

Dear Bishop Rickel and the Clergy & Delegates of the 111th Convention of the Diocese of Olympia,

Thank you for this opportunity to report on our work this year. The Commission on Ministry (COM) serves to shepherd people through the process of discerning a call to ordained ministry. We also service as a council of advice to the bishop at key decision points as individuals walk through the discernment process.

Resolution 6, 8 and 9 from last year's convention gave the COM some very helpful direction in our work in 2021. Here is a summary of our progress to date:

We've worked hard this year to expand the diversity of the COM and had success in some areas and not in others. This will continue to be a major focus in 2022. You will note that we are now half lay and half clergy as Resolution 6 calls for. Out of nine current COM members, we have two people of color and seven white people and two people who identify as LGBTQIA and seven people who identify as straight. We have continued to work hard to fill the empty slots as they opened up throughout the year (two people had to drop out mid year and we were able to fill one spot and not the other). In addition to more specific collective and individual invites to people to color and LGBTQ+ people to join the COM, we began implementation of Resolution 6 as COM members have either dropped off or their term expires. At this convention, we will have our first elections to the COM.

We tested the Cultural Interpreter model (Resolution 8) on Candidacy Day. This was an opportunity for good learning and clarity on the role. We have established a COM working group to develop specific policies and practices for this approach in partnership with Circles of Color.

The COM took the anti-racism covenant (resolution 9) to heart. This manifested in two ways:

- Each member of COM has made an individual commitment to working on our own bias and committing to our own journey on addressing racism
- We decided to make some significant changes to embed anti-racism in the discernment process. While we recognize that everyone is in their own place on the journey to address and undo racism in our church and in our society, this resolution called us as COM to make more explicit that, if you are discerning a call to ordination in the Diocese of Olympia, the COM is expecting and hoping that you are on a learning journey to understand race and racism and are actively work on your own bias. In partnership with Bishop Rickel, we are also refining the expectations of ordained people that the COM uses as a guide for discernment to ordination, and embedding discussion on race and racism in the phase 2 discernment curriculum. We've established another COM working group to develop this new approach in partnership with Circles of Color.

We have and continue to welcome any members of any Circles of Color to join either of the COM working groups which includes both COM and Circles of Color members.

Significant Events and Engagements:

Alan Christensen was ordained to the Diaconate on October 24, 2020.

Charissa Bradstreet, Gerry Brennan, and Malcolm McLaurin were ordained to the Priesthood on June 15, 2020, at Saint Mark's Cathedral, Seattle, WA.

We have been blessed to walk with the following individuals who are still in the process for ordination:

Postulants (Diaconate): Nathan Clark, Kae Eaton, Donna Greene, Sheryl Haase, Sue Mings, Aaron Scott.

Postulants (Priesthood): Shane Carlson, Tina Francis Mutungu, Charles Huff, Phillip Lienau, Kenzi Roberson, Myra Ryneheart Corcorran, Robert Stevens, Elizabeth Walker, Jana Whitworth.

Candidate (Diaconate): David Bishop, Jeffrey Boyce.

Candidates (Priesthood): James Ayuen, Mary Bol, Daren Chidester, Allen Hicks, Baudelina Paz, Linzi Stahlecker, Pam Tinsley.

Commission members include: Chair, Diana Bender; Associate Chair: The Rev. Polly Shigaki, The Rev. Doyt Conn; The Rev. Pat Grodt, The Rev. Karen Haig; The Rev. Natalie Johnson, Mary Lyons; Patricia McGuire, Roberta Newell, liaison from the Standing Committee.

Ex Officio members include: April Caballero; The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison; The Ven. Gen Grewell; The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel.

Faithfully,

*Diana Bender*

Chair, Commission on Ministry

*The Rev. Polly Shigaki*

Associate Chair, Commission on Ministry