

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A083
Title: Amend Various Canons Regarding Screening Prior to Ordination or Reception
Proposer: Task Force to Assist the Office of Pastoral Development
Topic: Canons, Ordained Ministry

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A148 On the Topic of Amending Canons on the Ordination of Bishops (Rejected)
2018-A189 Create a Task Force on Substance Abuse Screening
2015-A090 Amend Canon III.8.5(g) [Of Ordination of Priests: Theological Education]
2015-D014 Evaluate Individuals in the Ordination Process for Addiction Concerns
2006-A082 Amend Canons in Title III [Ministry]
2003-A111 Revise Title III Canons
1988-A125 Amend and Renumber Canons III.5-10 as follows:
Canon III.5 [Of Postulants for Holy Orders]
Canon III.6 [Of Candidates for Holy Orders]
Canon III.8 [Of General Provisions Respecting Ordination]
Canon III.9 [Of the Ordination of Deacons]
Canon III.10 [Ordination to the Diaconate and Priesthood]
Canon III.7 [Delete Canon 7: Of Standards of Learning]

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2018-A146 Urge Revision of the Manual on Episcopal Transitions
2018-D025 Appoint a Task Force on Clergy Formation and Continuing Education

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.

A083 - Amend Various Canons Regarding Screening Prior to Ordination or Reception

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Task Force to Assist the Office of Pastoral Development

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 15 - Ministry

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That Canon III.6.5.j.2 be amended to read as follows:

III.6.

Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination

a. The Bishop and the Commission shall work with the Postulant or Candidate to develop and monitor a program of preparation for ordination to the Diaconate in accordance with this Canon to ensure that pastoral guidance is provided throughout the period of preparation.

b. The Bishop may assign the Postulant or 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. Formation shall take into account the local culture and each Postulant or Candidate's background, age, occupation, and ministry.

d. Prior education and learning from life experience may be considered as part of the formation required for ordination.

e. Wherever possible, formation for the Diaconate shall take place in community, including other persons in preparation for the Diaconate, or others preparing for ministry.

f. 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.

g. Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding

1. prevention of sexual misconduct against both children and adults.
2. civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
3. the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.
4. the Church's teaching on racism.

h. Each Candidate for ordination to the Diaconate 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.

i. 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.

j. Within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Deacon, the following must be accomplished

1. a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee.

2. medical, ~~and~~ psychological, *and substance, chemical and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns* evaluations by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms prepared for the purpose by The Church Pension Fund, and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral.

k. Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain a part of the permanent diocesan record.

and be it further;

Resolved, That Canon III.8.5.k.2 be amended as follows:

III.8.

Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination

a. The Bishop and the Commission shall work with the Postulant or Candidate to develop and monitor a program of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood and to ensure that pastoral guidance is provided throughout the period of preparation.

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

c. Formation shall take into account the local culture and each Postulant or Candidate's background, age, occupation, and ministry.

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

e. Whenever possible, formation for the Priesthood shall take place in community, including other persons in preparation for the Priesthood, or others preparing for ministry.

f. Formation shall include theological training, practical experience, emotional development, and spiritual formation.

g. Subject areas for study during this program of preparation shall include:

1. The Holy Scriptures.
2. History of the Christian Church.
3. Christian Theology.
4. Christian Ethics and Moral Theology.

5. Christian Worship according to the use of the Book of Common Prayer, the Hymnal, and authorized supplemental texts.

6. The Practice of Ministry in contemporary society, including leadership, evangelism, stewardship, ecumenism, interfaith relations, mission theology, and the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups.

h. Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding

1. prevention of sexual misconduct against both children and adults.
2. civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
3. the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof, utilizing, but not limited to use of, the Title IV training website of The Episcopal Church.
4. the Church's teaching on racism.

i. 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 Candidate's academic experience and personal and spiritual development.

j. The seminary or other formation program shall provide for, monitor, and report on the academic performance and personal qualifications of the Postulant or Candidate for ordination. These reports will be made upon request of the Bishop and Commission, but at least once per year.

k. Within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Deacon under this Canon, the following must be accomplished

1. a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee.
2. medical, ~~and~~ psychological, *and substance, chemical and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns* evaluations by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms prepared for the purpose by The Church Pension Fund, and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral.

l. Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain a part of the permanent diocesan record.

and be it further;

Resolved, That Canon III.8.7.a.3 be amended as follows:

III.8.7.

Sec. 7. Ordination to the Priesthood

a. A person may be ordained Priest:

1. after at least six months since ordination as a Deacon under this Canon and eighteen months from the time of acceptance of nomination by the Nominee as provided in III.8.2.b, and
2. upon attainment of at least twenty-four years of age, and
3. if the medical evaluation, psychological evaluation, *substance, chemical and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns evaluation*, and background check have taken place or been updated within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Priest.

b. The Bishop shall obtain in writing and provide to the 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, written at the completion of the 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.8.5, and proficiency in the required areas of study, 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, 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 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) _____

d. The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, 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.

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.

f. A person ordained to the Diaconate under Canon III.6 who subsequently expresses a call to the Priesthood shall apply to the Bishop Diocesan and the Commission on Ministry. The Commission on Ministry and Bishop Diocesan shall ensure that the Deacon meets the formational requirements set forth in III.8.5.g and shall recommend such additional steps as may be necessary and required. Upon completion of these requirements and those required for Postulancy and Candidacy as set forth in Canon III.8, the Deacon may be ordained to the Priesthood.

and be it further;

Resolved, That Canon III.10.1.b be amended as follows:

III.10.

