



The Standing Committee  
The Episcopal Diocese of California  
1055 Taylor Street / San Francisco, CA 94108  
Web: [www.diocal.org/](http://www.diocal.org/)

Minutes for 1 September, 2015; 1-6 PM  
(Approved at SC Meeting of 151006)  
Grace Cathedral Chapter Room

**Members Present:** Mr. Jim DeMersman, The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer (President), Ms. Brenda Paulin, The Rev. Annette Rankin, The Rev. Mark Spaulding Ms. Mary Vargas (Vice President), The Rev. Lori Walton

**Members Absent:** Mr. Ron Hermanson (Secretary)

1:00 Standing Committee meeting opened with devotion led by Jim DeMersman (thanks to Mary Vargas for snacks standing in for Richard who was in jury duty selection).

1:05 Richard facilitated personal check-ins for members.

Minutes approval to later in the meeting because of time issue.

1:35 **Preparation for the candidates:** Standing Committee members prepared for interviews with candidates Christian Lehrer and Nancy Ross.

1:45 **Interview with Christian**

The Standing Committee met with Christian Lehrer on his candidacy for the priesthood from his ordination of a vocational deacon.

2:15 **Interview with Nancy Ross:**

The Standing Committee met with Nancy Ross on her candidacy of ordination.

2:35 **Standing Committee continued discussions on the candidates**

**Nancy Ross:** Members of the SC felt her call and it was clearly articulated. She described sacramental ministry in her actions and her thought processes. Her paperwork is all in order and she has met the canonical requirements.

**MSCU (Vargas/Spaulding)** to assent to Nancy Ross' call to the priesthood

**Christian Lehrer:** It was the consensus of the SC to decline to make a decision at this point and request more information: BOEC report, evidence that he has met the other requirements, GOE's, and a recommendation from a seminary. Annette will compile a more complete list and then Lori will contact Melissa with that list for response.

3:00 **General Convention**

Richard reported on various aspects of General Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

- 3:15 **MSCU (Walton/Vargas)** to approve the June 2 meeting minutes and **MSCU (Spaulding/Vargas)** to approve the July 7 meeting minutes.
- 3:18 Richard will represent Standing Committee on October 1 at the Diocese Fresher Start program for new or reassigned clergy. He will be talking about SC and our role in the Diocese.
- 3:20 Break
- 3:30 **Canon Discussion:**  
Richard led us through canons starting with Title III Canons 1 – 5.
- 3:45 **Liaison Reports:** The Standing Committee heard Liaison reports.
- 4:05 **Bishop's Time**  
Bishop Marc, Rev. Canon Stefani Schatz, Chancellor Christopher Hayes joined the meeting  
  
We moved into Executive Session
- 4:25 We left Executive Session: There was no reportable action  
  
We had a brief discussion about the sale and the deconsecrating of St. Albans, which needs SC approval to move forward. The proceeds of the sale will be held until additional funds are raised to develop a church, school, and garden in Brentwood at some point in the future.  
  
**MSCU (Paulin/Vargas)** to approve the deconsecrating and sale of St. Albans.
- 5:20 **SC Convention Report:** The Standing Committee discussed items to be included in the annual report to Diocesan Convention.
- 5:30 **SC Retreat Planning:** The Standing Committee discussed the upcoming Standing Committee Retreat at St. Dorothy's Rest on November 13/14 and items to be included in the retreat.
- 5:45 **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 with prayer by Jim DeMersman.

Submitted by Jim DeMersman, Secretary, for approval at the 6 October meeting.

Special meeting by telephone conference  
8 September, 2015 5:00 PM

Present: Rev. Richard Helmer (President), Rev. Mark Spaulding, Brenda Paulin, Mary Vargas (Vice President), Rev. Lori Walton, Rev. Annette Rankin, Jim DeMersman

Absent: Ron Hermanson (Secretary)

Conference call phone meeting was convened at 5:00 pm. by President Richard Helmer

Lori opened the meeting describing the situation and the principal reason for the call is to discuss moving Christian Lehrer from postulancy to candidacy.

It was the consensus of the Standing Committee that we are comfortable in moving him to candidacy as long as the items that we are concerned about that seem to be lacking in his record that are required by the Canons are completed before ordination, including CPE or the waiving of that requirement by the Bishop.

Lori and Annette suggested we send the CoM an email about making sure we are aware of these special circumstances and about their decisions about making exceptions to the rules which seems to be more prevalent lately.

**MSCU (Spaulding/Vargas)** to approve Christian Lehrer from postulancy to candidacy.

Phone call adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Submitted by Jim DeMersman for approval at the 6 October meeting.