

DIOCESE OF EAU CLAIRE
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
2016 Report
October 26, 2016

Members of the Commission on Ministry in 2015 were the Right Rev. Jay Lambert, Bishop; the Ven. Jo Glasser, chair; the Rev. Kathleen Charles; the Rev. Charles Farrell; Dr. Paul Chase; Ms. Mary Ellen Filkins; Ms. Nancy Firth; Ms. Debbie Conover; Ms. Evelyn Usher; and the Very Rev. Michael Greene (ex officio).

Four candidates for the diaconate were ordained by Bishop Lambert at Christ Church Cathedral on October 29, 2016. The Rev. Steven Russell of Grace Church, Menomonie, the Rev. Rose Ruthy of Christ Church Chippewa Falls, and the Rev. Robert Rosolowski of Holy Trinity, Conrath, were ordained to the permanent diaconate. The Rev. Michael Newago was ordained to the transitional diaconate. Rev. Newago will have completed his program at Nashotah House in December, 2016, and is assigned to the Christ Church congregation in Bayfield. Andrew Cruz Lillegard of Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire, is continuing his seminary studies at Nashotah House.

The Deacons' School began a new term in September, 2016. Russell Tate and Barbara Manzo, Christ Church Cathedral, are in the second year of their two-year program of the Lay School of Ministry (LSM), a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Northwestern Synod of Wisconsin. A third person from Christ Church Cathedral, Chuck Carter, is a nominee for the priesthood. Susan Ripplinger, St. Simeon's, Chippewa Falls, has been advanced to candidacy for the permanent diaconate.

Training for the licensed lay ministries of Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, and Worship Leader was offered at St. Paul's Church, Hudson, during 2016. The BeFriends Ministry of lay pastoral care which was launched in 2013 is active at St. Paul's Church in Hudson with six trained lay BeFriends, and at the Church of the Ascension, Hayward, with six BeFriends.

The Commission consulted with two congregations, the Church of the Ascension, Hayward, and Grace Church, Rice Lake, regarding tools and processes for congregational assessment. Canons require that all newly ordained deacons be involved in a mentorship relationship for a minimum of a year following ordination, and that all newly ordained priests participate in a mentorship relationship for a minimum of three years following ordination. In response to these requirements, the Commission on Ministry approved and recommended to Bishop Lambert an outline of the role and functions of clergy mentors in the Diocese of Eau Claire. Work is presently beginning on a lay discernment program which will be pilot-tested at St. Paul's Church, Hudson, in the first quarter of 2017.

Thanks to everyone in the diocese for your prayerful and practical support of the work of the Commission on Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
The Ven. Jo K. Glasser, Chair