

The General Board of Examining Chaplains

MEMBERSHIP

Bishops

- The Rt. Rev. James B. Brown (Louisiana) 1997
- The Rt. Rev. Robert L. Ladehoff (Oregon) 1997, *Vice-Chair*
- The Rt. Rev. Hays H. Rockwell (Missouri) 2000
- The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, Jr. (Western Michigan) replaced
The Rt. Rev. David C. Bowman (Western New York)

Clergy with Pastoral Responsibilities

- The Rev. Anne W. Robbins (Southern Ohio) 1997
- The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Duncan, Jr. (Pittsburgh) 1997
- The Rev. Carole J. McGowan (Rio Grande) 1997
- The Rev. Michael B. Curry (Maryland) 2000
- The Rev. John H. Loving (Northwest Texas) 2000
- The Rev. Harold T. Lewis (Pittsburgh) replaced
The Rev. Edward F. Glusman Jr. (East Tennessee) R.I.P.

Members of Faculties

- The Very Rev. William H. Petersen (Bexley Hall) 1997*
- The Very Rev. Guy F. Lytle (Sewanee) 1997
- The Rev. Ellen K. Wondra (Bexley Hall) 1997
- The Rev. Leonel L. Mitchell (Seabury-Western) 2000
- The Rev. Charles P. Price (VTS) 2000*
- The Rev. Charles W. Taylor (CDSP) 2000

Lay Persons

- Pamela W. Darling (Pennsylvania) 1997
- Warren C. Ramshaw (Central New York) 1997, *Chair**
- John C. Wolf (Northwest Texas) 1997
- Mary S. Donovan (New York) 2000
- Alda M. Morgan (California) 2000
- Joseph H. Smith (Springfield) 2000

Administrator

- The Rev. Locke E. Bowman, Jr. (North Carolina)

Assistant

- The Rev. Thomas N. Rightmyer (North Carolina)

*Completing second term; members of the Board may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Board representatives at General Convention

Bishop Robert L. Ladehoff and Deputy Warren C. Ramshaw are authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report.

GENERAL BOARD OF EXAMINING CHAPLAINS

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD'S WORK

During the triennium 1995-1997, the General Board of Examining Chaplains (GBEC):

1. convened at the College of Preachers in October of each year to prepare the General Ordination Examination (GOE) to be administered the following January, and produced background material for the guidance of readers who would evaluate the candidates' papers;
2. arranged for the administration of the GOE annually in thirty-five to forty locations throughout the United States and abroad;
3. recruited, supervised, and assisted readers in the evaluation process (220-269 candidates per year; 140 to 165 readers; five to seven locations);
4. reported the examination results and recommendations to candidates, their diocesan authorities, and seminary deans;
5. informed seminary deans concerning how their candidates compared with those from other seminaries; In this comparison, seminaries were not identified by name but by an arbitrary alphabetical designation;
6. participated in monitoring the church's entire process of recruitment and training for ordination (of which the GOE is a part), by providing representation to diocesan and provincial meetings to explain and interpret the work of the GBEC and sharing collaborative discussions with organizations such as the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars, the Board for Theological Education, the Council of Seminary Deans, the Council for the Development of Ministry, and the Presiding Bishop's Select Committee of Bishops and Deans;
7. considered and put into use revisions of the Canons adopted by the 1994 General Convention, under which the GBEC operates, to allow for the addition of outside consultants for assistance with examination areas not fully represented by the GBEC membership;
8. continued the use of test cases in which each reading station received for evaluation from one to three examinations that were also being read in other stations; these multiple evaluations have helped the Board to identify expectations and procedures that may cause differences in judgment among the stations;
9. examined the implications of the increased use of computers to write responses to the GOE;
10. began planning for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the use of the GOE, which will occur in 1997, and be marked by a 1998 issue of the Church Historical Society's journal, *Anglican and Episcopal History*; this project is to be funded, in part, by the Episcopal Church Foundation;
11. noted with sorrow the death of long-time GBEC member, the Rev. Edward F. Giusman, Jr., in May, 1996; he was a person of keen insights and creative ideas, whose many contributions to the Board's work were invaluable;
12. accepted the decision of Bishop Gordon T. Charlton to retire from his duties as Administrator of the GOE and Executive Secretary of the GBEC; Bishop Charlton served the Board with great distinction, devotion, and energy from 1989 to the spring of 1996;
13. appointed the Rev. Locke E. Bowman, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Christian Education and Pastoral Theology, and retired Director of the Center for the Ministry of Teaching, Virginia Theological Seminary, as Bishop Charlton's successor in office;
14. greeted Bishop Edward L. Lee, Jr., and the Rev. Harold T. Lewis as replacement members of the GBEC, elected by the House of Bishops, October, 1996; and
15. reported annually through its vice-chair to the interim meetings of the House of Bishops, as required by Canon.

