

WTN 2025-4: Enhancing the Role of Standing Committee in Canon 15

- **Proposer:** Committee on Constitution and Canons
- **Endorsers:**
 - The Rev. Canon Rob Courtney
 - The Rev. Sarah Cowan

Whereas it is common practice across dioceses of The Episcopal Church to have either the Bishop and the Standing Committee, or the Bishop, Diocesan Council, and the Standing Committee approve the conveyance or encumbrance of any real property held by the Diocese or congregations of the Diocese, and

Whereas The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee requires the Standing Committee to approve only the conveyance or encumbrance of any real property that has been dedicated, consecrated, or used for Divine Worship, and

Whereas this arrangement can be procedurally confusing when it arises, and

Whereas it would be beneficial to the collegial relationship between Bishop & Council and the Standing Committee to eliminate this confusion,

Resolved, that the language in Canon 15, Sec. 3(a) shall be adjusted to state, “... without the prior consent of the Annual Convention or of the Council, and of the Standing Committee,” and

Resolved, that the language in Canon 15, Sec. 3(b) shall be adjusted to state, “... provided that the prior consent of the Annual Convention or of the Council, and of the Standing Committee be given,” and

Resolved, that Canon 15, Sec. 3(c) (“In addition to the foregoing, if the real property has been dedicated, or consecrated, or used for services of Divine Worship, the consent of the Bishop and of the Standing Committee shall also be required.”) be eliminated, and

Resolved, that the language of Canon 15, Sec. 3(d) be adjusted to state, “In any case referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) of this Section 3, if for sufficient cause the Bishop determines that consent cannot await the next meeting of the Annual Convention, or of the Council, or of the Standing Committee, the Bishop may, with the advice of the Chancellor, give consent to the proposed action, but shall also make report thereof to the next meeting of the Council, and of the Standing Committee.”