

CANONS III.1.1–III.3.2

**TITLE III
MINISTRY**

CANON 1: Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons

Sec. 1. Each Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons, including: Responsibility of Diocese.

(a) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ's name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ's mission at all times and in all places.

(b) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to life-long Christian formation.

Sec. 2. No person shall be denied access to the discernment process for any ministry, lay or ordained, in this Church because of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons. No right to licensing, ordination, or election is hereby established. Access to discernment process.

CANON 2: Of Commissions on Ministry

Sec. 1. In each Diocese there shall be a Commission on Ministry ("Commission") consisting of Priests, Deacons, if any, and Lay Persons. The Canons of each Diocese shall provide for the number of members, terms of office, and manner of selection to the Commission. Each Diocese to have a Commission.

Sec. 2. The Commission shall advise and assist the Bishop: To assist the Bishop.

(a) In the implementation of Title III of these Canons.

(b) In the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons.

(c) In the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefor.

Sec. 3. The Commission may adopt rules for its work, subject to the approval of the Bishop; *Provided* that they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of this Church and of the Diocese. May adopt rules.

Sec. 4. The Commission may establish committees consisting of members and other persons to report to the Commission or to act on its behalf.

Sec. 5. The Bishop and Commission shall ensure that the members of the Commission and its committees receive ongoing education and training for their work. Education and training.

CANON 3: Of Discernment

Sec. 1. The Bishop and Commission shall provide encouragement, training, and necessary resources to assist each congregation in developing an ongoing process of community discernment appropriate to the cultural background, age, and life experiences of all persons seeking direction in their call to ministry. Community discernment in the call to ministry.

Sec. 2. The Bishop, in consultation with the Commission, may utilize college and university campus ministry centers and other communities of Discernment communities.

faith as additional communities where discernment takes place. In cases where these discernment communities are located in another jurisdiction, the Bishop will consult with the Bishop where the discernment community is located.

Recruiting leadership.

Sec. 3. The Bishop and Commission shall actively solicit from congregations, schools and other youth organizations, college and university campus ministry centers, seminaries, and other communities of faith names of persons whose demonstrated qualities of Christian commitment and potential for leadership and vision mark them as desirable candidates for positions of leadership in the Church.

Support for discernment process.

Sec. 4. The Bishop, Commission, and the discernment community shall assist persons engaged in a process of ministry discernment to determine appropriate avenues for the expression and support of their ministries, either lay or ordained.

CANON 4: Of Licensed Ministries

Selection and license.

Sec. 1. (a) A confirmed communicant in good standing or, in extraordinary circumstances, subject to guidelines established by the Bishop, a communicant in good standing, may be licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve as Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, or Catechist. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons, and the duration of licenses shall be established by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry.

Member of the Armed Forces.

(b) The Presiding Bishop or the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces may authorize a member of the Armed Forces to exercise one or more of these ministries in the Armed Forces in accordance with the provisions of this Canon. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons shall be established by the Bishop granting the license.

Terms.

Sec. 2. (a) The Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith may request the Ecclesiastical Authority with jurisdiction to license persons within that congregation or other community of faith to exercise such ministries. The license shall be issued for a period of time to be determined under Canon III.4.1(a) and may be renewed. The license may be revoked by the Ecclesiastical Authority upon request of or upon notice to the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

Renewal.

(b) In renewing the license, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall consider the performance of the ministry by the person licensed, continuing education in the licensed area, and the endorsement of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith in which the person is serving.

(c) A person licensed in any Diocese under the provisions of this Canon may serve in another congregation or other community of faith in the same or another Diocese only at the invitation of the Member of the Clergy or

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other leader exercising oversight, and with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority in whose jurisdiction the service will occur.

Sec. 3. A Pastoral Leader is a lay person authorized to exercise pastoral or administrative responsibility in a congregation under special circumstances, as defined by the Bishop. Pastoral Leader.

Sec. 4. A Worship Leader is a lay person who regularly leads public worship under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. Worship Leader.

Sec. 5. A Preacher is a lay person authorized to preach. Persons so authorized shall only preach in congregations under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. Preacher.

Sec. 6. A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. Eucharistic Minister.

