

114TH CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN UTAH

Report of the Commission on Ministry

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.

Activities involving Ordination process since (and including) the 2019 Convention

The Rev. Gill de Azevedo, The Rev. Elizabeth Harden, The Rev. Copeland Johnson and The Rev. Brian Rallison were all ordained priests in The Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Alison Desiderio Peterson was ordained Deacon in The Episcopal Church

Candidate Patricia Hart continues her ordination process, now at All Saints SLC

Suzanne Miller of Good Shepherd Ogden became a Candidate for Holy Orders (Priest track)

Holly Huff (St. Mark's Cathedral) was named a Postulant (Priest Track)

Mathew Bryner (Good Shepherd Ogden), Ashley Gurling (Church of the Resurrection Centerville), Daniella Lee (St. Steven's SLC) and Nazanin Nourmohammad, (St. James, Midville, Deacon Track) remain in good standing in their ordination process.

The plans for a single BACAM each year has been upended by the COVID-19 virus. The 2020 BACAM was first postponed and ultimately was modified to an individual process all online. While not ideal, we believe it provided a fair assessment environment.

Currently, all COM meetings and interviews have moved to Zoom and are happening in a timely manner when people reach their next steps. For the foreseeable future, this individually tailored process is the fair way to address the needs of those in process. We hope to move back to a regularly scheduled single BACAM (with clear timeline) for 2022.

Those wishing to **apply for Postulancy** should adhere to the following steps (assuming that the inquirer has been a member of their Episcopal congregation and resident in the Diocese of Utah for at least three years, has begun the process by meeting with the clergy-in-charge of their congregation and has met with a Parish Discernment Committee):

Nomination for Postulancy

Parish Discernment and Vestry letters

Aspirant meets with Bishop

Virtual COM meeting will then be scheduled, with a 1 page spiritual autobiography due two weeks prior to the meeting

Any questions should be clarified through the COM chair by the Clergy-in-Charge.

There is always a great deal of uncertainty concerning an ordination process, but our current state is rather unique. The COM is continuing to work with the Bishop, Diocesan Council and Standing Committee to modify the process as needed in the time of COVID-19 to help guide those discerning a call to ordained ministry in the Diocese of Utah, along with a fair and clear evaluation of call throughout the ordination process.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Kurt C. Wiesner
Chair, Commission on Ministry