Standing Committee 2026 Annual

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

Current Elected Members

Term ending 2026
The Rev. Kristen Farrington
Christchurch School, Christchurch

The Rev. Weston Mathews St. Francis, Great Falls

Ms. Susan Magill
Christ Church, Alexandria

Ms. Christine Crosby Grace Church, Alexandria Resigned, June 2026

Ms. Carolyn Lanier
St. Philip's, Richmond
Completing term of Chrissie Crosby

Term ending 2027
The Rev. Daniel Johnson Christ Church, Spotsylvania

The Rev. John T. Thomas
Emmanuel, Greenwood

Ms. Lauren Breeden
The Falls Church, Falls Church

Ms. Margaret Jones St. Mark's, Richmond

Term Ending 2028
Mr. Harry Dickinson
Trinity, Fredericksburg

Ms. Deborah Gandy
St. Mary's, Arlington

The Rev. Rod Gordon
St. Peter's, Oak Grove

The Rev. Laura Lockey
Canterbury Campus Ministry, Harrisonburg

The Standing Committee consists of twelve members who serve, by canon law, as the Bishop's council of advice and makes decisions per the canons. Each year, two clergy and two lay members are elected by the Annual Convention to three-year terms. The Standing Committee meets monthly in Fredericksburg, or by Zoom, to perform its canonical tasks. Bishop Stevenson participates in the meetings as a guest.

Approving Candidates for Ordination

The formation process for ordained ministry (priesthood and diaconate) is a vital function of the diocese. The Standing Committee interviewed ten postulants, approving their progression towards ordination. We thank The Rev. Dr. Sarah Kye Price, Canon for Vocations and Clergy Wellness, the Committee on Priesthood, and the Committee on the Diaconate for their collaborative work.

Approving Indebtedness Requests to Encumber or Sell Property

The Standing Committee is a steward of real estate transactions within the diocese. Working in conjunction with our Diocesan Treasurer, Ted Smith, the status of five properties was reviewed and requests for their sale approved. Encumbrance requests for three properties were also reviewed and approved.

Consenting to the Election of Bishops in The Episcopal Church

The election of a bishop in any diocese of The Episcopal Church must be consented by a majority of all Diocesan Standing Committees. Bishop election consents were given for the dioceses of San Joaquin, North Dakota, East Carolina, Los Angeles, Western Massachusetts, Alabama, Southwestern Virginia, Long Island, Hawaii, Taiwan, Lexington, KY, Northwest Pennsylvania, and Florida.

Serving as a Council of Advice for the Bishop

During each meeting, Bishop Stevenson shares news of efforts around the diocese to love Jesus, embody justice, and be disciples. Bishop Stevenson sought advice on developments within the diocese and various emerging issues. The committee provided thoughtful insights from our diverse perspectives. We enjoy a mutually respectful working relationship with Bishop Stevenson allowing for forthright and productive conversations. Among the advice given to the Bishop and Executive Board was a recommendation that, as a matter of good stewardship, the Bishop of Virginia receive a housing allowance in lieu of continued use of the bishop's residence at Roslyn.

Work Group Appointments

The Standing Committee offered advice, consent, and nominations on appointments of Regional Deans, and the Executive Board.

An itemized list of Official Acts of The Standing Committee in 2026 follows.

OFFICIAL ACTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
November 8, 2025, through October 8, 2026

