

# 112<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN UTAH

## Report of the Commission on Ministry

The Commission on Ministry (COM) has been working on the goals set last year, and will continue to work on them through the 2017-2018 term.

### Mandate and Authority

Title III, Canon 2 of the General Canons of The Episcopal Church directs that each diocese is to have a Commission on Ministry which is to assist the Bishop in

- matters of preparation for ordination to the Diaconate and Priesthood,
- determination of opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons,
- the design and oversight of processes for recruitment, discernment, formation, and assessment of the above.

Canon 23 of the Canons of this Diocese directs that the Commission on Ministry (COM) to consist of six lay persons and three clergy persons who are appointed by the Bishop for three-year terms, subject to the confirmation of the Diocesan Convention.

It is important to remember that the COM is primarily a body that is advisory to the Bishop in matters regarding ministry. Any programmatic decisions by the COM need to be approved by the Bishop and Diocesan Council, and any policy changes must be approved by the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

The current members of the COM are Dr. Ronald Kastner (2019), the Rev. Canon Pablo Ramos (2019); Lucy Stretch, David Reed, and the Rev. Charles Robinson (2017), and, Dr. Mark LeTourneau, Brenda Hulphers, and the Rev. Peter J. Van Hook (2018). Barbara Losse is the Staff Associate who works to support the Commission on Ministry; Vicki Evans serves *ex officio* as the Canon for Lay Ministries; and the Rev. Dcn. Anita Miner was appointed by the Bishop to serve as liaison to the Deacons. The Rev. Peter J. Van Hook was appointed in 2015 to serve as the Chair.

### Activities for the 2015-2016 (Six-month) Term

The members of the COM have continued to operate in four working groups: Ordination Process (working with those who are exploring and pursuing ordination), Christian Formation (especially for Youth and Young Adults), *Handbook* Revision (updating the *Handbook for Ordination*), and Licensed Ministries (exploring ways the various Licensed Ministries authorized by Canon III.4 can be better utilized).

We continue to evaluate the effectiveness of THE DAY OF DISCOVERY, the workshop designed to assist people in their discernment of Christian Ministry. We continue to discuss how this requirement in the *Handbook for Ordination* helps people in their discernment of Christian ministry in all its forms. This is also true of the model of the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Admission to the Ministry (BACAM), which we intend to revise this spring. Together the COM will announce its decisions this summer.

*Ordination Process* — Directed by the Chair, Peter Van Hook, the Commission maintained pastoral contact with all those in process *via* the appointment of Shepherds (each member of the Commission has one or more Applicants they stay in touch with), and monitored the progress of each person and assuring compliance with canons and policies. A calendar of annual conversations for each Applicant has been created. Currently several people are exploring discernment about various ministry possibilities; and, there are currently six Postulants, three Candidates for Holy Orders, and two Transitional Deacons in the process in Utah.

*Christian Formation* — A number of people have become aware of the need for supporting the formation of persons for Christian Ministry. Our goal for this short term was to begin contacting people in the Diocese and elsewhere to ascertain more clearly how to define this need and to discover what others may be doing in this regard. Led by David Reed this working group continues to look to the youth ministry team in the Diocese and to Canon Ramos for direction on how we can best support them..

*Handbook Revision* — *The Handbook for Ministry* is the Diocesan policies and procedures manual regarding the process toward ordination. Under the direction of Ronald Kastner, this task began in late 2014. The final draft of the *Handbook* has been reviewed by the Standing Committee (the body which establishes policy in this Diocese), and we are awaiting final word from Bishop Hayashi with his approval. The Handbook will be distributed as soon as that approval is received.

*Licensed Ministries* — The General Canons provide for issuing, by way of the Bishop, licenses to persons who have been suitably trained and prepared to serve as Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors (the two Licensed Ministries most familiar to parishioners), and as a congregation's Pastoral Leader, Catechist, Worship Leader, Preacher, or Evangelist. The COM is investigating why these ministries are so little used in this Diocese, and exploring ways that they can be more widely utilized for congregational development and parish life. Mark LeTourneau and Brenda Hulphers are leading this working group.

### **Goals for the 2017-2018 Term**

The COM will continue working on the four areas identified above and their relevant programmatic concerns. We will look at a suggestion that we work with the Deacons of the Diocese to raise awareness of that ministry and educate congregations who do not have Deacons about the advantages of that office.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Peter J. Van Hook, *Chair*