

Annual Convention Report

The 132nd Annual Convention of The Diocese of West Missouri



The Commission on Ministry (COM) exists in compliance with Title III, Canon 2 of the Canons and Constitutions as an advisory role to the Bishop in the implementation of Title III. The primary responsibilities are the encouraging and enabling present and future opportunities for the ministry of all the baptized, in the design and oversight of recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry and assisting in accessing individuals' readiness for ministry.

Our Subcommittees have been formed to cover these areas articulated in specific Canons under Title III. These four subcommittees are Discernment, Ordination Process, Licensed Ministry, and Clergy Continuing Education, Orientation and Mentoring. Membership in these subcommittees is not limited to members of the Commission. The chairs of the subcommittees will be ex-officio members of the Commission, if not already elected or appointed members.

For the duration of 2021 all activities of the Commission have been held via Zoom.

Highlights of 2021

The Discernment sub-committee created a Discernment Handbook for use by local discernment committees as well as a structure for use by the Commission's Regional Vocations Committees.

The Clergy Continuing Education, Orientation and Mentoring subcommittee continued work on reviewing ways to report out continuing education activities required of clergy. The committee is also working on guidelines for Mentoring.

The subcommittee for Licensed Ministry has continues reviewing and revising diocesan policies regarding licensed ministry for recommendation to the Bishop. We have been doing this in with the assistance of the Dean of the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, which is developing curricula to support licensed ministries.

Commission on Ministry Actions since last reported to Diocesan Convention 2020:

September 2020	Recommended for Postulancy -Silas Engstrom Recommended for Candidacy – Isaac Petty Recommended for Candidacy -Ryan Wiksell Recommended for Candidacy -Rita Kendagor
October 2020	Recommended for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate – Isaac Petty Recommended for Ordination to the Diaconate – Lynda Hurt
December 2020	Recommended for Postulancy -Brian Cowley
April 2021	Recommended for Ordination to the Priesthood – Isaac Petty
June 2021	Recommended for Postulancy – Michael Johns Recommended for Postulancy – Katherine (Katie) Mansfield Recommended for Postulancy –Robin Rusconi Recommended for Postulancy –Vicky Anderson
August 2021	Recommended for Postulancy to the Priesthood – Jody Carroll (change in status) Recommended for Postulancy –Mark Bowers Recommended for Postulancy –Ryan Bures Recommended for Postulancy –Brittany Sparrow-Savage Recommended for Postulancy –Ryan Williams Recommended for Ordination to the Priesthood –Ryan Wiksell
September 2021	Recommended for Postulancy –Blake Smith

Plans for 2022

1. Continue to receive nominations for further ordination and use the regional vocations committees for discernment.
2. Participate in joint conversations with Commissions on Ministry associated with the BKSM membership.
3. Continued support of Lay ministry development and training.
4. Further development of guidelines for continuing education.
5. Implement strategy for continuing vocational discernment in all congregations.

Diocesan Priorities

While some of our work ultimately impacts all of the priorities, perhaps most directly we are assisting in growing leaders. Identifying and encouraging individuals for being ordained clergy, obviously, but we intend our work to include occasional training opportunities for lay individuals. Coordination with BKSM will be a new opportunity for lay education and training.

The Diocese of West Missouri currently has 2 Nominees, 5 Postulants for the Diaconate 14 Postulants for the Priesthood, one Candidate, and one Transitional Deacon active in the ordination process.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Maynard, Chair