

GENERAL BOARD OF EXAMINING CHAPLAINS

Membership

Bishops

The Rt. Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin, Chair	Long Island, II,	2027
The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens	Connecticut, I,	2027

Clergy with Pastoral Responsibilities

The Rev. Canon Michael A. Bamberger	Los Angeles, VIII,	2027
The Rev. Dr. Christopher W. Corbin	Fond du Lac, V,	2027
The Rev. Dr. Miranda K. Hassett	Milwaukee, V,	2024
The Rev. Dr. Rhonda M. Lee	North Carolina, IV,	2027
The Rev. Milquella R. Mendoza	Dominican Republic, IX,	2024
The Rev. Dr. Mark D. Story	Oklahoma, VII,	2024

Members of Faculties

The Rev. Dr. Carla E. Roland Guzmán	New York, II,	2027
The Rev. Dr. L. Calvin Lane	Southern Ohio, V,	2024
The Rev. Canon Dr. Hugh R. Page	Northern Indiana, V,	2027
Canon Dr. Gregory A. Robbins	Colorado, VI,	2024
The Rev. Canon Dr. Kara N. Slade, Vice Chair	New Jersey, II,	2024
The Rev. Canon Dr. Andrew R. Wright	Newark, II,	2027

Lay Persons

Dr. Martha E. B. Alexander	North Carolina, IV,	2027
Dr. L. Zoe Cole	Colorado, VI,	2027
Ms. Rachel B. Erdman	Maryland, III,	2024
Ms. Janet P. Roth	Oregon, VIII,	2024
Dr. Peter W. Williams	North Carolina, IV,	2027

Appointments

The Board declined to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of Ms. Beth M. Bojarski (Rochester, II, 2024).

Ex Officio

The Most Rev. Dr. Michael B. Curry

Ms. Julia A. Harris

Executive Director, Secretary to the Board and GOE Administrator

Duncan C. Ely (South Carolina, IV), 67 Anson St., Charleston, SC 29401-1529

Changes in Membership

- Resignations in 2022:
 - Ms. Beth M. Bojarski (Rochester, II, 2024).

The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin is authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report.

Mandate

The General Board of Examining Chaplains' canonical mandate [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."

Summary of Work

The GBEC has been creatively, innovatively and professionally carrying out its canonical responsibilities during the 2022-2024 Triennium, including:

- Refining and continuing through its annual cycle of work:
 - March – May with Question Writing Team recruitment and appointment;
 - June – September with writing and refining questions and their scoring rubrics and with inviting nominations for candidates to sit for the GOE;
 - October – December with vetting and adopting final questions and scoring rubrics; with continuing administrative work with nominated candidates and their seminaries and dioceses; with recruiting and appointing Evaluation Teams and finalizing evaluator training; and with preparing for the electronic administration of the GOE;
 - January – February with administering the exam; with training and qualifying evaluators; with answer evaluation, written feedback and providing results; and with administrative business such as invoicing.
- Continuing long-range restructuring and transforming of all processes and structures under the guidance of its board, staff, professional educational testing and Internet technology consultants, and others to:
 - Recruit volunteers;
 - Improve efficiency and volunteer training specifically in writing questions and evaluating examination answers;
 - Reduce expenses;
 - Provide a GOE that is responsive to TEC’s changing needs;
 - Adhere to the latest and most professional psychometric standards for question creation, volunteer (especially evaluator) training and answer evaluation.
- Administering electronically an annual GOE at all Episcopal seminaries and at more than fifty additional locations throughout the United States and abroad in English and Spanish to:
 - 179 candidates in 2022
 - 179 in 2023
 - 179 (estimated in 2024)

- Evaluating GOE answers and reporting the GOE results and recommendations to:
 - candidates
 - diocesan authorities
 - seminary deans (about results and how their candidates compared with those from other seminaries)
- Meeting at:
 - Annual Meetings of October 4-7, 2022 at Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores, NC; October 3-6, 2023 at Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores, NC; and October 8-11 2024 at Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores, NC.; to finalize and approve the GOE questions and scoring rubrics and transact other business;
 - Evaluation Meetings of February 12-17, 2022 via Zoom and other electronic means due to the pandemic; February 13-16, 2023 at Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores, NC; and February 19-22, 2024 at Trinity Center, Pine Knoll Shores, NC; to verify all not proficient answers and write evaluations of those answers.
- Fostering communication with constituents (bishops, candidates, dioceses, seminaries and TEC at large) via website and other electronic means such as:
 - Through GBEC Chair’s annual letter to the House of Bishops;
 - Visits by Executive Director annually in 2019 and 2021 to nearly all Episcopal seminaries and other educational institutions with Episcopal students to meet with students, administrators and faculty, and via Zoom in 2020.
- Managing volunteer corps of about 100 people from throughout TEC by:
 - Recruiting, training, supervising and assisting volunteers in each annual cycle.
 - Utilizing annually about one hundred volunteers working electronically on:
 - Question Writing Teams
 - Field Testing Teams
 - Evaluation Teams
 - Editing and Office Teams

