

Annual Convention Report

The 132nd Annual Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri



Highlights of the Previous Year

- In fall 2021 BKSM's enrollment continued to grow. 39 students are now pursuing a certificate of study in seven areas. 13 are from The Diocese of West Missouri: 6 pursuing presbyteral studies, 4 in diaconal studies, 1 on the lay preaching track, and 2 in Anglican Studies. We have some students now from the Dioceses of Iowa and Missouri.
- BKSM received a technology grant from the Roanridge Foundation that will allow persons far from our Topeka campus to join any of our classes via Zoom. We have formed a second distance cohort in Dodge City, KS. This technology has been tremendously helpful as our courses have been offered entirely on Zoom since March of 2020. We hope we can resume face to face sessions in Topeka as soon as possible.
- BKSM once again offered the marriage preparation class in the summer.
- BKSM continues to offer Biblical Greek, and Biblical Hebrew is now offered as well (both taught by Richard Liantonio of The Diocese of West Missouri).
- BKSM continued to participate actively in efforts to create collaborative networks in Episcopal theological education. Dean Compier has served on the General Convention's Interim Task Force on Theological Education Networking. BKSM alumni/ae participated in the Lilly project entitled "Thriving in Bi-Vocational Ministry" administered by the Seminary of the Southwest. They met regularly with peers concentrating on subjects such as preaching and spiritual growth. Another cohort will be formed beginning in January of 2022. We strongly encourage our alumni/ae in The Diocese of West Missouri to apply. The program is open to both priests and deacons.
- Claremont School of Theology and BKSM have an articulation agreement. BKSM courses are accepted for credit towards completion of graduate degrees at this prestigious institution. We are most grateful for this recognition of the quality of our work.
- We had a strong year in fundraising, allowing us to create investment accounts to help fund our growing programs. We had the most successful annual campaign in our 8-year history. BKSM was able to hire a part-time administrative assistant. We are grateful that we have plenty of scholarship money. BKSM is affordable for all.
- BKSM became an official sponsor of the Anti-Racism Covenant and held a number of discussions about racial justice and reconciliation. We continue to review our course offerings and ways to promote diversity among our faculty, staff, and student body.

- For the first time BKSM began the 2021 school year with a spiritual retreat for all students led by Brother James Dowd of the Benedictine Way. Students continue to meet monthly for group spiritual formation.
- Dean Compier is now canonically resident in The Diocese of West Missouri.

Plans for the Coming Year

- BKSM's board is engaged in a long-range strategic planning process, using the "SWOT-D" process (examination of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, and dreams).
- In late October 2021 Dean Compier will represent BKSM on a panel about bi-vocational ministry at the College of Bishops.
- Plans are underway to strengthen our course offerings in leadership. The experience of The Diocese of West Missouri has been very helpful in this endeavor.
- BKSM is actively involved in discussions with Episcopal seminaries about ways to collaborate in areas such as curricula for congregational development and field education/supervised ministerial practice.
- We are having discussions that could lead to other dioceses becoming part of our partnership.
- We continue to explore further ways to actively promote spirituality at BKSM.

Assessment and Evaluation

- Monitoring of results of ordination examinations.
- Regular feedback from dioceses, parishes, alumni/ae to determine success of our graduates in promoting the mission of the church.
- December 2021 board retreat, using the SWOT-D process, will further assess the strengths and weaknesses of our programs.
- In the spring of 2021 BKSM began annual mutual ministry reviews.

Reflection of Diocesan Priorities

- Curricula promote skills and insight needed to foster congregational growth. The lay evangelism curriculum is particularly important in this regard. We have revised the course on Contemporary Mission to place greater emphasis on evangelism.
- Spiritual and communal formation at the school contribute to the personal growth of all participants—students and faculty. As noted, we are working to strengthen this vital dimension of our work.
- Supportive ties forged between dioceses, between the Episcopal Church and ELCA, between future clergy (priests and deacons) and lay leaders. Networking with theological educators throughout the Episcopal Church is accelerating.

- Diaconal curriculum stresses compassionate ministry in community.
- Above all, BKSM constantly strives to produce lay and ordained leaders (priests and deacons) for today's church and its mission.

Yours in Christ,

The Very Reverend Dr. Don H. Compier, Dean

LEADERSHIP ROSTER

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