Sec. 1. Prior to reception or ordination, the following must be provided

a. a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee, and

b. medical, ~~and~~ psychological, *and substance, chemical and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns* evaluations by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms

prepared for the purpose by The Church Pension Fund, and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral. If the medical examination, psychological examination, or background check have taken place more than thirty-six months prior to reception or ordination they must be updated.

c. evidence of training regarding

1. prevention of sexual misconduct.
2. civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
3. the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.
4. training regarding the Church's teaching on racism.

d. Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain a part of the permanent diocesan record.

e. Prior to reception or ordination each clergy person shall be assigned a mentor Priest by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry. The mentor and clergy person shall meet regularly to provide the clergy person an opportunity for guidance, information, and a sustained dialogue about ministry in The Episcopal Church.

and be if further;

Resolved, That Canon III.11.3.a.2 be amended as follows:

III.11.

Sec. 3

a. The Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop has been elected shall by its President, or by some person or persons specially appointed, immediately send to the Presiding Bishop and to the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses a certificate of the election by the Secretary of Convention of the Diocese, bearing a statement of receipt of:

1. evidence of the Bishop-elect's having been duly ordered Deacon and Priest;
2. certificates from a licensed medical doctor and licensed psychiatrist, authorized by the Presiding Bishop, that they have thoroughly examined the Bishop-elect as to that person's medical, psychological, ~~and~~ psychiatric *and substance, chemical and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns* conditions and have not discovered any reason why the person would not be fit to undertake the work for which the person has

been chosen. Forms and procedures agreed to by the Presiding Bishop and The Church Pension Fund shall be used for this purpose; and

3. evidence that a testimonial in the following form was signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention:

We, whose names are hereunder written, fully sensible of how important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that we know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend A.B. ought not to be ordained to that Holy Office. We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we believe the Reverend A.B. to have been duly and lawfully elected and to be of such sufficiency in learning, of such soundness in the Faith, and of such godly character as to be able to exercise the Office of a Bishop to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church, and to be a wholesome example to the flock of Christ.

(Date) _____

(Signed) _____

The Presiding Bishop, without delay, shall notify every Bishop of this Church exercising jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop's receipt of the certificates mentioned in this Section and request a statement of consent or withholding of consent. Each Standing Committee, in not more than one hundred and twenty days after the sending by the electing body of the certificate of the election, shall respond by sending the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected either the testimonial of consent in the form set out in paragraph (b) of this Section or written notice of its refusal to give consent. If a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses consents to the ordination of the Bishop-elect, the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected shall then forward the evidence of the consent, with the other necessary certificates required in this Section (documents described in Sec. 3.a.2 of this Canon), to the Presiding Bishop. If the Presiding Bishop receives sufficient statements to indicate a majority of those Bishops consent to the ordination, the Presiding Bishop shall, without delay, notify the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected and the Bishop-elect of the consent.

b. Evidence of the consent of each Standing Committee shall be a testimonial in the following words, signed by a majority of all the members of the Committee:

We, being a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee of , and having been duly convened, fully sensible how important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that we know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend A.B. ought not to be ordained to that Holy Order. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord _____.

(Signed) _____

c. 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, any of which may be delivered by facsimile or other electronic transmission, each of which shall be deemed an original.

Explanation

This Resolution has several purposes. One is to bring a degree of consistency to the discernment screening and evaluations that are conducted for those in discernment (or reception) processes to become a Priest or Deacon and those used when a Bishop is elected. The Task Force to Assist the Office of Pastoral Development is proposing an amendment to Canon III.11.1.a in a Resolution titled *Amend Canon III.11.1 regarding Screening of Nominees for Episcopal Election* to require screening and evaluations of all persons who are nominees for Bishop prior to election. In that Resolution the Task Force proposes to expand the medical, psychological, and psychiatric evaluations to include chemical, and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns evaluations. This Resolution would make the scope of evaluations for those in discernment or reception processes for Priest, Deacon, and Bishop the same.

In addition, this Resolution would result in more rigorous and relevant information being gathered as part of the discernment processes. Experience has shown that issues of chemical, and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns are not necessarily identified in routine medical, psychological, and psychiatric evaluations, and that failure can lead to serious consequences for the congregations and Dioceses in which clergy serve.



Resolution Number: 2018-A148
Title: On the Topic of Amending Canons on the Ordination of Bishops
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That Canon III.11.1 is hereby amended to add the following, And the subsequent subsections renumbered accordingly:

(c) Prior to any person's name being placed on the ballot in nomination for election as a Bishop in a diocese, whether by the nominating body or by petition, floor nomination or in any other way, the diocese shall have:

(i) conducted a thorough background check of each nominee according to criteria established by the Standing Committee. Such background check to include but not be limited to criminal records, credit checks, reference checks, sex offender registry checks, verification of education, employment and ordination and review of all complaints, charges and allegations while an ordained person;

(ii) each nominee evaluated by a licensed medical doctor approved by the Standing Committee;

(iii) each nominee evaluated by a licensed psychologist approved by the Standing Committee, with psychiatric referral if desired or necessary;

(iv) each nominee evaluated for substance, chemical and alcohol use and abuse whether as part of the medical examination, psychological examination or otherwise by professionals approved by the Standing Committee;

Reports of all background checks, medical, psychological and substance, chemical or alcohol use and abuse evaluations shall be kept permanently on file and remain a part of the permanent diocesan record for the person elected and consented to by bishops exercising jurisdiction and Standing Committees.

