



Training . the . Baptized . for . Leadership

THE IONA SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY



The Episcopal Diocese of Texas
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Houston, TX 77006
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Navasota, TX 77868
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Episcopal Diocese of Texas



St. John's cross near the Iona Abbey on the Isle of Iona, Scotland.



1. The Rev. Tracie Middleton, Vidor Fire Station Chaplain and The Ven. Russ Oechsel prepare the table for Bishop High for Eucharist and Baptism at the station. 2. The Rev. Bill Wigmore offering Eucharist for the Fellowship of the Prodigal, Austin. 3. The Rev. Judith Jones officiating at nuptials at St. Paul's, Pflugerville. 4. The Rev. Link Hullar with friend from Blessing of the Animals at St. Barnabus, Houston. 5. The Rev. Gill Keyworth (in pink shirt) with Galveston clean-up crew.

STUDENTS

Since its opening in the fall of 2004, the Iona School for Ministry has graduated 24 Bi-Vocational Priests and 19 Diaconal students, all ordained and in active ministry.



*Happy Faces at Deacon Graduation, June 2009.
L-R, Jodi Tomberlin, Barbara Van Black, Phyllis Hartman,
Pat Ritchie, and Tracie Middleton.*

ADMINISTRATION & STAFF

The Rt. Rev. Dena Harrison, Executive for Ministry
Ms. Mary MacGregor, Executive Director
The Rev. Sam Todd, Academic Dean
Ms. Julie Heath, Administrator & Registrar
The Rev. Linda Shelton, Coordinator Diaconal Curriculum
The Rev. Pat Richie, Diaconal Fieldwork Supervisor
The Rev. Mary Green, School Chaplain

CONTACT

To learn more about the Iona School and the various tracks, contact Mary MacGregor, mary@epicenter.org, 713-353-2126.

OVERVIEW

The Iona School for Ministry provides the training required by the Diocese of Texas for persons to become Bi-Vocational Priests and Deacons. It has a rigorous curriculum of academic, practical and liturgical instruction. In addition, the Iona School is open to Lay Professionals who are interested in augmenting their theological studies. The school has welcomed students from the Diocese of West Texas and the Diocese of Oklahoma.

HISTORY

In the last several years, the Church has been faced with the growing need for clergy leadership in small congregations with unique challenges and circumstances. Studies indicate that most congregations with 30 to 75 average Sunday worship attendance are struggling to afford the services of a full time priest. Many of these small congregations have depended on supply clergy for worship, but have been left with no clerical oversight of the congregation.

The Rt. Rev. Don Wimberly, 8th Bishop of Texas, set a course of action during his episcopate to address these challenges. It was his vision to establish an internal diocesan school to train persons for the bi-vocational priesthood and diaconate who would serve small congregations for no monetary reward.

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"The most remarkable thing about the Iona School for Ministry is its student body which has included doctors, lawyers, engineers, policemen, firemen, teachers, therapists, homemakers and a judge." The Rev. Sam Todd, Academic Dean

HISTORY (continued)

The establishment of the Iona School for Ministry, in concert with the Committee for the Bi-Vocational Priesthood and the Committee for the Diaconate of the Commission on Ministry, has successfully addressed this challenge.

A three-year program of preparation for the bi-vocational priesthood and diaconate was developed providing comprehensive training for persons who have qualified for enrollment. This program is academically rigorous and includes two years of significant field work. It is designed to meet the academic, liturgical and practical aspects of formation necessary for ordained ministry.

Upon ordination, Bi-Vocational priests will become vicars of small churches which cannot afford full time priests. The deacons become unpaid servants of Christ, working especially with outreach ministries.

