

STANDING COMMITTEE

At the 28th Annual Convention of The Diocese of West Tennessee hosted by St. Mary's Cathedral, Memphis, the Rev. John P. Leach was elected as presbyter member and Mrs. Loni Harris was elected as lay member to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee duly convened during the Convention to elect the Rev. Canon Reynolds S. Cheney II as President and Mr. Scott Haight as Secretary.

The Committee met ten times at the Diocesan House and one time at Church of the Holy Communion, Memphis. The following actions were taken during the course of the Committee's tenure.

Diocesan Ordinations

- Consent was given for the ordination of Patricia Gayle McCarty to the transitional diaconate in The Diocese of West Tennessee
- Consent was given for the ordination of Beverly Clarisse Schroeder to the transitional diaconate in The Diocese of West Tennessee
- Consent was given for the ordination of Dr. Randolph McKellar McCloy to the vocational diaconate in The Diocese of West Tennessee
- Consent was given to the ordination of the Rev. Patricia Gayle McCarty to the priesthood in The Diocese of West Tennessee
- Consent was given to the ordination of the Rev. Beverly Clarisse Schroeder to the priesthood in The Diocese of West Tennessee

Episcopal Elections

- Consent was not given to the election of the Rev. Kevin Lee Thew Forrester as Bishop Diocesan of Northern Michigan
- Consent was given for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese of Springfield
- Consent was given to the election of the Rev. Scott Anson Benhase as Bishop Diocesan of Georgia
- Consent was given to the election of the Rev. Brian Norman Prior as Bishop Diocesan of Minnesota
- Consent was given to the election of the Rev. Ian Theodore Douglas as Bishop Diocesan of Connecticut
- Consent was given to the election of the Rev. Michael Joseph Hanley as Bishop Diocesan of Oregon
- Consent was given to the election of the Very Rev. Morris King Thompson as Bishop Diocesan of Louisiana
- Consent was given to the election of the Rev. W. Andrew Waldo as Bishop Diocesan of Upper South Carolina
- Consent was given to the election of the Rev. Canon Mary Douglas Glasspool as Bishop Suffragan of Los Angeles

- Consent was given to the election of the Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce as Bishop Suffragan of Los Angeles

Council of Advice

- Discussed in detail with Bishop Don Johnson how the Standing Committee could, and would, serve as a Council of Advice to the Bishop
- Heard a presentation on Resolution 28-2 by Mr. Fred Beeson, Chair of the Congregational Growth and Development Committee. Called a special meeting to discuss the report from Mr. Beeson regarding the doubling of Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) by 2020 and a request for the Standing Committee to take responsibility for small congregations. By consensus, reached a series of conclusions on these two items, and directed the President to share said conclusions with Bishop Johnson.
- After discussion, unanimously agreed to ask the President of the committee to send a letter to the Commission on Ministry, and Bishop Johnson, requesting that the Standing Committee no longer be asked to consider approvals of candidates for whom the Canonical guidelines have not been properly followed prior to their submission to the Standing Committee for approval.
- Met with Bishop Don Johnson and the Rev. Sean Ferrell, new chair of the Commission on Ministry, to review the work to date by the Commission on Ministry in revising the process of discernment to ordination, beginning with a new emphasis on recruitment by parish priests with a written enumeration of specific character traits to be sought and the establishment of a new written guideline for a parish discernment committee, and to provide feedback to Bishop Johnson and Father Ferrell.
- Received a copy of a letter from Bishop Johnson to all clergy in the Diocese announcing a moratorium on acceptance of persons into the diocesan discernment process for Holy Orders to allow the Commission on Ministry and its new chair, Fr. Sean Ferrell, to substantially revise the diocesan discernment process. Voted unanimously to commend Bishop Johnson for declaring the moratorium and stating the Committee's full support of the moratorium.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Reynolds S. Cheney II
President