And be it further

Resolved, That Canon III.11.1(b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Canon III.11.1(b)

(b) In lieu of electing a Bishop, the Convention of a Diocese may request that an election be made on its behalf by the House of Bishops of the Province of which the Diocese is a part, subject to confirmation by the Provincial Synod, or it may request that an election be made on its behalf by the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church.

(1) If either option in Sec. 1(b) is chosen, a special Joint Nominating Committee shall be appointed unless the Diocesan Convention has otherwise provided for the nominating process. The Committee shall be composed of three persons from the Diocese, appointed by its Standing Committee, and three members of the electoral body, appointed by the President of that body. The Joint Nominating Committee shall elect its own officers and shall nominate three persons whose names it shall communicate to the Presiding Officer of the electoral body. The Presiding Officer shall communicate the names of the nominees to the electoral body at least three weeks before the election when the names shall be formally placed in

nomination. Opportunity shall be given for nominations from the floor or by petition, in either case with provisions for adequate background checks.

(2) If either option in Sec. 1(b) is chosen, the *background checks and evaluations required by Canon III.11.x(y) shall be carried out by the special Joint Nominating Committee unless the Diocesan Convention has otherwise provided for the nominating process. The evidence of the election shall be a certificate signed by the Presiding Officer of the electoral body and by its Secretary, with a testimonial signed by a constitutional majority of the body, in the form required in Canon III.11.3, which shall be sent to the Standing Committee of the Diocese on whose behalf the election was held. The Standing Committee shall thereupon proceed as set forth in Canon III.11.3.*

And be it further

Resolved, That Canon III.11.3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Canon III.11.3

Sec. 3.

(a) The Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop has been elected shall by its President, or by some other person or persons specially appointed, immediately send to the Presiding Bishop and to the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses a certificate of the election by the Secretary of Convention of the Diocese bearing a statement of receipt of:

- (1) evidence of the Bishop-elect's having been duly ordered Deacon and Priest;
- (2) certificates from a licensed medical doctor, and licensed ~~psychiatrist~~ *psychologist and substance abuse professional*, authorized by the Presiding Bishop, that they have thoroughly examined the Bishop-elect as to that person's medical, psychological and psychiatric condition *and for substance, chemical and alcohol use and abuse* and have not discovered any reason why the person would not be fit to undertake the work for which the person has been chosen. Forms and procedures agreed to by the Presiding Bishop and The Church Pension Fund shall be used for this purpose; and
- (3) evidence that a testimonial in the following form was signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention:

And be it further

Resolved, That Canon III.11.9(c) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Canon III.11.9(c)

(c) Missionary Bishops

- (1) The election of a person to be a Bishop in a Missionary Diocese shall be held in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Constitution and Canons of this Church.
- (2) The Convention of a Missionary Diocese may, in lieu of electing a Bishop, request that such election be made on its behalf by the Synod of the Province, or the House of Bishops of the Province subject to confirmation of the Provincial Council, or the Regional Council of Churches in communion with this Church of which the Diocese is a member. A Certificate of the Election, signed by the presiding officer and the Secretary of the Synod or Provincial House of Bishops, or Regional Council, and a testimonial in the form required in Canon III.11 signed by a constitutional majority of the Synod, Provincial House of Bishops or Regional Council, shall be transmitted by its presiding officer to the Standing Committee of the Missionary Diocese on whose behalf such election was made. The Standing Committee shall thereupon proceed as set forth in Canon III.11, the above Certification of Election and Testimonial serving in lieu of evidence of election and testimonial therein required. *If this option is used the background checks and evaluations required by Canon III.11.1(b) shall be*

carried out by the Synod of the Province or the House of Bishops of the Province, whichever body conducts the election.

(3) The Convention of a Missionary Diocese may, in lieu of electing a Bishop, request that such election may be made on its behalf by the House of Bishops. Such choice shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses. The medical certificate as required in Canon III.11 shall also be required of Missionary Bishops-elect.

(i) When the House of Bishops is to elect a Bishop for a Missionary Diocese within a given Province, the President of the Province may convene the Synod of the Province prior to the meeting of the House of Bishops at which a Bishop for such Missionary Diocese is to be elected. The Synod of the Province may thereupon nominate not exceeding three persons to the House of Bishops for that office. It shall be the duty of the President of the Province to transmit such nominations, if any be made, to the Presiding Officer of the House of Bishops, communicate the same to the Bishops, along with other nominations that have been made, in accordance with the Rules of Order of the House. Each Province containing a Missionary Diocese shall, by Ordinance, provide the manner of convening the Synod and making such nomination. *If the Synod of the Province nominates persons as provided in this subsection, the background checks and evaluations required by Canon III.11.1(b) shall be carried out by Synod of the Province. The House of Bishops shall carry out the background checks and evaluations required by Canon III.11.1(b) for all persons nominated in accordance with the Rules of Order of the House.*



