

Annual Report of the Commission on Ministry
for the Diocese of Missouri
November 2021

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report on the work that the Commission on Ministry (COM) has accomplished since last year's convention. In 2021 we met via Zoom with interviewees in January, February, July, August, and October. To date we have interviewed 4 applicants for Postulancy for the Priesthood; 1 applicant for Postulancy for the Diaconate; 2 applicants for Candidacy for the Priesthood; and 1 applicant for Candidacy for the Diaconate. In addition, I have facilitated 7 introductory meetings for Congregational Discernment Committees. Bishop Deon has also met with us, asking us to look more 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 strength of the COM comes from its members. They are a joy to work with, and to a person they approach this ministry prayerfully, thoughtfully, and with enthusiasm! Thank you to all who have served in 2021: The Rev. Tom Albinson; The Rev. Deacon Barbi Click; The Rev. Camie Dewey; The Rev. Deacon Paula Hartsfield; Ms. Rose Hayden; Ms. Elizabeth Hines; The Rev. Annette Joseph; Mr. Christopher Kurth; Ms. Bren O'Connor; Ms. Mary Taylor; Mr. DeWayne Trainer.

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

My four-year term on the COM, including the last two years as chair, ends with this Diocesan Convention. It's been a privilege and a joy to engage in this ministry. I am delighted that the Bishop has appointed the Rev. Camie Dewey as the new COM chair, and I wish her every blessing as she steps into this role.

Faithfully yours,

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