

The General Board of Examining Chaplains

MEMBERSHIP

Bishops

The Rt. Rev. Hays H. Rockwell (Missouri) 2000
The Rt. Rev. Robert L. Ladehoff (Oregon) 2003, *chair*
The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, Jr. (Western Michigan) 2001
The Rt. Rev. Arthur E. Walmsley (Connecticut, Retired) 2003

Clergy with Pastoral Responsibilities

The Rev. Michael B. Curry (Maryland) 2000 *
The Rev. Mark Taylor Crawford (Texas) 2003
The Very Rev. Philip M. Duncan II (Dallas) 2003
The Rev. Harold T. Lewis (Pittsburgh) 2000
The Rev. John H. Loving (Northwest Texas) 2000
The Rev. Canon Anne W. Robbins (Southern Ohio) 2003, *vice chair*

Members of Faculties

The Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal (General) 2003
The Very Rev. Guy F. Lytle (Sewanee) 2003
The Rev. Leonel L. Mitchell (Seabury-Western) 2000
The Rev. Charles P. Price (VTS) 2000 *
The Rev. Harmon L. Smith (Duke) 2000
The Rev. Ellen K. Wondra (Bexley Hall) 2003

Lay persons

Dr. Mary C. Callaway (New York) 2003
Dr. Mary S. Donovan (New York) 2000
Mrs. Josephine R. Giannini (Indianapolis) 2003
Dr. Leonard W. Johnson (California) 2003
Dr. Susan Hill Lindley (Minnesota) 2000
Dr. Alda M. Morgan (California) 2000
* Resigned

Administrator

The Rev. Locke E. Bowman, Jr., 800 Eastowne Drive #104, Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Assistant

The Rev. Thomas N. Rightmyer

Board representatives at General Convention

Bishop Robert L. Ladehoff and Deputy Anne W. Robbins are authorized to received non-substantive amendments to this report.

RESPONSE TO 1997 RESOLUTION

The 72nd General Convention passed the following resolution: “Resolved, that the General Board of Examining Chaplains, with information resources such as bishops, seminary deans, Commission on Ministry, and any other sources it may deem necessary, studies and evaluates the timing, function, and purpose of the General Ordination Exams. The General Board of Examining Chaplains shall report its study and evaluation, along with any recommendations and/or canonical changes, to the 73rd General Convention.” (B006s)

In response to this resolution, the Board hosted a consultation in June 1998. Our meeting included Bishops Grein and Louttit, representatives of the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, and seminary deans, as well as members of our board’s Planning Committee.

There was agreement that a uniform national examination is of value to the church and that such an exam should continue. All those present for the consultation realized the difficulties of timing. We have heard reports that the present timing (early January during a student’s senior year) may adversely affect a student’s final year of study. We have been told that students often spend a major part of their time during the first half of the senior year preparing for this exam. Once they have completed the examination, some students no longer seem motivated in their studies.

We proposed moving the examination to the end of a student’s middle year. The exams would then be read and evaluated during the summer. The seminaries and diocesan commissions on ministry would be encouraged to work in partnership to design a program of additional study for each student that would deal with any weaknesses shown in the exam and that would build on the student’s strengths.

Members of the Board visited each of the church’s eleven seminaries and met with all the faculties, to present this proposal and to seek their response. While the faculties expressed gratitude for our effort, only one faculty expressed support for the proposal. Faculty members were concerned about the changes in curriculum our proposal would make necessary. They also recognized that they simply would not have time for the additional work with individual students that this proposal requires.

The faculties advised that we stay with the present timing.

Our administrator, the Rev. Dr. Locke Bowman, has received either written or telephoned responses from twenty-three bishops, offering their advice. Only three of them recommended changing the time of the exam.

While the Board recognizes the difficulties of the present timing of the examination, we have not been able to find a better time. We will continue our study of this matter. Since the canons do not specify the time when the exam is given, a change could be made without amending the canons.

As we continue our study, we encourage bishops, seminaries, and commissions on ministry to work together to lessen the pressure on the students who take this examination.

