

## **Clergy Corner ~ Rev. Jerry Brabec**

(On staff at St. Paul Church since 1990, Rev. Brabec has been appointed to serve in an ordained clergy capacity since 2000.)

After serving the Nebraska Annual Conference for twelve years (1996-2008) on the Board of Ordained Ministry, it was certainly a surprise when Bishop Jones asked for further service in 2016! As the Chair of the Order of Deacons for the now Great Plains Conference, it is my responsibility to relate to the BOM as the spiritual caretaker of those called to a ministry of word, service, compassion and justice in the states of Kansas and Nebraska for the next quadrennium.

There are twenty-eight persons in our Conference who have completed the educational and seminary requirements to ordain as Deacons. Four more are in the process of becoming fully ordained. Their ministries are widely varied with some serving the local church in a full-time relationship as pastor, musician or Christian Educator and some serving in secular positions while relating to their local congregations in less than full-time ways.

Responsibilities to the Board include serving on the Executive Team, full participation in four meetings during the year, and duties as assigned by the Bishop for the Orders and Fellowship gathering in January and Annual Conference in June.

My mother always said, "You can do anything for as long as it takes" ...in this case three more years! Wish me luck.