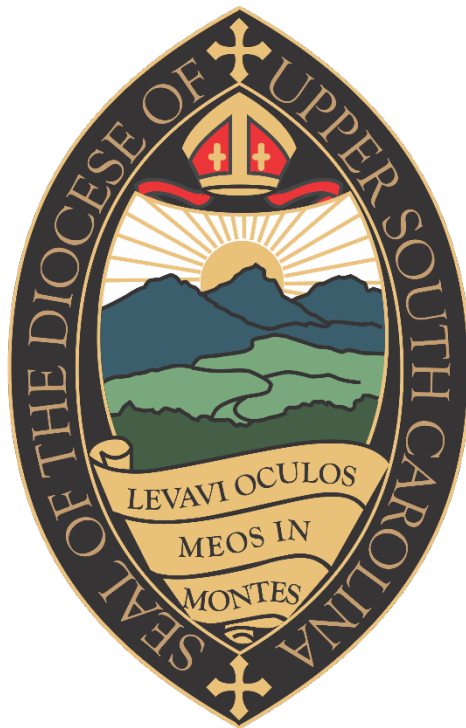


THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF
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COMMISSION ON MISSION AND INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS

The Rev. Susan Louttit-Hardaway, Chair

The Commission on Mission and International Concerns seeks to integrate activities of the Diocese into the life and work of the local, national, and global communities. Our goal for 2022 is to better communicate to congregations of the Diocese the work that is being done and invite churches and individuals to join us in this important work. 2021-2022 have been years of transition in several of our ministries. Our ministries have continued to serve during the ongoing challenges of budgetary constraints, need for hybrid meetings, and with the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest limitations to travel to Haiti and Ecuador. Despite all these challenges, our ministries have made adjustments, and continued to provide support and solace where it is most needed.

Below are descriptions of the major programs reporting to the Commission and summaries of their activities during 2021/2022.

Ecuador Ministries

Cameron and Roberto Vivanco, EDUSC missionaries in Ecuador, continue to provide a variety of programs working with some of the most vulnerable people in Quito, three remote rural areas and three coastal cities, as well as leadership development for the church. Their ministries are focused in three areas, and over the last year the following milestones were met:

Education=Hope:

Education=Hope, a micro-scholarship program which helps provide for the education of those living in desperate and difficult situations, supported 586 students for the 2021-22 school year, including 12 of whom graduated from high school this spring. Because of COVID-19, the school year started on-line again and remained so until February 2022, at which time all schools were required to return to in person classes. COVID-19 also enlarged the scope of ministry to include some relief efforts as well as the development work of education. In the spring we were able to return to the focused efforts of micro-scholarship, with only 4% of resources being used for relief work. With that, the needs of the students changed from internet, printing and data to connect to on-line classes, back to transportation and school supplies, etc.

Short Term Teams:

This last year we were able to host one fall, one spring, and four summer Short Term Teams, as well as continued with 2 churches in routine virtual team calls. We were able to bring back our summer internship program that simultaneously provides leadership development, team hosts for our summer teams and a discipleship program. This summer we had 9 interns.

Leadership and Leadership Development:

Roberto serves as a pastor at a local International Church (English Fellowship Church, ASA 200). He is responsible for all the music, sits on the Board of Elders, and directs the Young Adult

Ministry. Cameron serves on the Leadership Team for Youth World. They both serve in leadership of the Happening Committee and hosted a weekend retreat for the same. They also serve in leadership of the Cursillo movement, and hosted a leadership retreat for that committee as well. Cursillo #3 is planned for the first weekend of November. The Vivancos helped transplant both events from EDUSC.

EDUSC funding supports students at four Episcopal churches (Buen Pastor, Cristo Liberador, Santa Maria and Emaus) to help with tuition, supplies, transportation, uniforms and more recently Internet expenses, as well as food and medicine during the pandemic. This last academic year EDUSC supported 58 students.