TRACKS

Bi-Vocational Priests & Deacons

The School works closely with the Bishop and the diocesan Commission on Ministry (COM) in the formation and evaluation of persons chosen as students. The COM has empowered two sub-committees, the Bi-Vocational Priesthood Committee and the Committee for the Diaconate, to oversee the development of their respective candidates. The Chairs of these committees serve with the diocesan Executive for Ministry, the Executive Director and the Academic Dean of the Iona School for Ministry to periodically assess the Iona School's curriculum and formation program. Diagram A on the following page outlines the process toward the Bi-Vocational Priesthood. Deacon candidates follow a similar process.

Lay Professionals

The Iona School is open to Youth Ministers and Directors of Christian Formation. Those selected will take the same Core Theological Curriculum as the Bi-Vocational Priest and Diaconal students. These classes are held on Saturdays so lay professionals will not stay all weekend.

FACULTY (continued)

Name	Background
The Rev. Link Hullar*	Rector, St. Barnabas Church, Houston
The Rev. Dr. Nathan Jennings	J. Milton Richardson Asst. Professor of Liturgics & Anglican Studies, Seminary of the Southwest
The Rev. Gill Keyworth*	Deacon, Emmanuel Church, Houston
The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Kittredge	Professor of New Testament, Seminary of the Southwest Assisting Priest, Good Shepherd, Austin
The Rev. Dr. John Lewis	Founding Director, Center for Faith in the Workplace
Ms. Mary MacGregor	Executive Director, Iona School for Ministry Director of Leadership Development, EDOT
Ms. Sylvia Maddox	Adjunct Professor in Religious Studies, University of the Incarnate Word
The Rev. Victoria Mason*	Chair, Committee for the Diaconate, EDOT Deacon, St. David's Church, Austin
The Rev. Dr. Durstan McDonald	Retired, Former Dean, Seminary of the Southwest
The Rev. Tracie Middleton*	Deacon, St. John's Church, Silsbee Chaplain, Vidor Fire Station
Mr. Clark Moore	Executive Director, Ubi Caritas
The Rev. Canon Ann Normand	Canon to the Ordinary, EDOT
The Ven. Russ Oechsel*	Archdeacon, EDOT
Ms. Linda Patterson	Chair, EDOT Music Commission
The Rev. Jane Patterson	Co-Director, Center for Faith in the Workplace
The Rev. Murray Powell	Vicar, Lord of the Streets, Houston
The Rev. John Price	Retired, Assisting Priest, Palmer Memorial Church, Houston
The Rev. Pat Ritchie*	Deacon, St. Stephen's Church, Beaumont Chaplain, Ubi Caritas, Beaumont
The Rev. Gerry Sevick	Rector, Trinity Church, The Woodlands
The Rev. Linda Shelton*	Deacon, Palmer Memorial Church, Houston
The Rev. Cecilia Smith	Safe Church Ministry, EDOT
The Rev. Dr. Henry Strobel	Professor, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, University of Texas Health Science Center
The Rev. Sam Todd	Academic Dean, Iona School for Ministry
Dr. Kristine Wallace	Former Professor of Classics, Rice University

FACULTY

The Iona School is fortunate to have highly qualified ordained and lay persons serving on our faculty. Some are active or retired faculty from the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest. Others are leaders in the community and professionals in their respective fields. Below is the 2010-2011 faculty roster.

Name	Background
The Rev. Israel Ahimbisibwe	Boniuk Center Lecturer, Rice University
The Rev. Patsy Barham*	President, Community of Hope International Priest-in-Charge, St. Matthew's Church, Henderson
The Rev. Dr. Greg Buffone*	Coordinator for Diaconal Formation Curriculum, Iona School for Ministry Deacon, St. John the Divine Church, Houston
The Rev. Canon Jaime Case	Canon for Multi-Cultural Ministries, EDOT Ex. Director of Province VII Center for Hispanic Ministry Professor, Seminary of the Southwest
The Rev. Charlie Cook	Retired Professor of Pastoral Theology, Seminary of the Southwest
The Rev. Mark Crawford	Chaplain, St. Luke's Hospital, Sugarland
The Rev. Wanda Cuniff*	Deacon, Christ Church, Nacogdoches
The Rev. Betty Divine*	Diaconate Fieldwork Supervisor, Iona School for Ministry Deacon, St. Mark's Church, Houston
The Rt. Rev. Andy Doyle	Bishop of Texas
The Rev. Daniel Dunlap	Rector, Good Shepherd Church, Tomball
The Rev. Doug Earle	Rector, St. Paul's Church, San Antonio
The Rev. Jeff Fisher	Rector, St. Alban's Church, Waco
The Rev. Bob Flick	Rector, St. Michael's Church, LaMarque
The Rev. Dr. Larry Gipson	Former Rector, St. Martin's Church, Houston
The Rev. Mary Green	Chaplain, St. Luke's Hospital, Houston Chaplain, Iona School for Ministry
The Rev. Hoss Gwin	Vicar, Christ Church, Matagorda

