**Standing Committee Annual Report, 2017**

The Standing Committee is charged with overseeing the ordination of candidates for Holy Orders within the Diocese as well as approving of the consecration of Bishops in other dioceses. They also oversee other aspects of ordained live in conjunction with the Bishop. They are also charged with the incumberance and alienation of Diocesan Property. This year, the Standing Committee was comprised of the Rev’d Guy Usher (president,) Mr. Drew Lorenz, the Rev’d Peter Augustine, Ms. Nancy Firth, the Rev’d Art Hancock, and Ms. Joan Smalstig.

The Committee interviewed five individuals in the ordination process and approved one for Candidacy, three for ordination to the Diaconate and two for ordination to the Priesthood. They also conferred consent to five dioceses for the ordination/consecration of Diocesan and Suffragan Bishops. They also accepted a request from the Rev’d Derek Washington of River Falls for Release and Removal from Holy Orders under National Canon III.9. Fr. Washington informed the Bishop and the Standing Committee that he intended to pursue a role in the Unitarian Universalist Church.

The Standing Committee was asked by Ascension Church, Hayward to approved Alienation of Property in order to sell an empty lot near the church. The lot had been obtained several years ago with no immediate use available due to constraints by an adjacent property. Standing Committee approved the alienation of the property allowing the parish to sell the lot to the owner of the adjacent building.

The Standing Committee also called for the creation of an informal group comprised of members of the Committee, the Executive Council, the Commission on Ministry and the Diocesan Office to review the most recent bishop Search in the diocese of Eau Claire. National Canons require that Bp. Lambert retire no later than the end of 2020, which provides the diocese with a little less than three years to have a plan in place for Episcopal Succession. The Sub-Committee plans to make a request of Diocesan Convention to call for the creation of a formal group to begin the process of self-evaluation and planning to prepare for the next search process.

Yours,

The Rev’d Canon Aaron Zook, Secretary of the Standing Committee