



The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

Pray + Learn + Serve + Grow

Standing Committee

Purpose: The Standing Committee is established by the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. It serves as a council of advice to the bishop, and assumes the role of the bishop in diocesan governance when there is a vacancy in the office of the bishop. In addition, the Standing Committee must consent or withhold consent from elections of bishops in other dioceses of the Episcopal Church, and certify candidates for Holy Orders in Eastern Michigan. All members of the Standing Committee are concurrently members of the Diocesan Council, and exercise those duties also.

Terms and Makeup: Three clerical positions and three lay positions; one in each order is elected by Diocesan Convention to a three-year term. After two consecutive terms, an incumbent is ineligible to stand for reelection. In that case, a former member may stand for reelection after a year out of office.

Responsibilities: Members are expected to attend scheduled meetings. Meetings are tentatively scheduled on Fridays (subject to change based on availability of members), at 10:00am until adjournment, at the Diocesan Center. Some meetings are held online using Adobe Connect technology. Additionally, Committee members are expected to read materials forwarded to them in advance of meetings by diocesan staff and the Committee's officers. Committee members may be asked to serve on ad hoc or standing sub-committees as needed (at present there are no such committees). Members are also expected to be present at annual and special conventions of the diocese.

Skills and knowledge*: Strong people skills, especially an ability to listen actively, ask questions, and understand subtext is important. Competency in email and word processing is necessary for communications and monthly work. Knowledge of governance of the Episcopal Church at varying levels; familiarity with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Diocese of Eastern Michigan (preferred, but not required); principles of non-profit board fiduciary responsibility; familiarity with the congregations, clergy, and ministries of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. Ability to maintain confidentiality of discussions involving sensitive pastoral concerns; to shift perspective from congregationally focused to diocesan focused as needed; to discuss and debate matters upon which reasonable adults may disagree with an attitude of respect and dignity; to work on a team effectively; analytical thinking skills.

* This list should be considered as characteristic for the Council *as a whole*, and not be interpreted as a list of required skills and knowledge for each individual member to be effective.