

REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED BY TITLE:

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT**

**THE 229TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF
MASSACHUSETTS
ST. STEPHEN'S MEMORIAL CHURCH, LYNN**



Answering God's urgent call. Together.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT TO CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 2013 - JUNE 2014

The Diocesan Council met eight times during the 2013-2014 program year. On a regular basis Council received reports from the bishops and updates from committees and task forces. The following summarizes particular issues Council considered or discussed at each meeting. All meetings were held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston, unless otherwise noted.

September 14, 2013, at the SLAM Property, Allston, MA

- Heard an overview from chief business officer and assistant treasurer Rick Strout on the proposed 2014 diocesan budget and voted to approve recommendation of the proposed budget to Diocesan Convention.
- Voted to join with the Jorge Fuentes Antiviolence Task Force and Bishop Shaw in supporting and joining the efforts of the Massachusetts Coalition to End Gun Violence.
- Heard a report from the Assessment Coordinating Committee and voted to approve adjustments for All Saints' Church, Attleboro; St. Elizabeth's Church, Wilmington; Trinity Church, Woburn; and St. Mark's Church, Foxborough.
- Heard a progress report from Diocesan Council member John Iredale on the building project at St. Luke's/San Lucas Church in Chelsea.
- Heard a report from the Rev. Canon Mally Lloyd, Canon to the Ordinary, about the upcoming Diocesan Convention.
- Heard a presentation from the Rev. Cameron Partridge, Episcopal Chaplain at Boston University, and other project representatives on a proposal to rehabilitate the property of the closed Church of St. Luke and St. Margaret in Allston for multipurpose use, and voted to approve expenditure of up to \$50,000 from the Proceeds from Sales of Closed Parishes Fund, for the purposes of hiring architectural and engineering services and, as needed, for clarifying legal and operating relationships.
- Heard an update from Standing Committee member James Wagner on the bishop coadjutor election process.

October 17, 2013

- Heard a report from Jack Roll on behalf of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem about the Mission Tithe Grant received for vocational training and healthcare ministry.
- Heard a report from the Rev. Stephen Voysey, Chair of the Budget Committee, on the budget for the bishop search, election and transition process, and voted: to approve a total budget of \$290,500, with the contingency that no budget item may be expended for another purpose without approval of the Budget Committee; to approve related costs in the budget for the celebration of the retiring bishop of up to \$18,000, and nine months of salary and other expenses of up to \$150,000; and to approve the Budget Committee's pursuit of funding from: a potential anonymous donor willing to match voluntary contributions from congregations, organizations and agencies; \$50,000 in the proposed 2014 budget assigned to the new bishop transition reserve; and the unrestricted endowment.
- Heard a report from staff members of the Office of Development that included plans and proposals for the Annual Fund.
- Heard a report from Esther Powell, Grants and Events Administrator, on Creation Care Initiative grants and a new loan program still under development.
- Voted to approve the Merrimack Valley and Plymouth, Cape and the Islands as two new mission hub sites.
- Voted to accept the recommendation that Foundation Cristosal receive this year's Mission Tithe Council Grant in the amount of \$25,000.
- Heard an update that Grace Church in North Attleboro has had its Diocesan Convention vote restored.
- Heard an update on the St. Luke's/San Lucas, Chelsea construction project.

December 5, 2013

- Heard a presentation from Christ Church/Iglesia San Juan, Hyde Park.