Resolution Number: 2018-A189
Title: Create a Task Force on Substance Abuse Screening
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That a Task Force or similar body be formed to develop a standardized process of screening persons applying for ordination with respect to their history of and experience with alcohol and substance abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force identify best practices for dioceses to follow in evaluating issues of alcohol and substance abuse, including training for Standing Committees, Commissions on Ministry and others involved in the ordination process, as well as training for persons in the ordination process; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force prepare a report for the 80th General Convention giving recommendations with respect to alcohol and substance abuse for (1) screening processes for dioceses to employ in the ordination process, including how to best evaluate applicants with a history of addictions who are now living in recovery (2) training for Standing Committees, Commissions on Ministry and others involved in the ordination process, including diocesan staff, and (3) training and other appropriate recommendations for persons in the ordination process; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force be composed of three Bishops appointed by the Presiding Bishop, at least two of whom have experience in dealing with clergy with a history of alcohol or substance abuse, and six priests, deacons or lay persons appointed by the President of the House of Deputies, at least 3 of whom have relevant experience in the evaluation and treatment of persons with a history of alcohol or substance abuse and at least one of whom serves as a diocesan Transition Officer who has experience in dealing with clergy who have a history of alcohol or substance abuse. At least three members of this Task Force should be persons living in recovery; and be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force also examine a process for identifying other forms of addiction and their potential impact on ministry; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget and Finance allocate \$25,000 to the budget to facilitate the work of the Task Force.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 539.



Resolution Number: 2015-A090
Title: Amend Canon III.8.5(g) [Of Ordination of Priests: Theological Education]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church replace existing Canon III.8.5(g) with the following canon:

CANON III.8.5(g):

Subject areas for studying during this program of preparation shall include:

- (1) The Holy Scriptures.**
- (2) ~~Church History, including the Ecumenical Movement.~~*History of the Christian Church.***
- (3) Christian Theology, ~~including Missionary Theology and Missiology.~~**
- (4) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology.**
- (5) ~~Studies in contemporary society, including the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups, and cross-cultural ministry skills. Cross-cultural ministry skills may include the ability to communicate in a contemporary language other than one's first language.~~**
- (6) (5) ~~Liturgies 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.**
- (7) (6) ~~Theory and The pPractice of mMinistry, including leadership, and the ministries of evangelism and stewardship.in contemporary society, including leadership, evangelism, stewardship, ecumenism, interfaith relations, mission theology, and the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups.~~**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 419-420.



Resolution Number: 2015-D014
Title: Evaluate Individuals in the Ordination Process for Addiction Concerns
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That Sponsoring Clergy, Vestries, Commissions on Ministry, Standing Committees, and Bishops interviewing and evaluating Nominees, Postulants, and Candidates for Ordination explore directly issues regarding substance use in their lives and family systems; and be it further

Resolved, That Nominees, Postulants, and Candidates who may have addiction issues be offered appropriate resources and referred to qualified mental health, healthcare, and/or addiction professionals for further evaluation prior to proceeding in the ordination process.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 319.



Resolution Number: 2006-A082
Title: Amend Canons in Title III [Ministry]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

[Resolved, that Canon III.6.5 be amended to read as follows:]

Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination

- (a) The Bishop and the Commission shall work with the Postulant or Candidate to develop and monitor a program of preparation for ordination to the Diaconate in accordance with this Canon to ensure that pastoral guidance is provided throughout the period of preparation.
- (b) The Bishop may assign the Postulant or 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) Formation shall take into account the local culture and each Postulant or Candidate's background, age, occupation, and ministry.
- (d) Prior education and learning from life experience may be considered as part of the formation required for ordination.
- (e) Wherever possible, formation for the Diaconate shall take place in community, including other persons in preparation for the Diaconate, or others preparing for ministry.
- (f) 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.
- (g) Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding
 - (1) prevention of sexual misconduct.
 - (2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
 - (3) the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.
 - (4) the Church's teaching on racism.
- (h) Each Candidate for ordination to the Diaconate 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.
- (i) 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.

(j) Within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Deacon, the following must be accomplished

(1) a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee.

(2) medical and 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

(k) Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain a part of the permanent diocesan record.

[*Resolved*, that Canon III.8.5 be amended to read as follows:]

Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination

(a) The Bishop and the Commission shall work with the Postulant or Candidate to develop and monitor a program of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood and to ensure that pastoral guidance is provided throughout the period of preparation.

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

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

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

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

(f) Formation shall include theological training, practical experience, emotional development, and spiritual formation.

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

(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 the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups, and cross-cultural ministry skills. Cross-cultural ministry skills may include the ability to communicate in a contemporary language other than one's first language.

(6) Liturgies 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.

(7) Theory and practice of ministry, including leadership, and the ministries of evangelism and stewardship.

(h) Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding

(1) prevention of sexual misconduct.

(2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.

(3) the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.

(4) the Church's teaching on racism.

(i) 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 Candidate's academic experience and personal and spiritual development.

(j) The seminary or other formation program shall provide for, monitor, and report on the academic performance and personal qualifications of the Postulant or Candidate for ordination. These reports will be made upon request of the Bishop and Commission, but at least once per year.

(k) Within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Deacon under this Canon, the following must be accomplished

(1) a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee.

(2) medical and 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.

(l) Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain a part of the permanent diocesan record.

