



**Synod of the Diocese of the Central States  
of the Reformed Episcopal Church  
22 October 2020**

**REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

**ORGANIZATION**

**Purpose of the Standing Committee:** REC Title I, Canon 46

...The Standing Committee and the Bishop shall, together, constitute the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

Diocesan Canon VI, Section 1

The Standing Committee... shall be the Advisory Board to the Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of the Central States and have such powers and perform such duties as are provided by the Constitution and Canons of the Reformed Episcopal Church, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Central States, and such duties as may be assigned by the Synod of the Diocese of Central States.

**Composition:** In compliance with the REC and Diocesan Canons, the Standing Committee is organized into classes by year, such that each year one clergy and one lay member end a term of service and new members are elected by the Synod. The Committee in 2018-2019 was comprised of:

Clergy Members - The Rev. Wayne McNamara (2020), The Rev. Dr. Paul Edgerton (2021), The Rev. Josiah Jones (2022)

Lay Members - Mr. Tom McConnell (2020), Mr. Andy McLean (2021), Dss. Teresa Johnson (2022)

*Ex Officio* Members – The Bishop Ordinary, the Archdeacon, the Treasurer, and the Secretary

**ACTIONS**

**Postulancy:** The Standing Committee, when asked by the Bishop Ordinary, reviews the applications of prospective postulants to Holy Orders in order to make recommendation for or against their reception by him.

1. On 31 March 2020, the Standing Committee made its recommendation to accept for postulancy Mr. Kenneth Kline of Christ the Redeemer in Owensboro, Kentucky and Mr. Aaron Perlot, a seminarian entering our Diocese at the recommendation of The Rt. Rev. David Hicks.
2. On 16 October 2020, the Standing Committee made its recommendation to accept for postulancy Mr. Jameson Lowery of The Church of the Redeemer in Wilson, North Carolina.

**Holy Orders:** A candidate may be ordered a Deacon or Presbyter only by recommendation of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of which he is a member. This recommendation is made to the Bishop Ordinary after a candidate has fulfilled the terms of his postulancy and been examined as per the canons.

1. On 7 November 2019, the Standing Committee sent to the Bishop Ordinary our canonically required consents to the ordination of Dr. Duane Veley and Mr. William Barto to the diaconate, having been given the report of the Board of Examining Chaplains confirming their fitness.

**Consents to the Election of a Bishop:** The Canons of the church require that episcopal elections be consented to by the Bishops Ordinary and Standing Committees of the Dioceses.

1. On 12 November 2019 the Standing Committee gave its unanimous consent to the election of The Rt. Rev. Charles Gillin as Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid Atlantic.

**Calls of Rectors:** According to Title III, Canon I, Section 2, “The advice and consent of the President of the Council and Standing Committee, or the Standing Committee alone if there be no Council President, shall be required before a Call is issued by any Parish.” The Bishop Ordinary receives call documents from Vestries and forwards them to the Standing Committee for their action before Parishes are permitted to issue them a prospective Rector.

1. In January 2020, the President initiated conversation with Diocesan staff concerning the call procedure that had been used for the Richmond Parish, the Rector having been called by the Parish without Standing Committee consent. On 18 January 2020, the Standing Committee unanimously approved the call of The Rev. Barton Gingerich to St. Jude’s Anglican Church in Richmond Virginia.
2. On 24 May 2020, the Standing Committee unanimously approved the call of The Rev. Jonathan Kell to The Church of Our Savior, Oatlands in Leesburg, Virginia.
3. On 22 September 2020 the Standing Committee became aware that a Rector had been called and installed on 13 September 2020 at Christ Our Hope in Fairborn, Ohio. The President initiated conversation about the procedure used, and documents were requested by the Standing Committee so that we could give our consent and bring the call into better compliance with canonical requirements. That request is pending as of the date of this report’s submission.

**Renunciation of Ministry:** In accordance with REC Title II, Canon 31, renunciation of the ministry, whether charged or voluntary, must be reported by the Bishop to the Standing Committee of the Diocese and the Secretary of the General Committee.

1. On 5 March 2020 the Standing Committee received the report from the Ordinary of the renunciation of Holy Orders of Isaac Chavez, who had been rector of Christ Our Hope in Fairborn, Ohio.

**Duties as Assigned:**

1. In November 2019, the Standing Committee received a proposal from its President concerning the implementation of a policy to be included in the next year’s edition of the Diocesan Customary requiring background checks and background referencing for applicants to postulancy and to the Order of Deaconesses. The Committee discussed and agreed to the new policy and commended it to the Bishop Ordinary.
2. On 29 September 2020 the Bishop Ordinary called a meeting via Zoom with the Standing Committee to discuss policies for the upcoming Synod in light of Covid-19 concerns. On 12 October, the Committee was asked their opinions concerning the Ordinary’s decision to take the Synod online rather than to meet in person.

**Other:** On 17 October 2019 the President read to the Synod a resolution of the Standing Committee thanking God for the ministry of Bishop Morse, thanking Bishop Morse for his care of our Diocese, and conferring upon him the title *Bishop Emeritus* of the Diocese.

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Respectfully submitted,



The Rev. Dr. Paul C. Edgerton, President