

Dean of Iona School for Ministry

Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Episcopal Diocese of Texas seeks a Dean for the Iona School for Ministry to lead the Diocese's local formation school. The Dean will work with the Executive for Ministry, Bishop Suffragan Kai Ryan, to maintain and update the curriculum, recruit and supervise instructors, and build on the current strong community ethos to provide excellent formation for students preparing for ordained and lay ministries in the Church.

Vision and Development of School:

- Assist the Executive for Ministry in leading and managing the Iona School to advance the mission of the Diocese of Texas.
- Work with the Executive for Ministry and other bishops and leaders to identify formational needs of the diocese appropriate to include within the School and collaborate to design and implement such offerings.
- Implement and adapt the curricula to strengthen the competencies of graduates, using the TEAC (Theological Education in the Anglican Communion) guidelines.

Oversee School Operations:

- Recommend instructors and staff positions and supervise and evaluate faculty and staff once selected.
- Orient instructors to course objectives, pedagogical guidelines, and student assessment expectations.
- Oversee, if ordained, the Iona School chapel.
- Teach student courses for orientation and other courses, as assigned.
- Enhance approaches to pedagogy.
- Lead year-end evaluation meeting with staff and Executive for Ministry.

Student assessment:

- Review assessments of students submitted by instructors.
- Coordinate collective evaluations for each student and prepare required evaluation letters to home dioceses.

Administration (in collaboration with and/or supported by Iona School Administrator):

- Develop schedule for academic year and edit student and faculty handbooks.
- Be present for and run weekend schedule for each session.

Qualifications:

- Commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and to work for the building up of the Church.
- Embody the EDOT Staff Core Values: Professionalism, Joy, Bridge-building, Humility, Integrity, Creativity, Holy Ambition.
- Love scripture, theology, and the Episcopal Church and feel called to help the Church join God's mission in the world.
- Training in or working knowledge in one or more of the following areas: pedagogical strategies, non-traditional education programs, advanced theological studies, congregational leadership.
- Experience and knowledge in teaching adults and in forming leaders for the mission of Christ.
- Ability to work without direct supervision and to lead and supervise others with clarity and compassion.
- Ability to spend one weekend per month at Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas and to travel as needed.
- Strong written and oral communication, and organizational and administrative skills.
- Education beyond master's level is preferred; ordained Episcopal priest preferred.

This is a part-time compensated position. Residence in the Diocese of Texas is required.

Please email resume by April 30, 2021 to: htownsend@epicenter.org



About the Episcopal Diocese of Texas' Iona School of Ministry

The Iona School for Ministry provides a high quality, non-degree program of formation for students preparing for ordination to the diaconate or the priesthood in the Episcopal Church or for lay ministry. The ordination formation is designed for those preparing for bivocational or diaconal ministry, rather than fulltime stipendiary ministry, and therefore choose or are directed to a formation program whose demands are consistent with working fulltime or handling other significant life-demands while in formation.

The Iona School aims to help students achieve competency for ministry as laid out in the standards prepared by the Theological Education in the Anglican Communion group, using methods of pedagogy found to be effective with adult learners. We understand that learning to think and converse theologically undergirds all other competencies, whether headed toward lay or ordained ministry. The curriculum is built around core academic courses on a three-year track, with ministry courses and practicum to round out the canonical areas of formation. Community life, worship, and field education beyond the weekends combine with class work to complete the formation program. The program is designed to be engaged in person at Camp Allen one weekend per month, ten months each year (Sept.-May). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Iona School pivoted to provide remote instruction, worship, and community life.

The Iona School is a member of the Iona Collaborative, a group of diocesan schools working with the Iona Center of the Seminary of the Southwest. Students and instructors, through the Collaborative, have access to a host of materials and the library of the Seminary which support formation.

The Iona School for Ministry works with the Bishops of the Diocese of Texas to ensure that the formation prepares students to demonstrate competencies laid out in the canons of the Episcopal Church for ordination. The ordination process itself, however, is under the authority of the Bishop Diocesan and the Executive for Ministry, with the collaboration of the Commission on Ministry and its working groups (the Committee for the Diaconate and the Examining Chaplains).

In addition to the formation for those preparing for the diaconate and the priesthood, Iona School currently offers concentrations in:

- Lay Preaching
- Missional Leadership

And is preparing to offer all programs, beginning with the diaconal preparation, for Spanish speakers and those serving in Latino communities.

In the coming year, the Executive for Ministry and the Iona Dean(s) will be assessing whether concentrations or programs in the following areas would serve the formation needs of the Diocese of Texas:

- Multicultural leadership
- Spiritual formation and direction

Our hope is to gather a diverse community, both of instructors and students, curious about cultural differences, formed by theological texts emerging from a variety of cultures, and equipped to serve effectively across cultures to share the love of Jesus Christ through the ministry and mission of the Episcopal Church.

For more information about the Iona School for Ministry or the position of Dean, please contact the Rt. Rev. Kathryn M. Ryan, Bishop Suffragan. htownsend@epicenter.org