*Graduates of the Iona School for Ministry

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CAMPUS

The Iona School meets at Camp Allen near Navasota, Texas in the heart of the Texas Hill Country surrounded by piney woods. Camp Allen provides classrooms, a chapel, hotel accommodations and meals for students & faculty when in session.



SCHEDULE

The Iona School meets at Camp Allen one weekend a month for ten months of the year from September through June. The weekend begins Friday evening and runs through Sunday lunch. A detailed schedule is below. Graduation is held in Camp Allen's All Saints Chapel in June prior to student ordinations.

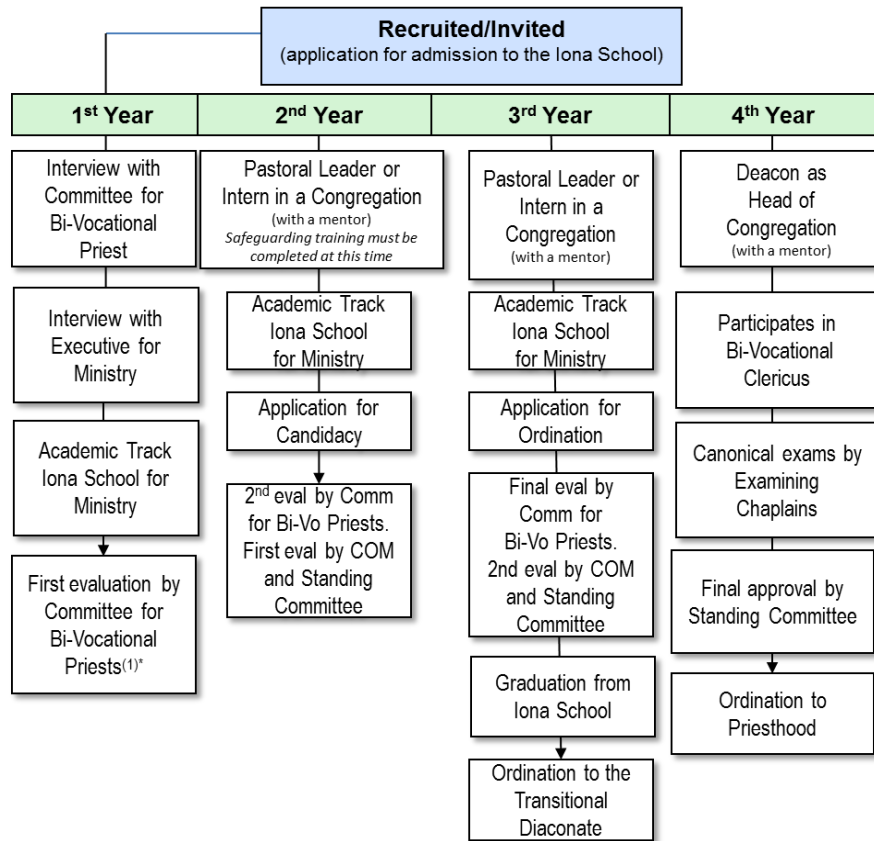
Friday Night	
Check-in	after 3:00pm
EP	5:00pm
Reception	5:30pm
Dinner	6:00-7:00pm
Instruction	7:00-9:00pm
Compline	9:00pm

