

Committee on the Priesthood
Report to the 234th Diocesan Convention
Annual Report – 2017-18

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.

The Committee on the Priesthood has been working at the request of Bishop Stokes on two new approaches to raising priests locally for calls within the diocese. One approach is aimed at raising laity to the priesthood without a formally structured seminary program and the other is an approach to raise vocational deacons to the priesthood without a formally structured seminary program. The Committee is working with several individuals in designing these approaches and two of these individuals are included among those included in the process below.

Current Status of Individuals in the Process

There are currently 17 individuals who are postulants, candidates, or transitional deacons journeying toward the priesthood. In addition, there have been four individuals who were ordained to the priesthood during the past year who were raised from among the churches in the diocese.

- **Ordained to the Priesthood (5)**
 - In May 2017, two candidates were ordained to the transitional diaconate at Trinity Cathedral. The following month, one candidate was ordained to the transitional diaconate at the Cathedral. Then in December 2017, these three individuals were ordained to the priesthood at the churches of their first call – two of these priests were called to cures outside of the diocese.
 - One transitional deacon was ordained to the priesthood in June 2017 to a call within the diocese.
 - A previously permanent deacon, who is awaiting a cure as a priest, was ordained to the priesthood in December 2017.
- **Transitional Deacons (1)**
 - One candidate was ordained to the transitional diaconate in December 2017 at Trinity Cathedral. This transitional deacon is expected to be ordained to the priesthood late spring/early summer 2017.
- **Reception (1)**
 - One postulant is a former Roman Catholic priest and it is anticipated that he will be received in the Spring of 2018.
- **Candidates – Upcoming (5)**
 - There are currently four individuals who will be interviewed for candidacy by Standing Committee in February. They are expected to be ordained to the transitional diaconate on June 9 at Trinity Cathedral. Then in the fall or winter of 2018 or 2019, they are expected to be ordained to the priesthood. Three of them are completing their Anglican Studies year and the fourth is being raised locally for a call to a specific church as part of a new approach to raising priests for local churches.
- **Postulants (10)**
 - There are currently seven postulants in seminary. Three postulants are in their junior year (first year), three postulants are in their middle or second year.
 - One postulant is taking a year off.
 - Another postulant is working on an internship at a church in the Diocese.

- Under a new program established by the diocese, one transitional deacon has been made a postulant and working toward being raised locally as a priest in the Diocese. There are several other transitional deacons who have applied for this program.
- Nominees (2)

There were three nominees to the priesthood in September 2017 who were interviewed for further ministry discernment. Two of 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. One was recommended for postulancy on the strength of the first interview and prior formation applicable toward the priesthood (included above with the upcoming candidates).
- 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 12th 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 \$ 111,737 in financial aid to eleven postulants attending seminary in the 2017-18 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 5, 2018