

**Annual Report of the Commission on Ministry  
for the Diocese of Missouri  
November 2020**

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report on the work that the Commission on Ministry (COM) has accomplished since last year's convention. I began my work as chair of the COM in January of 2020, after serving for two years as a member under the capable leadership of the Rev. Mike Angell.

Except for an in-person meeting in February, all subsequent COM meetings have been held via Zoom due to the pandemic. We met via Zoom with interviewees in April, May, August, and September. We have one more Zoom meeting scheduled for December. To date we have interviewed 4 applicants for Postulancy for the Priesthood; 1 applicant for Postulancy for the Diaconate; 5 applicants for Candidacy for Priesthood; and certified that 3 Candidates for Priesthood are ready for ordination to the Transitional Diaconate.

My colleagues this year on the COM have been a joy to work with. They are smart, thoughtful, prayerful, and committed to their work on the Commission. Thank you to all who have served in 2020: The Rev. Deacon Rebecca Barger (Archdeacon); Ms. Simone Camp; The Rev. Deacon Barbi Click; Ms. Elizabeth Hines; The Rev. Annette Joseph; Mr. Christopher Kurth; The Rev. Martie Metzler; Ms. Bren O'Connor; Ms. Sarah Schedler; Mr. DeWayne Trainer; The Rev. Joseph Wallace Williams.

As of January 2020, the Rev. Canon Loren Lasch was coordinating the formation process in the diocese. Loren accepted a call to join the staff of the Diocese of Georgia, and left us at the end of June. In July, Bishop Deon appointed the Rev. Whitney Rice as Canon for Evangelism and Discipleship Formation, and her portfolio includes working with the COM. I am grateful for her wise leadership.

Bishop Deon has challenged the COM to look closely at discernment at the parish level, not just for holy orders but also for the varieties of ministries that are available to all the baptized. Conversations about how to implement a more expansive and holistic view of ministry are taking place both at the commission level and the diocesan level.

The COM does not exist in a vacuum. Our work depends upon the recommendations of the Diocesan Board of Examining Chaplains (DBEC), and the COM makes recommendations to the Bishop and the Standing Committee. It has been a privilege to work closely with Lynette Ballard, chair of DBEC, as well as with

**Canon Whitney and Executive Assistant Jillian Smith. Together, we are working to make the process for formation for ministry more accessible and streamlined.**

**Faithfully yours,**

**The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner, Chair, Commission on Ministry  
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