

THE OFFICE OF CLERGY SERVICES

The primary purpose of the Office of Clergy Services continues to be 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.

Ms. Bonnie Speas, the Administrative Assistant for Clergy Services, is known and loved by countless candidates. Her concern for each of our candidates and her apparently endless willingness to help guide them through the process are blessings both to the candidates and to our church. She maintains our database and oversees the process of requesting and receiving the many annual reports this office is responsible for. The work of this office literally would not happen without her. I continue to be grateful to the twelve district secretaries for their work and for their diligent oversight of so much information, vital to so many different people. And it is a pleasure to work with our Bishop and Superintendents on many matters related to our clergy, and to attempt to support them as they continue the vital and demanding work necessary to identify, nurture, instruct and supervises the clergy of our Conference.

The Conference Board of Ordained Ministry has organized for a new quadrennium, and continues to seek the most effective and faithful ways to fulfill its remarkably broad role in evaluating and approving 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. Ken Nelson is completing his first year as chair of the Board. His commitment to ministry, attention to detail, and concern for both candidates and the church has been crucial as the Board seeks to be faithful to our Lord in service to the church. It has been a privilege to assist the Board.

During the past year the single most notable work of this office has been to re-organize its web page into a more user-friendly format, and to continue to update the forms and information available there. This could not have been accomplished without the help of Matt Brodie. Additionally, this office helped organize the June orientation session for those seeking commissioning or ordination; assisted in organizing and holding the Bishop's School of Ministry; and provided support for three meetings of the full Board of Ordained Ministry and meetings of the Board of Ordained Ministry Executive Committee. This office has continued the change to store more records in digital form in order to maximize the use of limited space available for storing records. Without trying to list every event or undertaking of the past year, I continue to respond 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