

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.

Process toward ordination

Two persons were ordained to the Vocational Diaconate this past year. Helen Whitsitt was ordained on February 6 at Christ Church, Boonville, and serves the Northeast Regional Ministry. Nancy Nevins was ordained on June 5th and was assigned to serve St. Matthew's, Raytown.

The Rev. Greg Hoover was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on June 5th and was called to serve Shepherd of the Hills, Branson. D.V. he will be ordained to the priesthood in December.

One person, Sherrill Russell, is a postulant for the Vocational Diaconate with an expectation of being ordained in February, 2011, should canonical consents be received.

There are five postulants currently enrolled in the George Herbert Institute (priesthood), namely David Angus, David Cox, Kathleen Hall, Laura Hughes, and Nancy Smith-Leech. Four students are enrolled in seminary settings: Diane Pike is a senior at the Seminary of the Southwest (SSW) in Austin, TX., Greg Morgan is a middler at General Theological Seminary, and Laurie McKim is a middler at the Seminary of the Southwest. In addition, Kathleen Hall is enrolled in the M. Div. Program at St. Paul School of Theology (Methodist), Kansas City.

Dr. Bradley Chance is a candidate for ordination to the priesthood in the Title III, Canon 10 process and has taken General Ordination Exams. Dr. Chance completed CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) at St. Luke's East Hospital this past summer.

Cynthia Barnes, Greg Hoover, and Nila Bishop took GOEs (General Ordination Examinations) in January of 2010. Greg Hoover did well and was recommended for ordination to the transitional diaconate. Cynthia Barnes continues her studies under the auspices of the Diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains. Nila Bishop has taken a leave of absence due to health concerns. Diane Pike and Kathleen Hall will take GOEs in January, 2011.

Three persons were interviewed at the annual Candidacy Interview Day in June, Diane Pike and Kathleen Hall for priesthood and Sherrill Russell for vocational diaconate. Pike

and Hall were recommended for candidacy, action on Sherrill Russell was deferred until she completes her work with the Board of Examining Chaplains.

Three aspirants participated in the annual Vocations Conference October 1-2, 2010, one for priesthood and two for the vocational diaconate.

Other Areas of Emphasis for 2010

- George Herbert Institute. 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. The COM reviewed and approved the new curriculum for the George Herbert Institute which will now be the body through which persons may be prepared for priesthood and diaconate in the diocese.

The new program provides for two years of academic work with three terms (12 sessions) per year. The third year will focus on the practice of ministry in both course work and field work.

The COM strongly affirmed Bishop Howe's position that all persons in the ordination process must complete CPE or an equivalent program under the guidance of Chaplain Marshal Scott.

- 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 were renewed for three years on March 1, 2010. All EM and EV licenses will expire March 1, 2013. The areas of Pastoral Leaders and Worship leaders will be reviewed next. The licenses will be renewed in 2011 for three years.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Susan McCann
Chair, Commission on Ministry