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College of Deacons Synod Report 2026

The College of Deacons' Leadership Team met virtually for our regularly scheduled quarterly meetings this year: March 12, June 11, Sept 10, October 27, plus several more meetings in May and June, as we entered into the new annual review process of proposed canonical amendments. The Leadership Team is composed of Rev. Anna A. Friedrich, Chair; Rev. Matt Foster, Assisting Chair, Rev. James Mumma, Rev. Jan Buchanan, and Rev. Frank McAllister.

Our two primary goals this year were to respond well as a College in the canonical amendments review process, and to develop and share the College of Deacons' Rules of Order, at the request of Bishop Alan. Our regular meetings consisted of a brief check-in, a Biblical reflection, and conversation around continuing to shape the College of Deacons' Leadership Team, our gathering as a College before Synod, and our contribution to the amendments review process.

For the first time, we gathered a Working Group to address the amendment 2026.4.1 Clarity Transfer and Permission. The working group members were Rev. Jim Hagan, Rev. James Kibby, Rev. Canon Ashley Davis, Rev. Matt Foster, and Rev. Anna Friedrich. We sent out a survey to the entire College, welcomed any who were interested in contributing to the Working Group, and together developed our response, representative of the College. We divided into two sub-groups (Revs. Hagan, Kibby, Friedrich in one group &

Revs. Davis, Foster in the other), submitted feedback within the timeframe allotted, and with the College of Deacons' blessing as to its representative truth.

Our College of Deacons' Rules of Order have been adapted from the College of Presbyters' Rules of Order, reviewed by Bishop Alan, and will be distributed at this year's gathering.

As a Leadership Team, we discerned the need to welcome DCOH Deacons into college activities with greater clarity. We have designed a plan to gather seven Deacon Champions that we hope will make up the Leadership Team, under the leadership of Rev. Matt Foster, incoming Chair. These Champions will be short-term leaders of seven areas of diaconal ministry, drawn from the Ordinal: Champion of Gospel Proclamation, Champion of Catechesis, Champion of Worship, Champion of Prayer, Champion of Mercy, Champion of the Nations, & Champion of Interpretation.

We plan to order our time together based on these seven ministry areas, and to gather deacons who are invested or interested in these areas of ministry together in shared prayer and mission. We understand it may take a few years to fill all seven Champion roles and humbly hope to fill 2-4 this first year.

The Rev. Anna A. Friedrich
Chair, College of Deacons