

Commission on Education 2009 Annual Report

The Commission on Education has had a productive year planning and providing quality workshops and seminars to the parishes within the Diocese of Atlanta. Our mission is to equip people with information and resources that will help them live out their Baptismal Covenant as active life-long learners.

Our goals this year have been:

1. To support and oversee the Institute of Ministry and Theological Education.
2. To ascertain the current parish-based educational curriculums for preparing adults for Confirmation and increase awareness of how the Sacrament of Confirmation affirms people's Apostolic ministry to do the work of the church.
3. To develop a speaker's bureau for parishes to use as a resource for guest speakers on a variety of topics and to provide other types of assistance as required for excellence in educational offerings.
4. To actively support and engage in the ongoing educational efforts in the Diocese of Atlanta including The Resource Center, The Ministry Fair and the Education for Ministry (EFM) program, as well as trainings required for lay participation in educational events including teacher conferences and workshops as needed.

The Commission conducted a survey of Confirmation curriculum currently in use, and will be offering a workshop for clergy and laity in the coming year on the Sacrament of Confirmation. We will also be offering on April 24, 2010, a conference on Sacred Space at St. Catherine's in Marietta: a topic of great interest in our diocese.

The Institute for Theological Education planned and offered a two year certification course for Christian Education entitled: Foundations for Christian Education which began on January 30-31 2009. Twelve students met monthly and were provided the foundations of an Episcopal approach to Christian formation. The weekend courses are open to all those wish to become certified as Christian Educators and to those who have an interest in a topic and wish to attend one of the sessions.

Also offered by the Institute for Ministry was "The Awareness Course" on September 09, 2009. This was an eight-week course on interfaith awareness.

The Institute also offered a workshop this year on Families & Money: A Role for Communities of Faith on Saturday, September 12, 2009 with Nathan Dungan.

And the Institute is hosting the upcoming Trinity Institute 2010 Conference on January 27, 2010 entitled "Building an Ethical Economy: Theology and the Marketplace"

We have had another successful Ministry Fair this year and have plans to offer our next Diocese of Atlanta Annual Ministry Fair on March 6, 2010.

The commission has been graciously guided in all the above efforts by Resource Center Director Linda Scott.

Members of the Commission on Education this year were Ms. Nancy Armstrong, The Rev. Dena Bearl, The Rev. John Bolton, Ms. RuthElizabeth Conine, Dr. Norma Givens, Karen Maxwell, The Rev. Dcn. Frances Rees, the Rev. Dr. Bradford R. Smith, Phyllis Seitz, The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore and Director Linda Scott.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Donald S. Tate, Chair