

## 2017 Annual Reports of the Diocesan Commissions

*Commission chairs were asked to provide the following information for the commission for 2017:*

- 1. The mission of the group*
- 2. Major accomplishments for 2017 and goals for 2018*
- 3. How does the work of this commission support the diocese's mission?*
- 4. Members of commission*

### **Advisory Committee on Compensation and Resources**

#### **1. Mission of group**

“To advise the Bishop and Diocesan Council (Council) on matters dealing with compensation and employment standards for clergy called to cures and/or offices in the Diocese, and lay employees of the Diocese and its member congregations.”

*Adopted by Council 9/19/1994 and revised August 2004.*

#### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

The Committee updated policy statements, benefit plans and rates to reflect explored options and best practices to benefit our parishes and their employees. A primary focus in 2017 was on monitoring the implementation of the Denominational Health Plan (DHP) while keeping aware of the ever evolving health care debate and its impact on private insurers, thus affecting what is offered through the Episcopal Medical Trust; as well as updates to the Clergy Pension Plan. Considerable focus and effort was also given to develop a number of new resources for our congregations and other mission agencies of the diocese.

Completion of the Church Pension Group's (CPG) Institutional and Employee Rosters, which facilitates the ability to provide annual reports on the extent of compliance with respect to the implementation of the DHP and both Clergy and Lay Pension Plans were now completed and we are developing a best practice for their respective ongoing maintenance and updating. The IR/ER are essential, not only from the standpoint of Canons, these are also a fundamental way to reflect who is eligible and receiving benefits that are entitled by the nature and status of their position. We are developing a compliance report that can simply be part of the “Annual Audit Packet” which is to be managed by the Finance Office.

The ACCR also developed two new resources to help with human resource administration:

- New Hire Checklist – This is a two-sided document designed to provide a congregation with what would be most helpful to on-board a new employee. The front side has more to do with orientation, while the back page is more of a H.R. Checklist of all that is needed for the employee and their respective file.
- Model Employee Handbook – While it was time to update an employee handbook for the diocesan employees, we have been getting requests about any template to be used by congregations, as well as what might need to be adapted for ancillary agencies, such as Procter Camp & Conference Center. The approach we have taken has to develop a “chassis” in which any given

congregation or related agency can adapt what is needed to fit their context, while at the same time make recommendations for what must be contained at a minimum.

All of the above were presented at our Second Administrative Leadership Day this past August (August 19) at Procter Center, where we had 38 people from around the diocese attend and provide feedback on the resources in their current drafts. We are preparing revisions based on what we learned and plan to review with the Chancellor before a final presentation to Council and then made available through the diocesan website.

The other major topics of the Administrative Leadership Day centered around Church Pension Group who provided an overview to the revisions to the Clergy Pension Plan (mandated by General Convention) and spoke of what CPG is preparing for in terms of better market relation to health care.

2018's focus will continue to be on monitoring compliance and advising Bishop Breidenthal and Diocesan Council as to any appropriate changes in clergy compensation guidelines and the DHP (especially with the impending consolidation of plans offered) and Pension Plans. For the DHP, The Episcopal Medical Trust has determined that a consolidation of vendors and plans offered will best offer comprehensive care at better price-points. To prepare for this, we are planning on offering the new plans voluntarily this year in case people wish to switch at Open Enrollment (in 2017) and do education for our insureds in the coming year to prepare as graceful a transition as possible. The plans represent PPOs and 3 options of a high-deductible plan (with HSA). The additional high-deductible plans will mean we can now offer insurance plans that are considered "gold" "silver" and "bronze" (we currently have only the silver level plan); which means more flexibility for congregations to decide what is the best option for their eligible employees.

### **3. Support mission of diocese**

The ACCR's work has and would be primarily in support for what has been "Mission Priority # 5" the "Stewardship of Resources." Members are aware of their challenge to balance both the stewardship of available financial resources and of the well being of our clergy and lay employees.

The success of the "balancing" of resources by the ACCR also impacts "Mission Priority #1," which is focused on "Healthy Congregations."

