

## THE GENERAL BOARD OF EXAMINING CHAPLAINS

### MEMBERSHIP

#### Bishops

The Rt. Rev. Larry Benfield	Arkansas, 2009
The Rt. Rev. Philip M. Duncan II	Central Gulf Coast, 2009
The Rt. Rev. William O. Gregg	North Carolina, 2012
The Rt. Rev. Barry R. Howe, <i>Vice Chair</i>	West Missouri, 2009

#### Clergy with Pastoral Responsibilities

The Rev. Katharine Black	Massachusetts, 2012
The Rev. Mark Taylor Crawford	Texas, 2009
The Very Rev. Mark R. Kowalewski	Los Angeles, 2012
The Rev. Stephen E. Moore	Olympia, 2009
The Rev. Canon Juan A. Quevedo-Bosch	Long Island, 2012
The Rev. Mary Sulerud	Washington, 2009

#### Members of Faculties

The Rev. Stephen Holmgren	Western Michigan, 2012
The Rev. Robert D. Hughes III	Sewanee, 2009
The Rev. Frank Kirkpatrick	Trinity College, 2012
The Rev. Vesta Kowalski	Maine, 2012
The Rev. Richard McCall	ETS, 2012
The Rev. Frederick Schmidt, Jr.	Perkins School of Theology, 2009

#### Lay Persons

Dr. Mary C. Callaway	New York, 2009
Mrs. Josephine R. Giannini	Indianapolis, 2009
Dr. Leonard W. Johnson, <i>Chair</i>	California, 2009
Dr. Sandra D. Michael	Central New York, 2012
Ms. D. Rebecca Snow	Alaska, 2012
Dr. Peter W. Williams	Southern Ohio, 2012

**Administrator:** The Rev. Richard F. Tombaugh, 924 Farmington Avenue, Suite #100, West Hartford, CT 06107

**Board representatives at General Convention:** Bishop Barry R. Howe and the Rev. Stephen Moore are authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report.

### SUMMARY OF WORK

The mandate for the General Board of Examining Chaplains [Canon III.15.2 (a)] reads: “The General Board of Examining Chaplains, with professional assistance, shall prepare at least annually a General Ordination Examination covering the subject matter set forth in Canon III.8.5 (g) and (h), and shall conduct, administer and evaluate it in respect to those Candidates for Holy Orders who have been identified to the Board by their several Bishops.”

During the triennium 2007-2009, the General Board of Examining Chaplains (GBEC) continued its policy of evaluating the General Ordination Exam (GOE) at a single reading session. Beginning in 2007 the readers’ conference has been held at the convention center at the Maritime Institute in Baltimore. The feedback from diocesan and seminary administrators continues to reveal a positive response both to the high level of consistency in evaluations and to the timely distribution of the results. In carrying out its canonical responsibilities, the board:

- Convened at the Cathedral College in October of each year to prepare the General Ordination Examination (GOE) to be administered the following January and to prepare background material for the guidance of readers who evaluate the candidates' papers;
- Arranged for the administration of the GOE annually in all Episcopal Seminaries and at forty to sixty other locations throughout the United States and abroad;
- Recruited, trained, supervised and assisted approximately 100 readers each year in the process of evaluation of candidates' papers (298 candidates in 2007, 251 in 2008 and 225 in 2009);
- Reported the examination results and evaluations to candidates, their diocesan authorities and their seminary deans;
- Sent some members to attend provincial meetings to explain and interpret the work of GBEC and to solicit advice;
- Through a planning committee evaluated each year's GOE, its administration, reader training and results and adapted subsequent years' exams and procedures in response to feedback solicited from candidates, readers, diocesan authorities and others;
- Completed the construction of a dedicated web site that will be used to transmit GOE questions, receive GOE answers and transmit results to bishops and deans of seminaries. The web site has reduced postage and printing costs considerably;
- Reported to the interim meetings of the House of Bishops, as required by Canon;
- Greeted the Rt. Revs William Gregg, elected by the House of Bishops, and Larry Benfield, appointed by the Presiding Bishop, as replacement members of the Board; and
- Greeted the Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal, (who has subsequently resigned from the board) appointed by the Presiding Bishop, to replace the Rev. Harmon Smith and the Rev. Frank Kirkpatrick, appointed by the Presiding Bishop, to replace the Rev. Susan Dolan-Henderson.

