

The Community of Deacons Report
227th Annual Convention, Diocese of Virginia

February 5, 2021, was the 10th anniversary of the ordination of those called to the diaconate in the Diocese of Virginia. As of October 2021, six classes of deacons have been ordained, and we have two additional classes in formation in the St. Phoebe School for Deacons. Currently, we have 33 canonically resident or licensed deacons serving 30 faith communities.

Bishop Susan Goff appointed the Rev. Deacons Holly Hanback and David Curtis as archdeacons in December 2019. Our primary functions are to support the community of deacons, build community within this group of ordained ministers, help identify and attract seekers for the diaconate, and engage in other duties as assigned by the bishop.

This year, we welcomed seven deacons to the community. These deacons were formed during pandemic, and their 2020 parish internships were very different than expected. They were ordained in April 2021 in separate services over three days. They are: the Rev. Deacons Steve Busch (St. John's, Centreville), Courtenay Evans (Buck Mountain, Earlysville), Shea Godwin (Calvary, Front Royal) Salli Hartman (St. Mary's, Colonial Beach), Brian Justice (Grace, Goochland), Peg Moncure (Christ, Middlesex), and Steve Pace (Church of our Savior, Montpelier). We are grateful for their ministry in their parishes and in this diocese.

In May 2021, the Diocese held its first Diocesan Deacons' Day virtually. This event is designed to increase awareness of the diaconate in our diocese. Seekers, postulants, deacons, priests, diocesan staff, and others attended as we discussed what the diaconate is and is not and how one is formed to serve as deacons. Approximately 40 people registered, and roughly 30 attended. We hope to have the second Diocesan Deacons' Day in May 2022 as an in-person gathering.

The Community of Deacons continued to meet monthly in 2021 virtually to offer support, to form community, and to share ministry ideas. We were very grateful to be able to gather at Shrine Mont between October 15-17, 2021 for our first in person retreat since 2019. Thirteen deacons gathered to reflect on "The Healing Touch of God". Bishop Susan Goff joined us for conversation and Eucharist. We also offered a virtual retreat option for those unable to attend in person. Four deacons attended, focusing on the same theme.

This year, as we prepare to elect a new bishop, three deacons are serving on the Search Committee for the XIVth Bishop. The Rev. Deacons Emmetri Beane, Christine Garcia, and Frederico Garza are generously giving of their time, talent, and ministry, and they are providing strong diaconal voices for this search.

Feel free to reach out to David Curtis (dcurtis@saintjohnsrichmond.org) should you have any questions about the Community of Deacons in our diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

The Ven. David Curtis
Archdeacon, Diocese of Virginia