

Iona Collaborative

Report to Diocesan Convention 2025

Submitted by the Rev. Linda Anderson, Dean of the Wyoming Iona Collaborative

1. Mission / Purpose Statement

The Wyoming Iona Collaborative 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.

2. Summary of Current Year's Activities

Under the direction of the Rev. Canon Lara Gilbert, Canon for Spiritual Formation and Congregational Development and Bishop's Chaplain, and the Rev. Linda Anderson, Dean of the Wyoming Iona Collaborative, students gather 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 a deacon or priest upon completion of the program.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the Wyoming Iona Collaborative had three students. One student, called to the diaconate, graduated in June. Currently, five students are enrolled in the program, with two expected to graduate in June.

3. Financial Report

N/A

4. Plans and Projections for the Coming Year

The Wyoming Iona Collaborative will continue to provide local formation for those discerning 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.

5. Membership / Leadership

Leadership is provided by the Rev. Canon Lara Gilbert, Canon for Spiritual Formation and Congregational Development and Bishop's Chaplain, and the Rev. Linda Anderson, Dean of the Wyoming Iona Collaborative.

6. Gratitude / Acknowledgments

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

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Linda Anderson

Dean of the Wyoming Iona Collaborative