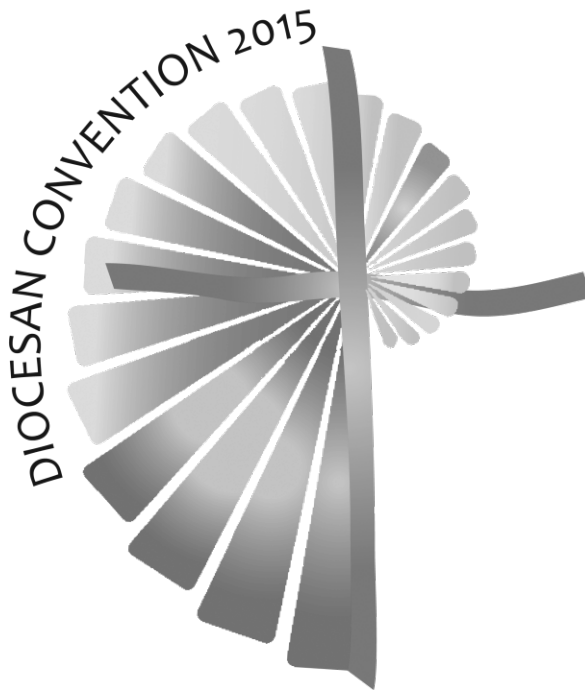


**REPORTS TO BE RECEIVED BY TITLE:**

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

**THE 230<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF  
MASSACHUSETTS  
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**



## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT TO CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 2014 - JUNE 2015**

The Diocesan Council met nine times during the 2014-2015 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.

### September 6, 2014, at Christ Church, Quincy

- Heard a review of the proposed 2015 budget from the Budget Committee chair, the Rev. Stephen Voysey.
- Voted to approve the first-year budgets for the North Shore and Metrowest mission hubs.
- Voted to appoint to the Jubilee Global Mission Committee Douglas Huber and Elisabeth Keller (for one-year appointments); the Rev. Dr. Kate Cress and the Rev. Noble Scheepers (for two-year appointments); and the Rev. Thomas Brown and Lydia Strand (for three-year appointments).
- Voted to approve the 2015 assessment adjustments as presented by the Assessment Coordinating Committee.
- Voted that the monthly payments for the past-due assessments for Grace Church in North Attleboro be reduced from \$1,667 per month to \$735 per month, effective July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, and that the total annual payments due for past-due assessments be \$14,410 each year for calendar years 2014 and 2015.
- Voted that the Diocesan Council commends the work of the Standing Committee and the subcommittees for the episcopal discernment, election and transition process, and advises the Standing Committee to conduct or oversee a thorough review of that process and keep a record of best practices.
- Voted to approve housing allowances for the Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates and the Rev. H. Mark Smith.
- Heard an overview about the upcoming Diocesan Convention and charged itself with finding nominees for any vacant positions up for election.
- Heard an update about the renovation project at St. Luke's/San Lucas Church in Chelsea.
- Voted to allocate the following from the Use of Proceeds Fund: \$60,000 to the Church of the Good Shepherd in Watertown; \$50,000 to the Church of the Holy Nativity in Weymouth; and \$100,000 for St. Stephen's Memorial Church in Lynn for the purpose of improving its physical plant.
- Voted to table indefinitely the motions for Use of Proceeds Fund allocations for the former Church of St. Luke and St. Margaret property in Allston, and for St. Stephen's Church in Boston.
- Voted to approve the proposed 2015 diocesan budget for recommendation to Diocesan Convention.

### October 16, 2014, at Christ Church, Quincy

- Heard a report from Bishop Alan M. Gates on his time in Taiwan at the House of Bishops meeting.
- Heard a report from the Creation Care Task Force on its work over the last year.
- Heard a report from the Rev. Sam Rodman on the Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation and voted to accept the foundation's request to return to the diocese all unspent funds from the \$250,000 grant approved by Council in October 2011.
- Heard a planned giving update from the director of development, Lynd Matt.
- Heard a report from the treasurer, Jim Gammill.
- Voted to authorize the following five people to sign checks drawn on the operating, electronic payment and payroll accounts at Eastern Bank: The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, The Rev. Canon Margaret Ewing Lloyd, James F. Gammill Jr., Gerry Sullivan and Laura H. Simons.
- Voted to authorize the following four people to sign checks drawn on the Fidelity cash reserves account in the brokerage account ending in 545, the Fidelity cash reserves account in the mutual fund ending in 846 and the Fidelity cash reserves account in the mutual fund ending in 854: The Rt. Rev. Alan M. Gates, The Rev. Canon Margaret Ewing Lloyd, James F. Gammill Jr. and Gerry Sullivan.
- Voted to appoint the chief business officer, Gerry Sullivan, as the assistant treasurer of the diocese.
- Heard an update about the balance in the Use of Proceeds Fund.

