

The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia Report of the Standing Committee (2025)

Your Standing Committee of our Diocese of Olympia is privileged to serve with you. Our primary role, when there is a Bishop Diocesan in office, is to serve as the Bishop's Council of Advice. We are also a complement of the Bishop's authority notably in matters of diocesan and congregational real estate/encumbrance decisions as well as reviewing and certifying the canonical processes for those in the ordination process. Standing Committees also are asked to give consent regarding any Bishop elected in the Episcopal Church. When the office of Bishop Diocesan is vacant for any reason, the Standing Committee serves as the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese. The Standing Committee has been glad to be serving with The Rt. Rev. Phil LaBelle in his first full year as Bishop of Olympia, as he was ordained to the episcopate on Holy Cross Day, September 14, 2024.

Of note, some of the members of this year's Standing Committee have served now with three different bishops, as we have members who were elected in 2021, serving first with Bishop Diocesan Greg Rickel through December 2022, then Bishop Provisional Melissa Skelton through September 2024, and now with Bishop Diocesan LaBelle since September 2024.

Many thanks to our outgoing members: The Rev. Stephen Crippen of St. Paul's, Seattle and Mr. Lawrence Sylvester, Trinity, Everett!

Serving on the Standing Committee from the 2024 Diocesan Convention through the 2025 Convention are:

(the terms end, essentially, at convention of the year listed)

President: The Rev. Canon Elise B. Johnstone, St. John the Baptist, West Seattle, 2026

Co-Secretaries: Mr. Lawrence Sylvester, Trinity, Everett, 2025; and The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons, Trinity, Seattle, 2028

Co-Chaplains: The Rev. Jani Wild, St. Paul's, Bellingham, 2027; and Sherina James, Christ Church, Tacoma, 2028

Joint Finance Panel Representative: Ms. Connie Lightbody, St. John's, Kirkland, 2027

Commission on Ministry Representatives: Ms. Carole Loudanback, Good Shepherd, Federal Way, 2026; and The Rev. Stephen Crippen, St. Paul's, Seattle, 2025

The following actions were taken by your Standing Committee from October 2024-September 2025:

Episcopal Elections, Ordinations and/or Consecrations of Bishops, and Diocesan Consents

Consented to the election of the Rev. Angela Maria Cortiñas as Bishop Suffragan of West Texas

Consented to the election of the Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux as Bishop Diocesan of West Missouri

Consented to the election of the Rev. Angel Roberto Rivera Rodriguez as Bishop Diocesan of Cuba

Consented to the election of The Rev. Robert Price as Bishop Coadjutor of Dallas

Other Episcopal Church Consents

Consented to the reunion of the Dioceses of Central Pennsylvania and Bethlehem

Vocations, Diocese of Olympia

Voted in favor of statement of attestation for ordination: Lia Shimada, October 2024, Transitional Diaconate

Voted in favor of statement of attestation for ordination: Adam Conley, James Wyatt, Kelly Moody, McKenzi Roberson, Lynne Markova, Lia Shimada, May 2025, Priesthood

Voted in favor of candidacy for Gabriel Oakes, Alison Leary, Elizabeth Holland, June 2025 and Tina Francis Mutungu and Vincent Booth, July 2025 (all priesthood track)

Voted in favor of candidacy for Laura Meyers, June 2025 (diaconate track)

Voted in favor of statement of attestation for ordination Laura Meyers, September 2025, Diaconate

Voted in favor of statement of attestation for ordination: Gabriel Oakes, Alison Leary, Elizabeth Holland, Tina Francis Mutungu, Vincent Booth, October 2025

Mutual Ministry Review Work with Bishop LaBelle

Established areas in which the 2026 MMR would reflect

Property/Encumbrance Matters, Diocese of Olympia

In the event that a diocesan loan is not feasible, consented to the request for a commercial loan for Christ Church, Anacortes for improvements to their thrift shop.

Release and Removal from Ordained Ministry (per the request of the individual)

Keith Dorwick

Gave Advice Regarding Diocese of Olympia Matters:

Affirmed appointment of Edward J. Barton, Christ Church, Anacortes, as Acting Treasurer of the Diocese

Affirmed appointment of Bryan Krislock, St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle as Acting Chancellor of the Diocese

Affirmed appointments of The Rev. Canon Rich Weyls, St. Mark's Cathedral; The Rev. Deacon Scott Deasy, Grace, Bainbridge; and Mr. Wadell Brent, Good Shepherd, Federal Way to the Disciplinary Board

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Cn. Elise B. Johnstone, President