

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan's  
Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry  
is offering . . .

**another session of the popular  
CHRISTIANS: WHO ARE WE?  
program begins in August 2011!  
Sign up NOW!**

CHRISTIANS: WHO ARE WE? is a residential study program for persons in the diocese who are preparing to take up a particular ministry (ordained or otherwise) or who simply would like to learn more about the faith and practice of the church. It meets from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. The first weekend is August 26-28, 2011 and continues every month through June 2012.

The August weekend is set up as a retreat at the Ralph A McMullen Center near Higgins Lake. All the other weekends (September 2011 through June 2012) meet at the Colombiere Conference and Retreat Center at Clarkston, Michigan. Both sites are easily accessible via I-75.

There are four "academic" classes: theology, scripture, church history, liturgy and the prayer book. In addition there is a spiritual formation class with the goal of helping students deepen their relationship with God, discover their ministry gifts, and discern their call to lay or ordained ministry. The CHRISTIANS: WHO ARE WE? program is year one of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan's three-year local ordination formation program.

The tuition is \$3300 per year and includes two nights lodging and six meals. The tuition is payable in two installments: November and April. A diocesan subsidy for one-third of this may be available upon request.

The deadline for signing up for CHRISTIANS: WHO ARE WE? is May 1, 2011. If you are interested in participating in the 2011-2012 program, please contact the Rev. Elsa Presentin at 989-752-6020 or [revelsasp@gmail.com](mailto:revelsasp@gmail.com) ASAP for more information! An admission form is available with this information.

**Sign up now for CHRISTIANS: WHO ARE WE?**

Fourteen persons from around the Diocese completed the first CHRISTIANS: WHO ARE WE? program. Some of their comments are on the back of this page. Comments from students about the CHRISTIANS: WHO ARE WE? program . . .

*I can't image a better environment for learning than the Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry. Small, seminar-style classes, instructors who care deeply about both their subjects and their students, courses in which you really dig deeply into what it means to be a Christian, and, perhaps most important, bonds of companionship that will last a lifetime. And it's fun, too! (Brian Chace, St. Francis' Grayling)*

*"... adds a tremendous depth of understanding for anyone who wants to explore their faith, not just those who hope to become ordained as a deacon or as a priest." (Bobbie Sage, St. Barthomew's, Mio)*

*I found the first year at the Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry to be not only challenging, but also exciting. The program has opened my life to a better understanding of my faith, and a closer relationship with God. It's been a wonderful experience! (Gary Short, Grace Church, Port Huron)*

*Coppage-Gordon is not simply a school experience to enhance education or to explore a calling to ministry. Beyond the instructors, books and assignments, and class time lie strong, newly-found friendships in a closely-knit family of students who have bonded together in their common quest for education. (Sharon Voelker, St. John's, Saginaw)*

*This isn't your ordinary Bible study! (Jeanette Bommarito, Grace Church, Port Huron)*

*I've learned more about our history and the Bible, how we see God, and how we worship in these few months than I could have learned on my own in a much longer period of time. (Linda Rathburn, St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc)*

*A wonderful journey! I came away from the first year much more knowledgeable than when I started and my spirituality grew just as much. (Pam Lynch, St. Andrew's, Gaylord)*

*"If every child in America could laugh as much as we did while learning at the same time, they would be little geniuses. It has been one of the most powerful experiences of my life. (Sue Colavincenzo, St. Dunstan's, Davison)*