



Name of Committee, Commission, Task Force or Program:

Commission on Ministry

Report to Diocesan Convention 2026

Submitted by the Commission on Ministry

Mission/Purpose Statement:

The Commission on Ministry (COM) serves the Diocese of Wyoming by assisting the Bishop in identifying, supporting, and guiding individuals in their discernment for ministry—lay and ordained. The COM provides structure, accountability, and encouragement for those called to deepen their service to the Church.

Summary of Current Year's Activities:

In 2026, the Commission on Ministry undertook a variety of initiatives and ongoing work to support formation, discernment, and leadership within the Diocese of Wyoming. These initiatives include:

- Approving 20 grants for continuing education, mission work, EfM, retreats, and other programs.
- Issuing the 2026 edition of the Diocesan Discernment Process.
- Continuing to shepherd those in the Ordination process.
- Overhauling the grant application and guidelines.
- Conducting two community interviews for people in process for ordination.
- Issuing a parallel congregation guide for hosting community interviews.
- Supporting the Wyoming Iona School Fieldwork Education process.
- Conducting normal business, including discussion and voting regarding advancing people in the ordination process.
- Began development of a simplified microgrant guideline.

- People in the Ordination Process as of August 19, 2026:
 - Discernment for Holy Orders: 2
 - Nominees: 4
 - Postulants: 7
 - Candidates: 1

Financial Report:

- Continuing Education Grant totals as of August 19, 2026:
 - Individual: \$30,211.50
 - EfM: \$427.50
 - Congregational: \$2,650.00
- Expenses for Ordination process support \$1,858.60

Plans and Projections for the Coming Year:

- Scheduling online work sessions to complete project list, including:
 - COM Guidelines/Handbook
 - Guidelines for in-process and post-ordination mentors
 - Revision of Ordination Checklists
 - Grants Promotion Strategy Development
 - Review and revision of Discernment Process

Membership/Leadership:

- The Rev. Dr. Christie Laughery, Chair
- The Rev. Joel Dingman
- Carl Morton
- Lili Turnell
- The Rev. Chris Galagan
- Leslie Zimmerschied
- The Rev. Allen Doyle
- The Rev. Canon Lara Gilbert, ex-officio (staff support)
- The Rev. Christian Basel, ex-officio (Standing Committee)

Submitted by:

The Rev. Dr. Christie Laughery, Chair of COM and
Members of the Commission on Ministry