- Heard an update about Grace Church in North Attleboro and voted to accept that the revision of the arrangement with Grace, North Attleboro be suspended for 2015, with no payments required and no interest accruing on outstanding debt, to be reinstated in 2016 according to the current payment plan.
- Heard updates about Diocesan Convention, the construction project at St. Luke's/San Lucas in Chelsea and the cathedral renovations.

#### December 4, 2014 at Emmanuel Church, Boston

- Heard a report from Bishop Gayle E. Harris on her recent trip to the Holy Land.
- Heard a report from the diocesan treasurer, Jim Gammill, which included updates about the 2013 audit and third-quarter finances and discussion of bequest and reserve policy proposals.
- Voted to approve clergy housing allowances for 2015.
- Voted to allocate \$10,000 from proceeds from the sale of closed churches to All Saints' Church in Whitman to support its half-time rector.
- Heard a report from the Rev. Sam Rodman about two proposed mission hub sites in Roxbury and on the South Shore.
- Gave feedback about the November Diocesan Convention and suggestions for future conventions.
- Heard an update about the construction project at St. Luke's-San Lucas Church in Chelsea.
- Heard an update from Lynd Matt, Director of Development, on the Diocesan Annual Fund.

#### January 24-25, 2015 Retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, Greenfield, NH

- Heard an Annual Fund update from development director, Lynd Matt.
- Heard a report from diocesan treasurer, Jim Gammill.
- Voted to endorse a policy for receiving and distributing bequests that generally directs unrestricted bequests to the general endowment fund and restricted bequests to fund accounts, existing or new, with the appropriate restrictions, and that, in the case of unrestricted bequests of \$50,000 or more, encourages reimbursement (not to exceed 10 percent of the bequest) to the diocesan budget entity that has funded recent or current diocesan development office operations.
- Voted, in respect to a recent bequest, to direct 10 percent of the bequest or \$200,000, whichever is lesser, to the unrestricted bishop's discretionary fund account and the remainder, without restriction, to the general endowment fund of the diocese.
- Voted to establish three new reserve accounts for property maintenance (\$650,000), capital equipment (\$150,000) and future bishop elections (\$250,000).
- Voted to establish a new reserve endowment fund, and to fund it with \$1,050,000 from the general endowment fund, and to commend that future annual budgets replenish these reserves as circumstances warrant.
- Voted to re-elect to the Executive Committee Claudette Hunt, the Rev. Joe Robinson, Connie Melahoures and Chris Trahan, and to elect to the Executive Committee the Rev. Tom Mousin, the Rev. Rebecca Black, Matt Harper-Nixon and Carol Friar.
- Voted to elect to the Financial Advisory Committee Chris Meyer and the Rev. Barbara Williamson.
- Voted to re-elect to the Budget Committee the Rev. Matthew Cadwell and Ellen Sheehy, and to elect to the Budget Committee the Rev. Barbara Williamson.
- Heard an update about pending applications for funds from the proceeds from the sale of closed churches and decided that no new applications will be accepted at present due to limited funds.
- Voted to allocate an additional \$20,000 to All Saints' Church in Whitman to support its half-time rector, with \$10,000 allocated for 2016 and \$10,000 for 2017.
- Heard an update about the construction project at St. Luke's-San Lucas Church in Chelsea.
- Voted to site a South Shore Mission Hub, pending review of its budget at the February Budget Committee meeting.

