

## Commission on Ministry Report to the 222<sup>nd</sup> Diocesan Convention

### Current Status of Individuals in the Process

- Ordained to the Priesthood
  - The COM recommended for ordination two individuals who were clerics in other traditions. One was received from the Roman Catholic Church into the Episcopal Church as a priest in 2005. The other, a Presbyterian cleric, was ordained as a transitional deacon in 2005.
  - Of the four transitional deacons ordained to the diaconate in June 2005:
    - One was ordained to the priesthood in December 2005.
    - Two transitional deacons were ordained to the priesthood in January 2006.
    - One remains as a transitional deacon.
- Postulants
  - There are nine postulants: eight postulants are in seminary and one postulant will be entering seminary in September 2006.
    - Three postulants have been approved for candidacy. These individuals took their GOEs in January.
- Nominees for Postulancy
  - Interviews for ministry discernment to the priesthood were held in September 2005. Five individuals were accepted as nominees into the process and placed in parishes, other than their home parish, for further discernment. These five nominees will be interviewed for Postulancy in February 2006.
- Nominees in Process
  - There are ten nominees in various stages of completing work with their Parish Committees on Ministry.

### Visits to Seminarians

Visits to our seminarians attending General Theological Seminary in New York City occur annually. The visit of the Bishop, Canon for Ministry Development and Deployment, and COM co-chairs to General Theological Seminary occurred in November 2005. The visit included meetings with the Dean of the Seminary, Academic Dean, the Executive Director of Enrollment Management, and the seminarians and nominees from the diocese.

Members of the Commission on Ministry have visited our seminarians at the Episcopal Divinity School in Massachusetts and the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia. In 2006 the Commission plans to increase its visits by the Bishop and the COM Co-Chairs to as many seminarians at their seminaries as possible.

### Recruitment

The COM Recruitment Committee, chaired by The Rev. Ronald Pollock, placed four college students in its summer internship to encourage college students to consider the priesthood. Funding to support this effort was obtained from members of the COM, the Girl's Friendly Society, churches, rectors, and individual donors. Interns receive \$3,000 each for their participation in the program.

The COM appointed a committee for Recruitment/Development of Clergy of Diverse Racial and Cultural Backgrounds. Under its chair, The Rev. Harroldean Ashton, the committee will explore, develop, and implement ways to increase the diversity of clergy in the diocese.

### Discernment Shepherds

The committee formed to provide guidance and training to Parish Committees on Ministry continued to shepherd discerners and PCOMs. All PCOMs with nominees in the process have been trained. This committee also monitors the progress of each nominee at the very early stages.

### Financial Aid

With the approval of the Standing Committee, the COM awarded \$50,000 in financial aid to five postulants attending seminary in the 2005-06 academic year. All postulants who applied for financial aid received assistance.

### Other

The Bishop, Canon for Ministry Development, the Co-chairs and members of the COM were interviewed in May 2005 for a video that the National Church is producing that addresses diversity in our parishes. The video is scheduled to be released in spring 2006.

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. John Belmont and Ms. Constance White  
Co-Chairs, Commission on Ministry  
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