- Heard a report from treasurer, Jim Gammill, and voted to approve and accept the Investment Policy Statement as prepared by the Financial Advisory Committee.
- Voted that the treasurer identify readily available funds for the ongoing bishop search and transition activities, and that the treasurer be authorized to withdraw from the unrestricted diocesan endowment any additional funds (not to exceed \$375,000) required to fund the search and transition budget.
- Voted to authorize signers on diocesan Eastern Bank and Fidelity cash reserves accounts.
- Voted to approve clergy housing allowances.
- Voted a resolution expressing gratitude to former chief business officer Richard Strout.
- Voted its intention that the funds from the sale of the former St. Paul's Church, Brockton continue to be held in reserve outside of the process for use of proceeds from the sale of closed churches, and the intention that the funds may be used to support the developing ministry of Grace Chapel in Brockton, with stipulations for requesting and granting the funds.
- Heard a report from the chair of the Transition Committee, the Rev. Julian Fredie.
- Heard a report from the Rev. Sam Rodman on budgets for the Plymouth, Cape and Islands Mission Hub and the Merrimack Valley Mission Hub, and voted to authorize up to \$25,000 for start-up costs for Merrimack Valley.
- Heard a presentation and update on redevelopment plans for the property of the former Church of St. Luke and St. Margaret in Allston.
- Voted to reappoint the Rev. Jane Bearden, Lisa Garcia and the Rev. Stephen Voysey to the Budget Committee.
- Voted to reappoint the Rev. George Stevens and Jane White to the Financial Advisory Committee.
- Voted to approve a 2 percent raise for the diocesan staff.

January 25, 2014, at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, NH

- Heard a report from treasurer, Jim Gammill, including implementation steps on the recently voted Investment Policy Statement.
- Voted to re-elect the Rev. Chris Wendell and Chris Trahan to the Executive Committee.
- Voted to approve the budget for the Plymouth, Cape and Islands Mission Hub.
- Heard an update on the project plans for the property of the former Church of St. Luke and St. Margaret in Allston.

February 27, 2014

- Heard a presentation from members of the Trustees of Donations regarding concerns about the Investment Policy Statement approved by Diocesan Council on Dec. 5, 2013.
- Heard a report from the chair of the Compensation and Benefits Committee, Jeff Tyrakowski, and voted to elect the Rev. Andy Stoessel to the Compensation and Benefits Committee.
- Heard a report from treasurer, Jim Gammill, regarding the 2015 assessment formula and 2013 year-end financials.
- Voted to approve the Merrimack Valley Hub budget for the 2014-2015 program year.
- Voted to encourage the Executive Committee to make time on the Council agenda for monthly deanery representative reports.
- Voted to approve a new process for allocating proceeds from the sale of closed churches that allows for proposals which will be considered by the Executive Committee and given final approval by the full Diocesan Council.
- Voted to authorize the Treasurer to make payment to the Town of Lexington up to \$40,000 for the purpose of satisfying any and all outstanding claims and liens that the Town has on the property, and add the amount paid to the outstanding principal balance of the Note.
- Heard an Executive Committee report which included a vote to approve housing allowances for the Rev. Dorothea Littlepage and the Rev. Moses Sowale.

March 27, 2014

- Heard a presentation from Dean Jep Streit on renovation plans for the Cathedral Church of St. Paul.
- Heard a report from the Diocesan Loan Committee and voted to approve the 2014 Diocesan Loan/Green Loan Application.
- Heard a report from the chair of the Audit Committee, John Woodward, and voted to accept the audit of 2012 financial statements dated Feb. 20, 2014.
- Heard a report from the vice chair of the Transition Committee, Angela McConney Scheepers.
- Heard a report from the treasurer, Jim Gammill, and voted the 2015 parish assessment formula: assessment due = 15.5 percent * BASE - \$6,000 (subject to a floor of 0) where the BASE for 2015 is equal to line 14 ("all other operating expenses") from the 2012 parochial report, less line 7 ("assistance from diocese"). For a mission, the 2015 assessment is two-thirds the amount that would be assessed if the congregation were a parish.
- Voted to authorize the diocesan treasurer, diocesan assistant treasurer, canon to the ordinary and vicar for St. Stephen's Church in Boston, acting singly, to execute on behalf of the diocese any and all documents related to the construction of a small addition to the rear of the parish hall, relocate and expand the kitchen and enlarge the parish hall, subject to periodic reporting to the satisfaction of the diocesan treasurer.