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 2007-2009 TRIENNIUM**

	<b>2007 Actual</b>	<b>2008 Forecast</b>	<b>2009 Est.</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><i>Income</i></b>				
Exam fees (1)	130,000	130,000	112,500	372,500
Gen. Conv. Budget	99,135	70,646	72,125	241,906
<b>Total</b>	<b>229,135</b>	<b>200,646</b>	<b>184,625</b>	<b>614,406</b>
<b><i>Expenses</i></b>				
Salaries and Benefits (2)	40,045	45,416	46,975	132,436
Board Meetings				
Reader's Meetings	141,137	110,000	94,450	345,587
Office Expenses	47,352	44,730	44,700	136,782
<b>Total</b>	<b>228,534</b>	<b>200,146</b>	<b>186,125</b>	<b>614,805</b>

**Notes**

- (1) These figures represent \$500 x the number of candidates taking the exam.  
 (2) Benefits include health insurance, pension payments, and 50% of Social Security.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING TRIENNIUM**

The principal objectives of the board and its administrator during the next triennium will be to continue to fulfill their canonical responsibilities as described in Title III, Canon 15.2(a), namely to develop annually a General Ordination Examination; to administer it to certified candidates; to evaluate the results; and to report the results to candidates, their diocesan authorities and their seminary deans.

In addition the board will:

- Continue to work to create examinations the answers to which will provide diocesan authorities with useful information for diagnosis and assessment of their candidates;
- Continue to provide seminaries and dioceses with statistics about performance on the annual GOE;

- Look forward to working with other church-wide, provincial and diocesan groups involved in theological education to better to serve bishops, students and their dioceses; and
- Continue working to refine the GBEC web site as a vehicle for providing easy access to information about the workings of the GBEC and ease of administering and reporting results of the GOE.

**BUDGET APPROPRIATION**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><i>Income</i></b>				
Exam fees (1)	100,000	100,000	100,000	300,000
<b><i>Expenses</i></b>				
Salaries and benefits(2)	47,347	49,033	50,937	147,317
Readers' meetings	97,720	101,880	106,440	306,040
Office expense	42,340	43,410	44,500	130,250
<b>Total</b>	<b>187,407</b>	<b>194,323</b>	<b>201,877</b>	<b>583,607</b>

**Notes**

- (1) This figure represents a fee of \$500 x estimates of 200 candidates each year.  
 (2) Benefits include health insurance, pension payments, and 50% of Social Security.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION A179 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE GBEC**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the following amount be appropriated from the General
- 2 Convention budget for the General Board of Examining Chaplains: \$187,407 in 2010; \$194,323 in 2011; and
- 3 \$201,877 in 2012; for a total of \$583,607 for the triennium.

**BOARD TRAVEL AND MEETINGS**

The General Board of Examining Chaplains will meet nine times during the next triennium. This will require \$81,200 for 2010; \$81,200 for 2011; \$81,200 for 2012; for a total of \$243,600 for the triennium.

**RESOLUTION A180 GENERAL ORDINATION EXAM FEE**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the authorization for the General Board of Examining Chaplains
- 2 to charge a fee for the General Ordination Examination be continued for the next triennium, such fee not to
- 3 exceed \$500 per candidate; this authorization is granted with the proviso that fees shall be reduced or waived, at
- 4 the Administrator's discretion, for qualified candidates who are unable to obtain funds for the stated fee.

**RESOLUTION A181 AMEND CANON III.15.2(A)**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That Canon III.15.2 (a) is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 2     **Sec. 2(a)** The General Board of Examining Chaplains, with professional assistance, shall prepare at least
- 3 annually a General Ordination Examination covering the subject matter set forth in Canon III.8.5 (g) ~~and~~
- 4 ~~(h)~~, and shall conduct, administer and evaluate it in respect to those Candidates for Holy Orders who
- 5 have been identified to the Board by their several Bishops.

**EXPLANATION**

Canon III.8.5 (g) identifies the seven academic areas proficiency in which is considered necessary for ordination. The General Ordination Examination assesses proficiency in those areas through a half-day essay question on each taken over a week's time. Canon III.8.5 (h) identifies four policy and technical areas (prevention of sexual misconduct, civil and church requirements for responding to possible abuse, the Constitution and Canons, especially the discipline canons, and the church's teaching on racism). These four areas do not lend themselves to assessment by essay exams. The civil and diocesan reporting requirements are subject to sufficient variation by jurisdiction that a national examination would be difficult to craft. Seminaries and dioceses are already providing

and requiring training in these areas. It appears more appropriate to assess the individual candidate's understanding of these areas at the local level through other assessment tools than a written exam. In addition, adding four more questions would (1) unreasonably lengthen the current testing period; (2) require additional board members with different expertise than is currently provided for in the Canons; and (3) require more readers or a longer reading period to evaluate the results, thus increasing expenses. The General Board of Examining Chaplains therefore recommends deletion of this cross-reference from its canonical mandate.