Summary of Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and Canons
Related to the Standing Committee

In the past, membership of the Standing Committee has not been representative of the diocese as a whole. Members have been disproportionately elected from certain regions more than others, and the Constitution of the diocese did not allow for deacons to serve as members of the Standing Committee.

At the 2022 Diocesan Convention, the Committee on the Constitution and Canons proposed amendments to both the Constitution and Canons related to the election of members of the Standing Committee, so that the Standing Committee would have greater representation from the different regions of the diocese and allow for the elections of deacons.

The proposed amendments will be debated and voted upon at Diocesan Convention in January 2023. Because the amendments change the Constitution, they will take effect only if they are approved at Convention in 2023 and 2024. The first elections and service on the Standing Committee under the new proposal, if adopted, would begin in January 2025.

Here are some key points to know about the proposed amendments:

- The number of members of the Standing Committee shall be equal to the number of regions in the Diocese. Currently, there are eight members on the Standing Committee, and as there are eight regions, the number of members on the Standing Committee will not change.

- Each region shall nominate one individual for election as a member of the Standing Committee. The nominee may be a priest, deacon, or lay person.

- In making a nomination, each region may consider the balance of clerical and lay members of the Standing Committee and may act in coordination with any other region to maintain an equal or approximately equal number of clerical members and lay members.

- Diocesan Convention will vote on the nominees standing for election to the Standing Committee.

- Floor nominations may be made at Diocesan Convention, but the floor nominations must be for qualified individuals from the applicable region.
- The term for each member of the Standing Committee will continue to be 2 years. The terms of the members will continue to be staggered in 2 classes. No member shall serve more than three consecutive terms.