Sec. 7. A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. Eucharistic Visitor.

Sec. 8. A Catechist is a lay person authorized to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, and shall function under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. Catechist.

CANON 5: Of General Provisions Respecting Ordination

Sec. 1. (a) The canonical authority assigned to the Bishop Diocesan by this Title may be exercised by a Bishop Coadjutor, when so empowered under Canon III.19, by a Bishop Suffragan when requested by the Bishop Diocesan, or by any other Bishop of the Anglican Communion canonically in charge of a Diocese, at the request of the ordinand's Bishop. Canonical authority.

(b) The Council of Advice of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe, and the board appointed by a Bishop having jurisdiction in an Area Mission in accordance with the provisions of Canon I.11.2(c), shall, for the purpose of this and other Canons of Title III have the same powers as the Standing Committee of a Diocese.

(c) In case of a vacancy in the episcopate in a Diocese, the Ecclesiastical Authority may authorize and request the President of the House of Bishops of the Province to take order for an ordination.

Sec. 2. (a) No Nominee, Applicant, Postulant, or Candidate for ordination shall sign any of the certificates required by this Title.

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- Testimonials. (b) Testimonials required of the Standing Committee by this Title must be signed by a majority of the whole Committee, at a meeting duly convened, except that testimonials may be executed in counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original.
- Letter of support. (c) Whenever the letter of support of a Vestry is required, the letter must be signed and dated by at least two-thirds of all of the members of the Vestry, at a meeting duly convened, and by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of the Parish, and attested by the Clerk of the Vestry. Should there be no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the letter shall be signed by a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the nominee and the Parish, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.
- (d) If the congregation or other discernment community of which the nominee is a member is not a Parish, the letter of support required by Canon III.6 or Canon III.8 shall be signed and dated by the Member of the Clergy and the council of the congregation or other community of faith, and shall be attested by the secretary of the meeting at which the letter was approved. Should there be no Member of the Clergy, the letter shall be signed and dated by a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the nominee and the congregation or other community of faith, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.
- Member of a Religious Order or Community. (e) If the applicant is a member of a Religious Order or Christian Community recognized by Canon III.24, the letters of support referred to in Canon III.5 or Canon III.6 and any other requirements imposed on a congregation or Member of the Clergy may be given by the Superior or person in charge, and Chapter, or other comparable body of the Order or Community.
- Dispensation. **Sec. 3.** An application for any dispensation permitted by this Title from any of the requirements for ordination must first be made to the Bishop, and if approved, referred to the Standing Committee for its advice and consent.

CANON 6: Of the Ordination of Deacons

- Procedures for selection. **Sec. 1. Selection**
 The Bishop, in consultation with the Commission, shall establish procedures to identify and select persons with evident gifts and fitness for ordination to the Diaconate.
- (a) Nomination. A confirmed adult communicant in good standing, may be nominated for ordination to the diaconate by the person's congregation or other community of faith. The Nomination shall be in writing, and shall include:
- Criteria for Nomination. (1) Full name and date of birth.
 (2) The length of time resident in the Diocese.
 (3) Evidence of Baptism and Confirmation.
 (4) Whether an application has been made previously for Postulancy or the person has been nominated in any diocese.
 (5) A description of the process of discernment by which the applicant has been identified for ordination to the Diaconate.

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- (6) The level of education attained and, if any, the degrees earned and areas of specialization.
- (7) A letter of support by the applicant's discernment community, including a statement committing the discernment community to involve itself in the applicant's preparation for ordination to the Diaconate. If it be a congregation, the letter shall be signed by a two-thirds majority of the Vestry or comparable body, and the Member of the Clergy or leader exercising oversight.
- (8) An acceptance in writing by the nominated person.

The nomination shall be submitted to the Bishop, who may admit the person as a Postulant for ordination to the Diaconate.

(b) Admission to Postulancy. Admission is the time between nomination and candidacy and includes a process of exploration of and decision on the Postulant's call to the Diaconate. Definition of Admission to Postulancy.