### **4. Members**

The Rev. Darren Elin, chair

Jon Boss, Amy Boyd, the Rev. David Getreu, Susan Maruca, Katrina Mundy, Mark Priest, David Thomson, Robert Turley, David Robinson, Angela Byrd and the Rev. Canon Lynn Carter-Edmands

## **Campus Ministry**

### **1. Mission of group**

We are a collaborative of ministers serving college/university campuses located in the Diocese of Southern Ohio by providing an Episcopal presence on campuses and/or providing and participating in interfaith ministry for college/university campuses. Our ministers can be found in: University of Cincinnati, Ohio State University, Ohio University, Miami University, and multiple additional campuses in Columbus.

### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

This year the collaborative received grant requests and distributed grants to the following ministries:

The Edge House, Cincinnati: \$7,000

Downtowners Interfaith, Columbus: \$10,000

Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Athens: \$10,000

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Oxford: \$10,500

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Columbus, \$5,100

Together we planned and executed a weekend retreat for college age students, which provided two days away from campus to rest, reflect, and rejuvenate. This year's retreat was Oct. 14-15 in the Hocking Hills.

Participants from the Downtowners ministry participated in the Prov. V campus ministry student retreat in February 2017 in Chicago, IL.

### **3. Support mission of diocese**

The Campus Ministry Collaborative is the Episcopal presence on college and university campuses. Three of our parishes were planted on or near major Ohio universities with the specific intention of simply being present. Today that presence is growing in importance as our ministers discover the majority of the generation entering college/university was not raised in churches of any denomination, and students often reach out to those parishes near them as part of school projects. For many students in college/university, such encounters are their first with any church; and providing a welcoming, open, hope filled experience is how many students are learning not only about the Episcopal Church, but any church.

### **4. Members**

The Rev. Deborah Woolsey, Church of the Good Shepherd, convenor

The Rev. Alice Connor, The Edge House; The Rev. Jarod Talbot, St. Stephens Episcopal Church; Dr. Ellen O'Shaughnessy, Downtowners Ecumenical Campus Ministry; The Rev. Sara Palmer, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

## Commission on Congregational Life

### 1. Mission of group

The mission of the Commission on Congregational Life is to assist congregations to be viable and sustainable Episcopal presences in their respective context by:

- Helping communicate the Good News of Jesus Christ to all;
- Initiating and encouraging the founding of new congregations/communities of faith;
- Aiding the growth and change of existing congregations and celebrating the life therein; and,
- Assisting in the closing and relocation of congregations as may prove necessary.

While the scope of responsibilities of COCL are described in the Diocesan Canons and are included in the Diocese of Southern Ohio Strategic Plan: Strategy I: Healthy Congregations, today the COCL allocates a significant amount of time, talent, and treasure in re-imagining and re-positioning its diocesan mission and associated services.

The commission meets monthly to review congregational grant applications, forecast futures needs, and remain updated on fluid mission and program related activities across the diocese and broader Episcopal Church. In addition, for the past 18 months, members of the Commission have participated alongside the parishes involved in the Recasting program (see information below).

### 2. Accomplishments/goals

#### Grants

During the past few years, the Commission on Congregational Life has established a transformational process to redefine its grant rewarding and relationships with the Diocese of Southern Ohio's missions and parishes. The commission has developed and exercises leadership in supporting congregational and new initiative financial requests using a variety of metrics to evaluate factors for accepting, revising, or rejecting requests for financial support.

COCL considers:

- Congregational mission impact
- Creative and innovative mission strategies
- Means for evaluating program/ministry effectiveness
- Alignment with the Diocese's "Hallmarks of Health"
- Consideration of alternative sources for financial/operational/logistical support

Below is a list of the parishes receiving funding for 2017 in all grant categories:

All Saints, Pleasant Ridge	St. Andrew's, Dayton
Christ Church, Ironton	St. Andrew's, Evanston
Epiphany, Nelsonville	St. Andrew's, Pickerington
Holy Trinity, Kenwood	St. Andrew's, WCH
NMVEC	St. Christopher's, Fairborn
St. Paul, Logan	Church of St. Edward, Whitehall

St. John's, Columbus  
St. Matthew's, Westerville

Trinity, Belaire

### Innovating Church

During 2016, COCL began the development of our own website, available through the diocesan website or by using the URL: [innovatingchurch.org](http://innovatingchurch.org). That development has continued throughout 2017

### Transformational Leadership

The COCL is charged with: encouraging, supporting, evaluating, and seeking opportunities for development and growth of all fellowships, missions, and parishes of the diocese. The commission focuses on how it can best serve the congregations and communities of faith in the diocese. COCL is re-imagining its own roles and responsibilities for the 21st Century even as it works with communities throughout the diocese.