[Resolved, that Canon III.8.7 be amended to read as follows:]

Sec. 7. Ordination to the Priesthood

(a) A person may be ordained Priest:

(1) after at least six months since ordination as a Deacon under this Canon, and eighteen months from the time of acceptance of nomination by the Nominee as provided in III.8.2(b), and

(2) upon attainment of at least twenty-four years of age, and

(3) if the medical evaluation, psychological evaluation, and background check have taken place or been updated within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Priest.

(b) The Bishop shall obtain in writing and provide to the 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, written at the completion of the 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.8.5, and proficiency in the required areas of study, 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, 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 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) _____

(d) The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, 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.

(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.

(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.

[Resolved, that Canon III.10.1 be amended to read as follows:]

Sec. 1. Prior to reception or ordination, the following must be provided

(a) a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee, and

(b) medical and 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. If the medical examination, psychological examination, or background check have taken place more than thirty-six months prior to reception or ordination they must be updated.

(c) evidence of training regarding

(1) prevention of sexual misconduct.

(2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.

(3) the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.

(4) training regarding the Church's teaching on racism.

(d) Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain a part of the permanent diocesan record.

(e) Prior to reception or ordination each clergy person shall be assigned a mentor priest by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry. The mentor and clergy person shall meet regularly to provide the clergy person an opportunity for guidance, information, and a sustained dialogue about ministry in The Episcopal Church.

[Resolved, that Canon III.11.3 be amended to read as follows:]

Sec. 3.

(a) When a Diocese desires the ordination of a Bishop-elect, if the date of the election occurs within one hundred twenty days before a meeting of the General Convention, the Standing Committee of the Diocese shall, by its President, or by some person or persons specially appointed, forward to the Secretary of the House of Deputies evidence of the election of the Bishop-elect by the Convention of the Diocese, together with evidence that the Bishop-elect has been duly ordered Deacon and Priest, evidence of acceptance of election, and a testimonial signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention, and a summary of biographical information relating to the Bishop-elect; in the following words: We, whose names are hereunder written, fully sensible of how important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that we know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend A.B. ought not to be ordained to that Holy Office. We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we believe the Reverend A.B. to have been duly and lawfully elected and to be of such sufficiency in learning, of such soundness in the Faith, and of such godly character as to be able to exercise the Office of a Bishop to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church, and to be a wholesome example to the flock of Christ. (Date) _____ (Signed) _____

The Secretary of the Convention shall certify upon this testimonial that it has been signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention.

(b) The Standing Committee shall also forward to the Secretary of the General Convention, with the testimonial and other documents, certificates from a licensed medical doctor and licensed psychiatrist, appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the approval of the Presiding Bishop, that they have thoroughly examined the Bishop-elect as to that person's medical, psychological and psychiatric condition and have not discovered any reason why the person would not be fit to undertake the work for which the person has been chosen. Forms and procedures agreed to by the Presiding Bishop and The Church Pension Fund shall be used for this purpose.

(c) The Secretary of the House of Deputies shall present the testimonials to the House, and if the House consents to the ordination of the Bishop-elect, notice of its consent, certified by the President and the Secretary of the House, together with the testimonials, shall be sent to the House of Bishops.

(d) If a majority of the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction consent to the ordination, the Presiding Bishop shall, without delay, notify the Standing Committee of the Diocese electing and the Bishop-elect of the consent.

Citation: Canon III.6.5, III.8.5, III.8.7, III.10.1, and III.11.3 are excerpted from the Final Text of 2006-A082, which revised Canon III. See General Convention, Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006 (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 583-630.



Resolution Number: 2003-A111
Title: Revise Title III Canons
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canons III.1-9, 13-17, and 19 be deleted and replaced by the following amended Canons III.1-9, with all remaining Canons renumbered as appropriate:

[The final text of Resolution A111 has not been *italicized* because of its size and for ease of reading.
Journal Ed.]

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:

- (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.

CANON 2: 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.

Sec. 2. The Commission shall advise and 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 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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

(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.

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.

(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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 shall 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.

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 Priest-in-Charge Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

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.25, 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.

(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 prescribed required by this Title.

(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.

(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 that 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 certification letter shall be signed and dated by a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the applicant nominee and the congregation or other community of faith, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

(e) If the applicant is a member of a Religious Order or Christian Community recognized by Canon III.30 the certificates letters of support referred to in Canon III.6 or Canon III.8 and any other requirements imposed on a congregation or Priest-in-Charge 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.

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

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

- (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.
- (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 Nominee for ordination to the Diaconate.

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

(1) There shall be a thorough investigation of the Postulant which shall include:

(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.

(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.

(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 reasons given to the Candidate and written notice of the removal being given to the Candidate and the Member of the Clergy Rector or other leader exercising oversight of the nominating congregation or other community of faith and the Commission.

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.

(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,

(c) The formation process shall include sexual misconduct prevention training, training regarding Title IV of these Canons, and anti-racism training.

- (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.**
- (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, and academic development.**
- (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, and assessments and the recommendation and shall be made available to the Standing Committee.**
- (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..

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

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.

- (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.

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.

(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:

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.

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 mutually acceptable to the Deacon and the Bishop, or at any time for reasons of health. 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

(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.

(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.
- (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.
 - (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:
 - (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:
 - (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 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.
- (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 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:
- (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.
- (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.
- (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.
- (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.
- (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.