- (1) There shall be a thorough investigation of the Postulant which shall include: Investigation.
 - (i) a background check, and
 - (ii) medical and complete psychological evaluation by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms prepared for the purpose by The Church Pension Fund, and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral.
 - (iii) Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept on file by the Bishop.
- (2) The Bishop, or the Bishop's designee, may interview the Postulant. The Commission or a designated committee shall interview the Postulant, and the Commission or designated committee shall submit a recommendation to the Bishop. Interview.
- (3) The Bishop may then admit the Postulant as a Candidate, informing the Candidate and the Member of the Clergy or other leader of the Candidate's discernment community in writing.

Sec. 2. Candidacy

(a) Candidacy is a time, no less than one year in length, of formation in preparation for ordination to the Diaconate, established by a formal commitment by the Candidate, the Bishop, the Commission, and the congregation or other community of faith. Definition of Candidacy.

(b) The Bishop may assign the Candidate to any congregation of the diocese or other community of faith after consultation with the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight.

(c) At the Bishop's sole discretion, any Candidate may be removed from the list of Candidates, with written notice of the removal being given to the Candidate and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the nominating congregation or other community of faith and the Commission. Removal.

Sec. 3. Preparation for Ordination

(a) The Bishop, in consultation with the Commission, shall determine the length of time and extent of formation needed to prepare each Candidate for ordination. Length and time of formation.

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- Areas of competence. **(b)** Before ordination each Candidate shall be prepared in and demonstrate basic competence in five general areas:
- (1) Academic studies including, The Holy Scriptures, theology, and the tradition of the Church.
 - (2) Diakonia and the diaconate.
 - (3) Human awareness and understanding.
 - (4) Spiritual development and discipline.
 - (5) Practical training and experience.
- Training. **(c)** The formation process shall include sexual misconduct prevention training, training regarding Title IV of these Canons, and anti-racism training.
- Formation. **(d)** Formation shall reflect the local culture and each Candidate's background, age, occupation, and ministry. Prior education and learning from life experience may be considered as part of the formation required for ordination.
- (e)** Wherever possible, formation shall take place in community, including persons in preparation for the diaconate, or others preparing for ministry.
- Ember weeks. **(f)** Each Candidate shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter, four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the Candidate's academic, diaconal, human, spiritual, and practical development.
- Evaluation of progress. **(g)** During Candidacy each Candidate's progress shall be evaluated from time to time, and there shall be a written report of the evaluation by those authorized by the Commission to be in charge of the evaluation program. Upon certification by those in charge of the Candidate's program of preparation that the Candidate has successfully completed preparation and is ready for ordination, a final written assessment of readiness for ordination to the Diaconate shall be prepared as determined by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission. This report shall include a recommendation from the Commission regarding the readiness of the Candidate for ordination. Records shall be kept of all evaluations, assessments, and the recommendation, and shall be made available to the Standing Committee.
- Examinations and requirements. **(h)** If the medical examination, psychological examination, or background check have taken place more than 36 months prior to ordination, they must be updated.
- (i)** Before ordination each Candidate must have reached the age of twenty-four, and made application for ordination.
- (j)** Upon certification in writing by the Standing Committee that all canonical requirements have been met and that there is no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, doctrinal, or spiritual grounds and that they recommend ordination, the Bishop may ordain the Candidate a Deacon.

CANON 7: Of the Life and Work of Deacons

Sec. 1. Deacons serve directly under the authority of and are accountable to the Bishop.

Sec. 2. Deacons canonically resident in each Diocese constitute a Community of Deacons, which shall meet from time to time. The Bishop may appoint one or more of such Deacons as Archdeacon(s) to assist the Bishop in the formation, deployment, supervision, and support of the Deacons or those in preparation to be Deacons, and in the implementation of this canon. Community of Deacons.

Sec. 3. The Bishop may establish a Council on Deacons ("Council") to oversee, study, and promote the Diaconate. Council on Deacons.

Sec. 4. The Bishop, after consultation with the Deacon and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight, may assign a Deacon to one or more congregations, other communities of faith or non-parochial ministries. Deacons assigned to a congregation or other community of faith act under the authority of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight in all matters concerning the congregation. Assignment and responsibilities.

(a) Deacons may have a letter of agreement, subject to the Bishop's approval, setting forth mutual responsibilities in the assignment.