May 15, 2014 at Church of the Advent, Boston, MA

- Heard an update about the plans for the consecration of the bishop-elect, the Rev. Alan M. Gates, and a transition budget report.
- Heard an update about the construction project at St. Luke's/San Lucas Church in Chelsea.
- Heard a report from Laura Walta, the project director for global mission, and the Rev. Holly Hartman, deacon for global partnerships, on the proposed Global Mission Network.
- Heard a report from the treasurer, Jim Gammill, and voted to authorize the Assessment Coordinating Committee to receive and consider requests from congregations for adjustments to the 2015 scheduled assessments (not to exceed a total of \$50,000).
- The Assessment Coordinating Committee will present its recommendations to Council for final action.
- Voted to endorse and accept the "Charter of Collaboration and Partnership Between the Trustees of Donations and the Diocesan Council," dated May 2014.
- Heard an update about the Use of Proceeds Fund application process.
- Heard a report from Alewife Deanery representatives Ted Ts'o and the Rev. Joe Robinson.

June 19, 2014, Emmanuel Church, Boston, MA

- Voted to approve the proposal from the Jubilee Committee, dated June 5.
- Heard a report from the Rev. Sam Rodman about 2014 mission hub applications and voted to approve Metrowest and North Shore sites as new mission hubs.
- Heard a report from the treasurer, Jim Gammill, and voted to approve a grant agreement with Episcopal City Mission for the purpose of funding mission redevelopment at the property of the former Church of St. Luke and St. Margaret in Allston.
- Voted to approve the sale of the property of the former St. David's Mission in Pepperell.
- Heard an update on the 2015 budget process to date.
- Heard an update about the Use of Proceeds Fund applications which were reviewed by the Executive Committee on June 12, and decided to postpone all application decisions until September. All materials and information can be found here: www.diomass.org/funding-church-property-sale-proceeds.
- Heard a Boston Harbor Deanery report from the Rev. Tom Mousin.
- Heard an update about the St. Luke's/San Lucas, Chelsea construction project.
- Heard an update about plans for the Sept. 13 consecration of the new bishop.

Submitted by: Laura Simons, Assistant Secretary

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT TO CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 2013 – AUGUST 2014

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 Standing Committee has also been responsible for organizing and overseeing the process for election of a bishop diocesan. The following is a summary of the votes taken by the Standing Committee over the past year.

On September 12, 2013:

- VOTED to accept the budgets as proposed by the Discernment and Transition Committees.
- VOTED to hire the Very Rev. Ron Clingenpeel as consultant to the Bishop's election process to replace Ms. Suzanne Foucault who has had unforeseen and serious health related issues.
- VOTED to consent the Election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi.
- VOTED to consent to the Election of Whyne M. Hougland, Jr. as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

On October 10, 2013:

- VOTED to recommend Andrew Goldhor, Sarah Kelb, Paula Toland and Stephen Trever for ordination to the priesthood.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee provide its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan policy, for the Church of the Holy Spirit, Mattapan, to purchase the residential property located at 23 Clearwater Drive, Boston, for clergy housing.
- VOTED that the treasurers for each committee, Rick Strout, someone from SC (Mark McKone-Sweet) and someone from the Budget Committee should meet once a month to make sure the election and transition budgets are on track.
- VOTED by orders with 2/3 vote in each, that the Standing Committee gives its consent to the remittance and termination of the suspension of the Rev. Robert Bacon, Jr. thereby restoring his right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority as a priest in this church.

On November 14, 2013:

- VOTED to elect James Wagner as the President, Mark McKone-Sweet as Vice President, and Marya DeCarlen and Blanca Silvestrini as Co-Secretaries of the Standing Committee for 2013-2014.
- VOTED as provided under Canon 14, section 4(1) of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts ("Diocese"), the Standing Committee acting at the request of Christ Church, Somerville, Mass, a Massachusetts corporation, provides its advice and consent to the Bishop for the closing of the Mission, liquidation and transfer of its remaining assets to the "Diocese", and its dissolution.
- VOTED to approve a Stokes Fund Loan in the amount of \$15,000 at 3.75% interest for 3 years and to provide its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance of the property at 164 Newtown Road, Acton, with a customary lien for such loans.
- VOTED to approve the recommendation that the revised by-laws of St. Peter's Church, Cambridge be approved as submitted.
- VOTED to approve the recommendation that the revised by-laws of Church of Our Saviour, Arlington be approved as submitted.
- VOTED to approve the recommendation that the revised by-laws of St. Luke's Church, Scituate be approved as submitted.
- VOTED to accept the resignation date of September 13, 2014 for Diocesan Bishop M. Thomas Shaw, SSJE, and to convert, therefore, the April 5, 2014 election of a new bishop from an election for a bishop coadjutor to an election for a bishop diocesan.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts gives its advice and consent to the Bishop, pursuant to Diocesan Canon III.9.8, that he may pronounce that The Rev. Steven Maki 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.

