



The Committee on the Diaconate

Ven. Lynn H. Johnson, Archdeacon, *Chair*

Ven. Theodore Foley, Archdeacon, *Co-Chair*

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Rev. Maria Sanzo+
Rev. Richard Wisniewski
Ms. Karen Moore
Mr. Anthony Vitale

**2021 Report of the Committee on the Diaconate to the
238th Diocesan Convention
March 5, 2022**

A year of fine-tuning a program of progress

The process of applying for and participating in the Diocese of NJ School for Ministry is being recognized as a stand-alone process with connections to the Commission on Ministry, the Committee on Life-Long Learners for strong lay leadership, the Committee on the Diaconate, and the Committee on the Priesthood.

The Commission and the Committees serve as discernment, focus and support entities.

The Commission on Ministry assists with the discernment of those who believe that they, as a result of ministry study, perceive a call to ordained ministry. The Commission on Ministry discerns, with the applicant, which ordained ministry call is heard more clearly - that of the servant ministry of the deacon, or the pastoral call of the priesthood.

The appropriate Committee - the Committee on the Diaconate or the Committee on the Priesthood — then takes up the mantle of discernment, support and encouragement.

A year of flexible change.

Participants in the School for Ministry have been dedicated and diligent. The interactive, redefining and streamlining work of the COM, the COD and the COP has been challenging, but rewarding, and certainly not without a few hiccups. As a result of the new program structure the journey to ordained ministry is more fluid and flexible.

There is the possibility that no longer will there be a “class” to be ordained. Instead, individuals who have traveled their pathway on the journey to ordination will be eligible for ordination when canonical requirements have been met.

The work of the Committee on the Diaconate, to assist in continuing discernment, to provide the support and encouragement that is so necessary continues. We are blessed to be part of the journey

Respectfully submitted,
The Venerable Lynn H. Johnson
Archdeacon for Diaconal Discernment