### Best Practices Conference

In 2016, COCL focused on providing congregational leaders and members with specific tools to evaluate their ministries in their own unique contexts. Investigating partnerships to serve the needs in our communities; evaluating current facilities as they relate to mission and ministry; and, facing financial realities were but a few topics presented by consultants from the Episcopal Church Building Fund's in their "Jump Start" Program.

It was a day of digging deep to foster change, re-imagine congregational futures and celebrate our mission of communicating the Good News of Jesus Christ to all.

### Congregational Opportunity

As a result of the success of our Best Practices Conference, the COCL set aside the necessary funding to give eight congregations the opportunity to participate in a consulting process called Recasting of Building Assets. Congregations applied for the opportunity to participate in this 18-month program and the following were selected:

Christ Church, Ironton	St. Peter's, Delaware
St. Simon of Cyrene, Lincoln Heights	Ascension, Middletown
St. Christopher's, Fairborn	St. Andrew's, Dayton
Trinity, Newark	St. Andrew s, Pickerington

These congregations have gone through an intensive process (which ended the weekend of October 13, 2017) to answer the question: How can the congregation:

1. Develop a congregation's financial self-sustainability through the creative and innovative use of their buildings.
2. Increase relevancy of the congregation to the community.
3. Disperse or reallocate real-estate assets that are redundant or cannot be sustained.

A customized curriculum was designed for each group of participants and adjustments are made as needed. ECBF facilitators were onsite for training sessions.

Between on-site visits, coached WebEx meetings were conducted with each congregation to ensure accountability, provide neutral advice, access professional resources, and promote success-focused solutions. Assignments were given to stimulate creative problem solving, increase resources, develop connections in the community, and keep the congregation engaged with, and supportive of, developing ideas. Communication with the diocesan leadership was maintained throughout the process.

**3. Support mission of diocese**

We have experienced that the process invigorates congregational life and creates new, dynamic relationships within the community, resulting in a common mission and in new people experiencing a fulfilling relationship with the parish.

**4. Members**

Cathy Bagot, Co-Chair

The Rev. Alexander Martin, Co-Chair

Jim Heathcote, Treasurer; The Rev. Kevin Beesley, Jon Boss, the Rev. Roger Greene, the Rev. Joseph Kovitch, Katrina Mundy, Jim Murray, the Rev. Eileen O'Reilly, the Rev. AJ Stack, Hank Wendorf, Janice M. West, the Rev. Canon Jack Koepke, staff liaison, Tammie Vanoss, communications liaison

## **Commission on Ministry**

### **1. Mission of group**

Canonically, the functions of Commissions on Ministry are to assist the bishop "in determining present and future needs for ministry in the diocese" and to assist "in enlisting and selecting persons for Holy Orders." We accomplish these goals in many ways, including Explorers' retreats, interviews, and regional discernment committees. Several times a year, we make recommendations to the bishop and to the Standing Committee. In addition, we are also working to better fulfill our canonical mission to develop, train, and affirm lay ministries.

### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

Explorer's Retreat in February with 11 explorers from around our diocese.  
May workshop with formal interviews of 7 explorers.  
Regional Discernment Committee (RDC) training workshop with 20 participants.  
Formal interviews of two postulants seeking to be candidates for ordination.  
Formal interviews of explorers seeing to become postulants.

For 2018: Continue our work with Explorers' Retreat, formal interviews, and RDC training. Expand our work to better fulfill our canonical mission to develop, train, and affirm lay ministries.