(b) Deacons shall report annually to the Bishop or the Bishop's designee on their life and work.

(c) Deacons may serve as administrators of congregations or other communities of faith, but no Deacon shall be in charge of a congregation or other community of faith.

(d) Deacons may accept chaplaincies in any hospital, prison, or other institution.

Sec. 5. The Bishop and Commission shall require and provide for the continuing education of Deacons and keep a record of such education. Continuing education.

Sec. 6. (a) A Deacon may not serve as Deacon for more than two months in any Diocese other than the Diocese in which the Deacon is canonically resident unless the Bishop of the other Diocese shall have granted a license to the Deacon to serve in that Diocese. License to serve in another Diocese.

(b) (1) A Deacon desiring to become canonically resident within a Diocese shall request a testimonial from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Deacon is canonically resident to present to the receiving Diocese, which testimonial, if granted, shall be given by the Ecclesiastical Authority to the applicant, and a duplicate thereof may be sent to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese to which transfer is proposed. The testimonial shall be in the following words: Letters Dimissory.

I hereby certify that A.B., who has signified to me the desire to be transferred to the Ecclesiastical Authority of _____, is a Deacon of _____ in good standing, and has not, so far as I know or believe, been justly liable to evil report for error in religion or for viciousness of life, for the last three years.

(Date) _____ (Signed) _____

- (2) Such testimonial shall be called Letters Dimissory. If the Ecclesiastical Authority accepts the Letters Dimissory, the canonical residence of the Deacon so transferred shall date from the acceptance of the Letters Dimissory, of which prompt notice shall be given both to the applicant and to the Ecclesiastical Authority from which it came.
- (3) Letters Dimissory not presented within six months from the date of transmission to the applicant shall become void.
- (4) A statement of the record of payments to The Church Pension Fund by or on behalf of the Deacon concerned shall accompany Letters Dimissory.

Retirement.

Sec. 7. A Deacon may retire from active service for reasons of age or infirmity with the consent of the Bishop at any time and shall retire for reasons of age or infirmity at the request of the Bishop. The Bishop may, with the consent of the Deacon, assign a retired Deacon to any congregation, other community of faith or non-parochial ministry, for a period not to exceed twelve months, and this period may be renewed.

CANON 8: Of the Ordination of Priests

Sec. 1. The Bishop, in consultation with the Commission, shall establish procedures to identify and select persons with evident gifts and fitness for ordination to the Priesthood.

Sec. 2. Of General Provisions concerning Postulancy and Candidacy

Postulancy.

(a) Postulancy is a time, no less than six months in length, for the exploration of and decision on the Postulant's call to the Priesthood.

Candidacy.

(b) Candidacy is a time of formation in preparation for ordination to the Priesthood, established by a formal commitment by the Candidate, the Bishop, the Commission and the congregation or other community of faith. The period of Candidacy shall be no less than six months.

(c) The combined period for Postulancy, Candidacy, and Diaconate under this canon shall be no less than 18 months.

Responsibilities

(d) The responsibilities for the formation and preparation of Postulants and Candidates shall include the following:

- (1) Each Postulant or Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter, four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the individual's academic experience and personal and spiritual development.
- (2) The congregation or other community of faith shall nominate appropriate persons for the ordination process, nurture them in their faith, and provide continuing support for such persons through Postulancy, Candidacy, and ordination.
- (3) The Bishop and the Commission shall work closely with the Postulant or Candidate to develop and monitor a program of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood in accordance with Canon III.8.4 and to ensure that pastoral guidance is provided throughout the period of preparation.

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- (4) The Standing Committee shall certify that all canonical requirements for ordination have been met and make a recommendation regarding ordination as prescribed in sections 6 and 7 of this canon.
- (5) The seminary or other formation program shall provide for, monitor, and report on the academic performance and personal qualifications of the Candidate or Postulant for ordination. These reports will be made upon request of the Bishop and Commission, but at least once per year.

(e) Prior to ordination as a deacon under this canon, the following must be accomplished:

Criteria to be met.