Here is are three examples of the ways in which EDUSC is assisting:

Nayancy Quiñonez is part of the Episcopal Mission Santa Maria in Esmeraldas, Ecuador. With the support of E=H she will graduate from high school in February! She was baptized at Santa Maria and grew up in the church. When she was 10 years old her father died suddenly. His death was very hard for her and she became depressed. During the pandemic her mother lost her job and life was very difficult. E=H pivoted to relief work during the height of the pandemic and through E=H, the church was able to provide food so that they had at least one meal a day. E=H was also able to help provide internet to keep Nayancy and her brother both in school as all classes were on-line. Nayancy attended Happening in Feb 2020, and it had a great impact on her life. She has become very involved in the church, and feels called to help in the ministries of the church and share about the love of God and how it has changed her life. This year, E=H is helping to provide for transportation to and from school for her senior year. Her mother cleans houses or cares for children.

Joshua Usca is seven years old and an only child. He lives with his mother Raquel; his father died in 2020 due to COVID. They both are part of Cristo Liberador Episcopal Church in Quito, Ecuador. Both of them suffered greatly at the death of Joshua's father, psychologically and financially. His mother endeavors to piece a financial life together through informal, sporadic work, as she has no degree or much formal work experience. E=H has been able to help keep Joshua in school; he just finished first grade, and he has shown great signs of coming out of his depression through being part of the community. His mother has become one of the main volunteers for the Abuelitos program at the church.

Narcisa Veintimill is part of Misión Buen Pastor. She is 16 years old and has been a part of the church for many years. Her father died three years ago, leaving her mom and sisters. Her mom has helped with the coordination of the E=H program for years, but after the death of her husband found herself in need of the support in order to keep her children in school. E=H is able to help buy school supplies and materials. Her favorite classes are Language Arts, Math and Biology and she would like to be a nurse or a teacher when she grows up.

Environmental Stewardship and Justice Committee

One of the goals of this committee is to encourage churches throughout the diocese to initiate and expand environmental stewardship ministries in their respective parishes. There is a group of environmental liaisons, representatives from interested churches, that forms the basis of the committee's work to facilitate environmental stewardship ministries and to keep lines of communication open among churches in the diocese about what projects are being done. To serve as a focal point for this communication, the Committee has been publishing a monthly e-newsletter since October 2019. The newsletter recipients include the environmental liaisons as well as other interested people throughout the diocese, and some people outside of South Carolina. Most of the issues of the newsletter highlight specific projects that churches can undertake and provide guidelines for how to implement those projects. During the pandemic the newsletter featured broader topics such as the relationships between justice and the environment, climate change challenges, and the growing plight of the world's oceans.

Currently, the committee is developing two new projects. The first will be a resource library of educational and informational materials on environmental stewardship, including curricula for church foundation classes, Bible schools, youth groups, and more. The resource library will provide these materials free of charge to churches in the diocese. Funds budgeted will be used to purchase the materials. Most will be digitally accessible, although the committee would like to invest as well in relevant books.

The second project is to coordinate and launch a seminar series on environmental stewardship issues. The seminars, which will be held in both virtual and in-person formats, will be presented quarterly. The first seminar will be on the theological foundations for care of creation. Other topics include environmental justice, community gardens and food, energy and climate change, and the challenges of rampant urban development. Funds required for these seminars will also come from the committee's budget. These seminars will build on the care of creation resolutions passed at the 2022 General Convention, particularly the House of Bishops' Statement that climate change is the overarching challenge that affects all the other issues considered by the convention.

Submitted by Dr. Katherine Robinson, Chair

Haiti Ministries

Your World Missions Committee continues to be very active in coordinating our diocesan ongoing focus on our work in Haiti, which is now over four decades of productive partnership with our brothers and sisters in and around Cange. COVID-19 has posed significant challenges for our friends in Haiti and has precluded our usual diocesan mission trips. We are in hopes of resuming in-person mission next summer assuming an effective vaccine is available for our team members. In the meantime, our financial and moral support has continued without interruption.