### **3. Support mission of diocese**

This commission plays a central role in the raising up of new deacons and priests for the Church. We seek new Church leaders who can function as theologians, entrepreneurs, and faith community organizers. As such, the commission's work is key to the mission priorities of the diocese. Currently, we fall short in our canonical role to develop, train, and affirm lay ministries and are open to suggestions on how to improve.

### **4. Members**

Spencer Pugh, chair

*Class of 2017*

David Cofer, the Rev. Jennie Crockett, Scott Donaldson, Eric Schryver, the Rev. Eric Miller, the Rev. Phyllis Spiegel

*Class of 2018*

Pat Haug, the Rev. Jason Prati, the Rev. William Scrivener, Jonathan Youngman, the Rev. Rick Incorvati, Dionne Clifton

*Class of 2019*

The Rev. Jackie Burns, Lauren Cuff Faller, Miriam McKenney, Mike Newman, the Rev. Paul Williams, the Rev Stacy Salles

## **Diocesan Council**

### **1. Mission of group**

Diocesan Council is the continuing Diocesan Convention throughout the year. Council meets six times each year, or as called. Council is governed by Canon XII of the Diocese of Southern Ohio: "There shall be a Diocesan Council, whose duty it shall be to carry out the program and policies adopted by the Diocesan Convention. The Diocesan Council shall have charge of the coordination, development, and prosecution of the missionary, education and social work of the Church, and of such other work as may be committed to it by the Diocesan Convention.

### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

The Diocesan Council met six times in the 2017 term, beginning with the first meeting in December 2016 when the new members elected at Convention or appointed by the Bishop were seated and the Council leadership and standing committee members for 2017 were assigned.

Council officers for the 2017 term are:

1st Vice President: Lissa Barker

2nd Vice President: David Thomson

Secretary: Bill Ubbes

Standing Committee Leadership for the 2017 term:

Program and Ministry Review Committee: Eric Schyver, chair

The Program/Ministry Review Committee conducts periodic reviews of diocesan programs/ministries as identified in the Journal of the Convention to ensure compliance with mission priorities

Budget Committee: Harold Patrick, chair

The duties of the Budget Committee are established by Canon XIII, Section 3.

Systemic Review Committee: David Thomson, chair

The Systemic Review Committee conducts reviews of Diocesan organization and operations, and reviews compliance with Diocesan Canons.

Resolutions Oversight Committee, Lissa Barker, chair

The Resolutions Oversight Committee reviews compliance with resolutions passed by Diocesan Convention and by oversees the execution of any resolution assigned to Diocesan Council.

Mission Share Review Committee, David Getreu, chair

The Mission Share Oversight Committee oversees the Mission Share Review process and recommends actions to Council regarding the process or as the result of any Mission Share reviews of congregations.

Council Representative to Proctor Board of Directors: Ruth Paulus

Council Representative to ACCR: Sallie Schisler

In addition to its usual business of reviewing the diocesan budget and financial statements, reviewing Mission Share Review requests, and other business of the diocese, in 2017 Council undertook initiatives to review and simplify the bylaws of the Diocesan Council to reflect actual practice, and to revise and streamline the Mission Share Review process.

### **3. Support mission of the diocese**

Council supports the bishop's initiative to develop new strategic ministry priorities for the diocese. The diocesan ministry priorities and strategic plan developed in 2010 ran nominally through 2015, and the bishop and Council recognized the need to review, revise and expand on these priorities moving forward. This effort culminated in the Exodus Convocation held at Procter Center in September 2017; from which arose a statement from the convocation and a proposed draft direction statement for the future of the diocese. This direction statement is being reviewed by Council, and the next and more difficult process will be to develop new ministry priorities arising from this Statement.

