**Commission on Ministry**

The Diocesan Commission on Ministry is charged by the national and diocesan canons to “advise and assist the Bishop in the implementation of the national and diocesan ministry canons.”  It consists of “not less than fifteen members, including Priests, Deacons, and at least six lay persons.  It shall seek to represent the diversity of the Diocese in terms of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities and age” (Canons 20.1.1 and 20.2.1 of the Diocese of Pennsylvania).

“The Commission shall advise and assist the Bishop: (a) In the implementation of Title III [“Ministry”] of these Canons; (b) In the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons; (c) In the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefor” (Canon III.2.2 of *Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church*).

The Commission on Ministry performs its essential work on behalf of the Diocese and the larger Church with prayer, diligence, good spirit, mutual affection and respect, and essential humor. COM members are indeed as diverse as our diocese—in race, gender, liturgical style, economic status, geography, age, politics, and theological conviction. We trust this diversity models for the congregations and clergy of the diocese the diversity of nominees we hope will seek ordination.

Members of the COM are prepared to talk with congregations about the ministry of all the baptized as well the specifics of the ordination process.  The process contains many essential steps, each of which, we pray, allows generous room for the work of the Holy Spirit. Please call or write The Rev. Canon Arlette Benoit Joseph at Church House for details (abenoitjoseph@diopa.org or 215-627-6434, ext.102).

The members of the COM are honored to serve the Diocese and the Church in the holy, moving, and sometimes painful work of helping devout people discern God’s call. There is deep satisfaction and joy in seeing the Holy Spirit move in the lives of those called by God to ordained ministry in the church, and our faith in God and love for our Church are renewed by our work.