Bishop Kemper School for Ministry (BKSM), located in Topeka, Kansas, was founded in 2013 as a collaborative venture of the Episcopal Dioceses of Kansas, Western Kansas, West Missouri, and Nebraska. For the past 10 years, BKSM has supported leadership formation in the Episcopal Church. Today BKSM has grown from the original four to the current six Midwest Episcopal dioceses:

* Kansas, Western Kansas, West Missouri, Nebraska, Missouri, and Iowa

**BKSM offers certificates in:**

 Presbyteral Studies, for ordination as a priest

 Diaconal Studies, for vocational diaconate ordination

 Anglican Studies, for those with previous ministerial education in other denominations

 Lay Catechist

Lay Evangelist

Lay Preaching

Pastoral Leadership

**From inception to the present, BKSM has graduated:**

40 presbyteral students

34 diaconal students

11 Anglican Studies students, who had attended seminary elsewhere, trained in

Anglican Studies and are now priests

16 lay certificate students.

**Why choose BKSM?**

* Like all theological institutions, BKSM is designed to prepare students for mission and ministry.
* What separates BKSM from other institutions is that there is:
	+ An improved work, family, and life balance for students pursuing theological training.
	+ Real world theological experience is brought to bear in the training at BKSM.
		- BKSM delivers practical knowledge and skills by calling on seasoned theologians who work in their associated dioceses to serve as faculty.
	+ BKSM is affordable and accessible.

**BKSM Structure**

* Students meet on Zoom twice a month for those on the ordination track.
* In-person Focus Weekends are dedicated to the study of the Bible, history, theology, preaching and other seminary curriculum.
* Praxis sessions are held monthly on Zoom. In these sessions students gain practical real-world knowledge and/or skills, that are not directly addressed in their program of study.
	+ New ideas, skills, and training modules that support parish needs are explored and developed in these sessions.

**2023 Recap**

* In 2023, BKSM added the Diocese of Missouri and the Diocese of Iowa as associate members.
* The typical BKSM annual enrollment is about 30 students. However, 2023 was an exceptional year in that enrollment climbed to its highest level yet of 40 students pursuing certificates on various tracks. This fall will see a return to the usual level of about 30 students pursuing certificates of study.
* Included across the BKSM curriculum are topics on racial and ethnic diversity. These topics are regularly the focus of monthly evening zoom sessions.
* In 2023, the Doctrine of Discovery course, mandated by the 2018 General Convention, was offered. The course was taught by a Native-American individual, as required. It is named after the papal teaching that justified conquest and enslavement of native people. This doctrine contributed to physical and cultural genocide of Native Americans. The course, while focusing on the Church's contributions to Native-American oppression, seeks to define a new path forward and to implement change.
* The Rev. Charles Everson of the Diocese of Kansas, a graduate of BKSM on the Presbyteral Studies track for the priesthood, was called to serve as a priest in the Diocese of Chicago. We are excited that Rev. Everson’s BKSM studies and training have been recognized outside of the BKSM core dioceses.
* BKSM has been in the forefront of online and distance learning.
	+ Yale Berkeley Divinity School and other institutions are now exploring online and distance learning programs.

**You are invited**

* BKSM extends an invitation to those considering theological studies whether for lay, deacon or priestly ministry to consider the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry as your theological training institution.
* Should you have questions about study at the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, please visit the BKSM website at:

<https://www.bishopkemperschool.org/>

-or-

Contact: The Very Rev. Dr. Don Compier, Dean of the BKSM

Bksmdean2@gmail.com

816.217.4053

**To donate to BKSM:**

Make checks payable to "Bishop Kemper School for Ministry" and mail to:

The Very Rev. Don H. Compier, Dean

Bishop Kemper School for Ministry
410 SE Independence Ave.
Lee's Summit, MO  64063

Or donate online at:

https://[www.diowestmo.org/giving.html](http://www.diowestmo.org/giving.html)