

## **Commission on Ministry Report 2017**

The following is the Mission Statement of the Commission of Ministry:

*To assist all individuals, alongside the Office of the Bishop, in fulfilling their call to ministry.*

Scripture to support our Mission Statement:

*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12*

The means to accomplish our Mission:

- 1. Provide resources to assist all God's people as they discern their gifts for ministry.*
- 2. Support the ministry of all God's people.*
- 3. Oversee the discernment of those seeking ordination.*
- 4. Support the Bishop in articulating the ministry of Christ.*

This past year, COM has made revisions to the ordination manual, clarifying the guidelines, checklist, and the timeline. We strive to be actively engaged in the discernment process and in supporting vestry involvement for all those seeking ordination. One of the goals of COM is to encourage more effective communication between all persons who are involved in this holy process, providing clarification where needed.

We support the work of the Canon to the Ordinary Michael Spencer and the Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry in their efforts in lay ministry training and development. During the coming year, COM will spend time studying ways to develop and encourage lay ministry in our diocese.

Since Oct. 2016, Bishop Todd Ousley has taken the following actions after consulting with COM. The Rev. Wendy Brown and the Rev. Nancy Mayhew were ordained transitional deacons.

COM currently has eight members who have been appointed by the bishop, five lay persons and three clergy. Members of COM as of Oct. 20, 2017: The Rev. Sue Colavincenzo, Ms. Emily Klein, The Rev. Anna Leigh Kubbe, The Rev. Pam Lynch, Ms. Ellen McVey, Mr. Jon Steele, Ms. Doris Sutton, Ms. Joyce Thewalt, and Ex-officio member through June 30, 2017: The Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley. The Standing Committee will act as the bishop in matters of COM and the ordination process until such time that we do have a bishop, provisional or otherwise. We would like to thank The Rev. Sharon Voelker and the Rev. Sharon Naughton for their service in this ministry. Both were valuable voices of discernment and their gifts will be missed. We would also like to thank Ms. Angela Krueger for her patience and excellence in working with COM. Members of COM have served with integrity, diligence, and generosity of spirit. I thank them.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Sue Colavincenzo  
Chairperson of COM for the Diocese of Eastern Michigan

## **Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry:**

Report to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

June 17, 2017 marked an important moment for the Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry as we celebrated the graduation of the first class from the Academy for Vocational Leadership. The Academy provides the educational component of preparation for local ordination to holy orders. This three-year joint program with the Dioceses of Michigan and Western Michigan has just begun its fourth year with 18 students, and we anticipate beginning a new class in September 2018.

The Academy classes in Bible, Church History, and Theology and Ethics, held once a month on a Saturday, are open to anyone interested in exploring these topics. Participation in the Bible class or a comparable program is now an expectation for those seeking to become licensed preachers in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

This year Coppage-Gordon also provided leadership formation opportunities through Safeguarding trainings and worship leader training, as well as a class focused on funeral planning for worship leaders. A new offering in 2017 is a Social Justice Series with sessions that explore community organizing, asset-based community development and the theology of social justice.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo, Director, Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry

## **Recovery Outreach Ministry:**

### 2017 Annual Convention Report to the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

This past year, the Committee has continued in its role as promoter of awareness about addiction & recovery issues within the Eastern Diocese of Eastern Michigan, as well as reaching out to those dealing with addiction & codependency. It has also had several people show interest in joining the committee from the recovery movement, as well as share in its ministry. It has also supported the enactment of National Episcopal Church Resolutions, regarding the handling of alcohol and other mood-altering drugs within the Church.

The Committee spent some time reviewing the results of its proposals at the Annual Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan's Convention in November, wherein it encouraged the acceptance of the proposals regarding training clergy regarding dealing with substance abuse issues, developing methods for reaching out towards those clergy struggling with such issues, and clarifying how churches should handle the use of alcohol at social & religious functions. The first two proposals were readily accepted by the delegates, but the 3<sup>rd</sup> proposal, regarding how churches should handle the use of alcohol, generated a lively discussion which was finally resolved through tabling the proposal until Diocesan Council could review ways for its implementation. At this point, due to other significant issues that the Council is currently facing, the alcohol-related proposal has not been addressed.

