**119th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah**

**Report of The Commission on Ministry**

The Commission on Ministry (COM), which is advisory to the Bishop, currently focuses on the ordination process of The Diocese of Utah with supplemental support for all formative ministries of the Diocese.

In the 2023-2024 year, Ashley Gurling of Church of the Resurrection was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on April 26th, 2023. She was ordained to the Priesthood and installed as Rector of St. Luke’s, Park City on November 1st, 2024.

Deanna Anderson of San Esteban/St. Stephen’s was named a Candidate for the Diaconate in March.

Matthew Bryner of Church of the Good Shepherd is a Postulant for the Priesthood.

It was a great joy to have a formal, multi-person *Bishop’s Advisory Council on Applicants for Ministry* (BACAM) for the first time since the pandemic began. Three aspirants went through the BACAM in February, and there are seven additional persons currently in the discernment at the congregational level with another BACAM planned for the Fall. Thanks to The Rev. Anita Miner and David Reed for their service as “at-large” members of the February BACAM.

We have made changes to the Parish Discernment Committee structure as we attempt to standardize it across the Diocese. The entire Manual for Ordination can be found on the Diocesan website’s COM page, under the “resources” tab. I am again choosing to quote this paragraph about our commitment to support people who explore ordained ministry:

***"***One should also remember that the Holy Spirit works through the church—through others—as well as through oneself. We all serve for the sake of Christ’s church. Discernment of call is an ongoing process involving the applicant, the Bishop, the COM, the Standing Committee, the vestry, the parish discernment committee, and the clergy-in-charge of the congregation. A person entering the process has no guarantee that it will end with ordination, but everyone working on the discernment pledges to be as transparent as possible concerning the applicant’s process, treating the applicant with kindness, respect, and dignity.”

The COM membership is appointed by the Bishop to three-year terms. Current membership includes Kurt Cook, Michelle Doherty, Joseph Frank, Sergio Gonzalez, The Rev. Cn. Terri Heyduk, The Rev. Holly Huff, Mike Mitchell, The Rev. Alison Desiderio Peterson, Roni Stevenson, and The Rev. Kurt C. Wiesner. Angela Rogers provides staff support. Kurt Wiesner and Joseph Frank will have completed two full three-year terms as of the 2024 Diocesan Convention. Michelle Doherty has completed a two-year expiring term.

After six years on COM, five and a half as the Chair, I can honestly say that it has been an honor to serve in this capacity, and I am grateful to have had this opportunity. I have great faith that the good work undertaken by the COM will not only continue, but grow in healthy new ways.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Kurt C. Wiesner

Chair, Commission on Ministry of the Diocese of Utah