

## THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

The primary purpose of the Office of Clergy Services is to serve as a support for and liaison between the Bishop and Cabinet and the Board of Ordained Ministry in areas related to clergy licensing, ordination and status.

I am indebted to Bonnie Speas, the Administrative Assistant for Clergy Services. Her organizational abilities and knowledge of the clergy database that we maintain continue to be crucial to the efficient working of this office. Her gentle spirit is a calming influence for numerous candidates as they find their way through an increasingly complex process leading to licensing or ordination. I am also grateful to the twelve district secretaries for their outstanding work in the areas of certification and licensing. In addition, it is a pleasure to work with our Superintendents on many matters related to our clergy, and to attempt to support them as they work to identify, nurture, and instruct new clergy for our Conference.

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry continues to fulfill its role in evaluating and approving new clergy to serve the local churches and various ministries of our Conference. The importance of this work cannot be overstated, as the future health of our churches is, in many ways, directly related to the quality of leadership provided by our clergy. The Rev. Patricia Parrish has spent untold hours guiding the Board through another year in which Board members contributed many days and even weeks to this work. It has been a privilege to assist the Board.

During the past year this office has helped organize the June orientation session for those seeking commissioning or ordination; assisted in organizing and holding the Bishop's School of Ministry; organized a pre-retirement seminar in cooperation with the office of Conference Benefits Office; and provided support for three meetings of the full Board of Ordained Ministry, and meetings of the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee. I have also participated in NCD coaches training; attended the manager's meetings for the Course of Study Schools at Duke and Candler; attended the "Do No Harm" national training event; offered training for four District Committees on Ordained Ministry; took part in visits with our students at three seminaries; attended the SEJ mid-quadrennium BOM meeting; attended the annual BOM Staff Network Meeting; and convened the Cabinet Hispanic Ministries Task Force. In addition, I have responded to requests by phone, email, and correspondence related to licensing, ordination, and all matters related to clergy and their status within the conference, and have met with individuals seeking personal guidance in these areas.

It is a pleasure to serve in this area of ministry, and I look forward to the coming year.

*Timothy J. Rogers, Coordinator of Clergy Services*