

Diocese of Eau Claire  
Commission on Ministry  
2023 Annual Report  
September 14,2023

Members of the Commission on Ministry at the beginning of 2023 were The Right Rev. Matthew Gunter, Bishop Provisional; The Rev. Canon Kathleen Charles, Chair; The Rev. Steven Russell; The Rev. Rose Ruthy; Dr. Paul Chase; Ms. Mary Ellen Filkins; Ms. Nancy Firth; Ms. Debbie Conover; and Ms. Evelyn Usher.

The Commission on Ministry schedules meetings via Zoom on the second Wednesday of every other month unless Bishop Gunter has a conflict with his schedule. The Commission was scheduled to meet six times in 2023. Thus far the Commission has met May 17, 2023, for its regular meeting and June 28, 2023, for an irregularly scheduled meeting. Four regular scheduled meetings were cancelled due to lack of business to conduct and/or scheduling conflicts. The next scheduled meeting is November 8, 2023.

Discussion continues to center on 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.

There were no group on site lay ministry training sessions offered during 2023. Individual parishes have provided training to interested parties via the deacon (s) assigned to the parish.

As of this writing there are 11 active deacons in the Diocese of Eau Claire. Two beloved deacons in the Diocese of Eau Claire died in 2023: Deacon James Lorenze and Deacon Georgia Agner. May Jim and Georgia rest in peace.

There are currently two persons pursuing Holy Orders from the Diocese of Eau Claire: Mr. Martin Frank: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Hudson, WI was recommended for Postulancy effective January 1, 2023. Mr. Frank is currently enrolled at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN and is pursuing a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, a 2-year program. Dr. Nozipho Dlodlo, Christ Episcopal Church Lacrosse was recommended for Postulancy, effective June 28, 2023. Dr. Dlodlo has been licensed and appointed to serve The Northern Highlands Benefice as Lay Pastoral Leader (July 10, 2023) under special circumstances as defined by Bishop Provisional, Diocese of Eau Claire, Matthew Gunter. Dr. Dlodlo has a Letter of Agreement with the Northern Highlands Benefice. Dr. Dlodlo has relocated to Spooner, WI effective August 20, 2023.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Canon Kathleen Charles, Chair

