

**Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
Ministry Institute
Annual Report – 2006-07**

The staff of the Ministry Institute would like to thank everyone in the Diocese for their support in this the first year of the Ministry Institute. Since most of the events that fall under the umbrella of the Ministry Institute are planned by the commissions and committees of the Diocese, the Institute is really an entity of the entire Diocese. Without the dedication of the commissions and committees and their commitment to planning activities and sharing information about these activities with the Institute, the Ministry Institute catalog would not be so full of exciting events, courses, and workshops.

The Ministry Institute's first semester was the Fall of 2006. Seventeen different courses, workshops, or events were offered: seven planned for everyone, including two for adults working in youth ministry and planned by the Youth Ministry Office, five planned specifically for the laity, and five planned specifically by and for the clergy. A course on "Spirituality in the Anglican Church" in the School for Deacons was opened to the laity for the first time. Events planned specifically by the Ministry Institute staff for the laity were entitled Discerning One's Gifts and Passion for Ministry, Reading the Lessons Effectively, and A Theology of Sexuality and the Episcopal Church.

Of the activities presented for everyone or the laity, 535 individuals, including three for the course in the School for Deacons, registered. These individuals will be surveyed after convention to provide input to Fall 2007 planning. The survey will invite respondents to comment on their experience at the event, provide ways to improve the event, and suggest other events that the Ministry Institute can plan to meet the needs of parishioners in the Diocese.

At convention, there will be a booth displaying information about the Institute. In addition, a survey requesting comments on ways to communicate about the Institute and suggest activities for the Institute to plan will be in each convention packet.

For Spring 2007, twenty-five different courses, workshops, or events are being offered: fifteen planned for everyone, including two for adults working in youth ministry and planned by the Youth Ministry Office, six planned specifically for the laity, four planned specifically by and for the clergy. Two courses in the School for Deacons are open to the laity: *The Book of Common Prayer* and Church History. Events planned specifically by the Ministry Institute staff were entitled Discerning One's Gifts and Passion for Ministry, Reading the Lessons Effectively, Sex and the Bible, a Lay Lenten Retreat.

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Submitted by
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