

Bishop Kemper School for Ministry
Report to the 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri

In July 2024, we began our 12th year forming future deacons, priests and lay leaders for mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church and beyond.

- On June 30, we bid a fond farewell to the Very Rev. Don H. Compier, who served as BKSM's second dean for a decade. This impact of his ministry on the seminary's growth, positive reputation and student success cannot be underestimated. His legacy will be long-lasting and there will be big shoes to fill as we search for the next dean to lead our seminary.
- To ensure continuity, the Ven. Monte Giddings (Diocese of Kansas) and the Very Rev. Casey Rohleder ('16, Diocese of Kansas) took on the primary responsibilities of the dean for the 2024-25 academic year. It is the search committee's expectation that a new dean will be called sometime in the spring, with a start date no later than July 1, 2025.
- Our enrollments continue to be strong, with the total number of students in the low 40s. This number reflects students on an official track as well as students taking a class (or several) for personal enrichment. On the ecumenical front, we have seen a growing number of students from the Ecumenical Catholic Community (ECC) enrolling in BKSM programs as they prepare for the diaconate and priesthood in their denomination.
- We are deeply grateful for all the ways the Diocese of Missouri participates at BKSM:
 - BKSM graduated 17 students across three ordination tracks and five lay license tracks in May 2024, and Bishop Deon Johnson was the commencement homilist. We are thrilled that the first two graduates from the Diocese of Missouri were in this group: **Carol Brazeale** (Pastoral Ministry Associate certificate) and **Bob Crecelius** (Anglican Studies certificate).
 - To date, five students from the Diocese of Missouri are enrolled for the 2024-25 academic year: one Presbyterian Studies student, three Anglican Studies students, and one Lay Preaching student
 - We are grateful for three outstanding faculty members from the Diocese of Missouri. The **Rev. Dr. Marshall Crossnoe**, teaching *Practice of the Eucharist*, **Sr. Dr. Donna Hawk-Reinhard, AF** teaching *Sacramental Theology*, and the **Rev. Canon Whitney Rice** teaching *Evangelism*
- The BKSM Board of Directors was reconfigured in 2024 so that each of our six partner dioceses has three voting members representing each of the orders: one priest, one deacon, one lay person, plus each bishop participating in an ex officio capacity. Current representatives from the Diocese of Missouri are the **Rev. Dr. Paula Hartsfield**, deacon representative; the Rev. Dr. **Marshall Crossnoe**, priest representative; and **Mr. Mike Folkes**, lay representative. In this year of transition, we are thankful for their gifted and faithful service as a working board.

Yours in Christ,

The Venerable Monte Giddings, Interim Dean

The Very Reverend Casey Rohleder, Interim Assistant Dean for Formation & Pastoral Care

The Rev. Fran Wheeler, Administrative Assistant