

REPORTS TO THE 174TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE

Meeting virtually on October 9, 2021

Commission on Ministry (COM)

The Commission on Ministry (COM) is the body tasked by the Bishop to help prepare and accompany those seeking ordination in the Church. We support the work of clergy, parishes, the diocese, and individuals in the sometimes-complicated work of discerning a call to formal ministry. The preparation of people for ordained service is prayerful and powerful work; the COM is fortunate to be called to serve and takes the work seriously.

The COM is currently accompanying five postulants (to both the vocational diaconate and presbyterate), three of whom are doing seminary training at Nashotah House, Bexley-Seabury, and Sewanee, respectively. We are also planning to meet with four aspirants to holy orders later this month at our yearly discernment weekend.

The Rev. Ian Burch, rector of St. Mark's Milwaukee, will complete his term as COM President December 31, 2021. The Rev. Pippa Lindwright, rector of St. Mary's Dousman will be the new COM effective January 1, 2022.

Those seeking discernment for holy orders contact the COM in January of each year, meet with their priest and the COM President, who then assist in the formation of a parish ministry discernment committee. If you have someone in your parish looking to do this kind of discernment, contact the incoming COM President, The Rev. Pippa Lindwright.

Thank you to Bishop Miller and to the members of the 2021 COM: Peter Luisi-Mills, The Rev. Nancy Hills, Mary Thickens, The Rev. Pippa Middleton, The Rev. Esther Kramer, Jen Vetrus, and Ashley Humphrey.

(submitted by The Rev. Ian Burch, Commission on Ministry president)

Executive Council of the Diocese of Milwaukee

Greetings from your Executive Council, dear Sisters and Brothers,

In many ways this year has been a relaunch of your Executive Council. Bishop Jeff has shared his focus on tending the culture of our Diocese, and we have been similarly focused on tending the culture of Executive Council. The fruit of which has been a renewed sense of our responsibilities and wonderfully honest, dynamic discussion. We've learned in together to our canonical duties as the Board of Directors of the Diocese (outlined in Canon 7 of Milwaukee's Constitution & Canons) and look forward to pressing in more deeply to the Vision and Mission of our Diocese and how we can help steward it.

We have a talented and experienced group working together (named below) who've shown great dedication to the Mission of the Church and our Diocese. They have been particularly attentive to how the Diocese utilizes resources to support our congregations in light of the pandemic.

Some of the regular responsibilities of the Executive Council include review and recommendation of the Diocesan Budget; approval of loan requests presented by the Finance Committee (a sub-committee of E.C.), the Commission on Global Reconciliation and Meachem grants; financial aid; and housing resolutions.

It is also our responsibility to annually review our Covenant with the Bishop, follow-through from the previous Convention, conduct periodic diocesan self-studies, develop policies as-needed for approval at Convention, and fix the compensation of diocesan employees. And we are working hard to insure all of these responsibilities are faithfully performed on your behalf.

This year was especially marked of course by welcoming our Provisional Bishop Jeff Lee to the Executive Council and also saw the addition of his appointments of two new Canons to the Diocesan Staff.

Our monthly meetings have been via Zoom as well as numerous special, single item meetings as-needed which evidences the dedication of your Executive Council to go above-and-beyond. Since we are in some ways “the Convention between Conventions” all Members of the Diocese are welcome to attend meetings. If you’re interested contact Fr. Joel Prather for the Zoom link.

Minutes for the Executive Council meetings are published on the diocesan website at: <http://www.diomil.org/executive-council/>.

We ask your prayers for us to hear God’s guidance clearly and to follow-through.

Respectfully submitted by Fr. Joel Prather, Vice-President

The 2021 Executive Council is:

D’Arcy Becker (Madison)	Fr. Steve Capitelli (Sussex)	Mark T. Ehrmann, Chancellor
Jill Heller, TFE (Lake Geneva)	John Johnson (Madison)	Dcn. Marge Kiss, Exec. Sec. (Greendale)
Fr. Pedro Lara (Delavan)	Peter Larson (Milwaukee)	Mtr. Pippa Lindwright (Dousman)
Janice Pauc (WI Dells)	Liz Orelup, Vice-Chancellor	Fr. Joel Prather, Vice Pres. (Pewaukee)
Fr. Scott Seefeldt (Oconomowoc)	Mtr. Jana Troutman-Miller,	Fr. Geoff Ward, TFE (River Hills)
John Vogel (Wauwatosa)	Standing Com. (Milwaukee)	John Washbush (Wauwatosa)
Mike Weber, Treasurer (Hartford)		

Standing Committee of the Diocese of Milwaukee

Greetings to everyone in the diocese from your Standing Committee!

Since our last Diocesan Convention, your Standing Committee has worn a few different hats than we have in our recent past, but it has been a pleasure for all of us to serve the diocese in these capacities.

In January we became the canonical authority in the diocese upon Bishop Miller’s retirement. We announced our plans for Bishop Matthew Gunter and Bishop Keith Whitmore to be our Assisting Bishops until April, with Bishop Jeffrey Lee becoming our Assisting Bishop until the time that the diocese would be placed under his “provisional charge and authority” at a special convention that was held in June.

Between January-June, the Standing Committee was hard at work meeting twice monthly to tend to the needs of the diocese. We assigned our membership to be liaisons for the different committees and taskforces within the diocese to make sure we would be available for any decisions they needed made. We also worked with the diocesan staff to make sure the lines of communication between them and us were open as we made ourselves available to their needs as well.

During those six months we helped the Way Forward Taskforce continue to navigate the impact that the pandemic was having on our parishes and our life together. We began to engage with the parishes who were without clergy and who were facing other needs to partner more with them in the effort of meeting those needs and to discern what the future may look like for them. We have approved a number of elections for Bishops Diocesan throughout the country.

Sensing the need for some systemic changes within the Haiti Project, we put a temporary hold on the work of its steering committee, while remaining committed to the support the school and clinic in Jeannette. In recent months we have engaged in a partnership with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center to work with the Haiti Project to discern what global mission work looks like in the 21st century and how we can be the kind of ministry partners that our sisters and brothers in Jeannette need us to be.

Our membership has also changed with the resignation of The Rev. Scott Leannah and Ms. Tammy Prather. Scott now serves as Canon for Ministries in the diocese and Tammy is working as a Congregational Consultant. At their resignations, we appointed the Rev. Mindy Valentine Davis and Dr. Sheryl Slocum to serve the last several months of their terms. It was a pleasure to serve with both of them and we are grateful for their willingness to join us this past July.

Though there were several situations that were at times difficult to navigate, we were also blessed with the joy and honor of being able to serve in all the capacities that we were given to do. Since June our role has changed again to be a support to the Bishop and meet the other canonical duties assigned.

Minutes from our meetings are available at:

<http://www.diomil.org/standing-committee-minutes/>

Our members include: Ms. Celia Fine, Mr. Marcus White, Dr. Sheryl Slocum, The Rev. Andy Jones, The Rev. Dave Mowers, Ms. Margaret Done, The Rev. Mindy Valentine Davis, and The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller.

(submitted by The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, Standing Committee president)