### February 26, 2015 at Trinity Church, Boston

- Heard a report from the Audit Committee chair, Jim Woodward, and voted to approve the audit of the 2013 financial statements of the Protestant Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts as prepared by McGladrey LLP and dated Feb. 13, 2015.
- Heard a report from the treasurer, Jim Gammill, which included a summary of the 2014 financials and a reminder of the March 10 budget hearing focusing on income and assessments.
- Voted to amend the 2015 supplemental budget by increasing projected Annual Fund revenue from \$326,000 to \$376,000; and approved a one-time Annual Fund grant of \$50,000 to St. Stephen's Church in Boston for kitchen renovations.
- Voted to authorize the South Shore Mission Hub leadership team to spend up to \$5,000 on hub-related expenses incurred before the March 26 Diocesan Council meeting.
- Voted to allocate \$150,000 from the proceeds from the sale of closed churches to Grace Church in New Bedford for capital improvements, in the form of a matching grant requiring the parish to raise \$150,000 in new donations for the capital improvements by Dec. 31, 2017. Any amount of the grant not matched by then will convert to a loan from the diocese to the parish with an interest rate equal to the prevailing Stokes Fund loan rate.
- Voted to allocate \$50,000 from the proceeds from the sale of closed churches to St. Andrew's Church in New Bedford for capital improvements.

### March 26, 2015 at Trinity Church, Boston

- Heard an update from Dean Jep Streit about the Cathedral Church of St. Paul renovations.
- Heard a report from the treasurer, Jim Gammill, on the 2016 assessment formula.
- Voted to approve the first-year budget for the South Shore Mission Hub in the amount of \$114,272.
- Heard a report from the Financial Advisory Committee chair, the Rev. George Stevens.
- Heard a report from Bishop Alan M. Gates and the Rev. Canon Libby Berman on the diocesan mission strategy process and timeline.

### April 30, 2015 at Trinity Church, Boston

- Heard a presentation from Life Together's executive director, the Rev. Arrington Chambliss, and Life Together's newly hired director of operations and external partnerships, Kelsey Rice Bogdan.
- Heard a report from the treasurer, Jim Gammill, and voted, with respect to the bequest from the Dorothy C. Dinsmore Charitable Remainder Trust, to gratefully acknowledge the devotion of Dorothy C. Dinsmore to the Episcopal Church, and to direct that 10 percent of the gift be credited to the unrestricted Bishop's Discretionary Fund and that the remainder of the gift be placed without restriction into the general endowment fund of the diocese.
- Voted that the assessment formula for 2016 is:  
assessment due = 15.5% \* BASE - \$6,000 (subject to a floor of 0) where the BASE for 2016 is equal to line 14 ("all other operating expenses") from the 2013 parochial report, less line 7 ("assistance from diocese"). For a mission, the 2016 assessment is two-thirds the amount that would be assessed if the congregation were a parish.
- Voted to authorize the Assessment Coordinating Committee to consider and receive requests from congregations for adjustments to the 2016 scheduled assessments, with total adjustments not to exceed \$60,000.
- Voted to appoint George Noyes to the Financial Advisory Committee.
- Voted to appoint Richard Marks as chair of the Diocesan Loan Committee.
- Heard a report from the Rev. Sam Rodman on the proposed firstyear budget for the Dorchester-Roxbury Mission Hub.
- Heard a report from Connie Melahoures and Jim Gammill on the Use of Proceeds grant application from Christ Church, Medway.

- Received a report from the housing advisory team tasked with making recommendations on how to best provide housing for Bishop Gates and his family, who are currently living in temporary rental housing. To meet the need for a modestly sized home within easy access of the diocesan offices; to be positioned as a competitive buyer in the currently active sellers' market; and with consideration for potential return on investment, the advisory group, after a process of research and consultation, has recommended that the diocese purchase a bishop's residence at a cost not to exceed \$1.5 million. The Standing Committee has received the advisory team's recommendation and voted on April 16 to recommend the same.
- Council then: Voted to encourage Bishop Gates to identify a residential property that the diocese would purchase and deploy as his primary housing. Upon the recommendation of such a residential property by Bishop Gates, the Diocesan Council authorizes the Executive Committee to vote its approval (or not) of an offer to purchase such a residence, provided that the purchase price does not exceed \$1.5 million;
- And further voted to direct the Budget Committee to consult with the Compensation and Benefits Committee and the Standing Committee about adjusting the bishop's compensation agreement in response to the purchase of a residential property for the bishop, and come to Council with a consensus recommendation;
- And further voted to direct the Budget Committee and the Financial Advisory Committee to report to Council the full impact of the proposed purchase of a residential property for the bishop;
- And further voted to authorize Claudette Hunt to communicate to Bishop Gates the results of the meeting.