As has been done twice before, the Committee once again partnered with the G.R.A.C.E. Center to present another yearly 11<sup>th</sup> Step retreat for all 12-Step groups, held in early June-2017 at the CYO Girls Camp near Port Sanilac, MI. The theme of the retreat was "Falling into Grace", and focused on dealing with life's difficulties and chaos and finding Spiritual Peace. There were 35 participants, 8 more than the previous year. As before, many of the participants had been involved in earlier retreats led by the Committee. The response to the retreat theme, activities and setting was very favorable, and many stated their intentions to return for the next retreat held by the Committee. The retreat costs were kept the same as previous years, and there were funds available to provide partial scholarships to those in need. The next scheduled 11<sup>th</sup> Step retreat is June 1, 2, & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018, to be held at the same place.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Pryor  
Recovery Outreach Coordinator

## **Retired Clergy, Spouses and Surviving Spouses Report**

Report to the Twenty-second Annual Convention  
Diocese of Eastern Michigan

At the end of 2016 there were 26 Retired and Senior, Annually-licensed Clergy canonically and actually resident in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan; and of the 27, 16 remained active to some degree in ordained ministry in our congregations (as associates, interims, priests-in-charge, supply clergy, etc.). There were 13 Retired Clergy from other dioceses who live in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and of those 13, 5 are licensed and active to some degree in ordained ministry in our congregations. There are 15 Retired Clergy from the Diocese of Eastern Michigan who now live in other dioceses. There are 16 Surviving Spouses (widows or widowers of clergy) who live in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. There are 8 Surviving Spouses of clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan at the time of their deaths who now live in other dioceses.

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Charles E. Curtis  
Bishop's Chaplain to Retired Clergy & Spouses and Surviving Spouses

### **Report of the Registrar**

This is a report of the actions taken by the Bishop and/or the Standing Committee from August 1, 2016 to July 31, 2017. All records in the Diocesan office are in good order and preserved in a seemly manner.

Actions taken were:

Ordinations to the Priesthood	1
Ordinations to Deacon	2
Baptisms	0
Confirmations	28
Receptions	5
New Clergy Received	2
Clergy Transferred Out	0
Clergy Renunciations/Depositions	1
Clergy Funerals	0
Deconsecrations of Buildings	1
Visitations	5
Celebrations of New Ministries	1

Respectfully submitted by Angela Krueger  
Assistant to the Bishop

### **Standing Committee Report, 2016-17**

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan has had a busier than normal year. In addition to the routine canonical duties assigned to us, we received the resignation of our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley; we helped make provision for his smooth exit from our diocese to his new position on the staff of the Presiding Bishop; we took on the canonical role, in the absence of a bishop, as the Ecclesiastical Authority for the diocese; we oversaw, in cooperation with diocesan council, the pastoral and administrative business of the diocese; and we, in consultation with diocesan council, initiated and completed the search for the Rt. Rev. Catherine (Cate) Waynick, the nominee for Bishop-Provisional for a one-year term, half-time, to be presented for election by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Convention. With the bishop-provisional in place, we will turn over the Ecclesiastical Authority to Bishop Waynick, resume our routine canonical duties, and oversee the continuing diocesan process of self-study and transition to prepare for a new bishop.

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Dan Scheid  
President, Standing Committee

## **Trustee Report**

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan started the 2017 year with an endowment of \$8.69 Million and allocation of 71% Equities, 23% Bonds and 6% cash. As of September 30, 2017, interest and dividends amounted to \$163,329 and stocks appreciated \$776,942 and \$540,699 was withdrawn. The value of the endowment as of September 30, 2017 was \$9.09 Million. The allocation had been adjusted to 76% equities, 20% Bonds and 4% cash, which has provided an Year to Date investment return of 12.04%. This rate surpasses the benchmark rate of 11.1% and compares well with returns from the S&P 500 of 12.5% and the Dow Jones Average of 13.3% for the same time period, particularly given our allocations in bonds and cash..

Overall our equity funds performed on average better than the market, and our bond holdings outperformed the US Broad Market index as well.

The trustees now manage the following funds:

- Main Endowment
- McMath, Batchelder and Demille Funds
- Breaking New Ground Fund
- The McElroy Fund
- The CDRF Fund
- Loans and Grants Fund
- Growth and Income Fund
- Charitable Contributions Fund

Respectfully submitted by Michael Keenan