

Report of the Commission on Ministry
to the 44th Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real

Your diocesan Commission on Ministry (COM) assists with discernment and formation for those seeking Holy Orders or licensing for lay ministries. We work in close consultation with the Bishop, accompanying people throughout their entire discernment process. The following are some highlights from the past year.

Your current 2024 COM consists of these faithful folks: Holly Cooper, Mary Ann Gee, Nancy McGuffin, Matt O'Connor, Rita Welsh, and the Revs Susan Arnold, Ricardo Avila, Karen Cuffie, Aaron Klinefelter, Rich Towers, and Alejandra Trillos. We are ably assisted by Dr. Donald Fennell and Kirstin Nielsen.

The COM's year began with our January Diocesan Leadership Retreat, a day-long gathering with the Bishop and Diocesan Staff, the Standing Committee, and the Board of Trustees. This has become a great way to kick off a year of service to our beloved diocese.

This year we accompanied three discerners into new phases of their journey:

- The Rev. Joel Martinez was ordained a priest in April and now serves as our newest Diocesan Community Trailblazer, based at St. Andrew's, Saratoga.
- The COM held its Ministry Discernment Retreat (MDR) in September, meeting with two nominees whose discernment process included a recently-completed Lay Preaching course at our Diocesan School for Ministry. Following the MDR, the COM met with Bishop Lucinda, who subsequently welcomed both into the formation process, granting postulancy to Rebecca Miller and Anthony Zambataro. Please keep them both in your prayers as each continues to discern a call to the diaconate.

We are grateful for the ministry of the Diocesan Discernment Committee (DDC), whose members worked with Rebecca and Anthony in the initial phase of their process.

Our guide for those entering the process of discernment, *Discernment Process for Ordination*, continues to prove invaluable. This document, also available in Spanish, is on the ECR website for any wishing to explore a possible call to ordained ministry.

COM meets monthly on Zoom, checking in with Bishop Lucinda as needed. We continue to widen the parameters of our spiritual sharing when we meet, looking at scripture passages, poems, songs, and artwork through the *lectio* process, gaining insights together.

Serving on the COM requires a commitment to serve Christ's Church through authentic engagement with persons in discernment. Your Commission on Ministry serves with joy and gratitude, giving thanks to God for the plentiful harvest, and laborers enough for the reaping.

Respectfully submitted by
The Rev. Ricardo Avila
COM Chair
October 8, 2024