Saturday Day	
MP	7:30am
Breakfast	8:00-9:00am
Instruction	9:00am-Noon
NP	Noon
Lunch	Noon-1:00pm
Instruction	1:00-3:00pm
Study	3:00-4:00pm
Exam	4:00-5:00pm

Saturday Evening	
EP	5:00pm
Dinner	5:30pm
Instruction	6:30-8:00pm

Sunday	
Breakfast	8:00-9:00am
Eucharist	9:00-10:30am
Instruction	10:30am -12:30pm
Lunch	12:30pm
Check-out	1:00pm

Process to Bi-Vocational Priesthood



TUITION & FEES (2011-2012)

In-Diocese

Annual tuition for In-Diocese Bi-Vocational Priest & Diaconal students is \$2000 for new students, \$1750 for returning students, \$650 for Lay Professionals. The Diocese of Texas subsidizes two-thirds the cost of training for in-diocese students.

Out-of-Diocese

Annual tuition for students outside the Diocese of Texas is \$3600.

Additional Fees

Some additional fees not covered by tuition include:

- Cost of required texts
- School clothing (optional),
- Matriculation fee (graduating seniors only),
- Single accommodation upcharge (optional)
- Travel expenses.

WHAT THEY SAY

“When seminary was not an option, due to my full-time job, God found a way for me to answer His call. The Iona School prepared me well for the work I do ministering to alcoholics and addicts in recovery. I’ll be forever grateful for the doors Iona School opened for me.

The Rev. Bill Wigmore, Iona School Class of 2005, Chaplain to the Fellowship of the Prodigal, Round Rock, TX

“Teaching at Iona School, I experience a level of dedication, commitment, and camaraderie among the students that I do not find in any other institution where I teach (universities and seminaries). The Iona students faithfully and joyfully juggle jobs, families, and study, knowing that when they complete their rigorous three-year course they will enter into service in the church without compensation. I am happy to make my small contribution to the Iona program to honor these faithful Christians who love the church so deeply.”

The Rev. Dr. John G. Lewis, Founding Director, Center for Faith in the Workplace

“When God called me into ordained ministry, I was intellectually unprepared. The three years studying at Iona School deepened my knowledge of scripture, church history, theology and liturgy and enriched my life through relationships with classmates. Combined with the power of the Holy Spirit, this training has enabled me to take on the role of rector of a family-sized parish.”

The Rev. Susan Gerding, Iona School Class of 2008, Rector, St. Luke’s Church, Livingston, TX

The Iona School combines the best of two worlds, students engaged in active ministry, and a tip-notch faculty. It’s a joy to teach in the Iona School because the students are highly motivated, mature, and always prepared for class. They are eager to integrate their learning into their life ministries.

