

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 11, 2007 MEETING

The Standing Committee met on Tuesday, December 11, 2007. They also met as the Trustees of the Property. Meetings began at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 6 p.m. Highlights of the meetings include the following:

\* Two individuals were admitted as Candidates for Holy Orders - Don Heacox of Deming and Cynthia Engle of Christ Church of the Ascension, Arizona.

\* The Trustees celebrated the good news from churches in various stages of new building projects. Bob Gough, Building Committee Chair from St. Chad's, Albuquerque, and his committee presented information on phase 3 of their building program, which is to build a new sanctuary. Howie Tischler, Bishop's Committee Warden of Hope Episcopal Church, presented the construction costs and revenue estimates for their new building. The Trustees approved the Diocese taking out a \$1.8 million loan for the construction of a church building for Hope.

\* The Diocesan recommended clergy compensation was reviewed and increased for 2008 by the cost of living rate determined by the Social Security Administration. The minimum cash stipend for full-time clergy for the year 2008 is \$32,348 plus housing, car allowance, health insurance, pension and Social Security. The minimum cash stipend for a Transitional Deacon, first-year graduate from seminary is \$28,239 for the year 2008 plus housing, car allowance, health insurance, pension and Social Security.

\* The Standing Committee continues to focus on enhancing a pastoral presence throughout the Diocese. Members and the Deans have been encouraged to make visits to Deanery meetings and to congregations.

\* The Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Rev. Mark Goodman, will be available periodically to visit other congregations.

\* Canon Paul Shoemaker reported that the summary of the discussion session at Convocation should be completed shortly and posted to the web site.

\* The responsibilities of the Assisting Bishop will focus on sacramental duties as well as provide advice to the Standing Committee. The Assisting Bishop will also enhance the pastoral presence of the Diocese. Names of 6 Bishops are being reviewed and additional names are sought.

\* Three joint committees of the Standing Committee and the Deans have been formed to address specific tasks. Diane Butler leads the group developing a job description for the area deans and The Rev. David Luckenbach chairs the development of a job description for the deployment officer. These committees will report at the January meeting.

\* The Very Rev. Mark Goodman reported for the third group, the Communication Committee. Recommendations include the following: meeting summaries be sent to all clergy and church administrators for distribution to congregations in addition to posting on the web site; web site navigation

issues need to be addressed to assure access to those without high speed connection; considering long range planning, a full time staff person is needed for communication; and expand "Together" to 8 pages.

\* The Standing Committee continues to work with the area deans and the Rev. Canon Harold Trott, Deployment Officer, to meet the needs for clergy in the Diocese.

\* The search process and the healing process for the Diocese will be addressed concurrently. Members are contacting organizations that can assist us with the latter process.

\* The next meeting of the Standing Committee will be held on Monday, January 14, 2008. We will meet monthly throughout 2008.