Election of Standing Committee Officers	
President: The Rev. Weston Mathews	11/8/2025
Secretary: Ms. Margaret Jones	11/8/2025
Consent to the Election of the following Bishops	
Bishop Elect Rev. Gregory Kimura, Diocese of San Joaquin	12/4/2025
Bishop Elect Rev. Shay Craig, Diocese of North Dakota	12/4/2025
Bishop Elect Rev. Sarah Fisher, Diocese of East Carolina	12/4/2025
Bishop Elect Rev. Antonio Gallardo, Diocese of Los Angeles	1/08/2026
Bishop Elect Rev. Miguelina Howell, Diocese of Western Massachusetts	1/08/2026
Bishop Elect Rev. Richard T. Lawson, III, Diocese of Alabama	3/05/2026
Bishop Elect Rev. Karin MacPhail, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia	3/05/2026
Bishop Elect Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker, Diocese of Long Island	5/21/2026
Bishop Elect Rev. Elizabeth Berman, Diocese of Hawaii	5/21/2026
Bishop Elect Rev. Keith Chen-Cheng Lee, Diocese of Taiwan	6/11/2026
Bishop Elect Rev. David Sibley, Diocese of Lexington, KY	9/10/2026
Bishop Elect Rev. Jenifer Chatfield, Diocese of NW Pennsylvania	9/10/2026
Bishop Elect Rev. Randy Alexander, Diocese of Florida	10/08/2026
Election of Collegiate Delegates	
Olivia Andres – VCU	10/08/2026
Chloe Stone – GMU	10/08/2026
Mia Guille - UMW	10/08/2026
Henry Wang – UVA	10/08/2026
Gracie Rollins - JMU	10/08/2026
Consent for Candidacy for Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests	
Micah Brown	9/10/2026
Caroline Mazzocchi	9/10/2026
Matthew Carter	10/08/2026
Consent for Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons, transitional	
John Hager	1/08/2026
Joshua House	1/08/2026
Emily Fisher (formerly Rutledge)	1/08/2026
Kendell Trivett	1/08/2026
Consent for Ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests	1/08/2026
Jackson Davey	1/08/2026
Bartoli Natoli	1/08/2026
Theodore Renaud	7/02/2026
John Hager	7/02/2026
Joshual House	7/02/2026
Emily Fisher (formerly Rutledge)	7/02/2026
Kendall Trivett	7/02/2026

Consent for Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons, vocational	
Melissa Carter	3/05/2026
Consent for Encumbrance or Sale of Church Property	
Consent to sale of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in West Point	2/05/2026
Consent to excecute a Letter of Intent between St. Margaret's, Woodbridge, and Solway Development, for the installation of a BESS facility	2/05/2026
Consent to Request for Indebtedness by All Saints Richmond for a bridge Line of Credit	3/05/2026
Consent for sale of property known as "Lot B", St. Thomas, McLean	4/08/2026
Consent for sale of approximately 3 acres of unused property at Trinity Episcopal, Lancaster	4/08/2026
Consent for sale of approx. 13 acres of unused property at Pohick Church, Fairfax	7/02/2026
Consent for sale of property for public road improvements at Christ Church, Lucketts	10/08/2026
Consent for sale of diocesan property adjacent to Christ Church, Lucketts	10/08/2026
Consent to a request for indebtedness by Trinity, Charlottesville for affordable housing	10/08/2026
Consent to Appointments of Regional Deans	
Rev. Trent Moore, Culpepper Region	12/04/2025
The Very Rev. Joe Hensley as Archdean	12/04/2025
Rev. Melanie Lewis, Northern Shenandoah Region	1/08/2026
Rev. Anne Turner, Alexandria Region – *appointment effective at close of convention*	8/06/2026
Rev. Kevin Newall, Northern Richmond Region - *appointment effective at close of convention*	8/06/2026
Rev. Emily Dunnavent, West Richmond Region - *appointment effective at close of convention*	8/06/2026
Rev. Nicholas Hull, Potomac Region - *appointment effective at close of convention*	9/10/2026
Nominations for Executive Board	
Rev. Anthony Gabaton, At-large member	1/08/2026
Dr. Dena Jennings to replace Deborah Gandy, At-large member	1/08/2026
Other Canonically Required Consents (Accords, depositions etc.)	
Consent to release and removal from ordained ministry Rev. Roger Hearn, Ret.	1/08/2026
Consent to approval of appointment of Rev. Susie Harding as 3rd Archdeacon	6/11/2026
Consent to change regional affiliation of St. Mary's, Colonial Beach, from the Fredericksburg region to the Northern Neck region.	6/11/2026
Consent to release and removal from ordained ministry Rev. Andrew Dunks	8/06/2026
Bishop to convene a task force related to the installation of BESS (Battery Energy Storage System) facilities on diocesan property, specifically related to environmental ethics and available procurement competition	8/06/2026

Faithfully submitted on behalf of The Standing Committee,

Mickie Jones, Secretary
The Rev. Weston Mathews, President