#### May 21, 2015 at Trinity Church, Boston

- Heard a report from the Rev. Sam Rodman on mission hubs, including an update on the budget for the proposed Roxbury/Dorchester hub and the application for the proposed Boston/Cambridge hub.
- Welcomed new member Win Treese, representing the Concord River Deanery.
- Heard a report from diocesan treasurer, Jim Gammill.
- Voted to pledge \$600,000 from the General Endowment Fund over three years to support funding for the mission hubs, and authorized the following transfers among endowment funds into the General Endowment Fund: \$400,000 from the St. John's East Boston Fund; \$100,000 from the Jennie F. Getchell Fund; and \$100,000 from the Holy Nativity Seekonk Fund.
- Voted to move the remaining balance of the above funds into the Fund for Congregational Vitality.
- Voted that the Diocesan Council remembers the three parishes, now closed, whose ministry and service created the legacy represented in part by the above resources: St. John's Church, East Boston; the Church of Our Saviour, Roslindale; and the Church of the Holy Nativity, Seekonk.
- Voted to allocate the proceeds from the repayment of the mortgage loan made by the diocese to St. David's Church, Pepperell (now closed) totaling \$38,935, to the Use of Proceeds Grants account.
- Heard a report on the 2016 assessment notices that will be going out to congregations the first week of June.
- Heard an update on 2016 budget preparations.
- Heard an update on the housing process for Bishop Gates.
- Voted to approve a grant from the proceeds from the sale of closed churches, in the amount of \$35,000, to Christ Church in Medway for its kitchen renovation project.
- Heard an Annual Fund update from the development director, Lynd Matt.
- Heard an update about the 2016 diocesan mission strategy process from the Rev. Canon Libby Berman.

June 18, 2015 at Trinity Church, Boston

- At its June 4 meeting, the Executive Committee voted in regard to Bishop Gates's housing (as authorized by Diocesan Council at its April 30 meeting) to authorize the purchase of 47 Commercial Wharf, Unit 6, Boston, for \$1,400,016. The assistant treasurer, Gerry Sullivan, is authorized to sign all necessary documents on behalf of the diocese to complete this transaction.
- Heard an update from the St. Luke's and St. Margaret's Executive Committee.
- Heard a report from the Rev. Sam Rodman on mission hubs, including an update from members of the proposed Boston/Cambridge hub, and voted to site the Roxbury/Dorchester Hub with a first-year budget of \$131,650.
- Heard a report from diocesan treasurer, Jim Gammill.
- Voted to implement an adjustment to Bishop Gates's cash compensation.
- Voted to appoint Mary Gardill to the Diocesan Loan Committee.
- Heard a report about winter expense grants to be offered to congregations to help offset extraordinary expenses over this past winter.
- Heard an update about the 2016 budget process.
- Heard that the 2014 audit is complete.
- Heard a report from the Rev. Canon Libby Berman about parishes in arrears on their assessments.
- Heard an update about the mission strategy process.
- Heard an update about St. Luke's-San Lucas Church in Chelsea.
- Heard an update from the director of development, Lynd Matt, on this year's Annual Fund.
- Voted to express its thanks and gratitude to the churches that have hosted Diocesan Council meetings while the Cathedral Church of St. Paul has been under renovation, including Christ Church in Quincy, Emmanuel Church in Boston, the Church of the Advent in Boston and Trinity Church in Boston.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Simons  
Assistant Secretary

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT TO CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 2014 – JUNE 2015**

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 at the diocesan offices unless otherwise noted.

