

AED's Archdeacon & Deacon Directors' Conference – February 2018

Open Space discussions

2/24/2018

Online Formation and Alternative Methods

Lynn - Diocese of New Jersey has a three year Deacon formation program to include a format for licensing lay minister, those heading to the priesthood. The next class will start in September and goes three years with no way to enter in. They are looking for a learning management system that will help manage the students.

Janet Paige - Diocese of Dallas - their school does lay candidates. All priest candidates go to seminary. People can enter at any point. Inspire IHub app helps to track their students. She can post videos. Moodle is also available.

Sally - Diocese of East Carolina - they use CDSP for the online piece. All the classes are offered as part of the consortium. Priests that need Anglican training join them for a portion of the classes. They are looking to form bi-vocational priests. It's going very slowly. Deacons pay their own costs - they budget \$20,000 for School for Ministry.

Sue clarified that there are two online programs at CDSP. CALL is online and for deacons. The other online program is for the formation of priests. The typical course is 7 weeks long. Sally then has their own canonical tests internally. Lay and deacons train together. They have 10-12 students.

Connie shared about the Yale Online Courses. Hebrew Scriptures and New Testament.

Charlene from Diocese of Los Angeles - using Iona Collaborative. Writing a grant to get material translated into Mandarin, Spanish, Korean.

Sue asked if anyone else has a learning agreement with CDSP. Washington DC has an agreement. There were no deacons into 2012. They faced a broad spectrum of academic skills. They decided to develop their own list of competencies. So the instructors teach off the competencies. Benefits of the agreement: You get the evaluations from the students and the professors. When you take classes for credits, you have to do a final project. That information is shared with the school. Classes include OT 1 & 2, NT 1, ethics, church history and forward, systematic theology. They are offered every year, but Washington will only use them every other year. Two courses are offered in the fall. Then two classes in the spring. There are 8-10 schools in the Diocese of Washington and no one would work with them.

You have a week to view the material on your own time then there is discussion online with the students and professors. The students pay for their own classes. The partnership fee was \$2500 and minimal enrollment is currently 7. Minnesota also has a partnership with CDSP. Jennifer Snow is the CDSP contact. The cost to student is \$195. If there is no partnership, the cost is \$220. The classes that are on site (not online), are geared to practical rather than academic formation. For example, they do reflections, not academic papers. People with only HS education have been successful. They have to finish the academic CDSP before they start the 18 month school.

AED has a relationship for continuing education. Can we use AED to have the formation agreement to plug into nationally. Since we have the competencies, can the final iteration be used to create agreement? What's involved in the continuing Ed piece? If you are a dues paying member of AED, you get a discount (we think). Check with membership at AED to get the coupon to get the discount.

Charlene wanted to talk about online CPE training. She was initially dubious about it, but they have been pleased with process.

United Church and ELCA have community organizing classes. Asset based - Call to Transformation with ERD is also good.

Connie recommended attendees to speak to Bette Kaufman (western LA) about her community organizing. There are denominations within Community Organizing. PICO, IAF, Asset Based and Gamaliel are examples. Saul Alinsky is the grandfather of this work - he is perceived as anti-Christian. Be careful how you bandy his name.

How do you keep track of who has done what? when you have a large curriculum, you have to keep track of it. There are registrar style software systems. Student software is also out there. Look at small colleges. Sue shared the main difference between Google Team Drive and Google Drive is that everyone owns the drive. The dual track of academics as well as canonical process have to run together. Need to require students to submit everything electronically.

Jamie suggested that we might consider a classroom management system as well as a learning management system. For example check out: Exit Ticket. Look at the Bexley Pinterest board of Jamie for his list of educational tools.

Sally asked about transitional deacons. Connie explained the process in Montana. California now does it for a year. The other trend from the seminary is now ordaining in the third year of seminary. Rod reminded us that the Church of England does not use Deacon language to describe the transitional process. What happens with transitional deacons that never get priested? For example, in Trinidad, they can't be ordained without an opening. Some of them become angry, but not all.

Janet asked if there are others that have experience with folks that get through discernment but get rejected by the COM. Sally has something like a decision tree. Arizona has added a regional filter. Charlene asks the priest to make sure that they are suitable. The smaller congregations have difficulty saying no.

In Oregon, anyone can enter the program at the beginning of the term. Ordination is a separate process. It varies around the country. Some do not make it but they are told that upfront.

Peter's diocese reimburses the deacons for 50% of the academic costs of formation.

Lester asked how people are forming in Human Awareness. He used two books on human development and faith development. Cultural humility is what Maureen tries to teach about. Montana asks the students to go to other churches (not Episcopal) to visit and become aware about other religious communities. Washington does family systems theory. Rod does deep listening skills. Beloved Community is being used. The Episcopal Church has a civil discourse program about conversation with those with whom we disagree. EPPN has it online as a Lenten program. Kaleidoscope by Eric Law was mentioned.