



Report of the Anglican Studies Program at Iliff School of Theology to the 138th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado—October 9-11, 2025

The Anglican Studies Program at Iliff School of Theology, University of Denver, is a partnership program between The Episcopal Church in Colorado and Iliff School of Theology, Denver's United Methodist Seminary, in order to offer critical formation for Episcopal MDiv (Master of Divinity) students working toward ordination in the Episcopal Church, as well as formation and enrichment for laity seeking to learn more about the Anglican Tradition and to help grow in their vocational ministries. The program hosts denominational courses in Episcopal Liturgy, Ethics, Anglican Spirituality, English Reformation (including History of the Episcopal Church), Polity and Canon Law, occasional electives, and an Anglican Colloquium specifically designed to help MDiv students in the program to integrate all the areas of Anglican Study in preparation for sitting for the General Ordination Exams (GOEs), required for ordination.

In cooperation with The Episcopal Church in Colorado, the Bishop (Bishop Kym Lucas) provides direction for the program in consultation with the Canon for Formation and Pastoral Care (Canon Greg Foraker), which is implemented at Iliff through collaboration with the bishop's appointed director of Anglican Studies (The Rev. Dr. Austin L. Leininger), Iliff's President (The Rev. Dr. Lee H. Butler, jr.), and Iliff's Vice president of Academic Affairs (The Rev. Dr. Cathie Kelsey).

For the past year, The Rev. Dr. Austin Leininger has had the honor and privilege to serve as the Interim Director of Anglican Studies for Iliff's Anglican Studies Program as well as teaching as Adjunct Faculty for Iliff's offerings of Anglican Studies courses.

Winter of 2025, the program offered the Anglican Colloquium, taught by The Rev. Dr. Gary Brower, Spring of 2025 the program offered English Reformations, taught by The Rev. Dr. Austin Leininger. Historically, Anglican Studies courses have only been offered in Winter and Spring, but starting in Fall of 2025, Iliff switched over to the Semester System, and began offering Anglican Studies Courses in both the Fall and Spring Semesters. The Rev. Dr. Leininger has been working with both Iliff and the Diocese on this transitional academic year's classes. Currently we're in the midst of our Fall offering, Anglican Spirituality, and in the spring, Polity will be offered with the help of The Rev. Tory Moir (ABD) and Bishop Kym.

Changes to the program over the past year include weekly Anglican Gatherings on Thursdays both in person and on Zoom, a monthly Episcopal Eucharistic Liturgy followed by fellowship "hour" (replacing the last Thursday gathering of each month), and continued offering of Gathering Days Liturgy and Program Hosted Dinner. Since the move during COVID to an almost all online education model, formation has been a difficult question. Thanks to the help of The Rev. Marc Smith, Cathie Kelsey, and Canon Greg, we've also begun the initial stages of developing a program for student formation that includes mentorship, liturgical participation, accountability groups for practicing spiritual

disciplines, and prayer. (We hope to implement this program in the next semester or by next fall at the latest.)

Challenges for the program come from the remote nature of our Online student population. With only a few in-person students, and only some of the courses requiring Hybrid participation (i.e. mostly online with some synchronized and in person meetings during the once per semester Gathering Days week), there are few of us to gather in person, and those in other parts of the world are not in the same time-zone. Navigating these difficulties is part of the work done on a weekly basis from the Director of Anglican Studies' office on campus at Iliff School of Theology.

Long-term plans for Anglican Studies, both from the Diocese and from Iliff, include strategies to increase the number of students in the program so that we can offer two to three courses per term rather than just one. Ideally, we would all like for Anglican Studies at Iliff to be a place where laity as well as clergy-in-training can come to learn more about our tradition!

For our scholars in the diocese who would like to teach for Iliff, please reach out and contact The Rev. Dr. Austin Leininger at aleininger@iliff.edu (NB: PhD's are required by Iliff for teaching all of their graduate level courses). Since The Rev. Dr. Leininger is currently teaching five out of the program's six core-denominational courses, more voices are both desired and needed to ensure a plurality of perspectives for our students in formation.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Dr. Austin Leininger
Interim Director of Anglican Studies
Iliff School of Theology