



Name of Committee, Commission, Task Force or Program:

Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming

Mission/Purpose Statement:

According to the Diocesan Website: The Standing Committee, meeting at least twice a year, serves as a confidential “council of advice” to the bishop. When there is no bishop, the Standing Committee is the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese. It must approve the sale or encumbrance of property, gives consent for elections of bishops, and approve candidates for Holy Orders.

Summary of Current Year’s Activities:

The Standing Committee interviewed candidates and engaged a consultant for the bishop search in December 2025 – Katie Glover of Open Gate Consulting. With her help and the help of the Presiding Bishop’s office, the Standing Committee created an application and accompanying documents for prospective Search Committee and Transition Committee members. Applications for those committees were accepted through January 2026 and the committees were populated in February.

In March 2026, the Standing Committee hosted a Leadership Retreat for the Search and Transition Committee members at Central Wyoming College in Riverton. The retreat was a chance for members of all committees to get to know one another, learn about each committee’s role in the process, and commit to confidentiality, prayerful discernment, and timely completion of the tasks ahead.

From that time, the Standing Committee has gathered on Zoom to discuss property requests from across the diocese, to consult with Bishop Todd on various topics, and to interview those pursuing Holy Orders.

There has been less demand on the Standing Committee’s time and energy, though the members are always ready to gather and tackle the next thing that comes along.

Financial Report:

The Standing Committee utilized allocated money for one in-person working dinner in January.

Plans and Projections for the Coming Year:

The Standing Committee, by the time convention begins, will have received and approved the Diocesan Profile – the product of the hard work of the Search Committee. The next step for Standing Committee in the bishop search is to receive the final slate of candidates sometime in late February or early March before it is released to the diocese. This committee will then host the bishop election in Laramie on May 1st, 2027. Upon that successful election, the committee will seek consents from the other Standing Committees and bishops across the Episcopal Church, and the hope is that those consents will be received before General Convention in July. The Standing Committee will serve as ecclesiastical authority upon the retirement of Bishop Todd Ousley in late spring/early summer 2027 until the ordination of the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Wyoming on October 9th, 2027 in Casper. At that ordination, members of the Standing Committee will participate in welcoming the new bishop.

Membership/Leadership:

Convention 2025 elected three members to the Standing Committee:

- The Rev. Christian Basel, St. Mark's Cheyenne – 3 year term
- Dr. Vernon Miller, Trinity Thermopolis – 3 year term
- Nancy Engstrom, St. Mark's Casper – 2 year term to fill the vacancy left by Brian Knox.

At the first meeting following the 2025 convention, the following people were elected to leadership positions within the committee:

- The Rev. Camie Dewey, president
- The Rev. Christian Basel, chaplain
- Dr. Vernon Miller, secretary and liaison to Diocesan Council

Gratitude/Acknowledgements:

The Standing Committee remains in deep and sincere gratitude for the leadership of its outgoing president, The Rev. Megan Nickles, whose strength, resolve, focus, energy, and heart carried not only the committee, but the diocesan staff and the whole diocese through one of the most trying and painful times this diocese has seen. Megan's guidance and tenacity kept everyday work going and allowed staff to think deeply about their roles and responsibilities. She brought wisdom and insight into difficult discussions, and her

innovation and drive spilled over into the work of all diocesan committees and councils. Thank you, Megan, for being the right person at the right time – the Standing Committee recognizes you for the God-given gifts you possess, which have blessed us all more than many of us know.

The Standing Committee also wishes to express its thanks to Brian Knox for his year of dedicated service. His unique gifts and experience brought depth to every conversation and his willingness to serve as secretary kept meeting minutes organized and concise. We miss his personality and humor, his kindness and wisdom on this committee, and we continue to pray for him and his family as they settle into their lives in North Dakota.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Camie Dewey, president