- (1) a thorough background check of the applicant,
- (2) sexual misconduct prevention training, training regarding Title IV of these canons, and anti-racism training,
- (3) thorough examinations, both medical and psychological, by professionals approved by the Bishop, using the forms prepared by The Church Pension Fund for this purpose, and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral. These reports shall be kept on file by the Bishop.
- (4) if the medical examination, psychological examination, or background check have taken place more than 36 months prior to ordination as a Deacon under this canon, they must be updated.

Sec. 3. Postulancy

(a) A person nominated for admission as a Postulant for ordination to the Priesthood shall provide to the Bishop the following:

Requirements for admission as Postulant.

- (1) Full name and date of birth,
- (2) The length of time resident in the Diocese,
- (3) Evidence of Baptism and Confirmation,
- (4) Whether an application or Nomination has been made previously for Postulancy in any diocese,
- (5) A description of the process of discernment by which the nominee has been identified for ordination to the Priesthood,
- (6) The level of education attained and, if any, the degrees earned and areas of specialization, including official transcripts,
- (7) A letter of support by the nominee's congregation or other community of faith, including a statement committing the congregation or other community of faith to involve itself in the nominee's preparation for ordination to the Priesthood. If it be a congregation, the letter shall be signed and dated by a two-thirds majority of the Vestry, and the Member of the Clergy or leader exercising oversight,
- (8) A written request from the nominee for admission to Postulancy.

(b) Before granting admission as a Postulant, the Bishop:

Bishop to confirm qualifications.

- (1) shall determine that the person is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing of a congregation or other community of faith, and

- (2) shall confer in person with the nominee,
- (3) shall consult with the nominee regarding financial resources which will be available for the support of the Postulant throughout preparation for ordination. During Postulancy and later Candidacy, the Bishop or someone appointed by the Bishop shall review periodically the financial condition and plans of the Postulant.

(c) On the basis of the application and the personal interview, the Bishop shall notify the nominee and the Commission whether the application process may proceed.

Commission to review the application.

(d) If the Bishop approves proceeding, the Commission, or a committee of the Commission, shall meet with the nominee to review the application and prepare an evaluation of the nominee's qualifications to pursue a course of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood. The Commission shall present its evaluation and recommendations to the Bishop.

Process of admission.

(e) The Bishop may admit the nominee as a Postulant for ordination to the Priesthood. The Bishop shall record the Postulant's name and date of admission in a Register kept for that purpose. The Bishop shall inform the Postulant, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the seminary the Postulant may be attending or proposes to attend, or the director of Postulant's program of preparation, of the fact and date of such admission.

Removal.

(f) Any Postulant may be removed as a Postulant at the sole discretion of the Bishop. The Bishop shall give written notice of the removal to the Candidate and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the seminary the Postulant may be attending or the director of the program of preparation.

Prior refusal or cessation.

(g) No Bishop shall consider accepting as a Postulant any person who has been refused admission as a Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood in any other Diocese, or who, having been admitted, has afterwards ceased to be a Candidate, until receipt of a letter from the Bishop of the Diocese refusing admission, or in which the person has been a Candidate, declaring the cause of refusal or of cessation. If the Bishop decides to proceed the Bishop shall send the letter to the Commission.

Program of preparation.

Sec. 4. Formation. Postulants shall pursue the program of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood developed by the Bishop and Commission. The program shall include theological training, practical experience, emotional development, and spiritual formation.

Previous education.

(a) If the Postulant has not previously obtained a baccalaureate degree, the Commission, Bishop, and Postulant shall design a program of such additional academic work as may be necessary to prepare the Postulant to undertake a program of theological education.

(b) Prior education and learning from life experience may be considered as part of the formation required for the Priesthood.

(c) Whenever possible, formation for the Priesthood shall take place in community, including other persons in preparation for the Priesthood, a ministry team, or others preparing for ministry.

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(d) Formation shall take into account the local culture and each Candidate's background, age, occupation, and ministry.

(e) Subject areas for study during this program of preparation shall include:

Formation and study.

- (1) The Holy Scriptures;
- (2) Church History, including the Ecumenical Movement;
- (3) Christian Theology, including Missionary Theology and Missiology;
- (4) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology;
- (5) Studies in contemporary society, including racial and minority groups;
- (6) Liturgics and Church Music; Christian Worship and Music according to the contents and use of the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal, and authorized supplemental texts; and
- (7) Theory and practice of ministry.