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.

- (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 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.
- (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:
 - (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:
 - (1)** the Postulant's date of admission to Postulancy, and
 - (2)** a letter of support by the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith. If it be a congregation, the letter shall be signed 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.
- (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.

- (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 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.
- (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 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

- (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
- (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) 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.
- (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.
- (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) _____

- (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.

Sec. 67. Ordination to the Priesthood

- (a) A person may be ordained Priest

- (1) after at least six months as a Deacon under this canon, and
- (2) upon attainment of at least twenty-four years of age.
- (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:

- (1) an application from the Deacon requesting ordination as a Priest, including the Deacon's dates of admission to Postulancy and Candidacy,
- (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.

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) _____

- (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.
- (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.
- (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

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.

- (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.**
- (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 Authority to communicate with the Vestry, nor until any such communication, has been considered by the Vestry at a meeting duly called and held for that purpose.**
- (3) Written notice of the election of a Rector, signed by the Wardens, shall be forwarded to the Ecclesiastical Authority. If the Ecclesiastical Authority is satisfied that the person so elected is a duly qualified Priest and that such Priest has accepted the office to which elected, the notice shall be sent to the Secretary of the Convention, who shall record it. Race, color, ethnic origin, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by these Canons, shall**

not be a factor in the determination of the Ecclesiastical Authority as to whether such person is a duly qualified Priest. The recorded notice shall be sufficient evidence of the relationship between the Priest and the Parish.

- (4) Rectors may have a letter of agreement with the Parish setting forth mutual responsibilities, subject to the Bishop's approval.
- (b) **Priests-in-Charge.** After consultation with the Vestry, the Bishop may appoint a Priest to serve as Priest-in-Charge of any congregation in which there is no Rector. In such congregations, the Priest-in-Charge shall exercise the duties of Rector outlined in Canon III.9.4 subject to the authority of the Bishop.
- (c) **Assistants.** A Priest serving as an assistant in a Parish, by whatever title designated, shall be selected by the Rector, and when required by the Canons of the Diocese, subject to the approval of the Vestry, and shall serve under the authority and direction of the Rector. Before the selection of an assistant the name of the Priest proposed for selection shall be made known to the Bishop and a time, not exceeding sixty days, given for the Bishop to communicate with the Rector and Vestry on the proposed selection. Any assistant shall serve at the pleasure of the Rector and may not serve beyond the period of service of the Rector, except that pending the call of a new Rector, an assistant may continue in the service of the Parish if requested to do so by the Vestry under such conditions as the Bishop and Vestry shall determine. An assistant may continue to serve at the request of a new Rector. Assistants may have a letter of agreement with the Rector and the Vestry setting forth mutual responsibilities subject to the Bishop's approval.
- (d) **Chaplains.**
- (1) A Priest may be given ecclesiastical endorsement for service as a Chaplain in the Armed Services of the United States of America or as a Chaplain for the Veterans' Administration, or in any Federal Correctional Institution, by the Office of the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces, subject to the approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident.
- (2) Any Priest serving on active duty with the Armed Services shall retain the Priest's canonical residence and shall be subject to the ecclesiastical supervision of the Bishop of the Diocese of which the Priest is canonically resident, even though the Priest's work as a Chaplain shall be subject to the general supervision of the Office of the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces, or such other Bishop as the Presiding Bishop may designate.
- (3) Any Priest serving on a military installation or at a Veterans' Administration facility or Federal Correctional Institution shall not be subject to Canons III.9.3.(e)(1) or III.9.4(a). When serving other than on a military installation or at a Veterans' Administration facility, or Federal Correctional Institution, a Chaplain shall be subject to these Sections.
- (e) **Non-ecclesiastical or Non-parochial Employment of Priests**
- (1) Any Priest who has left a position in this Church without having received a call to a new ecclesiastical position and who desires to continue the exercise of the office of Priest shall notify the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident and shall advise the Bishop that reasonable opportunities for the exercise of the office of

Priest exist and that use will be made of such opportunities. After having determined that the person will have and use opportunities for the exercise of the office of Priest, the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may approve the Priest's continued exercise of the office on condition that the Priest report annually in writing, in a manner prescribed by the Bishop, as provided in Canon I.6.2.

- (2) A Priest who would be permitted under Canon III.18 to renounce the exercise of ordained office, who desires to enter into other than ecclesiastical employment, may declare in writing to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident a desire to be released from the obligations of the office and a desire to be released from the exercise of the office of Priest. Upon receipt of such declaration, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall proceed in the same manner as if the declaration was one of renunciation of the ordained Priesthood under Canon III.18.
- (3) (i). A Priest not in parochial employment moving to another jurisdiction shall report to the Bishop of that jurisdiction within sixty days of such move.
- (ii). The Priest:
- (a) May officiate or preach in that jurisdiction only under the terms of Canon III.9.5(a).
 - (b) Shall provide notice of such move, in writing and within sixty days, to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident.
 - (c) Shall forward a copy of the report required by Canon I.6.2 to the Ecclesiastical Authority to whose jurisdiction the Priest has moved.
- (iii). Upon receipt of the notice required by Canon III.9.2(d)(iii)(b)(2), the Ecclesiastical Authority shall provide written notice thereof to the Ecclesiastical Authority into whose jurisdiction the person has moved.
- (4) If the Priest fails to comply with the provisions of this Canon, the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident may proceed in accordance with Canon IV.11.