### **4. Members**

#### *Class of 2017*

The Rev. Trevor Babb, Clifton Flemister, the Rev. David Getreu, Sally Sedgwick, Bill Ubbes

#### *Bishop's appointments 2017*

Catherine Cirner, the Rev. Sallie Schisler, David Thomson

#### *Class of 2018*

Lissa Barker, James Bolden, Harold Patrick, the Rev. Paul St. German, the Rev. Marshall Wiseman

#### *Class of 2019*

The Rev. Ruth Paulus, Karen Peeler, Rev. William Sangrey, Eric Schryver, Richard Warren

## **Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations**

### **1. Mission of group**

### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

Functioning as the deputy of the Bishop of Southern Ohio on delegated ecumenical and interfaith matters since 2015, I represented the Diocese of Southern Ohio on various bodies ranging from the National Workshop on Christian Unity, Governing Board of the Ohio Council of Churches, and the Greater Cincinnati Abrahamic Faiths Tri-logue (Bridges of Faith.) I served on the Board of the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Officers representing Province V until September 2017. A fruit of contemporary ecumenical dialogue is the draft proposal for full communion between The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church. To this end, an informational seminar led by The Rev. Thomas Ferguson, a member of the dialogue team, was held using WebEx technology on October 4. I was opportune to make a presentation about the document at a meeting of the Society of Catholic Priests that convened at All Saint's New Albany.

Periodically, information regarding ecumenical and interfaith matters has been disseminated through the Diocesan communication modalities and I have availed myself on assisting in ecumenical and interfaith relationships throughout the diocese.

Please feel free to contact me at [mzacharia@cccath.org](mailto:mzacharia@cccath.org)/ 513-621-1817 if I can be of any assistance regarding ecumenical and interfaith matters.

### **3. Support mission of diocese**

### **4. Members**

The Rev. Canon Manoj Mathew Zacharia, Ecumenical Officer

## **Episcopal Church Women/Women's Ministries**

### **1. Mission of group**

To provide resources, education and networking opportunities to the diocese to promote issues and concerns related to women and children. The ECW mission statement is to empower women of The Episcopal Church to carry on Christ's work throughout the world (revised mission statement 2015 ECW Triennial Meeting)

### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

a. The 2017 Annual Women's Ministry Meeting – Sat. 11/4/17 - Procter Conference Center- "Am I My Sister's Keeper?: Homelessness, Opioid Addiction & Claiming Resurrection: A Deeper Look at Women and Children on the Street – Speakers: Jaclyn Cherubini, Executive Director, Hoboken Shelter, New Jersey, The Rev. Anna Olson, Rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Los Angeles and author of Claiming Resurrection in the Dying Church: Freedom Beyond Survival, and Albert Chappellear and Tina Trim, leaders of St. Andrew's, Pickerington, Sanctuary Program.

b. Book of Remembrance Scholarships Awards - \$12,000 to three seminarians.

c. United Thank Offering blue box collection coordination and structure for submission of grant applications to UTO Board for consideration – Received a Young Adult grant of \$2,500 awarded to Darius Jenkins for leadership development through the Union of Black Episcopalians through the Diocese of Southern Ohio – Received an Annual Grant of \$1,500 for audio-visual equipment to be used by the Community Refugee and Immigrations Services, Central Ohio Speaker's Bureau.

d. Meeting offering Horizon's Prison Initiative program for women at Marysville.

### **3. Support mission of diocese**

We support #4 – Mission – Ministry Priority of empowering God's people to be agents of transformation. We are supplying a gap in women's ministry work that is not served by any other commission in the Diocese. We have addressed and continue to inform and identify opportunities for combating human trafficking, the injustice of gender inequality, homelessness related to women and children as well as work in prison ministry and interreligious outreach. We support women leaders by helping to fund their education for ordained ministry and the helping professions. We still wish to collaborate with other Diocesan commissions/organizations to better fit the mission priorities

### **4. Members**

Kathy Mank, President

Deborah Allsop, Vice-president; Milicent Eason, United Thank Offering coordinator; Jean Cotting, Treasurer; Kimberley Fonner, Communications chair; Amy Baird, Book of Remembrance chair; Madeleine Trichel, Secretary  
Bishop Thomas E. Breidenthal, *ex officio* and liaison

## **Faith-in-Life**

### **1. Mission of group**

The purpose of Faith-in-Life is to consider major faith and/or ethical questions as they relate to Christians' ability to live their faith day-to-day. To fulfill this purpose, Faith-in-Life grants are used to stimulate conferences, produce published materials in printed and digital form, provide expert informed leadership, and subsidize meetings on topics of faith and/or ethics in daily life.

### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

Faith-in-Life awarded \$20,000 in grants in 2017, to the following organizations:

The Union of Black Episcopalians for the Absalom Jones Celebration

The Spirituality Network of Central Ohio for Arti Gras

Saint George's, Dayton for Equip: Facing the Opioid Crisis

ERH Parish Health Ministry for the Refresh Our Soul Conference

Saint Andrew's, Evanston for Paths: A Spiritual Journey

Church of the Good Shepherd for Building Bridges, Strengthening Relationships

Saint Matthew's Westerville for Racial Encounters - Creating Space for Change

### **3. Support mission of diocese**

Faith-in-Life was established in 1974 as a commission of the diocese to administer an endowment fund set up as a result of the Second Century Campaign of the Diocese of Southern Ohio. The income of the trust has funded many programs and projects through the oversight of the Faith-in-Life commission. Faith in Life grants funded the Hobson Lectures, various Theologians in Residence, many Kenyon Conferences, a variety of formation programs, and grants for laypeople pursuing theological education (e.g. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and nonviolent conflict resolution) with the understanding that the grant recipients would share what they learned with other congregations.

### **4. Members**

The Rev. Karl Stevens, chair

Douglas Pittsenbarger, Elizabeth Thompson, the Rev. Rick Incorvati

## **Liturgy and Music**

### **1. Mission**

The Liturgy and Music Commission is comprised of clergy and musicians from all areas of the diocese. Our work centers on creating educational opportunities for liturgy planners – both clergy and musicians – and lay worship leaders. We seek to work with congregations and intentional communities to positively and creatively impact worship in any congregation, no matter the size.

### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

Our major project each year is the Jubilate conference. The Jubilate conference for 2017 on the Easter Vigil was shifted to January 2018 to better align with the Exodus Big Read project. Thus our work for 2017 shifted to planning for the conference and continuing to work on gathering information to create a database of musicians. We were also able send several members to several important conferences. In May two members attended the Music Makes Community conference in Cincinnati and in October five members attended the symposium on hymnal revision conference sponsored by the Center for Liturgy and Music at Virginia Theological Seminary.

An important goal of this commission is to develop regular opportunities for musicians to gather, have fellowship, hear speakers, pray together and develop collegial relationships. We are currently working towards gathering information about musicians around the diocese. Once we have this information we will be able to develop small workshops in various areas of the diocese that address skill building, resources, clergy and musicians working together, etc.

We have established a Facebook page and encourage everyone to like it and post news about resources, parish music events, etc.

We encourage all musicians, clergy and other worship planners and interested parishioners to attend the conference on January 20 at Procter Center.

### **3. Support mission of diocese**

### **4. Members**

Marsha Reilly, co-chair

The Rev. Cal Lane, co-chair

The Rev. Trevor Babb, Dr. Stephan Casurella, Phil Clary, the Rev. Ed Payne, Marti Rideout, Marjorie Menaul, the Rev. AJ Stack, Kevin Wines, Jennifer Bell, the Rev. Jason Prati, Patrick Bachmann, the Rev. Canon Lynn Carter-Edmands, staff liaison

## **Racism Training Task Force**

### **1. Mission**

Our mission is to carry out the diocesan resolution to train all lay and ordained leadership of the diocese including all clergy, professional staff and those elected or appointed to positions of leadership on commissions, committees, task forces, and boards.

### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

In 2017, the Task Force continued to offer training opportunities through the Procter Center in May, September and December. In addition, there was a training held in Columbus in April. The members of the Task Force also participated in a conference sponsored by the Ohio Interfaith Power and Light. We intend to collaborate more in 2018 exploring the Restorative justice issues in God's creation. We will continue the training opportunities and expand to assist communities in reaching others who may be different from them.

### **3. Support mission priorities**

We seek to transform - to provide opportunities for participants to begin to know themselves in new and extraordinary ways that can and must be shared with others. It is also an opportunity for them to continue to build their relationship with God that can and must be shared with others.