In April 2022 we held our Haiti Partner Symposium at St. Martin's Church, Columbia. We heard reports on our many Haiti Partner projects and welcomed 5 special guests from Haiti. We were encouraged by the renewed energy and recommitment of Haiti partners to work together in new ways as we move forward. Please watch for more details this coming year about our ministry in the Central Plateau of Haiti.

Our partnership has continued to focus on the three main areas with which our work began: Access to safe water, education, and basic medical care. Our report will summarize briefly our projects in each area.

- 1) Safe water: As many of you remember, our work and Haiti began in the early 80s with the funding of a very simple public water system for the unincorporated village of Cange. As the village grew and our original system aged, we committed in 2008 to a substantial expansion and upgrade of this system which now provides the only chlorinated municipal water in the entire country. This also marked the creation of CEDC (Clemson Engineers for Developing Countries) and the extremely valuable partnership with the College of Engineering at Clemson University in the maintenance of the system in Cange as well as provision of safe water in several surrounding villages. As a result of these efforts, despite the widespread and deadly cholera outbreak in the Artebonite Valley, the village of Cange had **zero** locally contracted cases and therefore no mortality among villagers from our area. Provision of safe water continues to be our most important contribution in this mission and will continue to be a primary focus for our committee going forward. All of the maintenance and monitoring of the water system is now provided by our Haitian colleagues and we supply primarily oversight, financial support, and technical expertise when needed.
- 2) Education: In the early 80s our diocese funded the first and only primary school in Cange, Ecole Bon Sauveur (EBS). The school began with K-5 and has grown over the 40 years to offer a Baccalaureate degree with a very high percentage pass rate on the national exams. When Partners in Health rather abruptly withdrew their funding of the school after the earthquake in 2010, EDUSC again stepped up to support education with a generous campaign to keep the school open. EBS again is under local operation. Our support is primarily in the form of scholarships to the neediest students; not only to students at EBS but also to other educational programs in the greater Cange area. This funding is administered through Zanmi Lasante (the Haitian arm of Partners in Health). Assisting in this support and development of a literate population has of course been a second major accomplishment for our diocese. Graduates of EBS have gone to earn university degrees in nursing, medicine, diplomacy, engineering, and divinity. Education therefore will continue to be a second major focus.
- 3) Medicine: In the early 80s our diocese began to send small medical teams to Cange to provide very basic medical care to the rural villagers who at that time had no other

access. In the early years, we mentored Dr. Paul Farmer before his graduation from medical school and the creation of Partners in Health. We partnered with him in the 90s to build a sustainable clinic and hospital in the village of Cange, which for years was arguably the best in the Central Plateau. Our focus now in medicine is directed toward the diagnosis and treatment of epidemic hypertension in the rural villages around Cange. Access to these villages is difficult to say the least and we have worked with the community health workers in each village to provide blood pressure monitoring and medication refills to hypertensive citizens. Our Clemson interns with the support of Boeing are now looking into drone technology to deliver some of these medications. The long-term health benefits of treating hypertension are well documented, helping to prevent strokes, renal failure, and heart failure each of which is particularly deadly in remote rural villages. The difficulty patients have in adhering to these daily medical regimens is also well documented not only in rural Haiti, but in South Carolina, as well!

Two final areas of support continue to be the agriculture program and vocational school started by Gillaine and Charles Warne, members of Christ Church, Greenville.

In summary, our diocesan mission work in Haiti over these past 40 years has provided substantial, tangible benefit both to our Haitian brothers and sisters and to our Diocese. Thanks be to God for the wonderful opportunities we've been given to serve in longitudinal partnership with our Haitian friends.

Submitted by Harry Morse M.D., co-chair

HIV/AIDS Committee

Committee members participated in *Ending the Epidemics SC / World AIDS Day*, December 1 at the State House. EDUSC SOM funding was used to sponsor, HIV/AIDS Awareness "Cupcake and Condoms" Events at local university campuses and offer financial assistance to HIV/AIDS patients working with the Fresh Start Ministry at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Columbia.