### *On September 9, 2014:*

- VOTED to give its advice and consent to Bishop Gayle Harris, pursuant to Diocesan Canon III.9.8, that she may pronounce that The Rev. Roger Wootton 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 to approve a Green Loan of \$100,000, at 2.75% for 15 years, and provided its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, of the encumbrance by St. John's Church, Jamaica Plain, of the property at One Roanoke Avenue, Boston, with a customary lien, conditioned on receipt and approval by the Diocesan Loan Committee of bids for the furnace conversion and of a project budget, with contingency.
- VOTED to approve a diocesan loan of \$48,351, at 3.75% for 15 years, and provided its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by St. Peter's Church, Cambridge on the property at 838 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, with a customary lien.
- VOTED to approve the by-laws as submitted by St. Anne's Church, Lowell.

### *On October 9, 2014:*

- VOTED to approve a Stokes Loan of \$15,000, at 3.75% for 15 years, and provided its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, of the encumbrance by St. James's Church, Cambridge, of the church property at 1991 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02140, with a customary lien for such loans.
- VOTED to approve an increase in the previously approved diocesan loan of \$60,000 to the amount of \$100,000, at 3.75% for 15 years for St. Andrew's Church, New Bedford and provided its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance of the property at 169 Belleville Road, New Bedford, MA 02745, with a customary lien for such loans.
- VOTED to approve the by-laws of Trinity Church, Wrentham with the agreed upon revisions.

### *On November 13, 2014:*

- VOTED to approve the following postulant for candidacy: Mr. Thomas Bartlett.
- VOTED to approve the following candidates for ordination to the priesthood, effective January 10, 2015: The Rev. Patrick Cheng, The Rev. Jeffrey Dodge, The Rev. Megan Holding, The Rev. Christen Mills, The Rev. Rachael Pettengill-Rasure, The Rev. Robert Schoeck, The Rev. Sarah van Gulden, The Rev. Harry Walton.
- VOTED to appoint the Rev. Marya DeCarlen as President of the Standing Committee.
- VOTED to appoint Ms. Blanca Silvestrini as Vice President of the Standing Committee.
- VOTED to provide its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the sale of the property that was formerly the site of St. Mark's Church, 91 Center Street, North Easton, Massachusetts, at a price not below \$115,000, with the following conditions: (i) that net proceeds from the sale shall be deposited in an appropriate parish account for safe-keeping, separate from operating funds; (ii) that any withdrawal of principal is subject to a review and approval of Standing Committee and the Bishop Diocesan, in consultation with the congregational development team (or its successor); and (iii) that the use of any income through a draw should be such that it consistently preserves the long term value of the net proceeds.
- VOTED to provide its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the sale of the property that was formerly the site of Church of St. John the Evangelist, 43 High Street, Mansfield, Massachusetts, at a price not below \$135,000, with the following conditions: (i) that net proceeds from the sale shall be deposited in an appropriate parish account for safe-keeping, separate from operating funds; (ii) that any

withdrawal of principal is subject to a review and approval of Standing Committee and the Bishop Diocesan, in consultation with the congregational development team (or its successor); and (iii) that the use of any income through a draw should be such that it consistently preserves the long term value of the net proceeds.

*On December 11, 2014:*

- VOTED to provide its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, to the sale by St. John's Church, Jamaica Plain, of the property at 24 Alveston Street, Boston, for a price not less than \$850,000, on the condition that the proceeds be held in an appropriate conservative financial vehicle and be used only for purchase of new clergy housing, income for the rental of clergy housing, or income for a clergy housing allowance.
- VOTED to approve a diocesan loan of \$100,000 at 3.75% for 15 years, and provided its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by St. Mary on the Harbor, Provincetown, of the property at 517 Commercial Street, Provincetown, with a customary lien for such loans.
- VOTED to consent to the election of the Rt. Rev. David Mitchell Reed as Bishop Coadjutor of the diocese of West Texas.

*On January 2-3, 2015 at the Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge, MA:* No votes were taken.