On December 12, 2013:

- VOTED to approve the documents titled "MA Diocesan Bishop Election - Proposed Petition Process" and "Information on Petition Process" presented to the Standing Committee on December 12, 2013, with the edits discussed and agreed upon.
- VOTED, to approve a Stokes Fund Loan in the amount of \$36,000 at 3.75% interest for 3 years, and to provide advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance of the property at 14 School Street, Medway, with a customary lien for such loans.
- VOTED, to approve a Stokes Fund Loan in the amount of \$100,000 at 3.75% interest for 15 years, and to provide advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance of the property at 24 St. Peter Street, Salem, with a customary lien for such loans.
- VOTED, to approve the purchase of residential property for use as a rectory in the amount of \$3,600,000 and to provide advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance of the property at 20 Chestnut Street, Unit 1, Boston, with a lien or liens to secure a \$1,500,000 loan from RBS Citizens Bank and a \$300,000 private loan.
- VOTED to consent to the election of Matthew Alan Gunter as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Fond du Lac.

On December 13, 2013 electronically:

- VOTED, that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts gives its advice and consent to the Bishop that he may pronounce that The Rev. Dr. Robert B. Tobin, 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.
- VOTED, that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts gives its advice and consent to the Bishop that he may pronounce that The Rev. Francois Trottier 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.

On January 3-4, 2014:

- VOTED, to provide advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the sale of the property at 146 Court Street, Unit B101, Brockton, for an amount not less than 85% of its appraised value of \$98,000.
- VOTED to appoint Colin Johnstone as a new member of the Real Estate Advisory Committee.
- VOTED to approve the by-laws of St. Mary's Church, Dorchester as submitted.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee consents to the election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee consents to the election of Allen K. Shin as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of New York.

On January 13, 2014 via telephone:

- VOTED to approve the Bishop Diocesan Election Slate listed below, as submitted by the Discernment Committee: The Rev. Holly Lyman Antolini, Rector, St. James's Church, Cambridge, Mass.; The Rev. Ronald Culmer, Rector, St. Clare's Church, Pleasanton, Calif.; The Rev. Alan Gates, Rector, St. Paul's Church, Cleveland Heights, Ohio; The Rev. Ledlie Laughlin, Rector, St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia; The Rev. Sam Rodman, Project Manager for Campaign Initiatives, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts.

On February 13, 2014:

- VOTED to approve the following postulants for candidacy: Vincent Michael Bousquet, James Chapman, Patrick Cheng, Aileen DiBenedetto, Eric Litman, David Prentice, Yolanda Rolle, Sarah van Gulden.
- VOTED to approve the by-laws of All Saints' Church, Brookline as submitted.

- VOTED to approve the Special Rules of Order for the Electing Convention of April 5, 2014 as submitted.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts gives its advice and consent to the Bishop, pursuant to Diocesan Canon III.9.8, that he may pronounce that The Rev. Dana Boynton 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.

On February 24, 2014

- VOTED to accept the following petition candidates to the slate for Bishop Diocesan: The Rev. Timothy E. Crellin, Vicar, St. Stephen's Church, Boston; and The Rev. Canon Mally Lloyd, Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

On March 13, 2014:

- VOTED to approve the following candidates for ordination to the Transitional Diaconate: Patrick Cheng, Jeffrey Hodge, Megan Holding, Christen Mills, Rachael Pettengill-Rasure, David Prentice, Robert Schoeck, Sarah van Gulden, Harry Walton.
- VOTED to approve the following elections to the Old North Church Vestry: Senior Warden: Kit Williams (1 year term), Junior Warden: Jerome Malczewski (1 year term), Chancellor: Judy Porteus (1 year term), Treasurer: Wayne Webster (1 year term), Clerk: Bruce Shaw (1 year term), Vestry Member: Christine Clements (3 year term – renewable), Vestry Member: Bruce Brooksbank (3 year term – renewable)
- VOTED that the Standing Committee consents to the election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Western Texas.

