

Commission on Ministry

The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members. The Commission on Ministry advises and assists the Bishop (a) in the implementation of Title III Canons, (b) in the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons, and (c) in the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefore.¹

Process toward ordination review:

Sharron Heathman and Leslie Hoover were ordained to the Vocational Diaconate on February 7, 2009. Sharron is assigned to Christ Church Lexington; Leslie is assigned to St. Mary's Kansas City. Helen Whitsitt is recommended by the Commission for ordination to the Vocational Diaconate in February 2010.

There are two postulants preparing for the Vocational Diaconate (West Missouri School for Ministry): Sherrill Russell and Nancy Nevins. Dr. Robert Schwartz is Dean of the School and Dr. Bill Stancil is Chair of the West Missouri School for Ministry Advisory Board.

There are five postulants currently enrolled in the George Herbert Institute (priesthood). Two postulants are in seminary settings. Diane Pike is a seminarian at the Seminary of the Southwest (SSW) in Austin, TX. and Greg Morgan is a seminarian at General Theological Seminary.

Dr. Bradley Chance is a candidate for ordination to the priesthood in the Title III, Canon 10 process and has taken General Ordination Exams. Cinthia Barnes, Greg Hoover, and Nila Bishop are candidates for ordination and will take GOE's in January 2010.

Seven aspirants will participate in the Vocations Conference October 2-3, 2009: six for priesthood and one for the diaconate. The Rev. Deacon Laurie McKim is an aspirant for priesthood and is a seminarian at the Seminary of the Southwest (SSW) in Austin, TX.

Actions and discussions of the Commission in 2009

The Rev. Virginia Brown directs the George Herbert Institute and is adjunct to the Commission on Ministry. She has emphasized to the COM the importance of alternative education programs for formation for ordination. In 2008 the COM decided to establish an Advisory Board to GHI to assist in oversight, curriculum, budget and the guidance of postulants. The number of students is increasing and proposals are being considered for meeting this need. This diocese has more postulants in GHI than in traditional seminaries.

¹ Canons and Constitution, Title III, Canon 2, Sec. 2

In accordance with the new 2008 Lay Licensure Guidelines for the renewing of licenses, Preacher and Catechist Licenses were renewed for three years on March 1, 2009. All current Eucharistic Minister and Eucharistic Visitor licenses will expire March 1, 2010. All EM and EV licenses will be issued March 1, 2010 to expire March 1, 2013.

The Lay Licensure Committee has two members The Rev. Canon Bill Fasel (Chair) and The Rev. Dr. Susan Smith. They have offered three excellent preaching workshops and one catechist workshop in 2008-2009. These events were open to lay and clergy.

The Rev. Marshall Scott, Chaplain at St. Luke's South, oversees Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and has successfully found placements for postulants. The importance of CPE for all ordained clergy is emphasized.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Ruth Louise Baker
Chair, Commission on Ministry