Our committee is in a time of transition. Our long serving chair, Deacon Dianna Deaderick stepped down at the end of 2021. Elizabeth McLendon, member of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, was named the new Chair in January 2022.

Matthew 25 Committee

The purpose of a Matthew 25 grant is to encourage convocations and congregations to engage and expand ministries of compassion and justice that address the needs of the poor and those at risk in their own communities and throughout the world. All proposals should exhibit clear plans to sustain their ministries beyond the grant year.

2022 Matthew 25 Grant Recipients (First Round)

Church of the Cross, Columbia

Super Saturday Ministry – A ministry of feeding children in body, mind, and spirit, through food, fellowship, and fun. The program is modeled with a Vacation Bible School structure. The ministry is designed to support the literacy needs of students who have been affected by COVID, especially students from Annie Burnside Elementary School and from neighboring housing developments.

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Greenville

Good Neighbor Team – The ministry will work with World Relief to assist with the successful transition of families that are selected and vetted for relocation into the Upstate of South Carolina. Good Neighbor volunteers will be trained by World Relief to assist families with needs, such as English language skills, basic finance skills, connecting the families to resources, and being a welcoming presence.

2021 Matthew 25 Grant Recipients

Grace Episcopal Church, Anderson

Community Garden expansion for sustainability and to be community user-friendly

St. George's Episcopal Church, Anderson

Community Garden expansion to include a meditative garden

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Columbia

Establishing a Food Pantry Ministry as an extension of a current Fence Ministry

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Columbia

Music Ministry with children who do not have access to high level music lessons

Members of the Matthew 25 Committee: Libba Rhoad, St. Alban's, Lexington; Mary Tavalacci, St. George's, Anderson; Joseph Ray, St. Luke's Columbia; William S. Smith Jr, St. Luke's Columbia; Michelle Ingram-Smith, St. Luke's, Columbia; and The Rev. Deacon Mary Jeffers, Grace, Anderson

Submitted by Deacon Mary Jeffers, Chair

Race and Reconciliation Committee

In 2021 the Committee was working to develop new anti-racism training, which will be required for clergy and lay leaders across the diocese. The group worked with Dr. Catherine Meeks, Director of the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in the Diocese of Atlanta, to develop the training. Much of this work was put on hold due to travel restrictions from the pandemic, but the group held a planning retreat with Dr. Meeks in October.

The committee also has compiled a list of recommended books and resources for congregations looking to begin studies on racial justice and reconciliation. In 2020 several EDUSC congregations began book studies and other formation opportunities with this focus. In 2021/2022 a number of congregations across the diocese participated in “Sacred Ground” a video/discussion curriculum that is available through the Episcopal Church website.

This Committee is also in transition. The long serving co-chairs Rebecca Kenner and Morgan Lee stepped down. New leaders and committee members will be identified in the months ahead. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact the Rev. Susan Louttit-Hardaway.

SC Bishops Public Education Initiative and Voorhees Scholars

This Initiative works to draw people of the denominations it represents into active support of high-quality public education for the children of South Carolina. Encouraging collaboration among congregations and schools and keeping people informed of opportunities to make a difference in education policy are the core of this work. Several of the signature programs were disrupted by COVID-19. We find that some of the most welcome support is a pledge of our prayers and a willingness to listen.

The Voorhees Scholars Program is continuing to adapt to the on-going pandemic. This program received \$20,000 from the Presiding Bishop’s Becoming Beloved Community Grants. We look forward to resuming the programing and networking connected to this grant when we are free of the limits of COVID-19. Please pray for the first graduating class of Voorhees Scholars. They have all graduated from high school and will be attending college this Fall.

Sustainable Development Goals

Formerly known as Millennium Development Goals, these are funds mandated by resolutions of the 83rd and 84th Diocesan Conventions. Diocesan SDG funds for 2021/2022 were disbursed to support our long-standing ministries in the Central Plateau of Haiti and support the work of our Diocesan missionaries, Cameron and Roberto Vivanco, helping families in extreme poverty in Quito, Ecuador.