On April 10, 2014:

- VOTED to remove the Consecration from the Transition Committee's charge with Pam Werntz as the liaison to a newly formed Consecration Committee with current Consecration subcommittee chair, Rev. Karen Coleman, and members, Rev. Alan Hesse and Mr. Jeffrey Mills. And further, that Colin Johnston be liaison to the Transition Committee with Angela McConney-Scheepers as chair.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee provide its consent in recognition of the request from St. David's Episcopal Mission to (i) close, (ii) liquidate its remaining assets, and (iii) transfer all of its assets to the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts, and (iv) dissolve. It was further VOTED that the Bishop and the Standing Committee consents to reclassify the Mission as a Closing Mission, as provided under Canon 14, Section 4(1) of the Diocese. It was further VOTED to approve the adoption of the Closing Mission by-laws of St. David's Episcopal Mission, such by-laws being prescribed by the Diocese.

On May 8, 2014:

- VOTED that the Standing Committee provides its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by Trinity Church, Concord, of the property at 81 Elm Street, Concord, with a mortgage lien for a construction loan up to an amount of \$2.3 million, consistent with Trinity's Construction Loan Proposal.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee agrees to allow St. Thomas's, Taunton to acquire the land and enter into the proposed reciprocal easements.
- VOTED, as provided for under Canon 14, Section 4(1) of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts ("Diocese"), that the Standing Committee acting at the request of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a Massachusetts corporation, provides its advice and consent to the Bishop for the closing of the Mission, liquidation and transfer of its remaining assets to the "Diocese", and its dissolution.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee provides its advice and consent to the Bishop for the sale of the properties owned by The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in the Diocese of Massachusetts located at 33 and 35 Bowdoin Street, Boston, known as the Church of St. John the Evangelist, as provided for under Canon 18, Section 1 of the Diocese, at a price of not less than \$3,400,000 for both parcels OR \$1,650,000 for the property at 33 Bowdoin Street (the Parish House) and \$1,750,000 for the property at 35 Bowdoin Street (the Church).

- VOTED to approve the recommendation that the by-laws for Epiphany Parish, Walpole, be approved with the agreed upon changes.
- VOTED that the Standing Committee approve the recommendation that the by-laws for St. Michael's Church, Holliston, be approved as submitted.
- VOTED to approve the recommendation that the by-laws for St. David's Church, South Yarmouth, be approved with the agreed upon changes.

On June 18, 2014:

VOTED that the Standing Committee provides its advice and consent to the granting of a Diocesan loan for St. Andrew's Church, New Bedford in the amount of \$60,000 for up to 15 years at 3.75% interest to identify the source of water leaks in the tower and fix, and to provide advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance of the property at 169 Belleville Rd, New Bedford, with a customary lien for such loans.

VOTED that the Standing Committee provide its advice and consent to the granting of a Diocesan loan for St. Martins, New Bedford in the amount of \$63,750 for 15 years at 3.75% interest for upgrading the church hall, refurbish 6 bad radiators and replace asbestos floor tiles, and to provide advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance of the property at 136 Rivet St, New Bedford, with a customary lien for such loans.

- VOTED that the Standing Committee approves the merger of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, North Easton; Church of St. John the Evangelist, Mansfield; and St. John's Parish Corporation, Taunton, using the existing St. John's Parish Corporation entity for the combined parishes. And further VOTED, that these combined parishes will take the name Bristol Trinity Episcopal Church. And further VOTED, that the Standing Committee recommends to the Diocesan Bishop that he approve this merger and the naming of the combined parishes. And further VOTED that the Standing Committee approves the adoption of the by-laws for Bristol Trinity Episcopal Church, such by-laws being prescribed by the Diocese.
- VOTED to consent to the election of Rev. Heather Elizabeth Cook as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of Maryland.

