standing Committee provides advice concerning personnel conflicts, either within congregations or within the diocese.

The Standing Committee meets monthly from September through June for three hours. The first half of the meeting is devoted to providing advice to the bishops and senior staff. The second portion focuses on canonical responsibilities.

The most noteworthy trend during the 2009-2010 term has been the vast expansion in requests for consent on real estate related issues, including the sales of closed congregations, the redevelopment of excess property by existing congregations, and ongoing maintenance financed through loans. To meet the increased demand, the Standing Committee established a Real Estate Advisory Committee to assist its review of the many requests. The REAC will be publishing a new set of Policies and Guidelines for the Alienation or Encumbrance of Real Estate by late 2010. The Standing Committee wishes to express its profound gratitude to Jeff Brown, Alice Krapf, Chris Meyer, and James Wagner for the countless hours donated to help the diocese in their stewardship of real estate.

Submitted by: The Rev. Stephen Ayres, co-secretary, Standing Committee

September 10, 2009

1. VOTED to provide the bishop advice and consent for Stokes Fund loans to: St. Mary of the Harbor Church, Provincetown; St. Luke's Church, Scituate; and Church of Our Saviour, Somerset.
2. VOTED to approve the revised Constitution and By-laws of Grace Church, Medford.
3. VOTED to approve the following electronic votes made during the summer:
 - a. To approve the Proposed Listing and Offer for Sale of the former rectory of St. Andrew's Church, Belmont.
 - b. To approve the revised By-laws for St. David's Church, Halifax.
 - c. To approve the proposed Mission By-laws for St. Luke's & St. Margaret's Church, Allston.

October 8, 2009

1. VOTED consent to both transfer and to authorize a contract to purchase and redevelop the Church of St. Matthew and The Redeemer property located at 825 East Fourth Street, So. Boston; agreement containing no permitting contingencies.
2. VOTED to reclassify St. Augustine's Church, Lawrence from a parish to a mission. Voted to approve the Mission By-laws of St. Augustine's Church as submitted.
3. VOTED to approve the final revised Constitution and By-laws for Trinity Church, Oak Bluffs.
4. VOTED to approve the revised By-laws for Grace Church, Everett.

November 12, 2009

1. VOTED to approve all candidates presented by the Commission on Ministry for ordination to the priesthood.
2. VOTED to approve the By-law revisions for St. Paul's Church, North Andover.
3. VOTED to consent to the ordination of the Rev. Scott A. Benhase as Bishop of the Diocese of Georgia.

December 10, 2009

1. VOTED to provide advice and consent for the sale of the church building, known formerly as St. Luke's, Church, Malden, at a price not lower than \$480,000 and authorized its Executive Committee to negotiate within 15% of the new appraisal.
2. VOTED to register a strong objection to the diocese extending credit to any purchaser of property, the sale of which has been approved by Standing Committee.
3. VOTED to approve a Stokes Fund Loan for Epiphany Parish, 62 Front Street, Walpole, MA 02081 in the amount of \$100,000 for 15 years at interest rate of 5% to finance renovation work with the stipulation of a 10-year lease from the pre-school tenant, with preschool providing two years' financial statements. The lease must also be approved by the Standing Committee.
4. VOTED to give approval for St. Peter's. Buzzards Bay to negotiate documents with S42 Development Associates for development of a 21-unit mixed-income housing project, subject to several conditions.
5. VOTED to recommend the Rev. Matthew Kruger for ordination to the priesthood.
6. VOTED to consent to the ordination of Brian Norman Prior as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Minnesota.

January 14, 2010

1. VOTED to approve St. Peter's, Buzzards Bay signing the term sheet as presented with the understanding that any definitive documents must be approved separately by the Standing Committee after review by its Real Estate Subcommittee. (See December 2009)
2. VOTED to provide advice and consent for the sale of the properties formerly known as St. David's Church, Halifax and St. Alban's Church, Lynn at prices within 15% of the appraised value; appraisal to be less than one year old.
3. VOTED to approve the revised By-laws for Emmanuel Church, Wakefield.
4. VOTED to approve the revised By-laws for the Church of the Holy Spirit, Wayland.
5. VOTED to consent to the ordination of Ian Theodore Douglas as Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Connecticut.
6. VOTED to consent to the ordination of Michael Joseph Hanley as Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Oregon.
7. VOTED to consent to the ordination of Morris King Thompson, Jr. as Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Louisiana.
8. VOTED to consent to the ordination of W. Andrew Waldo as Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Upper South Carolina.
9. VOTED to consent to the ordination and consecration of Mary Douglas Glasspool as Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Los Angeles.

10. VOTED to consent to the ordination and consecration of Diane M. Jardine Bruce as Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Los Angeles.
11. VOTED to appoint William Luke to the Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center Board of Directors.

January 30, 2010

A business meeting was included in the Standing Committee's annual retreat in lieu of a meeting in February.

1. VOTED to approve the revised By-laws for St. Paul's Church, Brockton. It was further agreed to include St. Paul's as part of ongoing Standing Committee discussions and to request periodic reports on their status.

March 13, 2010

1. VOTED to approve the development plan of St. James's Church, Cambridge with a request for an update to the Standing Committee by May 13, 2010.
2. VOTED to approve the revised By-laws for the Parish of St. Chrysostom, Quincy.
3. VOTED to ratify the election of Officers and Vestry Members of Christ Church in the City of Boston.
4. VOTED to approve Daniel Horgan for candidacy to the diaconate and Suzanne Wade for candidacy to the priesthood.
5. VOTED to approve Daniel Kent MacDonald for ordination to the transitional diaconate.

April 15, 2010

1. Bishop Cederholm reported that St. Paul's, Millis, a small congregation, has been named a congregation at risk due to their small size and internal conflict.
2. VOTED to approve the revised By-laws for Grace Church, New Bedford.
3. VOTED to approve the proposed loan of St. Paul's Church in Brockton to Pleasant Street Gateway, LLC for an option on property adjacent to the mission.

May 13, 2010

1. VOTED to reclassify St. Paul's, Millis, as a mission of the diocese, subject to the receipt by the co-Presidents of the SC of documentation of the request from the vestry of St. Paul's, Millis, for mission status. Requested that a set of mission by-laws for St. Paul's be submitted for consideration at its June meeting.
2. VOTED to accept the marketing plan for the former St. David's Church, Halifax, property.
3. REVIEWED a draft lien and encumbrance policy being developed by the real estate advisory committee.
4. RECEIVED a report on the redevelopment project at St. James, Cambridge.

5. VOTED to provide advice and consent for Christ Church, Andover to take out a loan for \$250,000 at approximately 3.8% interest for 5 years to cover the final costs associated with the purchase, temporary storage and installation of a new Fisk organ.
6. VOTED to consent to the ordination of the Rev. David Earle Bailey as Bishop of the Navajoland Area Mission.
7. VOTED to consent to the ordination of the Rev. John Sheridan Smylie as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Wyoming.
8. VOTED to consent to the ordination of the Rev. James Beattie Magness as Bishop Suffragan for Federal Ministries.

June 10, 2010

1. VOTED to consent to the ordination of the Michael Louis Vono as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Rio Grande.
2. VOTED to consent to the ordination of Mark Andrew Lattime as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Alaska.
3. VOTED to approve the revised By-laws of Parish of the Epiphany, Winchester.