

116th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah Report of the Diaconate

Members

- Deanna Sue Adams St. Michael's, Brigham City
- David Christian St. Peter's Clearfield
- Marsha Heron St. Elizabeth's, Whiterocks
- Libby Hunter Cathedral Church of St. Mark, Salt Lake City
- Sandra Jones St. Mary's, Provo
- Suzanne Miller Church of the Resurrection, Centerville
- Anita Miner All Saints, Salt Lake City
- Alison Peterson All Saints, Salt Lake City
- Patricia Sanchez Church of the Good Shepherd, Ogden
- Robert Shoop St. James', Midvale

Mandate

The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church in the world, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

Goals

To have at least one deacon at every parish within the diocese, with multiple deacons in the larger parishes. We are working with the Commission on Ministry to help people from the congregations of Latinos, South Sudanese and Native Americans to discern Diaconal ministries.

To continue ongoing training / education for the in-place Deacons.

Action items

The Tuttle School for Discipleship and Ministry is in full swing. Fall 2020 / Winter 2021 focused on the New Testament, Interfaith dialog, the role of the Deacon, and Pastoral Care. We continue to utilize ZOOM as a tool for monthly classes, breakout sessions, and gatherings for study groups. As of this writing there are 10 students active. This fall the focus is on the Christian Formation, Preaching, Handling conflict, the continued role of the deacon. The curriculum being used is from the IONA Collaborative from the Seminary of the Southwest.

Analysis of action

We continue to meet with the Bishop regularly via Zoom to discuss our ministries and work towards a broader understanding of the Diaconate throughout the Diocese.

From the Tuttle School, the students are very engaged and continue to invest of themselves.

Findings and conclusions

The ministries of the current deacons are functioning and we provide service to our parishes and the greater world. Expansion of that ministry can only serve to aid in the outreach of the diocese.

Recommendations: No action from convention is required at this time.

Statement of how the group's work fits into the mission strategy of the Diocese

The very nature of the diaconal ministry projects the mission of the church in the world. We serve our parishes and are one of the faces of the Episcopal church in the secular world. Expansion of that ministry will enhance that ability.

Submitted respectfully,

The Ven, Robert Shoop, Archdeacon