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN FORMATION

CANTERBURY MINISTRIES

Canterbury ministries have been uniquely impacted by the global COVID pandemic. Many groups weren't allowed to formal meet on-campus, and campus missionaries had to navigate engaging with their communities while they, themselves, weren't allowed on campus. Despite the challenges, fruitful conversations about community identity and vision were had in spring of 2021. As the diocesan coordinator for campus ministry, I met with many of our communities to discuss how they perceive themselves and who they want to be on-campus. We reviewed a range of topics like communal life in their ministry, particular gifts and assets, short- and long-term goals, and available support and resources. This work was done in an effort to develop "community profiles" for each Canterbury ministry to aid in their ongoing development and recruitment efforts. I hope to revisit these profiles with each community this year. At the end of the semester, graduating seniors were given a Canterbury cross to commemorate their time in service to their ministry.

Hear from a few of our Peer Ministers themselves:

"This past year was essentially a reboot of our Canterbury program here at Clemson after our numbers dwindled due to COVID and graduations. We've had a lot of fun creating a program focused on non-judgmental exploration of faith and fellowship. We worked with the Lutheran Campus Ministry as well as Clemson PRISM, our campus' Christian LGBTQ+ organization. Outside of our usual Wednesday programs, we've done a couple social outings and a book study! We read 'The Cross and the Lynching Tree' in the fall, and 'Mere Christianity' in the spring," Emma Harrington, Clemson University

"We had to reimagine Ukirk/Canterbury a little bit at the beginning [of the spring semester]. The Ukirk leader actually had a class during our normal bible study time, so we had to move the time, which happened to be Friday at lunch time. This actually increased attendance. This made our conversations richer because there were more perspectives," Bryce Weber, Presbyterian College. "My joyful moment [from the fall semester] is many wrapped in one. I found so much joy every time I would look around the room and see everyone laughing and smiling. Knowing that Canterbury is a safe space for everyone is very important for me. I feel like this helped me learn that while the moments of prayer and worship together are important, something as simple as fellowship and a meal can really bring people together and create a family," Alex Cheek, University of South Carolina

Lastly, 2021 saw several transitions in campus ministry leadership and oversight:

- The WELCM (Winthrop Episcopal and Lutheran Campus Ministry) partnership dissolved so that a new Canterbury ministry in conjunction with Church of Our Saviour, Rock Hill could begin development under the leadership of Shannon Wilson

- Canterbury of Clemson welcomed the Rev. Noah Stansbury as their campus missionary (note: he has now transitioned to Diocese of Texas)
- Zac Blankenship, youth minister at Church of the Advent, Spartanburg, took on the role of campus missionary to Canterbury of Spartanburg
- The Rev. Lathrop Mosley began to serve as campus missionary to Canterbury of Furman while serving at St. James, Greenville
- Diocesan Executive Council voted to move young adult and campus ministries back under the purview of the Commission on Christian Formation

Submitted by Katelyn Kenney, Canon for Youth and Lay Ministry

5th Grade Bridge Retreat

DYLC capped off the year with a big adventure at 5th Grade Bridge Retreat! Convened by Matt and Cole (St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Columbia), fifth graders from all over the diocese journeyed through the ups and downs of life transitions while training alongside their teams to rescue the Wise Old Oak. We learned how our "toolkits," filled with our gifts, our prayers, our relationships, and more, help us move through life's joys and difficulties by keeping us grounded to what matters most. Our retreat chaplains were the Rev. Teddy Higgins (St. Paul's, Batesburg) and the Rev. Lathrop Mosley (St. James, Greenville). Big shout out to Gravatt staffers Evan and Graham for their contributions!

Middle School Spring Retreat

Middle School Spring Retreat, convened by Gracen (Christ Church, Greenville) and Jackson (St. Peter's, Greenville), was our biggest retreat of the year! Nearly 50 middle schoolers spent the weekend at Camp Gravatt exploring themes of doubt and belief in small groups and competing in team games around the campgrounds. Our retreat chaplains were Chris Johnson (seminarian-in-residence at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Columbia) and the Rev. Jack Hardaway (Grace Church, Anderson). One question: do you have your bandana?

