



# The Episcopal Diocese of Springfield

## Standing Committee

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### MEMORANDUM

To: The Clergy of the Diocese of Springfield  
From: The President of the Standing Committee  
Subject: Requests for Episcopal Presence and Decisions on Pastoral Issues  
Date: February 4, 2010

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With the retirement of Bishop Beckwith, effective February 1, 2010, the Standing Committee began serving as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese and will do so until the consecration of the Eleventh Bishop of Springfield. As the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Standing Committee will exercise all responsibilities customarily performed by the bishop of a diocese, except those specifically reserved to a bishop.

It is the Standing Committee's desire to be supportive of the members of the clergy as they continue to engage in ministry in their parishes and missions, including those ministries that would require an Episcopal presence. The Standing Committee will make the decisions, as necessary and appropriate, on pastoral issues that will affect the mission and ministry of the church. Although there will be no regular Episcopal visitations until a new bishop has been consecrated, we trust that Confirmation preparations will continue to take place in parishes. It is our expectation that requests for appointments to licensed ministries, applications for marital judgments and pastoral issues of that nature will be forwarded to the Standing Committee, and we will act on nominations for appointments to offices in our mission congregations, the forms for which are due in the Diocesan Office by February 15, 2010. It is our hope that parishes and missions within our diocese can continue to function as normally as possible.

In order to facilitate the continuation of these processes, the Standing Committee, at its January 23, 2010 meeting, made the following decisions with regard to requesting Episcopal ministry and the handling of decisions on pastoral issues:

1. Members of the clergy are to direct requests for Episcopal ministry to the Standing Committee, which, in turn, will make arrangements for the provision of Episcopal ministry for the parish or mission. The Standing Committee would appreciate it if clergy members needing an Episcopal presence would give appropriate notice and allow adequate time to make provision for a bishop.
2. With regard to appointments to mission offices, appointments to licensed ministries, applications for marital judgments and pastoral issues of that nature, as would have been customary if a bishop was in office, the requests and other appropriate documentation are to be sent to the Diocesan Center for the Standing Committee's decision.

Please note that any matter that would have needed the Bishop's ruling will require the decision of the Standing Committee.

With every good wish and blessing!