

Report of the **ANGLICAN STUDIES PROGRAM** (St. Bede's Congregation, Iliff School of Theology) to the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado—October 7-9, 2021.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Anglican Studies Program at the Iliff School of Theology serves the Episcopal Church in Colorado by providing dynamic opportunities for comprehensive, graduate theological education.

## DESCRIPTION

Twenty-six years ago the Iliff School of Theology joined with the Episcopal Church in Colorado to provide a specific component of the MDiv 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 and will have approval of their Commission on Ministry and Bishop prior to enrolling.

Students seeking ordination in the Episcopal Church complete the MDiv degree, incorporating four or more Anglican Studies courses. Some of these may be taken as electives; some fulfill core requirements of the M.Div. Students who complete four of the Anglican Studies and/or cognate courses (in consultation with the Director of Anglican Studies, regardless of degree program, ordination, or professional plans), will be eligible to receive a Graduate Certificate in Anglican Studies.

Courses offered under the auspices of the Anglican Studies Program are also open to non-degree students - including lay persons - seeking to enhance their ministries. Clergy pursuing continuing education opportunities are also encouraged to take advantage of the resources of Iliff and the Anglican Studies Program.

*All* Anglican Studies courses and most Iliff courses are offered on-line. For that reason, the Anglican Studies Program draws students from dioceses throughout the country. The Anglican Studies Program provides students unusual access and flexibility.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Even with the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-21 academic year, the Anglican Studies Program evolved and innovated to meet the needs of the Episcopal Church in Colorado and the needs of the broader Episcopal Church for quality, graduate theological education. All courses in the three-year rotation of on-line offerings were scheduled as planned.

## GRADUATES

During the 2021 Iliff School of Theology's Commencement exercises, which also honored 2020 graduates belatedly, the Anglican Studies Program was pleased to have one of its students, the Reverend Mr. David Matthew Morris (Episcopal Diocese of Olympia), named as Iliff's 2020 Outstanding M.Div. Student of the Year. Annually, the awardee is nominated and voted upon by

the Iliff faculty and is the School of Theology's highest academic honor bestowed upon a graduating senior.

## COURSES AND FACULTY

Because of revisions to the curriculum at Iliff, which frontloads required courses in the autumn quarter, the Anglican Studies Program now offers courses in the winter and spring terms only. As noted above, Anglican Studies courses are taught in a three-year rotation. In the winter of 2022, Director Robbins will offer his on-line seminar on "English Reformations." In spring 2022, faculty member, Dr. Austin Leininger, will teach a new course, "Contemporary Episcopal Ethics" (also on-line).

## DENOMINATIONAL PARTNERS

As a result of the long-standing and mutually supportive relationship between the Anglican Studies Program and the Iliff School of Theology, Iliff welcomes Denominational Partners to sit in on courses and weekend seminars with the approval of the Dean's Office or by prior arrangement with your church (usually requiring a letter from the Rector or Priest-in-Charge). These courses are NOT offered for credit. Those seeking academic credit must register as non-degree students and register for courses through the Registrar's Office. Denominational Partners are charged a reduced fee of \$100.00 per credit hour. Courses required for ordination or other church appointments/ministries may count towards this category. Please contact the Iliff Dean's Office for more information: 303-765-3183.

## NEWS OF THE DIRECTOR

Professor Gregory Allen Robbins, director of the Anglican Studies Program, was elected to a six-year term on the General Board of Examining Chaplains at the 2018 General Convention. In light of the pandemic, his term has been extended. At the end of spring term 2022, Robbins will retire fully from the University of Denver's Department of Religious Studies and from the Anglican Studies Program. In 2021, Robbins published a book chapter, "Genesis 1-11 in the *Qatsi* Film Trilogy," *The Oxford Handbook of the Bible and American Popular Culture*, edited by Dan W. Clanton Jr. and Terry R. Clark, 293-308. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, and a journal article, "'Finding Similar Things': Anomalies in Eusebius' Sections and Canons." *Studia Patristica* 92, no. 18 (2021). Robbins has been appointed co-editor of *Soundings – An Interdisciplinary Journal* (Pennsylvania University Press).

Respectfully submitted,

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