**Liturgical Committee**

The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania proposed that a Diocesan Liturgical Commission be formed in 2009. Its stated purpose was to assist those who gather for worship in parishes by uplifting the diverse traditions of “Common Prayer” in the diocese, by sponsoring seminars and workshops on various aspects of liturgical practices and renewal, by making available information, ideas, and programs offered by the Episcopal Church to the clergy and lay leaders of the diocese, and by working in cooperation with those involved with liturgy across the diocese and with organizations in the church dedicated to the renewal of liturgy. Over the past ten years, this has taken place in a variety of ways.

Most recently, the work of the Liturgical Commission was seen when +Bishop Daniel G.P. Gutierrez was ordained and consecrated as the sixteenth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. We also assisted in the planning of the celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of the Ordination of Women that took place at the Church of the Advocate in 2014. While this work is important, it is the less glamourous and more behind the scenes work that we do that really can make a difference for the people in parishes across the diocese. This can only happen, however, if and when we are asked to assist.

Did you know that one of the primary members of the Liturgical Commission is also the Head of the Diocesan Altar Guild? Ms. Dina L. Harvey regularly visits parishes across this diocese and, when invited, assists the members of altar guilds to learn more about the sacred work of caring for the altar, before, during, and after the celebration of Holy Eucharist.

Did you know that another member of the Liturgical Commission, The Rev. Thomas McClellan, holds the historical memory of the diocese and its liturgy? He is someone upon whom we rely for connection to our past so that we can move forward into our future with dignity and purpose. This act of remembering is central to worship.

Did you know that each of the other members of the Liturgical Commission brings a particular gift that might be of use to you as you prepare to celebrate the liturgy? We have musicians, members who have deep understanding of the rites of initiation, artists, and other members with a host of other talents.

Currently, at the request of our bishop, the Liturgical Commission has been compiling a resource that will aid clergy and laity in our understanding of various aspects of the liturgy. Developing this resource has been a slow process, but we want it to be something that you will be able to turn to again and again to answer your questions about worship. And, if it doesn’t, we are always here to answer your questions directly. In the future, as our mission states, we plan to develop workshops and sponsor seminars on various aspects of liturgical practices using this resource as a starting point. If you have particular questions, we are always open to hearing from you.

Think of us group of people who love the liturgy and who are eager to help you worship God in beautiful and authentic ways that “uplift the diverse traditions of ‘common prayer’ in our diocese.

Our committee is comprised of the following people – The Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Mertz-chair, The Very Rev. Judith Sullivan-ex-officio, Ms. Dina L. Harvey; The Rev. Canon Sarah Hedgis, The Rev. Thomas McClellan, The Rev. Mark Smith, The Rev. Emmanuel Williamson, Mrs. Jeanette Woehr

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the liturgy, to know about available resources, or to find out how you can become involved, please contact the chair of the Liturgical Commission, The Rev. Dr. Mary Ann Mertz, rector@stchrisoxford.org, or by cell phone 502-489-1337, and she will direct you to the appropriate member of the Commission who can help or to the Commission itself. Again, we are here for the clergy and laity of the diocese, so please, do not hesitate to write or call us.