### **4. Members**

Deborah Stokes, chair

Ariel Miller, the Rev. Irene Radcliff, the Rev. Lee Anne Reat, Madeleine Trichel

## **Standing Committee**

### **1. Mission**

The Standing Committee is made up of three lay representatives and three clergy representatives from the Diocese elected for staggered three-year terms. The primary duties of the Committee are to be a council of advice to the Bishop, to undertake canonically mandated actions in the ordination process, and to review and approve/disapprove any sale or encumbrance of church property in the Diocese. We are also canonically mandated to review all bishops' elections and consent, or not.

### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

Since the last Diocesan Convention, the Standing Committee has consented to the elections of the following bishops: The Rev. Carl Walter Wright by the House of Bishops as the Bishop Suffragan for Armed Forces and Federal Ministries; the Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows as Diocesan of the Diocese of Indianapolis; the Rev. Gretchen Rehberg as Diocesan of the Diocese of Spokane; the Rev. Canon Rafael Morales as Bishop Diocesan of Puerto Rico; the Rev. Canon John H. Taylor as Bishop Coadjutor of Los Angeles; the Rev. Samuel S. Rodman II as Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina; the Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of West Texas; the Rt. Rev. David C. Rice as Bishop of the Diocese of San Joaquin; the Rev. Kevin S. Brown as Bishop of the Diocese of Delaware; and the Rev. Brian Lee Cole as Bishop of the Diocese of East Tennessee.

Since the last Diocesan Convention, the Standing Committee approved the following encumbrances:

- Approved a request by St. Barnabas, Montgomery, for endorsement of their plan to add to the chapel of the church and their plan to finance the expansion.
- Approved a request from All Saints, New Albany, to refinance existing debt.
- Approved a request from St. Peter's Delaware, to sell property.
- Authorized Trinity, Newark, to consider options for building and property.
- Authorized purchase of property by Calvary, Cincinnati.
- Authorized sale by All Saints, Pleasant Ridge, of cemetery crypts.

Since the last Diocesan Convention, we approved the following ordinations:

- Jared Talbot as a vocational deacon.
- Charles Graves and Devin Rogers to the transitional diaconate.
- Kevin Beesley, Maggie Foster Foote, Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard and Emmanuel Tuyishime to the priesthood.

The Standing Committee hosted a meeting with members of the executive staff, Commission on Ministry, and recent ordinands for a discussion led by the Rev. Stephen Applegate concerning discernment for ministry.

### **3. Support ministry priorities**

#### **4. Members**

The Rt. Rev. Thomas Breidenthal, *Ex-officio*

Cathy Bagot, President

The Rev. Philip College, Vice-President; John Rucker, Secretary; The Rev. Ellen Cook;  
Martha Lentz; The Rev. Stephen Smith; The Rev. Canon Jack Koepke, staff liaison

## **Trustees of the Diocese**

### **1. Mission**

The Trustees exist as an entity within the Diocese of Southern Ohio to receive and invest funds given to the diocese as endowments. The Trustees carry out those responsibilities by:

- Advising and concurring with the Bishop in the use of the William Cooper Procter (WCP) Endowment; e.g., the annual WCP Budget. This includes setting the “draw rate” which currently is at 4.5% of the average value of the WCP portfolio for the 12 Quarters ending with the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2017.
- Assessing all other applications for grants, expenditures and loans from the WCP Endowment and the more than fifty (50) other funds under their jurisdiction.
- Providing congregations and related organizations the opportunity to invest in either or both the Consolidated Growth and the Consolidated Income funds. The respective balances as of August 31, 2017 were \$25,022,272.00 and \$17,238,220.00. The funds are invested with PNC Bank and subject to the Investment Policy Statements developed and monitored by the Trustees. Currently there are 140 accounts in these two funds with 77 being “Trustee” accounts and 63 accounts invested by 28 congregations.

