



**For a Person Discerning a Call to become a Priest (For Specialized Ministry)**

**Beginning of discernment:**

- Enter into conversation with their priest to share their sense of call to the priesthood and to seek the guidance of the priest.
- If the priest is satisfied that that individual has the gifts, experience and character suitable for consideration for ordained ministry and there is a specific ministry need in the parish or region for a Priest for Specialized Ministry, the priest will gather four laypersons (usually the wardens and two others) to meet with the individual to further consider the individual's suitability. In particular, the gifts and characteristics the individual possesses which make him/her suited for the ordained ministry should be considered as well as any limitations or concerns of which they are aware which might hinder the individual in the exercise of ordained ministry.

**Applicant:**

- Meet with the Director of Human Resources
- Provide the following documentation to the Director of Human Resources by either August 31<sup>st</sup> or February 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Resume
  - Application for Sponsorship
  - Letter of Support from Parish Leadership
  - Sponsoring Priest's Applicant Assessment Form (This may be sent directly to the Executive Archdeacon by the priest.)
  - Copy of Driver's Licence (A valid driver's licence is generally a requirement for successful performance as a parish priest.)
  - Copy of Baptism Certificate
  - Copy of Confirmation Certificate
  - Police Records Check
  - A picture (an informal snapshot is fine)
- Applicant meets with the Intake Committee who makes a determination as to whether or not the applicant should proceed to the next step.
- Upon recommendation by the Intake Committee, the applicant has an interview with the bishop who decides whether or not the applicant is to be admitted to the postulancy process.

- At any point in this process, the applicant may be asked to undergo specific testing to determine their aptitude for ordained ministry.

**Postulant:**

- The postulant is assigned an Examining Chaplain. The chaplain helps guide the postulant through the process and reports the postulant's progress to the Postulancy Board. It is the postulant's responsibility to ensure that they are in regular contact with his/her chaplain. A postulant should schedule no less than four (4) formal meetings (in person or by video conferencing) with his/her chaplain annually.
- During their postulancy, a postulant is required to:
  - Successfully complete the prescribed training course.
  - Attend an ACPO (Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination) Conference. You will usually receive one to two months notice of the conference which will allow adequate time for you to complete the necessary paperwork for this.
  - Attend the Fall Postulancy event which is held annually on a Friday to Saturday in September or early October.
  - Undergo a vocational assessment through the Southdown Institute to be arranged by the diocesan office.
  - Meet regularly with a spiritual director.
  - The postulant may be required to do an internship of 3-6 months in another parish.
  - The Postulancy Board may require the Postulant to successfully complete a basic unit of Clinical Pastoral Education.

**Ordinand:**

- A postulant may be raised to ordinand status by the Postulancy Board when they are close to completing the above requirements.
- A postulant must have been Confirmed, Received, or been a regular Communicant in the Anglican Communion for at least three years prior to being considered for ordination.
- Being raised to ordinand status does not guarantee ordination which is always the prerogative of the Diocesan Bishop.

**Deacon:**

- The diocesan Bishop has sole discretion whether and when to ordain an Ordinand to the Transitional Diaconate.
- Attend pre- and post-ordination training and retreats to address vocational and practical matters around priestly ministry, canons, constitution, practices, policies, and procedures. Pre-ordination retreats are mandatory. Non-stipendiary clergy are strongly encouraged to attend other training events as their employment situation allows.
- Continue to meet with Examining Chaplain.
- Attendance at Bishop's Clergy Conference, Annual Meeting of Synod, and participation in Deanery Clericus and Deanery Council is recommended.
- Attend diocesan events (synod services, ordinations, inductions, etc,) as possible.
- Postulancy Board may recommend ordination to the priesthood. Ordination as a deacon does not guarantee ordination to the priesthood.

**Priest:**

- At an appropriate time, the Diocesan Bishop will decide whether and when to ordain to the priesthood.
- Continue to attend Post-Ordination Training program
- Assigned a mentor for a two-year period.