

## REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY: 2018

Since the Diocesan Convention of October 2017, the Commission on Ministry (or “COM”) has continued to work with people discerning God’s call to ministry – ordained, licensed or other opportunities. “Loving the Questions” (or “LTQ”) completed a third year of developing a small learning community as well a community of discernment, and has recently begun its fourth year, the third under the leadership of the Reverend Jenny Gregg. LTQ has become a wonderful resource for the Young Adult Service Corps interns at Lawrence House at All Saints, South Hadley, as well as others throughout the Diocese who want to explore God’s call on their lives. Three members of last year’s LTQ program an Inquirers meeting in June 2018. Two persons applied for ordination in September 2018, and participated in the Discernment Day process with the Commission on Ministry, the Reverend Deacon Eric Elley and Mr. Kevin Antonio Smallwood were made Postulants for Ordination to the Priesthood by Bishop Fisher as a result.

During the Summer and Fall of 2017, four new Postulants for the Diaconate embarked on their formation process through the Province 1 School for Deacons. The Reverend Deacon S. Jane Griesbach, Coordinator for Deacons Formation Commission on Ministry, provides able leadership and support for those in the process.

At present, there are a total of three persons engaged in formation for Ordination to the Priesthood: Ann Scannell, who will complete her seminary education at Yale-Berkley, will be ordained to the transitional Diaconate on December 15, 2018, at All Saints Church, Worcester; the Reverend Deacon Eric Elley, who has explored an emerging new direction in ministry over the last several years; and Kevin Antonio Smallwood, who was in the first group of Lawrence House interns a few years ago, as well as participating in LTQ in its pilot program four years ago! All three of these folks will be sitting for the General Ordination Exams in January 2019.

The COM is delighted to report that Craig Hammond’s commissioning as a Lay Evangelist at Diocesan Convention this year represents an LTQ “success”! Craig participated in the second year of LTQ, and came out of it with a clear sense of call to the ministry of evangelization.

Working with a few members of the COM, Craig developed a course of study and training that provides a template that might be used in training lay evangelists in the future. With the launch of a Year of Revival this Fall, Craig’s work is a gift to the Diocese!

The Reverend Victoria Ix, Diocesan Communications Missioner, was ordained to the Priesthood on December 16, 2017, and was recently installed as part-time Vicar of Saint John’s Church, Ashfield.

It has been my privilege to work with the deeply committed, thoughtful and prayerful members of the COM for some eight years, and I treasure the experiences we have shared, from charting a new direction under Bishop Fisher, which took the form of LTQ, to supporting wonderful people from across the Diocese in their processes of discernment and formation for ministry, both lay and ordained. I have been greatly blessed to be a part of this holy work, and thankful to both Bishop Scruton and Bishop Fisher who invited me to take up this ministry, as well as he Reverend Canon Richard Simpson, whom I succeeded as Chair. May God continue to bless the COM, and its new Chair, the Reverend Samuel Smith, in their labors and prayers on behalf of God’s Mission and the people of this Diocese.

The Reverend Nancy Baillie Strong

