



The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

Pray + Learn + Serve + Grow

Commission on Ministry

Purpose: The Commission on Ministry (COM) is established by the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to advise and assist the Bishop in the implementation of Title III of those Canons, in the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons, and in the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefor. The COM provides formal feedback to individuals in the discernment process as they progress and makes recommendations for discernment activities as well as recommendations to the Bishop as to suitability for ordination. Members maintain familiarity with the COM discernment process; maintain contact with individuals in discernment; listen to individuals as they express a sense of call and help them with that expression; aid individuals in walking through the process; read and reflect on individuals' spiritual journeys and other materials.

Terms and Makeup: Six clerical positions and six lay positions; two from each order are appointed by the Bishop annually to a three-year term. No member may serve more than four successive terms.

Responsibilities: Members are expected to attend regularly scheduled monthly meetings. Meetings are tentatively scheduled for the third Tuesday of the month, 12:00pm until 3:00pm, at the Diocesan Center. The date/time and location may change to meet the availability needs of the membership from year to year. Additionally, COM members are expected to read materials forwarded to them in advance of meetings, and to be available for individual meetings with persons in process.

Skills and knowledge*: Competency in email and word processing is necessary for communications work. Knowledge of discernment and Holy Orders is preferred. Good interpersonal skills; ability to maintain confidentiality of discussions involving sensitive pastoral concerns; ability to discuss and debate matters upon which reasonable adults may disagree with an attitude of respect and dignity; to work on a team effectively; analytical thinking skills; active listening skills; ability to assess individuals from non-Episcopal backgrounds.

* This list should be considered as characteristic for the COM as a whole, and not be interpreted as a list of required skills and knowledge for each individual member to be effective.