

Committee on the Priesthood
Report to the 233rd Diocesan Convention
Annual Report – 2016-17

The Committee on the Priesthood oversees the journey of those discerning a call to the priesthood. Its responsibilities include reviewing applications, interviewing nominees, placing nominees in parishes other than their own for further discernment, recommending to the Bishop those who should become postulants and proceed in the process to become priests, and supporting those in the process from beginning steps, through seminary, to being ordained, including the award of diocesan grants for seminary study.

Current Status of Individuals in the Process

There are currently 18 individuals who are postulants, candidates, or transitional deacons journeying toward the priesthood. An additional individual was ordained to the priesthood during the past year.

- Ordained to the Priesthood (1)
 - In June, one candidate was ordained to the transitional diaconate at Trinity Cathedral. Then in December, this individual was ordained to the priesthood at Trinity Cathedral to accommodate the number celebrating his ordination.
- Transitional Deacons (2)
 - One candidate took the General Ordination Examinations (GOEs) in January 2017 after being ordained to the transitional diaconate at Trinity Cathedral in December. This transitional deacon is expected to be ordained to the priesthood late spring/early summer 2017 after completing seminary.
 - Another candidate who is already a Permanent Deacon who also took the GOEs in January is expected to be ordained to the priesthood late spring/early summer 2017.
 - Both of these deacons will be completing three years of seminary this spring.
- Candidates (4)
 - There are currently four individuals, then postulants, who took their GOEs in January 2017 and were then approved as candidates by the Standing Committee in February. They are expected to be ordained to the transitional diaconate in May or June at Trinity Cathedral. Then in the fall or winter of 2017, they are expected to be ordained to the priesthood. Three of them are completing their Anglican Studies year and the fourth completed Anglican Studies earlier and is completing an internship at a church in the Diocese.
- Postulants (12)
 - There are currently three postulants in seminary, all in their junior year (first year).
 - Approved for postulancy (9):
 - There is one postulant who was approved for postulancy in 2016 who completed seminary some years ago and is working on an internship before ordination at a church in the Diocese.
 - One nominee to the priesthood is being raised locally under a new program instituted by Bishop Stokes and was made a postulant in January 2017.
 - Three nominees to the priesthood were interviewed in January 2017 and due to their extensive work in the church or prior seminary studies were made postulants on the first interview.

- There were four nominees to the priesthood in 2015 and 2016 who were interviewed for further ministry discernment. These nominees were accepted into the process, had COP liaisons appointed for guidance, and were placed in a parish, other than their home parish, for further discernment for six or more months. These nominees were approved for postulancy in February 2017.
- Others in Process
 - There are other nominees who have completed their work with Parish Committees on Ministries and submitted applications to the Diocese or are discerners (potential nominees) who are working with their Parish Committees on Ministry.

Recruitment

The Subcommittee on Recruitment/Development continues to be active in working to recruit individuals into the process. The Recruitment Subcommittee placed three college students in its 11th summer internship program to encourage college students to consider the priesthood. Interns receive approximately \$2,000 in stipend, books, and materials.

Discernment Shepherds

The Subcommittee formed to provide guidance and training to Parish Committees on Ministry (PCOM) continued to shepherd discerners and PCOMs. All PCOMs with nominees in the process were trained. This committee also monitors the progress of each nominee at the very early stages.

Financial Aid

With the approval of the Standing Committee, the COP awarded \$138,830 in financial aid to seven postulants attending seminary in the 2016-17 academic year, all from endowed scholarships dedicated to this purpose. All postulants who applied for financial aid received assistance.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Canon John Belmont and Canon Constance White
Co-Chairs, Committee on the Priesthood
February 26, 2017