



The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

Standing Committee

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[The First Sunday of Advent]

Dear Clergy of the Diocese of Springfield:

As we prepare for our Annual Meetings in January next year, the delegates we elect to Synod will be in an inimitable situation in that they will be representing their churches at three sessions of Synod next year. The first is the Nominating Synod, scheduled on the evening of Friday, August 6 and on Saturday, August 7. At this synod the delegates will nominate the final list of candidates for the Episcopal election. The second, the Electing Synod, will begin meeting on the evening of Friday, September 17 and on Saturday, September 18 to elect the next Bishop of Springfield. Details on these two synods will be announced at a later date. The third synod is the 134th Regular Diocesan Synod, to be held on October 8 and 9, 2010 in Champaign, Illinois.

With the gravity of the task that lies ahead of us, the Standing Committee wants to kindly remind you of the requirements as provided by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese concerning **the election of Lay Members of Synod** as you prepare for your Annual Meetings.

Article V: **Members of the Synod:** Section 3 of the Constitution of the Diocese of Springfield:

“Every Parish in union with the Synod of the Diocese, and every canonically organized Mission of the Diocese, having fifty or fewer **communicants in good standing, as defined in the Canons of this Diocese,*** shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate. Each Parish or Mission having a larger number of communicants, shall be entitled to an additional Lay Delegate for each fifty communicants in good standing, **as defined in the Canons of this Diocese,*** above the first fifty; provided that no Parish or Mission shall have more than five Lay Delegates; and provided also, that no Lay Delegates shall be seated until there has been presented to the Secretary of the Synod satisfactory evidence that the Delegate’s Parish or Mission has paid in full to the Treasurer of the Diocese all Pledges, Assessments, or other sums as fixed by the Synod and following appeal when necessary, for the years up to and including the fiscal year next preceding the Synod. Each regular Lay Delegate, elected and present at the Synod shall have one vote. All Lay Delegates must be at least eighteen years of age and communicants in good standing, **as defined in the Canons of this Diocese,*** who have been confirmed by a Bishop of this Church, or who have been received into this Church as having been properly confirmed. Lay Delegates shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of each Parish and Mission. An equal number of Alternate Delegates shall be elected at the same meeting. Vacancies in Alternate Delegates may be filled by the Vestry or Bishop’s Committee. The Diocesan Office shall be notified immediately of the names and addresses of all Delegates and Alternates.”

* With reference to what constitutes “...a communicant in good standing...,” in accordance with the Diocesan Canon 43: **Of Members of the Church**, Section 3:

“All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been **faithful in corporate worship**, unless for good cause prevented, and have been **faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God**, are to be considered communicants in good standing.”

The members of the Standing Committee wish you and your congregations God’s richest blessings as we begin a new church year with the Season of Advent.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Very Rev. Dr. Anthony B. Holder
President, Standing Committee