*On February 12, 2015:*

- VOTED to provide its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the sale of the property that was formerly the site of St. John's Church, 378 Bay Street, Taunton, Massachusetts, at a price not below \$363,000 for the entire property, or if subdivided, not below \$126,000 for the former rectory and \$237,000 for the church and parish hall, with the following conditions: (i) that net proceeds from the sale shall be deposited in an appropriate parish account for safe-keeping, separate from operating funds; (ii) that any withdrawal of principal is subject to a review and approval of Standing Committee and the Bishop Diocesan, in consultation with the congregational development team (or its successor); (iii) that the use of any income through a draw should be such that it consistently preserves the long term value of the net proceeds; and (iv) that the parish should market the property at commercial value during the next six months by hiring a commercial real estate broker.
- VOTED to appoint the Rev. Chris Wendell and Ms. Mary Gardill as new members of the Real Estate Advisory Committee.
- VOTED to approve the following postulants for Candidacy\*, effective December 1, 2014: Edward Cardoza, Marisa Egerstrom\*, Isaac Everett\*, Philip Flaherty, Robert Greiner, Kristine Holmes, Elizabeth Jordan, Patrick LaFortune\*, Matthew Lindeman, Stephen McCarthy, Jennifer McCracken, Brian Raiche, Noah van Niel, Christopher Whiteman\*, Andrea Wyatt and Charles Wydner\*  
\*conditional upon successful completion of CPE.
- VOTED to approve the by-laws for Good Shepherd, Watertown as submitted.

*On March 12, 2015:*

- VOTED to agree to the formation of a Bishop's Advisory Team, composed of Alice Krapf, Chris Meyer, Colin Johnstone, Claudette Hunt, Gerry Sullivan and Jonathan Eden, with Alice Krapf as the group's convener, and charges them to make a recommendation to the Standing Committee with 30 days of March 12, 2015, regarding the potential purchase of property as bishop's residence, including general parameters of location and size, a specific budget range for such a purchase, and a rationale for such an arrangement.
- VOTED to approve the following applicants for ordination to the transitional diaconate: Vincent Michael Bousquet, Edward Cardoza, Aileen DiBenedetto, Charlotte LaForest, Matthew Lindeman, Eric Litman, Stephen McCarthy, Yolanda Rolle, Noah van Niel.
- VOTED to approve the following applicant for ordination to the diaconate: James Chapman.
- VOTED to receive the following applicant as a priest in the Episcopal Church: Brian Raiche.
- VOTED to appoint Ms. Alice Krapf as the chair of REAC.
- VOTED to consent to the election of the Very Rev. Peter Eaton as Bishop Coadjutor of the diocese of Southeast Florida.



*On April 16, 2015 at the property of St. Luke's/St. Margaret's, Allston, MA:*

- VOTED to recommend that the diocese purchase a Bishop's residence at a cost not to exceed \$1.5 million, to be selected by Bishop Gates; and that the Diocese purchases the residence with cash, rather than a mortgage, to provide a competitive edge to the Diocese as Buyer in this very active market; and further
- VOTED that the Bishop's compensation be adjusted to reflect the TCC standards for a Rector's housing allowance as expressed by the EDOM Compensation and Benefits Committee guidelines for 2014 and the LOA be revised to reflect these changes.
- VOTED to approve the following applicants for ordination to the transitional diaconate: Andrea Wyatt.
- VOTED to provide its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by Church of Our Redeemer, Lexington, of the property at 6 Meriam Street, Lexington, with liens for loans of one of two types: a. a bank loan in an amount up to \$300,000, using the church building as collateral, on terms no worse than offer previously provided by T.D. Bank and described in its term sheet, or b. Diocesan loans of up to \$150,000 of such type as Redeemer and the Diocesan Loan Committee may agree and for which Redeemer may qualify; Provided that, for diocesan loan(s):the parish accept a 15 year term, any green loan be subject to review by the Creation Care team and qualification of the work as eligible for a green loan, the parish submit information indicating that their endowment fund is without use restrictions so that it can be used for the project, the parish submit all other documentation required by the loan process.
- VOTED to provide its approval of Diocesan Loans of up to \$100,000 and provided its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Duxbury, of the property at 410 Washington Street, Duxbury, with customary liens for such loans, provided that such funds are used solely to replenish capital funds previously used for renovation projects.
- VOTED to provide its approval of Diocesan Loans of up to \$82,000 (and a total loan balance of \$110,000) and provides its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by the Trinity Episcopal Church, Wrentham, of the property at 47 East Street, Wrentham, with customary liens for such loans.
- VOTED to provide its consent in recognition of the request from Church of the Holy Spirit 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. And further,
- VOTED to consent to reclassifying the Parish as a Closing Mission, as provided under Canon 14, Section 4(1) of the Diocese. And further,
- VOTED to approve the adoption of the Closing Mission by-laws of Church of the Holy Spirit, such by-laws being prescribed by the Diocese (copy attached).