Sec. 5. Candidacy

(a) A person desiring to be considered as a Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood shall apply to the Bishop. Such application shall include the following:

Application for Candidacy.

- (1) the Postulant's date of admission to Postulancy, and
- (2) letter of support by the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith. If it be a congregation, the letter shall be signed and dated by at least two-thirds of the Vestry and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight.

(b) Upon compliance with these requirements, and receipt of a statement from the Commission attesting to the continuing formation of the Postulant, the Bishop may admit the applicant as a Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood. The Bishop shall record the Candidate's name and date of admission in a Register kept for that purpose. The Bishop shall inform the Candidate, the Member of the Clergy or leader exercising oversight of the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the seminary the Candidate may be attending or proposes to attend, or the director of the Candidate's program of preparation, of the fact and date of such admission.

Admission as a Candidate.

(c) A Candidate must remain in canonical relationship with the Diocese in which admission has been granted until ordination to the Diaconate under this canon, except as provided in Canon III.8.5(d).

(d) For reasons satisfactory to the Bishop, the Candidate may be transferred to another Diocese upon request, provided that the Bishop of the receiving Diocese is willing to accept the Candidate.

Transfer to another Diocese.

(e) Any Candidate may be removed as a Candidate at the sole discretion of the Bishop. The Bishop shall give written notice of the removal to the Candidate and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the seminary the Candidate may be attending or the director of the program of preparation.

Candidate may be removed.

(f) If a Bishop has removed the Candidate's name from the list of Candidates, except by transfer, or the Candidate's application for ordination

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has been rejected, no other Bishop may ordain the person without readmission to Candidacy for a period of at least twelve months.

Sec. 6. Ordination to the Diaconate

Criteria for ordination.

(a) A Candidate must first be ordained Deacon before being ordained Priest.

(b) To be ordained Deacon under this canon, a person must be at least twenty-one years of age.

(c) No one shall be ordained Deacon under this canon within six months of admission as a Candidate nor within one year of admission as Postulant.

Papers required by the Bishop.

(d) The Bishop shall obtain in writing:

- (1) an application from the Candidate requesting ordination as a Deacon under this canon, including the Candidate's dates of admission to Postulancy and Candidacy;
- (2) a letter of support from the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, signed and dated by at least two-thirds of the Vestry and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight;
- (3) a certificate from the seminary or other program of preparation, showing the Candidate's scholastic record in the subjects required by the canons, and giving an evaluation with recommendation as to the Candidate's other personal qualifications for ordination together with a recommendation regarding ordination to the Diaconate under this canon.

Papers required by the Standing Committee.

(e) The Standing Committee shall obtain:

- (1) the application for ordination to the Diaconate under this canon specified in Canon III.8.6.(d)(1), including the accompanying letter of support by the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith specified in Canon III.8.6.(d)(2),
- (2) certificates from the Bishop who admitted the Candidate to Postulancy and Candidacy, giving the dates of admission, and
- (3) a certificate from the Commission giving a recommendation regarding ordination to the Diaconate under this canon.

Standing Committee to consent and certify candidates for Diaconate.

(f) On the receipt of such certificates, the Standing Committee, a majority of all the members consenting, shall certify that the canonical requirements for ordination to the Diaconate under this canon have been met and there is no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, doctrinal, or spiritual grounds and that they recommend ordination, by a testimonial addressed to the Bishop in the form specified below and signed by the consenting members of the Standing Committee.

To the Right Reverend _____, Bishop of _____ We, the Standing Committee of _____, having been duly convened at _____, do testify that A.B., desiring to be ordained to the Diaconate and Priesthood under Canon III.8, has presented to us the certificates as required by the Canons indicating A.B.'s preparedness for ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.8; and we certify that all canonical requirements for ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.8 have been met; and we find no sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we recommend A. B. for ordination. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord _____.

(Signed) _____

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(g) The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, doctrinal, or spiritual grounds, the Bishop may ordain the Candidate to the Diaconate under this canon; and at the time of ordination the Candidate shall subscribe publicly and make, in the presence of the Bishop, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.

