

Diocese of Eau Claire
Commission on Ministry
2022 Annual Report
October 20, 2022

Members of the Commission on Ministry at the beginning of 2022 were The Right Rev. Matthew Gunter, Bishop Provisional; The Rev. Canon Kathleen Charles, Chair; 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. The Rev. Megahn Farr resigned her position at the end of May 2022, because of accepting a call in Ireland.

The Commission has held 4 meetings thus far in 2022, on January 5, March 3, May 4, and September 21 via Zoom. The Commission meets every other month. No meeting was scheduled for July due to General Convention and Bishop Gunter's travel to Lambeth. The next scheduled meeting is November 2. Discussion has centered around the following: continued awareness of finding options/models/programs for Deacon Formation in the Diocese of Eau Claire, awareness of the limited number of supply priests in the Diocese of Eau Claire, and the creation of brochures, based on templates done by the Diocese of Central Florida. Deacon Steve Russell tailored Florida's brochures to meet the Diocese of Eau Claire's needs. Two brochures were approved by the Commission at the March 3 meeting: "Answering the Call" and "Using your Gifts," Opportunities for Lay Ministry in the Diocese of Eau Claire. The Commission also approved "An Outline of the Calling to be a Deacon". All three documents were sent to the Diocesan office for publication on Eau Claire's website. In addition, the documents were sent via email to the clergy of the Diocese for dissemination to their congregations.

No on-site licensed lay ministry training sessions were offered during 2022 due to the ongoing pandemic. Rev. Kathleen Charles updated the Diocesan office with names of those members in the congregations of the Diocese regarding Lay Ministry relicensure.

The Commission recommended Deacon Michael Gumulauskas for ordination to the priesthood. Deacon Gumulauskas was ordained on June 11, 2022, by The Right Rev. Matthew Gunter, Bishop Provisional at Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire. Rev. Gumulauskas subsequently accepted a call to serve as Rector of St. Andrew's and St. Cyprian's Episcopal Churches in Darien, Georgia beginning July 1.

The Rev. Michael McElwee was installed as Rector, Christ Church, La Crosse February 26, 2022. The Rev. Guy Usher was installed as Priest in Charge, St. Mary's, Tomah on June 4, 2022. The Rev. Heather Hill was installed as Rector of St. Paul's Hudson, September 24, 2022.

As of this writing, there are 13 active Deacons in the Diocese of Eau Claire.

The only person currently in the discernment process to answering a call either to the priesthood or to the diaconate in the Diocese of Eau Claire is Mr. Martin Frank, St. Paul's Hudson. Martin joined the Commission via Zoom May 4, 2022, for an initial "Meet and Greet".

The Commission on Ministry conveys thanks to everyone in the Diocese for your prayers and support of its work.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Canon Kathleen Charles, Chair