

DIOCESE OF EAU CLAIRE
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
2021 Annual Report
October 25, 2021

Members of the Commission on Ministry at the beginning of 2021 were the Right Rev. Matthew Gunter, Bishop Provisional; the Ven. Jo Glasser, chair; the Rev. Canon Kathleen Charles; the Rev. Meghan Farr; the Rev. Steve Russell; Dr. Paul Chase; Ms. Mary Ellen Filkins; Ms. Nancy Firth; Ms. Debbie Conover; and Ms. Evelyn Usher. Effective June 30, 2021, the Ven. Jo Glasser retired from the Commission and the Rev. Canon Kathleen Charles assumed the role of chair.

The activities of the Commission continued to be significantly curtailed in 2021 as the moratorium on new admissions to the discernment/formation process for Holy Orders that was adopted in 2019 remained in effect. Activities were also limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission has held two meetings during 2021, on July 8 and October 5 via Zoom. The next scheduled meeting is November 10. Discussion centered around the following issues: Looking into other options/models/programs for Deacon Formation in the Diocese of Eau Claire, informally accepting names of interested parties who may care to pursue ordination, and Lay Ministry programs that expands discernment to the whole Body of Christ; not limited to those interested in ordination only. The Commission is currently working on creating a brochure based on a template done by Diocese of Central Florida "Answering the Call". Other brochures for Licensed Lay Ministries are also being created for use by The Diocese of Eau Claire.

As of this writing there are 14 active deacons in the Diocese of Eau Claire. The Rev. Joseph Scheff left the Diocese with his wife the Rev. Tanya Scheff in October 2021 to accept a new call in the Diocese of Florida.

The only person currently pursuing Holy Orders from the Diocese of Eau Claire is the Rev. Michael Gumulauskas, who is at Virginia Theological Seminary. Rev. Gumulauskas is in his senior year at VTS, will be taking General Ordination Exams in January of 2022. Ordination to the Priesthood will be forthcoming based on the results of those exams. Rev. Gumulauskas is completing his field placement work at Church of the Epiphany in Virginia. Options are being looked at by Bishop Gunter and The Commission for Rev. Gumulauskas to pursue some manner of Clinical Pastoral Education.

No on-site licensed lay ministry training sessions were offered during 2021 because of the pandemic. It is strongly recommended that clergy of the Diocese of Eau Claire leading congregations update their records in regard to Lay Ministry relicensure so that retraining or training of new individuals may occur in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Canon Kathleen J. Charles, Chair
The Ven. Jo K. Glasser, Past Chair