

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry is established pursuant to Title III of the Canons of The Episcopal Church and Canon XXX of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh in order to advise and assist the bishop “in the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons; and in the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefore.” (Title III, Canon 2, Section 2, Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, 2006)

Since the 2014 Diocesan Convention, the Commission on Ministry will have met six times, including the annual Winter Interview Day and Ministry Exploration Day. Highlights of the year include:

- The Commission and Standing Committee had informal interviews with seven individuals in the discernment/ordination process, five initial interviews with nominees, and one candidacy and ordination interview at the Winter Interview Day.
- The Bishop ordained John Feuerstein and Wally LaLonde to the Sacred Order of Deacons at Trinity Cathedral on January 10, 2015; Bert Daly and Frank Yesko to the Sacred Order of Priests at St. Barnabas, Brackenridge, on January 17, 2015; Howard Gillette to the Sacred Order of Priests at St. Peter’s, Brentwood, on April 11, 2015; Dan Isadore and Garrett Yates to the Sacred Order of Deacons at Trinity Cathedral on July 22, 2015; Wally LaLonde to the Sacred Order of Priests on July 25, 2015 at St. Thomas, Canonsburg; and Lorena Ringle to the Sacred Order of Priests on September 19, 2015 at Trinity Cathedral.
- On June 16, 2015, the Bishop received the Holy Orders (Priesthood) of Shawn Malarkey upon the recommendation of the Commission on Ministry and the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.
- One individual took General Ordination Exams in January.
- With the consent of the Standing Committee, the Bishop granted candidacy to Howard Gillette, Dan Isadore, Lorena Ringle, and Garrett Yates. Subsequently all were approved for ordination.
- The Commission and Bishop accepted the nominations of Mr. Dan Isadore of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park; Mr. Doug Kinsey of St. Peter’s, Brentwood; Mr. Garrett Yates of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park, Ms. Annis Rogers of St. Mark’s, Johnstown; and Ms. Kim Karashin of St. Peter’s, Brentwood, to be considered for Postulancy. Subsequently the Bishop, upon recommendation of the Commission, granted Postulancy to Mr. Isadore and Mr. Yates.
- Ms. Shana Hutchings, nominee of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park, withdrew her nomination and has moved with her family outside of the diocese.
- Ministry Exploration Day was held on May 2, 2015, at St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon. This year the name was changed to reflect the broader scope of the event. Approximately 25 people participated, including potential nominees for Holy Orders with spouses and clergy.

The Rev. Scott Russell, Rector of St. Brendan’s, Franklin Park, was elected at Convention to serve a three-year term on the Commission. The bishop appointed Steve Stagnitta of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park, and the Rev. Kris McInnes, Priest-in-Charge of St. David’s, Peters Township, to second three-year

terms as members of the Commission. The Rev. Lenny Anderson, Rector of St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset, concluded his term as member of the Commission, and we thank him for his faithful service.

I thank Bishop McConnell for his leadership and support, and each member of the commission for their service during the year: Carolyn Booker, St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg; the Rev. Lynn Chester Edwards, retired priest; Jessie Hipolit, Emmanuel, North Side; the Rev. Tim Hushion, Trinity Cathedral; the Rev. Kris McInnes, St. David's, Peters Township; Steve Stagnitta, St. Andrew's, Highland Park; the Rev. Ann Staples, St. Thomas, Northern Cambria; Daryl Walker, All Saints, Brighton Heights; and ex-officio as staff, the Rev. Scott Quinn, Canon Pastor, the Rev. Jay Geisler, Canon for Formation, and the Rev. Cathy Brall, Canon Missioner.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Louis B. Hays
Chairperson