SUMMARY OF THE BOARD'S WORK

During the triennium 1997-2000, the General Board of Examining Chaplains also:

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;

Arranged for the administration of the GOE annually in thirty-five to forty locations throughout the United States and abroad;

Recruited, supervised, and assisted readers in the evaluation process (191-200 candidates per year; 100-110 readers);

Reported the examination results and recommendations to candidates, their diocesan authorities, and seminary deans;

Attended diocesan and provincial meetings to explain and interpret the work of the GBEC, while conducting similar efforts by mail and telephone;

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;

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;

Through a Planning Committee, evaluated each year's GOE, its administration and results; adapted and altered subsequent years' exams and procedures in response to feedback solicited from candidates, readers, diocesan authorities, and others;

Marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the GOE, which occurred in 1997, by publishing in the September 1998 issue of *Anglican and Episcopal History*, the journal of the Historical Society of the Episcopal Church, the history of these examinations, a project funded in part by the Episcopal Church Foundation;

Sought the advice of those experienced in testing, to find ways of providing greater consistency in the evaluation of the examinations. As a result of their counsel, the 2000 examinations were all read and evaluated in one central location, rather than using several locations, as has been done in previous years;

Mourned the death of the Rev. Dr. Charles P. Price, who served faithfully on this board for eleven years;

Reported through its chair to the interim meeting of the House of Bishops, as required by Canon.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE 1997-200 TRIENNIUM

	1998	1999	2000	Total
	Actual	Actual	Actual	
Income				
Exam fees (1)	\$ 57,300	\$ 57,900	\$ 60,000	\$ 175,200
Gen. Conv. Budget (2)	<u>93,693</u>	<u>120,004</u>	<u>134,175</u>	<u>347,872</u>
Total	150,993	177,904	194,175	523,072
Expenses				
Salaries and benefits (3)	60,143	77,179	83,531	220,853
Board meetings	27,226	23,350	23,925	74,501
Readers' meetings	54,493	66,375	74,175	195,043
Office expenses	<u>9,131</u>	<u>11,000</u>	<u>12,544</u>	<u>32,675</u>
Total	150,993	177,904	194,175	523,072

Notes:

- 1) These figures represent \$300 x the number of candidates taking the exam.
- 2) Expenses for 1998 were under budget by \$11,630. Income from exams was lower than projected in the budget because of a reduced number of candidates.
- 3) Benefits include health insurance, pension payments, and 50 per cent of Social Security.

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 electing, 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. Statistical means of measuring and comparing the examination results will be continued and strengthened where possible.

The Board will continue to find ways for making the process for creating examinations questions (and background material) more effective and efficient. The Board seeks to create annual examinations that are both measuring instruments and stimuli for learning.

We will study carefully the effectiveness of the procedures, initiated by the Rev. Locke Bowman and introduced in 2000, to provide a more even-handed system for evaluating papers.

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 determination of a candidate's readiness for ordination, but they do provide a view, not otherwise available, to be given due

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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

	2001	2002	2003	Total
Income				
Exam fees (1)	73,500	77,000	78,750	229,250
Gen. Conv. Budget (2)	<u>127,089</u>	<u>130,042</u>	<u>134,581</u>	<u>391,712</u>
Total	200,589	207,042	213,331	620,962
Expenses				
Salaries and benefits (3)	85,189	88,492	91,556	265,237
Board meetings	24,500	25,000	25,450	74,950
Readers' meetings	75,200	76,000	78,000	229,200
Office expenses	14,150	15,850	16,500	46,500
Staff travel (program)	<u>1,550</u>	<u>1,700</u>	<u>1,825</u>	<u>5,075</u>
Total	200,589	207,042	213,331	620,962

Notes

- 4) This figure represents a fee of \$350 x estimates of 210, 220, and 225 candidates in the respective years.
- 5) This figure represents the amount necessary to balance estimated expenses.
- 6) Benefits *include* health insurance, pension payments, and 50 per cent of Social Security.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution A060 General Board of Examining Chaplains Budget Appropriation

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the following amount
- 2 be appropriated from the General Convention Budget for the General Board of
- 3 Examining Chaplains: \$127,089 in 2001, \$130,042 in 2002, and \$134,581 in
- 4 2003. This totals \$391,712 for the triennium.

Resolution A061 General Ordination Exam Fee

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the authorization for the
- 2 General Board of Examining Chaplains to charge a fee for the General Ordination
- 3 Examinations be continued for the next triennium, such fee not to exceed
- 4 \$350.00 per candidate; this authorization is granted with the proviso that fees
- 5 shall be reduced or waived, at the Administrator's discretion, for qualified candi-
- 6 dates who are unable to obtain funds for the stated fee.