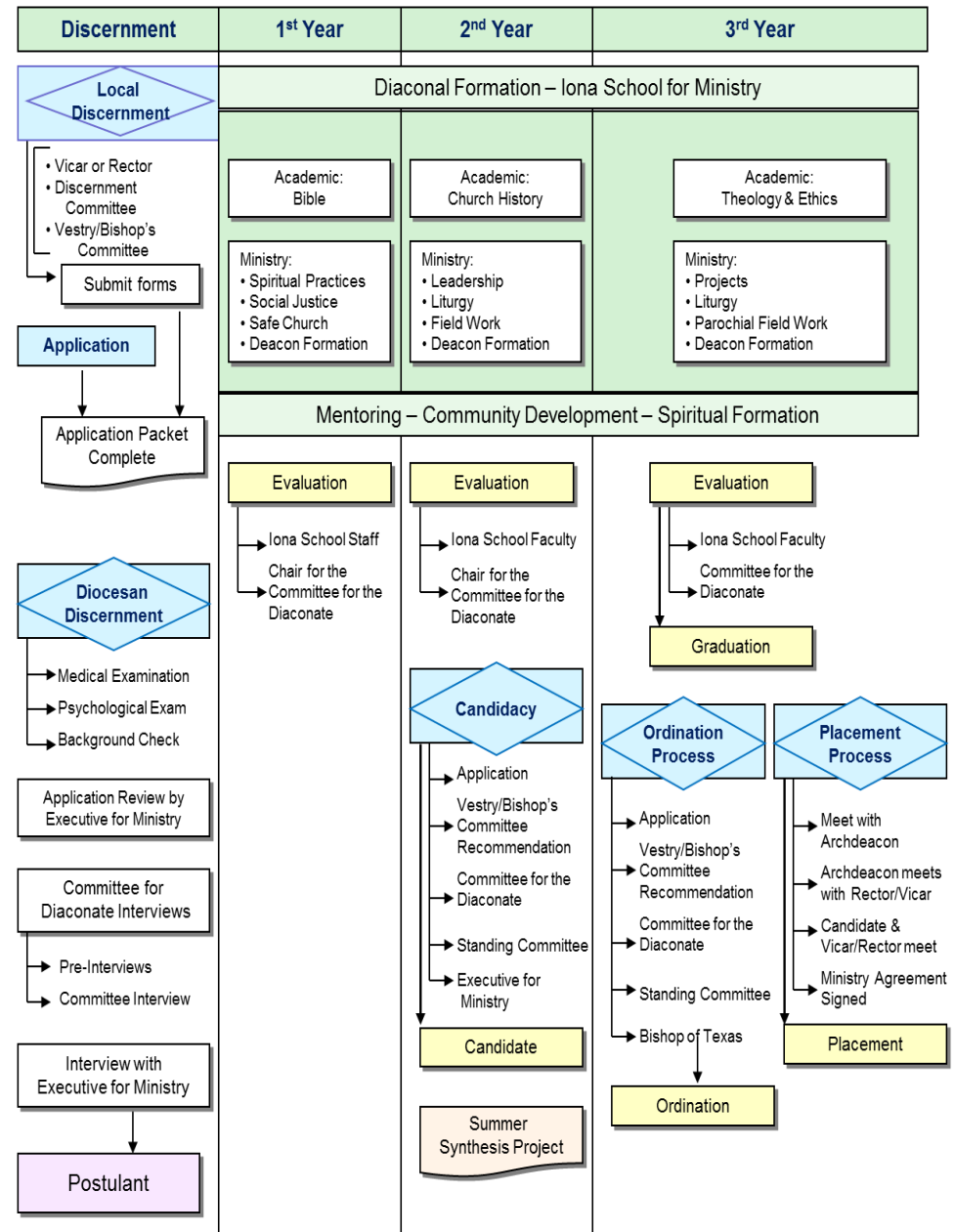
The Rev. Dr. Durstan ‘Dusty’ McDonald
Retired Dean, Seminary of the Southwest

PRACTICAL CURRICULUM (continued)

Spirituality		
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Spiritual Autobiographies	Rule of Life	Rule of Life
Stages of Faith	Lectio Divina	Lectio Divina
Prayer & Temperament	Labyrinth	Labyrinth
Lectio Divina	Reverence: Paying Attention	Reverence: Paying Attention
Sabbath Keeping	Vocation: Living with Purpose	Vocation: Living with Purpose
Self-exam, Sin & Justification	Physical Labor: Carrying Water	Physical Labor: Carrying Water
Grace & Sanctification	Wilderness: Getting Lost	Wilderness: Getting Lost
Celtic Spirituality	Groundedness: Walking on the Earth	Groundedness: Walking on the Earth
Anglican Spirituality	Benediction: Pronouncing Blessings	Benediction: Pronouncing Blessings
Rule of Life	Rule of Life Review: Leaving Legacy	Rule of Life Review: Leaving Legacy

