

Director of Ministerial Candidates Report Annual Conference 2024

This Past Year

For me, this past year has been as much about learning as it has been about guiding the Harvest Conference Ministerial Candidates toward Ordination or toward becoming a Consecrated Deacon. Learning the Pathwright System that we now use to guide and monitor the Ministerial Candidates has taken a little time, and implementation of it while some of our Ministerial Candidates are nearing completion of their path has required shuffling between the electronic and paper system. I have met with 19 active Ministerial Candidates this year and updated their individual files with the School of Ministry in order that both they and I know where they are in the academic training portion of the process.

The Year Ahead

As we get the Ministerial Candidates more fully incorporated into the Pathwright System, guiding them will become much more efficient and effective, as their progress can be tracked at a glance. This is not to imply that the electronic element will replace the human element. Though the path to Consecrated Deacon or Ordination is prescribed, as there is an outline to follow, it can still be both confusing and maybe at times overwhelming for some. Each Ministerial Candidate has their own unique personality, challenges, and life circumstances to factor into each step of the process. Getting to know each Ministerial Candidate on a more personal level, being open and available for them, benefits me on how to advise on their path and encourage them along the way.

Relationships, last year I was privileged get to know many of our Ministerial Candidates on a more personal level. In this year ahead I pray to get to know more of them on such a level, fostering mentoring relationships. Yes, being open and available as a mentor, but equally or more importantly demonstrating the importance of creating a culture of mentor-minded Ministerial Candidates in their current and future Ministries. Assuring that the necessary boxes are checked-off the requirement list is only the bare minimum of what I seek to accomplish.

Working Together

Churches, your help is necessary as we move forward. Your individual congregations are where tomorrows leaders will come, both Consecrated Deacons and Ordained Elders. The very moment that someone in your congregations begins to express an interest in Ministry, let us know, send us their contact information, and allow us to help guide them into the process more informed, potentially alleviating some the stress and confusion they may experience.

Thank you,

Pamela Bailey (Director of Ministerial Candidates)