

## **Report of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of El Camino Real to Diocesan Convention 2023**

This has been a second “lighter” year for the Standing Committee. This “lighter” workload is perfectly normal in a healthy diocese with an active Bishop. This year all but two of our meetings have continued on Zoom, and the regular work of the Standing Committee has included:

1. Review and consent for bishop elections across the Episcopal Church. We consented to nine elections (Ohio, Central Florida, New Jersey, West Texas, Armed Forces, Maryland, Arkansas, Albany, and Southern Ohio) and declined to consent to one election (Florida).
2. Review and approval of those at various stages of discernment in the ordination process (The Rev. Jen Crompton, and The Rev. Joel Martinez). We are grateful to the Commission on Ministry and its Chair, the Rev. Ricardo Avila, and Secretary, Kirstin Nielson, for this well-run process.
3. Review and approval of property transactions (All Saints’, Palo Alto and St. Benedict’s. Los Osos). We are grateful to the Property Committee and its Chair, Joe Head, for facilitating these discussions for us.
4. Acting as a council of advice for our Bishop as she manages the many ministries of the diocese. Thank you to Bishop Lucinda for our fruitful interactive discussions.
5. Completed a Mutual Ministry Review of the combined ministries of the Bishop and Standing Committee. Thank you to the Rev. Shelley Denney for leading this process and to the Rev. Kristine Johnson for scribing.
6. In line with a resolution for the 2022 Diocesan Convention, we chartered a Deaneries Study Group with a two-year objective of exploring options for our Deaneries.

This year we continued a monthly standing agenda item: prayer ministry. Each month we have contacted lay and clergy leaders of four parishes in the diocese so that we might pray for those leaders and their congregations. During each of our monthly meetings we spend 20-40 minutes reviewing and praying about the collected prayer requests. Bishop Lucinda has periodically joined us in prayer. We firmly believe in the power of prayer for those giving and receiving prayers, and we are glad to have added this joyful ministry.

We are grateful to Bishop Lucinda and her staff for the leadership of our diocese and its many ministries. We are in good hands, and in 2024 we look forward to continuing the work God has set before us. We are very blessed.

Yours in Christ,

*The Rev. Rob Keim, President of the Standing Committee, on behalf of:*

*The Rev. Salying Wong (Vice President), Matt Cameron (Secretary), Shonna Close, Sheila Miller, Jackie Pierce, The Rev. Amber Sturgess*