SMASH!

After a two-year hiatus, SMASH! came back with a bang. Get this: Joseph (St. Bartholomew's, North Augusta) guided us through the weekend program about Joseph (Book of Genesis), and we ended the retreat with Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Joseph Whitehurst (St. Thaddeus, Aiken). But SO MUCH MORE happened, including a group art project involving dye-filled water balloons (no articles of clothing were erroneously stained in the making of this project). In fact, this art project was used to dress the altar for our closing Eucharist, and we added our names to the garment that will hopefully beautify our youth community worship for many years to come. Shout-out to the Rev. Deacon Christine Gregory for being a superstar chaplain and preacher!

HAPPENING

Happening #85 took place November 19-21, 2021. It was the first Happening to take place on the conference side of The Bishop Gravatt Center since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when we had to cancel Happening #83. The weekend was expertly led by Lay Rector Sam Nixon, from Christ Church in Greenville. It was well-attended, and although everyone was cautious about keeping safe and healthy, the feeling of camaraderie and family love was not lost or altered. Bishop Waldo paid his last visit to Happening at the beginning of the weekend and set the tone for a wonderful and transformative event.

Happening #86 took place April 1-3, 2022, and was led by Lay Rector Karissa Horn, also from Christ Church in Greenville. The group of candidates at #86 was smaller than usual, but the staff more than made up for the low attendance by fostering an incredibly vibrant and energetic community-- even pulling one or two harmless April Fool's pranks. We experimented with a few new activities, including an interactive Stations of the Cross, all of which went smoothly. Bishop Richards attended Happening for the first time in our diocese at the closing service; he delivered a beautiful sermon and held a Q&A with everyone present.

Submitted by Karissa Horn

Vocare #12

We had a fantastic time at Vocare #12, led by Taylor Gibby. The weekend's focus on well-being couldn't have been timelier and though our group was small, we all experienced a powerful sense of community and restoration. We gathered in new ways, organizing our small groups into triads to go deeper into the conversations started by our Vocare staff. The Revs. Noah Stansbury and Janey Wilson led us in times of worship, gently inviting us to be vulnerable and open to new insight and much-needed healing. Our guiding scripture came from Psalm 1:3, and you can find it beautifully depicted in our Vocare banner.

EDUSC Cursillo

EDUSC Cursillo Summary 2021 - 2022

Cursillo is a ministry of the Episcopal Church, providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through piety, study, and action and to share God's love with everyone. One of the purposes of Cursillo is to grow Christ-centered leaders. As a result, our Diocese becomes more spiritually vibrant and responsive to the needs of others. Guided by the national Episcopal Cursillo Ministry (ECM), key elements are relationship, evangelism, and reconciliation in the home, the parish, the community, and the world. "Make a Friend, Be a Friend, Bring a Friend to Christ" is the heart of this ministry.

The Episcopal Cursillo Weekend offers a time to experience living in a supportive Christian community. The weekend includes fifteen talks, five meditations, various services from our Prayer Book, and Eucharist every day. The weekend and supporting events and services afterwards offer an opportunity to gather clergy and laity, to experience the reality of God's gift of love through shared prayer, individual meditation, worship, study, fellowship, laughter, tears, and unconditional love.

The Three-Day weekend is not an end to itself. It is a starting point, a springboard to a long-range practice of the Baptismal Covenant in the life of the Church called the Fourth Day. The Fourth Day provides small and large group gatherings to hold each other accountable for spiritual growth. Spiritual direction is encouraged to deepening our relationships with Christ.

After a two-year delay due to COVID-19, Weekend 142 was held March 17-20, 2022, at Camp Gravatt. Despite the long and uncertain time to have a weekend, the staff stayed engaged and faithful to serve. We are grateful for the support from the Diocesan staff in promoting the weekend to church administrators and clergy. The schedule was simplified, with more focus on more time for rest, reflection, relaxed spontaneity, large and small group discussions, and group singing.