Of Letters Dimissory

Sec. 4.

- (a) A Priest desiring to become canonically resident within a Diocese shall present to the Ecclesiastical Authority a testimonial from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of current canonical residence, which testimonial 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 accompanied by a statement of the record of payments to The Church Pension Fund by or on behalf of the Priest concerned and shall be in the following words:

I hereby certify that A.B., who has signified to me the desire to be transferred to the Ecclesiastical Authority of _____, is a Priest 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) _____ (S i g n e d)

- (b) Such a testimonial shall be called Letters Dimissory. If the Ecclesiastical Authority accepts the Letters Dimissory, the canonical residence of the Priest transferred shall date from such acceptance, and prompt notice of acceptance shall be given to the applicant and to the Ecclesiastical Authority issuing the Letters Dimissory.
- (c) Letters Dimissory not presented within six months of their date of receipt by the applicant shall become void.
- (d) If a Priest has been called to a Cure in a congregation in another Diocese, the Priest shall present Letters Dimissory. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall accept Letters Dimissory within three months of their receipt unless the Bishop or Standing Committee has received credible information concerning the character or behavior of the Priest concerned which would form grounds for canonical inquiry and presentment. In such a case, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall notify the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident and need not accept the Letters Dimissory unless and until the Priest shall be exculpated. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall not refuse to accept Letters Dimissory based on the applicant's race, color, ethnic origin, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age.
- (e) A Priest shall not be in charge of any congregation in the Diocese to which the person moves until obtaining from the Ecclesiastical Authority of that Diocese a certificate in the following words:
I hereby certify that A.B. has been canonically transferred to my jurisdiction and is a Priest in good standing.

(Date) _____ (S i g n e d)

- (f) No person who has been refused ordination or reception as a Candidate in any Diocese, and is thereafter ordained in another Diocese, shall be transferred to the Diocese in which such refusal has occurred without the consent of its Ecclesiastical Authority.

Of Priests and Their Duties

Sec. 5.

- (a) (1) The Rector shall have full authority and responsibility for the conduct of the worship and the spiritual jurisdiction of the Parish, subject to the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution and Canons of this Church, and the pastoral direction of the Bishop.
- (2) For the purposes of the office and for the full and free discharge of all functions and duties pertaining thereto, the Rector shall at all times be entitled to the use and control of the Church and Parish buildings together with all appurtenances and furniture, and to access all records and registers maintained by or on behalf of the congregation.
- (b) (1) It shall be the duty of the Priest to ensure all persons in their charge receive Instruction in the Holy Scriptures; in the subjects contained in An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism; in the doctrine, discipline and worship of this Church; and in the exercise of their ministry as baptized persons.

- (2) It shall be the duty of Priests to ensure that all persons in their charge are instructed concerning Christian stewardship, including:

 - (i) reverence for the creation and the right use of God's gifts;
 - (ii) generous and consistent offering of time, talent, and treasure for the mission and ministry of the Church at home and abroad;
 - (iii) the biblical standard of the tithe for financial stewardship; and
 - (iv) the responsibility of all persons to make a will as prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer, page 445.
- (3) It shall be the duty of Priests to ensure that persons be prepared for Baptism. Before baptizing infants or children, Priests shall ensure that sponsors be prepared by instructing both the parents and the Godparents concerning the significance of Holy Baptism, the responsibilities of parents and Godparents for the Christian training of the baptized child, and how these obligations may properly be discharged.
- (4) It shall be the duty of Priests to encourage and ensure the preparation of persons for Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, and to be ready to present them to the Bishop with a list of their names.
- (5) On notice being received of the Bishop's intention to visit any congregation, the Rector shall announce the fact to the congregation. At every visitation it shall be the duty of the Rector and the Wardens, Vestry or other officers, to exhibit to the Bishop the Parish Register and to give information as to the state of the congregation, spiritual and temporal, in such categories as the Bishop shall have previously requested in writing.
- (6) The Alms and Contributions, not otherwise specifically designated, at the Administration of the Holy Communion on one Sunday in each calendar month, and other offerings for the poor, shall be deposited with the Rector or with such Church officer as the Rector shall appoint to be applied to such pious and charitable uses as the Rector shall determine. When a Parish is without a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry shall designate a member of the Parish to fulfill this function.
- (7) Whenever the House of Bishops shall publish a Pastoral Letter, it shall be the duty of the Rector to read it to the congregation on some occasion of public worship on a Lord's Day, or to cause copies of the same to be distributed to the members of the congregation, not later than thirty days after receipt.
- (8) Whenever the House of Bishops shall adopt a Position Paper, it may and require communication of the content of the Paper to the membership of the Church, the Rector shall so communicate the Paper in the manner set forth in the preceding section of this Canon.
- (c) (1) It shall be the duty of the Rector to record in the Parish Register all Baptisms, Confirmations (including the canonical equivalents in Canon I.17.1(d)), Marriages and Burials.

(2) The registry of each Baptism shall be signed by the officiating Member of the Clergy.

(3) The Rector shall record in the Parish Register all persons who have received Holy Baptism, all communicants, all persons who have

received Confirmation (including the canonical equivalents in Canon I.17.1(d)), all persons who have died, and all persons who have been received or removed by letter of transfer. The Rector shall also designate in the Parish Register the names of (1) those persons whose domicile is unknown, (2) those persons whose domicile is known but are inactive, and (3) those families and persons who are active within the congregation. The Parish Register shall remain with the congregation at all times.