*On May 14, 2015:*

- VOTED to approve the revised by-laws for Grace Church, Vineyard Haven as submitted pending their ratification by the parish at the next special meeting.
- VOTED to approve the revised by-laws for All Saints', Attleboro as revised, pending their ratification by the parish at the next special meeting.
- VOTED to ratify the election of the vestry of Christ Church in the City of Boston (Old North Church).
- VOTED to consent to the election of the Rev. Canon Audrey Cady Scanlan as bishop diocesan of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.
- VOTED to consent to the election of the Rev. James Russell Kendrick as bishop diocesan of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.
- VOTED to approve a fully amortizing 15 year Diocesan Loan of \$33,525 at 3.75% (or 3.5% if the parish opts for automatic electronic monthly payment), to St James's Church, Somerville for the replacement of its boiler and provided its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by St James's Church, Somerville of the property at 1170 Broadway, Somerville, with a customary lien.

*On June 10, 2015:*

- VOTED to approve the revised model by-law cover letter.
- VOTED to approve a fully amortizing 15 year Green Loan of \$100,000 at 2.75% (or 2.5% if the parish opts for automatic electronic monthly payment), to Church of Our Savior, Brookline for the replacement of its heating system and provided its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by Church of Our Savior, Brookline of the property at 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline, with a customary lien.
- VOTED to approve a fully amortizing 15 year Diocesan Loan of \$20,349 at 3.75% (or 3.5% if the parish opts for automatic electronic monthly payment), to St. James's Church, Groveland for renovations and heating systems replacement and provided its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by St. James's Church, Groveland of the property at 119-121 Washington Street, Groveland, with a customary lien.
- VOTED to approve a fully amortizing 15 year Green Loan of \$51,247 at 2.75% (or 2.5% if the parish opts for automatic electronic monthly payment), to Christ Church, Needham for the installation of solar panels and other energy savings improvements and provided its advice and consent, pursuant to Diocesan Canon 18, for the encumbrance by Christ Church, Needham of the property at 1132 Highland Avenue, Needham, with a customary lien.

*June 19, 2015 (electronically):*

- VOTED to approve the by-laws for Christ Church, Swansea, as revised.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura Simons  
Assistant Secretary

## **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY 2015 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 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.

We also express our gratitude to the clergy, staff and congregations of Trinity Church, Boston and Emmanuel Church, Boston for providing hospitality during the Cathedral renovation for the Ministry Discernment Conference, ordinations to the priesthood and ordinations to the diaconate.

This past year we welcomed Ms. Branwen Smith-King as a new member of the COM. We are very grateful to Mr. David Varner and Rev. Geoffrey Piper who completed terms of service on the Commission on Ministry in 2015. We have also submitted a resolution to the Constitutions and Canons Committee to expand the COM from twelve to fifteen members, both to share our regular work with inquirers, postulants and candidates but also to allow us to undertake special projects.

### **COM Statistics for 2015**

In 2014 the Commission received commitment forms from 27 inquirers, of which 21 filed applications for postulancy after having worked with their parish discernment committees. Of those 21, 19 were invited to interview and 15 were accepted as postulants, 12 for the priesthood and 3 for the diaconate effective June 1, 2015.

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 \$56,000 was awarded to postulants and candidates. Scholarships ranged from \$975 to \$13,000 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 2015, 7 transitional deacons were ordained priests. In June 2015, 1 candidate was ordained to the diaconate, 10 candidates were ordained as transitional deacons and 1 priest was received from the Roman Catholic Church.

As of July 1, 2015 there were 45 people in the ordination process as postulants, candidates and transitional deacons – 35 for the priesthood and 10 for the diaconate. They come from 35 sponsoring congregations throughout 9 deaneries in the diocese.

The average age of the 15 new postulants this year:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Priesthood</b>	<b>Diaconate</b>	<b>Combined</b>
2015	35	48	38

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Combined</b>
2014	50
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 2015): 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, Ms. Branwen Smith-King, 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. 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:  
Ella Davila Auchincloss and Karon Gibson-Mueller  
Co-chairs, Commission on Ministry