### **2. Accomplishments/goals**

- Continued both the process of rebalancing the WCP and Marjorie Lee portfolios, and of evaluating and diversifying the investment managers. This process included an analysis of the respective fee structures. Since our 2016 report we have retained two additional fixed income managers while at the same time obtaining a lower management fee from PNC Bank. Two of our alternative strategy managers are in the process of liquidating their portfolios. We are reviewing with PNC Bank their option for such a strategy. Mercer, the investment consulting firm we, Christ Church Cathedral and Episcopal Retirement Services share, will be providing additional options for our consideration.
- Restructured both the Consolidated Income and the Consolidate Growth funds so that the entire portfolios are invested in fixed income and equity assets respectively. Thus when the Diocese or one of the 28 congregations taking advantage of those funds make their allocation decisions, they are truly selecting either fixed or equity assets. Benchmarks have been changed to reflect these asset mix changes.
- Begin transferring \$500,000.00 to the Church Foundation for capital improvements to the Bishop’s Garden area at Diocesan House to facilitate the establishment of “Sycamore Commons”, a newly formed shared ministry to be focused there in coordination with Christ Church Cathedral. The construction process is anticipated to be completed by spring 2018.
- Coordinated with St. Mary’s, Hillsboro to provide a replacement facility – “The Academy” – for their former 19<sup>th</sup> Century education and office building. This was made possible by the stewardship of Martha and John Chaney, as well as from a bequest of Ruth Dawson Lacy. The latter trust was moved from a Wilmington area bank to PNC Bank to improve returns and lower management and administrative fees. \$671,923.82 was drawn from the John Chaney trust to demolish the existing 19<sup>th</sup> Century building and to design and construct the new multiple story building.
- Continued discussions on the most appropriate way to integrate Socially Responsible Investing (SRI), more recently designated as “Environment, Social and

Governance” (ESG) investing into our investment decisions. As reported last year, \$5,000,000.00 of the WCP domestic equity portfolio was transferred from PNC Bank to Rockefeller & Co.’s “Global Sustainability and Impact Equity Strategy”.

Rockefeller partners with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) which is one of the resources used by the Episcopal Church Executive Council with respect to shareholder activism and other social responsible investment issues.

Excess carbon emissions are a serious problem; however, we believe that divestment takes one out of the conversation as to alternative energy solutions.

Those renewable solutions (hydroelectric, wind and solar) are projected to account for 50% of the world’s energy sources by 2038 according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Further, we believe at this time that our divestment would have no impact on fossil fuel companies while being partnered with managers such as Rockefeller and Bartlett can have an effect on an issue. Consistent with that philosophy we recently transferred \$1,000,000.00 from PNC Bank’s fixed income to Bartlett’s “Core Plan” option that includes a SRI/ESG strategy. These initial investments are consistent with our obligations as stewards of these funds. At the same time, we continue to reconfirm that all our other investment managers are likewise adhering to the ICCR guidelines.

- Made capital grants to Bethany School (\$1,000,000.00) for a major renovation and expansion of their facilities in Glendale, and to Episcopal Retirement Services renovation of their Marjorie P. Lee Home (\$250,000.00) in Cincinnati’s Hyde Park neighborhood. Payments will be made on a quarterly basis over five years beginning in the 2018.
- Began a review of the several options for continuing the Brendan’s Crossing/Intentional Communities/Episcopal Service Corps ministries now located at the Riddle House in Cincinnati’s Clifton neighborhood.
- Re-appointed Jon Boss to represent the Trustees on Procter center’s Board of Directors and in the closure of St. Stephen’s, Mount Healthy (Cincinnati).

### **3. Support mission priorities**

### **4. Members**

#### **Elected Members:**

Jon B. Boss, President – 2021

Emily Savors – 2017

Ellen Zemke, Vice President – 2018

Susan Hickenlooper – 2019

The Rev. George Glazier – 2020

#### **Appointed Positions:**

Robert “Rob” Kranz - Treasurer

Geri McDaniel – Recording Secretary

David Robinson – Corporate Secretary

## **Commissions with no report filed as of 11/3/17**

412 Sycamore Inc.  
Affirmative Aging  
Appalachian Ministries  
Clergy & Family Wellness  
Council of Deacons  
Disciplinary Board  
Episcopal Community Services Foundation  
Episcopal Relief & Development  
Finance  
Latino Ministry  
Minority Empowerment Initiative Trust  
National and World Mission  
Parish Health Ministries  
Procter Board of Directors  
Professional Development  
Social Justice & Public Policy  
Trustees of the Church Foundation  
William Cooper Procter Fund