After we experienced the joy of Weekend 142, we were incredibly blessed to gather over 75 people from Cursillo and the larger EDUSC community at a Grand Ultreya in May, held at Trinity Cathedral in Columbia. We are planning another Grand Ultreya, this time to be held at Christ Church, Greenville, on October 8, 2022.

The EDUSC Cursillo Council includes lay and clergy representatives from a variety of parishes. We continue to revise and improve Policies and Guidelines, as well as financial procedures. The Cursillo Council continues to support Cursillo in Ecuador.

The Cursillo ministry is a vibrant example of living out our diocesan mission: Making, Equipping and Sending Mature Disciples of Jesus Christ."

Submitted by Janet Jendron, 2022 Council President

SAFE CHURCH

Safe Church continued to operate primarily online in 2021. In the summer, the Armatius Learn to Protect online platform relaunched as Praesidium Academy, and the General Convention Task Force for the development of safe church materials began to upload new modules that aligned with the model policies accepted at the 79th General Convention as part of the Safe Church, Safe Communities curriculum, including "Pastoral Relationships," "Healthy Boundaries," and "Theological and Ethical Foundations." Several parish administrators have been trained to navigate this new platform as 'managers' so they can add 'learners' from their own parish and track their training without going through the diocesan administrator (of course, training

completions were still reported to the diocesan administrator so that the diocesan database could be maintained in accordance to our policy manual).

Submitted by Katelyn Kenney, Canon for Youth and Lay Ministry

Commission on Ministry

Melissa Langford, Chair

The activities of the Commission on Ministry in 2021 included the following:

- Journeyed with two inquirers in discernment for holy orders
- Recommended one inquirer for postulancy to the priesthood
- Monitored the progress of eight seminarians
- Celebrated the ordination of three postulants to the transitional diaconate and the priesthood
- Celebrated the ordination of one postulant to the vocational diaconate
- Increased number of members on commission to ten

The Commission continues to work toward full support and engagement alongside those discerning a call to holy orders as well as those who are in formation and moving forward to answer a call affirmed through our work together. In 2022 we intend to work alongside our new bishop in elevating all aspects of our work and in particular the development of a diaconate formation program which will serve both those called to diaconal work and our diocese well.

Submitted by Melissa Langford

Commission on Convocations

The Rev. Catherine L. Tatem, chairperson

The Commission on Convocations is holding quarterly meetings via Zoom.

Convocation meetings throughout the Diocese are taking place both in person and via Zoom, a blended format depending on the Convocation's choice. We are grateful for the provided Diocesan resources in people, technology, and expertise.

Clericus gatherings also take place both in person and via Zoom, as decided upon within each Convocation.

At this time, in our role as the Nominating Committee of the Diocese, we are working on filling openings for positions on DEC, the Disciplinary Board, Trustee of the University of the South, and Deputies for the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2024.

Respectfully submitted, The Rev. Catherine L. Tatem, chairperson

COMMISSION FOR CONGREGATIONS

The Rev. Mary Balfour Dunlap, Chair

The Commissions for Congregations helps congregations grow and strengthen in their ministry to their members, communities, and as members of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Resources in Congregational vitality, stewardship, communication, and strategic planning are provided as support is needed. We also assists our Hispanic missions in Greenville and Simpsonville.

The current members of the commission are: Ms. Genevieve Alert, Ms. Mary Ann Belser, Mr. Frank Boineau, Mr. Martin Darby, The Rev. Mary Balfour Dunlap (Chair), Mr. Rick Gilliam, The Rev. Deacon Mary Jeffers, The Rev. Lathrop Mosley, and The Rev. Jane Rogers Wilson. Our staff liaison is The Venerable d'Rue Hazel.