Declaration of belief and conformity.

Sec. 7. Ordination to the Priesthood

(a) A person may be ordained Priest:

Criteria for ordination.

- (1) after at least six months since ordination as a Deacon under this canon, and
- (2) upon attainment of at least twenty-four years of age, and
- (3) if the medical examination, psychological examination, and background check have taken place or been updated within 36 months prior to ordination as a Priest.

(b) The Bishop shall obtain in writing and provide to the Standing Committee:

Papers to be provided to Standing Committee.

- (1) an application from the Deacon requesting ordination as a Priest, including the Deacon's dates of admission to Postulancy and Candidacy and ordination as a Deacon under this canon,
- (2) a letter of support from the Deacon's congregation or other community of faith, signed by at least two-thirds of the Vestry and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight,
- (3) evidence of admission to Postulancy and Candidacy, including dates of admission, and ordination to the Diaconate,
- (4) a certificate from the seminary or other program of preparation, showing the Deacon's scholastic record in the subjects required by the canons, and giving an evaluation with recommendation as to the Deacon's other personal qualifications for ordination together with a recommendation regarding ordination to the Priesthood, and
- (5) a statement from the Commission attesting to the successful completion of the program of formation designed during Postulancy under Canon III.8.4, and recommending the Deacon for ordination to the Priesthood.

(c) On the receipt of such certificates, the Standing Committee, a majority of all the members consenting, shall certify that the canonical requirements for ordination to the Priesthood have been met and there is no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, doctrinal, or spiritual grounds and that they recommend ordination, by a testimonial addressed to the Bishop in the form specified below and signed by the consenting members of the Standing Committee.

Standing Committee to consent and certify candidates for Priesthood.

To the Right Reverend _____, Bishop of _____ We, the Standing Committee of _____, having been duly convened at _____, do testify that A.B., desiring to be ordained to the Priesthood, has presented to us the certificates as required by the Canons indicating A.B.'s preparedness for ordination to the Priesthood have been met; and we certify that all canonical requirements for ordination to the Priesthood

have been met, and we find no sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we recommend A. B. for ordination. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord _____.
(Signed) _____

Declaration of belief and conformity.

(d) The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, doctrinal, or spiritual grounds, the Bishop may ordain the Deacon to the Priesthood; and at the time of ordination the Deacon shall subscribe publicly and make, in the presence of the Bishop, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.

Evidence of appointment.

(e) No Deacon shall be ordained to the Priesthood until having been appointed to serve in a Parochial Cure within the jurisdiction of this Church, or as a Missionary under the Ecclesiastical Authority of a Diocese, or as an officer of a Missionary Society recognized by the General Convention, or as a Chaplain of the Armed Services of the United States, or as a Chaplain in a recognized hospital or other welfare institution, or as a Chaplain or instructor in a school, college, or other seminary, or with other opportunity for the exercise of the office of Priest within the Church judged appropriate by the Bishop.

Deacons subsequently called to the Priesthood.

(f) A person ordained to the Diaconate under Canon III.6 who is subsequently called to the Priesthood shall fulfill the Postulancy and Candidacy requirements set forth in this canon. Upon completion of these requirements, the Deacon may be ordained to the Priesthood.

CANON 9: Of the Life and Work of Priests

Continuing education.

Sec. 1. The Bishop and Commission shall require and provide for the continuing education of Priests and keep a record of such education.

Of Mentoring for Newly Ordained Priests

Sec. 2. Each newly ordained Priest, whether employed or not, shall be assigned a mentor Priest by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry. The mentor and new Priest shall meet regularly for at least a year to provide guidance, information, and a sustained dialogue about priestly ministry.

Of the Appointment of Priests

Sec. 3.

(a) Rectors.

Parish without a Rector.

(1) When a Parish is without a Rector, the Wardens or other officers shall promptly notify the Ecclesiastical Authority in writing. If the Parish shall for thirty days fail to provide services of public worship, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall make provision for such worship.

Election.

(2) No Parish may elect a Rector until the names of the proposed nominees have been forwarded to the Ecclesiastical Authority and a time, not exceeding sixty days, given to the Ecclesiastical