- Evaluating the GBEC's administration and processes (including question writing and answer evaluating) to:
 - Adapt and improve subsequent exams and procedures;
 - Improve volunteer administration and training.
- Receiving feedback from constituents, consultants, staff, board, other volunteers and people from the wider Church evidencing:
 - Timely distribution of GOE results;
 - High level of consistency in evaluations;
 - Efficient management;
 - Responsive communication.
- Continuing to improve a dedicated website to:
 - Impart information about the GBEC and its ministry and the GOEs;
 - Receive nominations of people to take the GOE;
 - Transmit GOE questions, receive GOE answers and supply results to candidates, bishops and seminary deans;
 - Improve communication and reduce to a minimum postage and printing costs;
 - Maintain extensive online information for electronic and print distribution to:
 - Describe the GBEC's history and purpose;
 - Explain the GOE and its administration and evaluation;
 - Post tips for taking the exam;
 - Provide the past fifteen years of GOEs;
 - Make available to candidates interactive practice GOE questions.
- Maintaining Standards for each of the six canonical areas:
 - Widely distributed them throughout TEC for feedback;
 - Published them on the GBEC website.

Report to the 81st General Convention

- Collecting and published extensive annual statistics, a very basic example of which is:

2022 GOE	Overall				Mdiv (Current/Former)				Cioc. Or Locally Trained			
Candidates	161				131				16			
	Proficient		Not Proficient		Proficient		Not Proficient		Proficient		Not Proficient	
Holy Scriptures	129	80%	32	20%	112	85%	19	15%	8	50%	8	50%
Church History	126	78%	35	22%	106	81%	25	19%	9	56%	7	44%
Christian Ethics	117	73%	44	27%	101	77%	30	23%	9	56%	7	44%
Practice of Min.	142	88%	19	12%	119	91%	12	9%	11	69%	5	31%
Christian Theolo.	148	92%	13	8%	122	93%	9	7%	14	88%	2	13%
Christian Worsh.	125	78%	36	22%	105	80%	26	20%	8	50%	8	50%
2023 GOE	Overall				Mdiv (Current/Former)				Cioc. Or Locally Trained			
Candidates	169				142				16			
	Proficient		Not Proficient		Proficient		Not Proficient		Proficient		Not Proficient	
Holy Scriptures	138	82%	31	18%	121	85%	21	15%	9	53%	9	47%
Church History	144	85%	25	15%	121	85%	21	15%	11	84%	3	16%
Christian Ethics	138	82%	31	18%	117	82%	25	18%	10	79%	4	21%
Practice of Min.	154	91%	15	9%	127	89%	15	11%	16	100%	0	0%
Christian Theolo.	148	88%	21	12%	126	89%	16	11%	12	79%	4	21%
Christian Worsh.	137	81%	32	19%	116	82%	26	18%	11	74%	5	26%

2024 (not available by date of submission of this report)

Comments: The GBEC and its testing consultant consider a 75-80% proficiency rate an indication of a good GOE. The actual overall average proficiency rate is 83% for 2016 and 78% for 2017.

Goals and Objectives for the 2019-2021 Triennium

The GBEC's principal objectives during the next triennium will be to continue fulfilling its canonical responsibilities:

- Developing annually a General Ordination Examination;
- Administering it;
- Evaluating the answers;
- Reporting the results to candidates, diocesan authorities and seminary deans;
- Collating and report statistics and analysis.
- Instituting surveys requesting feedback from all constituencies (bishops, candidates dioceses, seminaries and volunteers).

In addition, the GBEC plans to continue:

- Creating examinations that will provide diocesan authorities with useful information for diagnosis and assessment of their candidates;
- Providing seminaries and dioceses with statistics about performance on the annual GOE;
- Reducing costs, leveraging resources, improving efficiency, increasing use of electronic technology, and responding to the needs of TEC with a professionally designed and administered GOE;
- Refining and updating the GBEC website to:
 - Reflect the GBEC's transparency about its work;
 - Allow easy access to information about the GBEC and the GOE;
 - Make the electronic administration of the GOE as user-friendly as possible.
- Building relationships by:
 - Committing to board development and training;
 - Collaborating with other church-wide, provincial and diocesan groups;
 - Working with Episcopal and other seminaries and educational institutions;
 - Communicating with bishops, students and their dioceses.
- Maintain detailed and extensive statistics for every annual cycle.

Board Travel and Meetings

The General Board of Examining Chaplains will meet three times during the next triennium, requiring \$30,000 for 2025, \$30,000 for 2026 and \$30,000 for 2027, for a total of \$90,000 for the triennium.