

112th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah Report of the Diaconate

Members

- Deanna Sue Adams St. Michael's, Brigham City
- David Christian St. Peter's Clearfield
- Nancy Groshart Church of the Good Shepherd, Ogden
- Marsha Heron St. Elizabeth's, Whiterocks
- Libby Hunter Cathedral Church of St. Mark, Salt Lake City
- Sandra Jones St. Mary's, Provo
- Anita Miner All Saints, Salt Lake City
- Robert Shoop St. James', Midvale

Mandate

The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church in the world, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

Our ordination vows call us to be loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them. Also, in accordance with the canons of this Church, obey our bishop and other ministers who may have authority over us and our work.

Goals

One long term goal is to have at least one deacon at every parish within the diocese. A second goal is to have multiple deacons in the larger parishes. We are working with the Commission on Ministry to help people from the congregations of Latinos, Sudanese and Native Americans to discern diaconal ministries.

Action items

Communication: The value and ministry of the Diaconate is not well known or socialized within the Diocese. We have created a rough draft of material for a road show to take to each parish. It is a work in progress.

Education: The current educational requirements for the diaconate need to be streamlined. Most candidates for the diaconate have secular vocations. There needs to be a path to complete the required education that can be accomplished in a timely manner, yet fit in with a full time job outside of the parish.

Analysis of action

The road show outline will be a discussion for our next group meeting with the Bishop, which will occur between the writing of this document and the 112th Convention. We will be more knowledgeable after that meeting.

Findings and conclusions

The current cadre of deacons is in place and has been for some time. Our ministries are functioning and we provide service to our parishes and the greater world. Expansion of that ministry can only serve to aid in the outreach of the diocese.

Recommendations

No action from convention is required at this time.

Statement of how the group's work fits into the mission strategy of the Diocese

The very nature of the diaconal ministry projects the mission of the church in the world. We serve our parishes and are one of the faces of the Episcopal Church in the secular world. Expansion of that ministry will enhance that ability.