GENERAL BOARD OF EXAMINING CHAPLAINS

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 1995-1997 TRIENNium

	1995 <i>Actual</i>	1996 <i>Projected</i>	1997 <i>Budget</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Income</i>				
Exam fees (1)	\$80,400	\$66,000	\$60,000	\$206,400
Gen. Conv. Budget (2)	22,114	27,602	99,568	149,284
<i>Total</i> (3)	\$102,514	\$93,602	\$159,568	\$355,684
<i>Expenses</i>				
Salaries and benefits (4)	-----	-----	\$54,983	\$54,983
Board meetings	19,394	16,093	19,000	54,487
Readers' meetings	58,536	61,965	61,965	182,466
Office expense; equipment	24,584	15,544	23,620	63,748
<i>Total</i>	\$102,514	\$93,602	\$159,568	\$355,684

Notes:

- (1) These figures represent \$300 x the number of candidates taking the exam.
- (2) Expenses for 1995 and 1996 were under budget by \$2,536 and \$7,893 respectively. Income from exams is likely to be greater than projected in the 1997 budget, and expenses will be considerably under the budget estimate.
- (3) Figures for 1995 and 1996 do not include salaries and benefits. This item has been added in the 1997 budgeting procedure.
- (4) See Note 3.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR THE COMING TRIENNium

Canon III.32 defines the responsibilities of the General Board of Examining Chaplains. The Board is to develop annually a General Ordination Examination; to administer it to certified candidates; and to evaluate the results and report them to the candidates, their diocesan authorities, and their seminary deans. The principal objectives of the Board and its Executive during the next triennium will be to continue accomplishing those tasks in as fair and efficient a manner as possible.

The Board will continue to monitor and evaluate its own procedures for selecting, training, and evaluating readers, in order to minimize errors, judgments, and expressions that may create the appearance, if not the reality, of significant variations in the evaluative work of readers at the several stations. Statistical means of measuring and comparing the examination results will be continued, and strengthened where possible. By employing greater pre-meeting preparation, the Board will make its process for creating examination questions (and background material) more effective and efficient. New procedures, already initiated by the Rev. Locke E. Bowman, will be used to allow the Board more meeting time and energy for the necessary writing and editing steps. The Board seeks to create annual examinations that are both measuring instruments and stimuli for learning.

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The Board will continue its ongoing effort to help diocesan authorities to make proper and full use of the GOE results. These results ought not to be regarded on a "pass or fail" basis; on the contrary, they provide potentially useful data of a diagnostic or analytical nature. The GOE results should not be the sole or final determinant of a candidate's readiness for ordination, but they do provide a view, not otherwise available, to be given due weight along with seminary reports and other data. The GOE advises diocesan authorities about a candidate's examination results as compared with other candidates seeking ordination at the same time. To make these points clear may be the GBEC's greatest challenge, because the manner in which its products are used is beyond the Board's control except by persuasion. The value of the entire GOE effort depends upon the use of its information by diocesan authorities in the ways intended.

BUDGET APPROPRIATION

	1998	1999	2000	Total
<i>Income</i>				
Exam fees (1)	\$63,000	\$65,100	\$69,000	\$197,100
General Conv. Budget (2)	99,623	100,588	100,143	300,354
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<i>Total</i>	\$162,623	\$165,688	\$169,143	\$497,454
 <i>Expenses</i>				
Salaries and benefits (3)	\$54,983	\$54,983	\$54,983	\$164,949
Board meetings	22,475	23,350	23,925	69,750
Readers' meetings	64,300	65,900	67,600	197,800
Office expenses	19,240	19,755	20,385	59,380
Staff travel (program)	1,625	1,700	2,250	5,575
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<i>Total</i>	\$162,623	\$165,688	\$169,143	\$497,454

Notes:

- (1) This figure represents a fee of \$300 x estimates of 210, 217, and 230 candidates in the respective years.
- (2) This figure represents the amount necessary to balance estimated expenses.
- (3) In contrast to the practice in previous triennia, the salaries and benefits for two part-time clergy employees are now included in the GBEC budget. Benefits include health insurance, pension payments, and 50 per cent of Social Security. The figures do not reflect possible adjustments during the triennium.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution A055 General Board of Examining Chaplains Budget Appropriation

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the following amounts be appropriated from the
- 2 General Convention Budget for the General Board of Examining Chaplains: \$99,623 for 1998, \$100,588
- 3 for 1999, and \$100,143 for 2000. This totals \$300,354 for the triennium.

GENERAL BOARD OF EXAMINING CHAPLAINS

Resolution A056 General Ordination Exam Fees

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the authorization for the General Board of Examining
2 Chaplains to charge a fee for the General Ordination Examinations be continued for the next triennium,
3 such fee not to exceed \$300.00 per candidate; this authorization is granted with the proviso that fees
4 shall be reduced or waived, at the Administrator's discretion, for qualified Candidates who are unable to
5 obtain payment of the stated fee.

Resolution A057 On the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the General Ordination Examination

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That this 72nd General Convention records its gratitude
2 for the memory of Bishop Stephen Bayne, who conceived and promoted the idea of the General
3 Ordination Examination, and to the more than 3,400 men and women, lay and ordained, who, over the
4 last twenty-five years, have served as members of the General Board of Examining Chaplains or as
5 Readers of the annual General Ordination Examination, and have brought a nationally-acknowledged
6 standard of proficiency to theological education in the Episcopal Church for the use of diocesan
7 authorities as an element in making ordination decisions.

Explanation

On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first offering of the General Ordination Examination in 1972, it is appropriate that the General Convention acknowledge the contributions of Bishop Bayne and the many others who have created and developed a national standard by which candidates can be evaluated by their dioceses. This standard helps to make real the concept that women and men, when they are admitted to Holy Orders, are in fact ordained for the whole church.

Respectfully submitted by Warren C. Ramshaw, *Chairman* and Locke E. Bowman, Jr., *Administrator*