

Episcopal Diocese of Oregon  
Report to the 136<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Convention  
October 26, 2024

**Commission on Ministry**

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The Rev. Steve Ellis

The Rev. Marin Elfert

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The Rev. Cindra Gray

The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski

Alan Murray

The Rev. Marlene Mutchler

The Rev. Kurt Neilson

The Rev. Cn. Raggs Ragan

**Activities Report**

The Commission held three regular meetings this year (one of which was at an All Governing Bodies retreat), along with the several ad hoc meetings held to conduct interviews for postulancy and candidacy, and one discernment retreat held at Resurrection, Eugene. Currently there are six postulants and one candidate. Four people were ordained — Three at Trinity Cathedral and one at Good Samaritan Hospital. We look forward to more ordinations in 2025.

We continued to focus on revising practices related to discernment and formation. The Commission supported the second year of our new diocesan Discernment Communities. 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. We intend to continue to make more space for lay discernment as we continue building discernment opportunities.

Commission members attended and helped lead one retreat for the Discernment Communities at Resurrection in Eugene. Several members of the Commission served on the Discernment Design Team that led the creation of these new Discernment Communities. Many thanks to Resurrection for generously sharing their space for this purpose. This fall we are preparing for the launch of the third cohort of Discernment Communities. The Commission will focus on designing and implementing briefer regular discernment opportunities across convocations.

The Commission continued work 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 are involved with the launch of our new diaconal formation program, 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.