

Diocese of Central Pennsylvania
REPORT OF THE DIOCESAN LITURGIST
(Revised)

Annual Convention 2021

The Diocesan Liturgist assists the Bishop in the development of liturgical materials for diocesan functions, such as ordinations, the annual Renewal of Vows for clergy, Clergy Conferences and diocesan Conventions.

In the past year, diaconal and priestly ordinations have been the primary focus of the Liturgist's work. Some changes have taken place due to the limitations of the pandemic: The annual Renewal of Vows service took place in June, instead of Holy Week, and there was no annual Clergy Conference again this year, while the diocesan Convention took place via Zoom last year. Other COVID-related changes have also affected the nature of the Diocesan Liturgist's work: Amended forms of the service known as Communion Under Special Circumstances were developed for parishes that were able to offer the Sacrament on a limited basis. Those materials were developed and were made available to the Diocese for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter. In addition, worship materials were developed for a COVID Memorial Service, which took place at St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg on February 27th.

The process of developing liturgical materials begins with direction concerning the focus and the parameters of the event, which are provided by the Bishop. Drafts of service leaflets are developed and then are refined until they meet with the Bishop's approval. As the process unfolds, coordination with others who are involved in liturgical events takes place: Host congregations, musicians, lectors and preachers are examples of those who are part of the planning process. Ordinations follow a similar process, with the exception that ordinands are asked to state their preferences for some elements of their ordination liturgy. Since the last report, three diaconal and one priestly ordinations have taken place. Usually, the Liturgist serves as Master of Ceremonies and/or as the Bishop's Chaplain for ordinations.

Two planning meetings to make preparations for the Presiding Bishop's visit to the Diocese took place over the summer. That event has been postponed from late October until June, 2022.

Quarterly reports are submitted to the Council of Trustees as part of the work of the Liturgists.

Respectfully submitted,

The Very Rev. Gene R. Tucker
Diocesan Liturgist