



Archdeacon and Deacon Director's Conference Spring 2015 Open Space Notes

Alternatives to CPE

Facilitator: Jamesetta Glosson Hammons, Diocese of Los Angeles

Scribe: Priscilla Maumus, Diocese of Louisiana

Organizing question by facilitator:

Would some in non-hospital ministries do better in other forms of CPE? Diocese of Los Angeles is looking for alternative forms. They have a program called PRISM centered around restorative justice for postulants involved in prison ministry. It is not yet approved as a substitute for CPE.

- Diocese of Central Gulf Coast did not have to do formal CPE. Required to find a hospital who would let them volunteer there and find a supervisor. Made arrangements with the hospital chaplain. Did verbatims with a mentor (a priest or retired priest who had been through CPE). Did 16 hours a week over a summer plus meetings with supervisor. Now, hospitals have clergy people from all different denominations be volunteer chaplains.
- Why have CPE requirements if you are not going to do chaplain work? In Montana, bishop does not want deacons to be chaplains, but wants them to do social justice work. There is a CPE requirement in Montana, but because CPE is not easily available, the Field Work Program has been developed. (See copy of their field work program on website). Supervisor of field work takes principles of CPE and applies them to a field experience and a parish experience. Postulants write their own proposals for field work.
- In Diocese of New Jersey, started out with CPE as a requirement. Postulants did their work on weekends. Had a supervisor who worked with postulants individually and in groups. Now, postulants have to find their ministry in the world, develop verbatims and undergo supervision from a deacon who has taken CPE, both individually and in a group.
- The Iona School requires two field work experiences in areas postulants have not been previously acquainted with. (Other deacons: This might depend on the size of the town, where there may be limited choices.)
- Bette Kaufmann of West Louisiana says some hospital experience necessary for dealing with sudden crises after ordination when no other clergy is available, for example, sudden death of a parishioner.
- Traveling to CPE was a real hardship for many.
- In Maryland, had a meeting with the bishop and Johns Hopkins about alternative program which taught postulants to be a listening presence, but Hopkins never followed up. So they went with

the Greater Baltimore Medical Center which has a three 10-week programs, who do 120 contact hours in total (as opposed to 400 hours for CPE). Emphasis is on self-awareness. Still have travel problem for some people.

- Do we need program that addresses needs of listening presence with prisoners, addicts, homeless as well as with the sick?
- Program called Prison Visitation and Support program used by Central Gulf Coast Diocese as a substitute for CPE for postulants working with prisoners.
- Northern California has community organizing required. CPE is not required. Stress getting other people to do things. Listening skills come through school and through interaction with field work mentor. They make postulants work somewhere that is a stretch.
- Iona School trained 3 faculty to a five-day IAF training, boiled it down to the essentials for the curriculum. Getting ready to introduce Asset Based Community Development into the curriculum.
- Maylanne Maybee offers a Leadership Development Module at Center for Christian Studies in Winnipeg, Canada. Now a two-week model, then 3 theme years -- one focusing on pastoral care (send out the parishioners to do that.) www.ccsonline.ca. A residential course.

Attendees:

Mary Lenn Dixon, The Iona School, Diocese of Texas

S. Jane Griesbach, Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Ed Richards, Diocese of Central Gulf Coast

Jim Visger, Diocese of Colorado

Gary Brown, Diocese of Northern California

Lynn H. Johnson, Diocese of New Jersey

Sandy Turner, Diocese of Georgia

Bette J. Kauffman, Diocese of Western Louisiana

Jamesetta Glosson Hammons, Diocese of Los Angeles

Aaron Perkins, Diocese of Maine

Holly Hanback, Diocese of Virginia

Roxanne Klingensmith, Diocese of Montana

Michelle Doran, Diocese of Maryland

Tom Tripp, Diocese of Western New York

Maylanne Maybee, Rupert's Land, (Winnipeg MB)

Priscilla Maumus, Diocese of Louisiana