

Episcopal Diocese of Oregon
Report to the 135th Annual Meeting of Convention
October 28, 2023

Commission on Ministry

Contact: Derek Moyer, 971-204-4124,

dmoyer@ecwo.org

Barb Millikan, Convener

The Rev. Bob Morrison, Convener

Derek Moyer, Convener

The Rev. Kristina Burbank

The Rev. Steve Ellis

The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

The Rev. Dn. Liz Klein

The Rev. Dn. Linda Lee

Alan Murray

The Rev. Kurt Neilson

The Rev. Cn. Raggs Ragan

Mary Stirling

Activities Report

The Commission held quarterly regular meetings this year (2 of which were at All Governing Bodies retreats), along with the several ad hoc meetings we held to conduct interviews for postulancy and candidacy, and 2 discernment retreats. Three people were ordained in June at Trinity Cathedral, and we look forward to several more ordinations in 2024

This year the Commission has continued to focus on revising practices related to discernment and formation. The Commission significantly supported the launch of our new diocesan Discernment Communities this year. These Discernment Communities are designed and intended for discernment for all ministries, not only for ordained ministry. A significant number of our discerners in the first cohort discerned towards specific lay ministries, and we intend to continue to make more space for lay discernment as we continue building discernment opportunities next year.

The Commission attended and helped to lead two retreats for the Discernment Communities, at St. Thomas in Eugene. Also, several members of the Commission served on the Discernment Design Team that led the creation of these new Discernment Communities. Many thanks to St. Thomas for generously sharing their space for this purpose. This fall we are preparing for the launch of the second cohort of Discernment Communities. The Commission will focus next year on designing and implementing briefer regular discernment opportunities across convocations.

The Commission also worked this year to revise our practices for conducting interviews for postulancy and candidacy, and continue to liaise with Standing Committee to create sustainable and responsive procedures for conducting canonical interviews related to ordination.

Several members of the Commission will also be involved with the launch of our new diaconal formation program next year, a partnership with Bexley-Seabury Seminary and the School for Deacons (Dio Cal), called the Deacons Formation Collaborative. We anticipate our first cohort of diaconal postulants beginning in February 2024. We similarly anticipate several priestly postulants also beginning MDiv programs in 2024.