Each Commission member is assigned to a mission church in our Diocese which requests funding from the Statement of Mission. The committee member meets with the mission, reports their needs, supports them in finding resources, and serves as general support, especially in the area of helping them to discover their divine purpose. Perhaps most importantly, our commission seeks to make these churches feel connected as a member of the Diocese and seeks to facilitate the needs they might encounter in fulfilling that role. To that end, the commission is planning a Mission Retreat for all missions and small parishes for October 14th-15th, 2022 at Camp Gravatt. It is our hope that gathering the missions together, sharing helpful informational resources and simply being in fellowship will work to continue the sharing of God's love to these missions and parishes.

The Commission for congregations also oversees all requests for funding from the Statement of Mission from those missions in need of financial support, works with missions that are interested in attaining parish status, and serves as a supportive resource system to any mission or parish in the Diocese that needs our help.

Current Missions that are receiving funds or being supported by the Commission for Congregations:

Ascension, Seneca
The Church of the Cross, Columbia
Church of the Epiphany, Spartanburg

St. Augustine of Canterbury, Aiken
Saint Bartholomew's, North Augusta
St. Christopher's, Spartanburg
St. Francis of Assisi, Chapin
St. Francis, Greenville
The Hispanic Congregation at Holy Cross Church, Simpsonville
St. Mark's, Chester
St. Thomas, Eastover

Missions that have not requested funding or support from the Commission for Congregations:

St. Phillip's, Greenville
St. Peter's, Great Falls
St. Barnabas, Jenkinsville
All Saints, Beach Island
Trinity Church, Abbeville
St. Michael and All Angels, Columbia
Calvary Church, Glenn Springs
Church of the Nativity, Union
St. Luke's, Newberry

Faithfully Submitted,

The Rev. Mary Balfour Dunlap

COMMISSION ON THE DIOCESE

RADM Stephen I. Johnson USN (ret.), Chair

The Commission on the Diocese (COD) is charged with the oversight and stewardship of the financial resources of the Diocese. The COD also formulates and recommends policies related to diocesan investments, finance, health and property insurance, stewardship, loans, audits, architecture, personnel, and the institutions of the Diocese. In our quarterly meetings, the COD reviews financial reports of the Diocese, including preparation of the annual Statement of Mission, investment reports, and audit reports.

The review of the draft SOM and the accompanying financial occupies a substantial part of the COD's agenda every year. This year, while the Diocese remains challenged posed by less than full participation in the Diocesan asking by many churches, giving during the worldwide coronavirus pandemic greatly exceeded our pessimistic expectations and allowed a greater degree of certainty in our financial security, at least through the next year.

The COD continued to work with the congregation of Trinity Abbeville. When the Church structure was leased to Preservation SC three years ago, the building needed significant rehabilitation to make it structurally sound and useable. Preservation South Carolina completed the first phase of the restoration this year, using funds from a Trinity Abbeville trust, funds from an anonymous donor, and grants and donations obtained by Preservation SC. While significant works remains to fully restore this historic church, its current condition is stable and useable. Preservation SC has terminated their lease consistent with the lease terms and conditions because there are no further funds available for continued restoration. This is exacerbated by the limited revenue potential of the church as a venue event because of the impact of the pandemic on functions which could have used the church. The challenge of maintaining this church is beyond the capacity of the small congregation that worships there. The long-term maintenance and operation of this, and other aging mission structures in the diocese, will be continuing challenges to their congregations, and by extension the COD.

The COD responded to a request from the Office of the Bishop to complete remediation and renovations at Diocesan House to address water damage, mold and deferred maintenance issues. The COD approved the plan submitted and recommend the Diocesan Executive Committee (DEC) approve the plan, with funding to come from the sale of St. Matthias property several years ago. Additionally, the COD recommended the establishment of a Capital Reserve Fund to address future capital needs for Diocesan House. This recommendation is included as a line item in the 2023 SOM.

Because of increased acceptance and payment of the Episcopal Pledge by Diocesan parishes in 2022 and projected continued financial health in 2023, the COD was able to recommend a lean and balanced 2023 SOM with no significant unfunded budget requests

Submitted by RADM Stephen I. Johnson, USN (ret.) Chairman