Liturgy		
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Daily Office	Liturgical Planning	Leading in a Family System
Homiletics	Burials	Leading Change
Intro to Holy Eucharist	Christian Initiation	Foundations for Healthy Small Congregations I
Hymns, Poetry, Prayers	Church Year: Advent - Holy Week	Foundations for Healthy Small Congregations II
History & Theology of the BCP	Church Year: Easter-Pentecost	Deacons in the Liturgy
Familiarity with the BCP	Homiletics	Priests in the Liturgy
Holy Eucharist & Prayers of the People	Weddings	Theological Reflection
Conversation re. Assignments	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Orientation to Diocesan Staff
Field Work Review	Healing Liturgies	World Mission

Process for Deacon Discernment & Formation



CURRICULUM

The curriculum is designed to provide students proficiency in the seven areas required by canon: Holy Scripture, Church History, Theology, Ethics & Moral Theology, Liturgy & Music, Contemporary Society, and the Theory & Practice of Ministry. Time is also devoted to community building and spiritual formation. Fieldwork is integrated into the Bi-Vocational & Diaconal tracks. Bi-Vocational Priest students spend a significant amount of time serving as the head of a congregation or intern with a supervising clergy person. The curriculum is three years, consisting of six semesters.

CORE THEOLOGICAL CURRICULUM

First Semester		Second Semester	
OLD TESTAMENT		NEW TESTAMENT	
Year One	Criticism, Sources, History of Ancient Near East	Mark	
	Pentateuch	Matthew; Luke/Acts	
	Historical Books	John	
	Prophetic Books & Ministry	Paul and "Deutero-Paul"	
	The Writings	The Concluding Letters	
ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY		ANGLICAN STUDIES	
Year Two	The Early Church	English Reformation	
	The Imperial Church	The 18 th & 19 th Century English Church	
	The Medieval Church	Christianity in the Modern World	
	Pre-Reformation Christianity in England	The American Episcopal Church	
	Continental Reformation	Contemporary Society	
DOGMATIC THEOLOGY		ETHICS & MORAL THEOLOGY	
Year Three	History of Christian Thought	Human Nature & Sin	
	Apologetics I	Church	
	Apologetics II	The Christian Life	
	God	The Centrality of Love & Justice	
	Christ	Vocation and Practices of Faith	

PRACTICAL CURRICULUM

Having a sound foundation in Holy Scripture, the History of the Church, Theology and Ethics is essential for all clergy in the Diocese of Texas. Iona students in the Diaconal and Bi-Vocational Priesthood tracts participate in these classes together. The diaconal students also participate in some of the same instruction for liturgy and worship as the Bi-Vocational Priesthood students. The diaconal students join with the Bi-Vocational Priest students in classes for the practice of ministry that are pertinent to both tracks.

The core curriculum is supplemented with specific classes pertaining to matters unique to those serving as Bi-Vocational Priests or Deacons. Deacons are required to complete four semesters of field work in addition to their Iona classes. Some of the courses are listed below and on the following pages.

Theory & Practice of Ministry		
Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Spiritual Autobiographies	Self Care	The Pastoral Relationship
Clergy Vesture	Sacramentality & Justice	Intro to Systemic Leadership
Racism	History of the Diaconate	Synthesis Paper Returned
Hospital Visits	Christian Formation	Commitment & Relationships
End of Life	Working w/Non-Profits, Funding Outreach	Grief & Loss: Preparing the Congregation for both
Disciplinary Canons	Ministry to the Homeless	Congregational Seasons & Cycles
Empowering Laity	Jubilee Ministries	Conflict: Resolution & Reconciliation
Multi-Cultural Ministries	Ministry to Seniors	Pastoral Leadership: A Trinitarian Approach
Parish Polity	Synthesis Paper Assignment	Church: Established or Intentional?
Little Churches	Music for Little Churches	Servant Leadership
	Parish Administration	Seasons of Life: Spirituality & Aging

Practical Curriculum continued on next page