The Committee on the Diaconate
The Venerable Lynn H. Johnson, Co-Chair
The Venerable Peter S. Cornell, Co-Chair

2018 Report of the Committee on the Diaconate to the 235th Diocesan Convention
March 2, 2019

The Committee on the Diaconate is responsible for fine-tuning, adapting, and adjusting the outline of the discernment process so that those interested in pursuing the journey toward ordination begin with a process that is meaningful, fair, and consistent. The Committee interviews candidates and listens for the call to ministry and/or Holy Orders. The Committee then identifies and recommends applicants to the Bishop for admittance to the School for Deacons.

Once admitted into the School for Deacons, the Committee continues to shepherd students in the school through the ordination process. The Committee works closely with the Archdeacons to assure that the discernment, selection process, and preparation of those who have expressed a call to the diaconate is thoughtful and intentional.

The School for Deacons continues to flourish as a viable asset to continuing education in the Diocese under the leadership of the Rev. Linda Moeller, Director. The Venerable Lynn H. Johnson, Archdeacon for Discernment, is the liaison between the School for Deacons and the COD.

The four Archdeacons have oversight for deacons in the Diocese in four special areas. The Venerable Carol Pepe is Archdeacon for Deployment, the Venerable Denise B. Cavaliere is Archdeacon for Pastoral Care, the Venerable Peter S. Cornell is Archdeacon for Diakonia and Co-Chairs the Committee on the Diaconate. The Venerable Lynn H. Johnson is Archdeacon for Discernment and Co-Chairs the Committee on the Diaconate. The Archdeacons report directly to the Bishop.

There were 5 members in the School for Deacons Class of 2018 ordained to the diaconate in January 2019: Ken Carpinelli, Joseph Luzardo, Michelle Nehrbass, Michelle Oquendo, Brigitte Pincelli. The current class of students began their studies in the School for Deacons in September 2018.

A Diocesan Taskforce has been created to develop a program, the NJ School for Ministry, which will be designed to incorporate the current School for Deacons while “effectively, efficiently and spiritually form lay leaders, vocational deacons, and non-stipendiary priests for ministry”. Several members of the Committee on the Diaconate serve on the Taskforce.

The COD is involved in the Association of Episcopal Deacons, which, through publications and conferences, works within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada to promote the Diaconate, to educate the church about the diaconate, and to support deacons in ministry. The AED will convene an Archdeacon & Directors conference in February 2019. The theme for this year’s conference is “sustaining Deacons In Ministry”.


Respectfully submitted,
The Venerable Lynn H. Johnson, Deacon, Co-chair
The Venerable Peter S. Cornell, Deacon, Co-Chair

Rev. Paul Chalakani
Rev. Jorge Martinez
Rev. Chizoba Nwanko
Rev. Valerie Redpath+
Rev. Maria Sanzo+
Rev. Richard Wisniewski
Mr. Mark Mahon
Ms. Karen Moore
Mr. Anthony Vitale