



## THE ANGLICAN STUDIES PROGRAM

### *The Iliff School of Theology/Episcopal Church in Colorado*

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT of the Anglican Studies Program of Iliff School of Theology/Episcopal Church in Colorado known as Saint Bede's Chapel, a special congregation, to the 130<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION of the Diocese of Colorado – October 12-14, 2017

Mission statement: The Iliff School of Theology has joined with the Episcopal Church in Colorado to provide a specific component of the M.Div. degree designed to satisfy the canonical requirements for Postulants seeking ordination in the Episcopal Church. Ordinarily, students will have undergone a substantial process of discernment process and will have approval of their Commission on Ministry and Bishop prior to enrolling. Those who are not pursuing ordination in the Episcopal Church, may nevertheless earn a Certificate in Anglican Studies by completing a four course, non-degree plan of study tailored to the vocational goals of the student.

Submitted by: Canon Gregory Allen Robbins, Director, The Anglican Studies Program

### Executive Summary

Since the last report to Convention, the Anglican Studies Program at the Iliff School of Theology continued to thrive.

#### **1. On-line course offerings**

We continue to deliver our full complement of Anglican Studies courses online, but now in a three-year rotation instead of two. As an institution, Iliff's contribution to the Anglican Studies Program is to fund all adjunct salaries, roughly \$12,600 per year. At the end of the spring term 2017, Iliff made the decision that denominational course offerings would be limited to the winter and spring quarters. This move will allow entering and continuing students to concentrate in the fall on the required formational and breadth courses that are common to the curriculum before moving on to more specialized work. The advantage to the Anglican Studies Program this curricular formatting affords, is that our online offerings will have now a "hybrid" component, in that Iliff will allow our instructors to offer face-to-face, mid-term workshops and practicums during the Journey Days meetings when distance learners come to campus Wednesday through Saturday of the fifth week.

In the 2016 autumn quarter, "English Reformations," was offered by Canon Robbins. In the 2017 winter quarter, Dr. Austin Leininger offered "Anglican Liturgy." In the 2017 spring term, Chancellor Larry Hitt offered "The Anglican Communion and Polity of the Episcopal Church.

The course schedule for 2018 will include two of our most popular courses: IST 2145, “Anglicanism in Africa” in winter, taught by Dr. Erin Nourse, and IST 2351, “Anglican Devotional Life: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Practice,” taught by Dr. Leininger.

## **2. Students**

As a result of our move to on-line offerings, the Anglican Studies Program at Iliff continues to attract a greater number of students, drawn from a wider geographical area and from other denominations and religious traditions. The average number of students enrolled in our courses has grown to 10. However, “English Reformations,” which included modules on the rise of Methodism, and postcolonial Africa, drew 19 students. Students who have enrolled in our courses over the past year live in Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, New Mexico, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania. United Methodist students, especially, have found our courses attractive and helpful.

## **3. Graduates**

During Iliff’s commencement on June 8, 2017 at Saint Andrew’s United Methodist Church in Highlands Ranch, five students were awarded the M.Div. degree with a concentration and certificate in Anglican Studies: Charla Woodward Belinski, Katherine Lee Flahive, Dorcia Earlene Johnson, Amy Underhill Lythgoe, and Katie Curran Pearson. This group constituted 12.5% of the Master of Divinity degrees awarded this year at Iliff. All five had overall GPAs in their degree programs meriting the additional honor of completion “with distinction.”

At the Honors Convocation on May 31, 2017, prior to the commencement exercises, Amy Lythgoe was recognized for her work, along with others, to reenergize the Student Senate at Iliff.

## **4. Student Involvement**

Amy Lythgoe also represented the Anglican Studies Program at the Episcopal Relief and Development-sponsored Seminary Network conference held at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP), February 2-5, 2017, in Berkeley, CA.

## **5. Student Scholarships**

Amy Lythgoe was awarded the Wallace B. and Jean Dalby Clift Anglican Studies Scholarship to support her final year of studies in the Program at Iliff.

## **6. Ordinations**

Following graduation Bishop O’Neill ordained Amy Lythgoe (now serving at St. John’s, Boulder) to the sacred order of Priests on Saturday, June 10, 2017, at Saint John’s Cathedral. Also ordained Priest was Therese Colburn (Saint John’s Cathedral), who completed the M.Div. in the Anglican Studies Program at Iliff. Dawn Elizabeth Shepler, a 2016 M.Div. graduate of the Anglican Studies Program, was ordained to the permanent diaconate, and is doing hospital chaplaincy in Columbia, MO. Katie Pearson, a 2017 M.Div. graduate of the Anglican Studies Program was ordained to the transitional diaconate and is serving at Saint John’s Cathedral as well. Janice Head, who has completed her coursework at Iliff and is doing a year of study at the School of Theology at Sewanee, was also ordained to the transitional diaconate.

## 7. Community building/formation

### 7.1 Journey Days Gatherings

Several students in the Anglican Studies Program are enrolled in the M.Div. "Journey" Program at Iliff. Students in that degree track normally take 2/3 of their course work on-line or in a hybrid format. During the 5<sup>th</sup> week of every quarter and during the summer months, they "journey" to Iliff for a long weekend of study, formation and fellowship. To enhance that experience for Anglican Studies students, the director and faculty members host house Masses and dinners in their homes or gather students at local restaurants or the University Club. M.Div. student Annie Groves hosted us in the fall; Professors Robbins and Hitt entertained in winter and spring.

7.2 The Anglican Studies Program provided appropriate array of "Fat Tuesday" cookies and strings of Mardi Gras beads for the entire Iliff community throughout the day on Shrove Tuesday 2017.

7.3 Episcopal visit: Bishop O'Neill made his annual visit to Saint Bede's Chapel on May 3, 2017. He celebrated and preached at Iliff's Community Worship service at 11 a.m. His visit came one week after an emotional visit of United Methodist Bishop Karen Oliveto's visit to the campus and Community Worship (Oliveto, who is openly gay and married to a same-sex spouse, is facing ecclesiastical discipline). Bishop O'Neill's remarks, drawing upon his own experience of rift in Colorado over such issues, and his display of heartfelt solidarity were much appreciated by the Iliff community.

## 8. Workshops

8.1 On March 5, 2016, the Anglican Studies Program co-sponsored with the Board of Examining Chaplains at day-long workshop, "Theology in Motion," lead by Dr. Patrick Malloy, interim dean of Saint John's Cathedral. The practicum built upon insights from his well-received 2007 book, *Celebrating the Eucharist*.

## 9. News of the Director

In addition to directing of the Anglican Studies Program, Gregory Robbins:

9.1 Presented a paper at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the North American Patristics Society at an invited panel, "Patristic Reception in Post-Reformation Europe." The title of his paper was, "John Keble, the Fathers, and the Reform of Parish Life." May 25-27, 2017.

9.2 Robbins' article, "'Many a Gaud and a Glittering Toy' (Sayers): Fourth-Century Gospel Books," was published in *Studia Patristica: Biblica, Philosophica, Theologica, Ethica, Hagiographica, Ascetica* Vol. LXXXIX (Leuven: Peeters, 2017).

9.3 Robbins presented a draft of his Reacting to the Past pedagogical game, "Newman's Decision," at the Annual Fellows' Meeting, Society for Values in Higher Education, July 12-16, Simmons College, Boston, MA