



THE
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF *Wyoming*

Name of Committee, Commission, Task Force or Program:

Wyoming Iona School

Mission/Purpose Statement:

The Wyoming Iona School currently serves the Diocese of Wyoming by offering local formation for individuals called to ordination. It is part of the larger Iona Collaborative network through the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. The program provides theological education, formation, and community to prepare students for ordained ministry in their local contexts.

Summary of Current Year's Activities:

Under the direction of Rev. Canon Lara Gilbert, Canon for Discernment, and the Rev. Linda Anderson, Dean of the Wyoming Iona School, students gathered the first weekend of each month from September through June. The school operates as a flipped classroom model with students completing coursework prior to class and using class time for discussion and practical application.

Students not only engage in academic studies but also learn to lead worship, preach, and fulfill the duties of deacon or priest upon completion of the program.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, the Wyoming Iona Collaborative had three students. Two students called to the priesthood graduated in June.

Also, during the 2025-2026 academic year a Field Work Guide was developed. The guide is a path for both student and mentor during the time the student serves in a congregation other than their own.

Financial Report:

N/A

Plans and Projections for the Coming Year

The Wyoming Iona School will continue to provide local formation for those discerning the call to ordained ministry. Future goals include supporting new cohorts of students, strengthening mentorship relationships, and maintaining the high quality of theological and spiritual education offered through the program.

The Rev. Linda Anderson retired from the position of dean at the end of the 2025-2026 academic school year. The Rev. Elle Morgan was hired as the new dean and began her duties at the beginning of August 2026.

In the 2026-2027 academic year, a new division of the school is being developed to meet the growing need for lay training in the diocese recognizing that not every congregation can financially or structurally support clergy leadership – whether compensated or non-stipendiary. Acknowledging that every baptized community deserves robust leadership, regular worship, and pastoral care, the diocese is exploring the opportunity to expand the Iona framework to provide training to parishes that are seeking opportunities for the laity to take on leadership roles customarily assigned to clergy leaders, ensuring that the community is actively served.

Course work will be determined by priority with lay licensing being a first step toward developing a full course catalogue.

Membership/Leadership:

Leadership during the 2025-2026 academic year was provided by the Rev. Canon Lara Gilbert and the Rev. Linda Anderson, Dean of the Wyoming Iona School. Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, leadership of the school will be the Rev. Elle Morgan, Dean of the Wyoming Iona School with diocesan staff support from the Rev. Canon Lara Gilbert, Canon for Discernment.

Gratitude/Acknowledgements:

The Wyoming Iona School expresses gratitude to the Bishop, diocesan staff, faculty, Foundation, and all those who support the formation of future clergy. Special thank you to the students for their dedication and to the mentors and instructors who help make this program successful.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Linda Anderson, Wyoming Iona School Dean, retired
The Rev. Elle Morgan, Wyoming Iona School Dean
The Rev. Lara Gilbert, Canon for Discernment