On July 22, 2014:

- VOTED to endorse and bless the work of the Consecration Committee to date.
- VOTED, that the Standing Committee provides its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the sale of the property at 180 South Road, Pepperell, formerly known as St. David's Mission, at a price not less than \$125,000.
- VOTED, that the Standing Committee provides its advice and consent, pursuant to Standing Committee policy, for the acceptance or acquisition by St. Augustine and St. Martin Church, Boston, of an easement over property at 29 -31 Lenox, Boston, using instruments approved by the Chancellor's Office.
- VOTED, to approve a Green Loan of \$100,000 at 2.75% for 15 years and to provide its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by St. John's Church, Charlestown, of the property at 27 Devens Street, Boston (Charlestown) with a customary lien.
- VOTED, that the Standing Committee provides its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by St. Stephen's Church, Cohasset, of the property at 16 Highland Avenue, Cohasset, with a long-term lease for cellular communications equipment, pursuant to draft lease instruments submitted for review.
- VOTED with 4 yeses and 1 no, to approve a modification of an existing Stokes Loan for Christ Church, Hyde Park, to allow for an 18-month period of payment of interest only, after which a reevaluation will be made of the loan.
- VOTED to consent to the election of Brian Richard Seage as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Mississippi.
- VOTED to consent to the election of Robert Stuart Skirving as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of East Carolina.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Rev. Marya DeCarlen & Blanca Silvestrini, co-secretaries

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT TO CONVENTION 2014

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 bishop 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.

This past year continued to be a time of transition as we welcomed Rev. Dr. David Killian as the new Chaplain to our postulants and candidates. We are very grateful to Mr. Eric Kimball, Rev. Katie Rimer and Dr. David Urion, who completed terms of service on the Commission on Ministry in 2013. We are also pleased to welcome Rev. Sara Irwin, Mr. Graeme Mills and Mr. David Varner to the COM. We wish Bishop Tom Shaw every blessing as he begins his retirement, and thank him deeply for his leadership over these past two decades, as we are eager to continue our work with Bishop Alan Gates.

COM Statistics for 2014

In 2014 the commission received commitment forms from 12 inquirers, of which 6 filed applications for postulancy after having worked with their parish discernment committees. Of those 6, 2 were accepted as postulants for the priesthood and 2 for the diaconate effective June 1, 2014.

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 \$52,000 was awarded to postulants and candidates. Scholarships ranged from \$4,000 to \$8,000 per person. These scholarships help to address the significant amount of debt incurred by those in the ordination process, which has long-term effects on deployment decisions.

The commission reports the following data for the past year:

In January 2014, 4 transitional deacons were ordained priests. In June 2014, 9 candidates were ordained transitional deacons.

As of July 1, 2014 there were 40 people in the ordination process as postulants, candidates and transitional deacons – 31 for the priesthood and 9 for the diaconate. They come from 32 sponsoring congregations throughout 11 deaneries in the diocese.

The average age of new postulants this year:

Year	Priesthood	Diaconate	Combined
2014	37	63	50

The average age of new postulants over the preceding five years:

Year	Combined
2013	43
2012	41
2011	36
2010	47
2009	45
2008	No new postulants accepted

Our current membership roster is as follows (as of September 2014) : Ms. Ella Davila Auchincloss, Ms. Karon Gibson-Mueller, The Rev. Miriam Gelfer, The Rev. Dr. Libby Gibson, The Rev. Edgar Gutierrez-Duarte, The Rev. Sara Irwin, The Rev. Edwin Johnson, Mr. Graeme Mills, The Rev. Geoffrey Piper, Ms. Kay Ridgard, Mr. David Varner, The Rev. Patricia Zifcak. The Rev. Dr. David Killian serves as Chaplain to our postulants and candidates.

We want to thank the members of the COM for their deep commitment to this ministry. Your 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:
Ella Davila Auchincloss and Karon Gibson-Mueller
Co-chairs, Commission on Ministry