Of Licenses

Sec. 6.

- (a) No Priest shall preach, minister the Sacraments, or hold any public service, within the limits of any Diocese other than the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident for more than two months without a license from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Priest desires to so officiate. No Priest shall be denied such a license on account of the Priest's race, color, ethnic origin, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise provided in these Canons. Upon expiration or withdrawal of a license, a priest shall cease immediately to officiate.
- (b) No Priest shall preach, read prayers in public worship, or perform any similar function, in a congregation without the consent of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of that congregation, except as follows:
- (1) In the absence or disability of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, and if provision has not been made for the stated services of the congregation or other community of faith, a Warden may give such consent.
 - (2)(1) If there be two or more congregations or Churches in one Cure, as provided by Canon I.13.3(b), consent may be given by the majority of the Priests-in-Charge of such congregations, or by the Bishop; Provided, that nothing in this Section shall prevent any Member of the Clergy of this Church from officiating, with the consent of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, in the Church or place of public worship used by the congregation of the consenting Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or in private for members of the congregation; or in the absence of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, with the consent of the Wardens or Trustees of the congregation; Provided further, that the license of the Ecclesiastical Authority provided in Canon III,9.5(a), if required, be obtained.
 - (3) This Canon shall not apply to any Church, Chapel, or Oratory, which is part of the premises of an incorporated institution created by legislative authority, provided that such place of worship is designated and set apart for the convenience and use of such institution, and not as a place for public or parochial worship.
- (c) No Rector or Priest-in-Charge of any congregation of this Church, or if there be none, no Wardens, Members of the Vestry, or Trustees of any congregation, shall permit any person to officiate in the congregation without sufficient evidence that such person is duly licensed and ordained and in good standing in this Church; Provided, nothing in these Canons shall prevent:
- (1) The General Convention, by Canon or otherwise, from authorizing persons to officiate in congregations in accordance with such terms as it deems appropriate; or

(2)The Bishop of any Diocese from giving permission

- (i) To a Member of the Clergy of this Church, to invite Clergy of another Church to assist in the Book of Common Prayer Offices of Holy Matrimony or of the Burial of the Dead, or to read Morning or Evening Prayer, in the manner specified in Canon III.9.5; or**
 - (ii) To Clergy of any other Church to preach the Gospel, or in ecumenical settings to assist in the administration of the sacraments; or**
 - (iii)To godly persons who are not Clergy of this Church to address the Church on special occasions.**
 - (iv)To the Member of the Clergy or Priest-in-Charge of a congregation or if there be none, to the Wardens, to invite Clergy ordained in another Church in communion with this Church to officiate on an occasional basis, provided that such clergy are instructed to teach and act in a manner consistent with the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of this Church.**
- (d) (a) If any Member of the Clergy or Priest-in-Charge, as a result of disability or any other cause, shall neglect to perform regular services in the congregation, and refuse, without good cause, to consent to any other duly qualified Member of the Clergy to perform such services, the Wardens, Vestry, or Trustees of the congregation shall, upon providing evidence to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of such neglect or refusal and with the written consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority, have the authority to permit any duly qualified Member of the Clergy to officiate.**
- (e) (1)Any Priest desiring to officiate temporarily outside the jurisdiction of this Church but in a Church in communion with this Church, shall obtain from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the person is canonically resident, a testimonial which shall set forth the person's official standing, and which may be in the following words:**

I hereby certify that A.B., who has signified to me the desire to be permitted to officiate temporarily in churches not under the jurisdiction of The Episcopal Church, yet in communion with this Church, is a Priest of _____ in good standing, and as such is entitled to the rights and privileges of that Order.

(Date) _____ (S i g n e d)

Such testimonial shall be valid for one year and shall be returned to the Ecclesiastical Authority at the end of that period.

- (2)The Ecclesiastical Authority giving such testimonial shall record its issuance, the name of the Priest to whom issued, its date and the date of its return.**

Of Retirement

Sec. 7. Upon attaining the age of seventy-two years, a Priest occupying any position in this Church shall resign that position and retire from active service, and the resignation shall be accepted. Thereafter, the Priest may accept any position in this Church, including, with permission of the ecclesiastical authority, the position or positions from which resignation pursuant to this Section has occurred; Provided,

- (a)tenure in the position shall be for a period of not more than one year, which period may be renewed from time to time,**

(b)service in the position shall have the express approval of the Bishop of the Diocese in which the service is to be performed, acting in consultation with the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident.

(c)Anything in this Canon to the contrary notwithstanding, a Priest who has served in a non-stipendiary capacity in a position before retirement may, at the Bishop's request, serve in the same position for six months thereafter, and this period may be renewed from time to time.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), pp. 641-667.



Resolution Number: 1988-A125
Title: Amend and Renumber Canons III.5-10 as follows: Canon III.5 [Of Postulants for Holy Orders] Canon III.6 [Of Candidates for Holy Orders] Canon III.8 [Of General Provisions Respecting Ordination] Canon III.9 [Of the Ordination of Deacons] Canon III.10 [Ordination to the Diaconate and Priesthood] Canon III.7 [Delete Canon 7: Of Standards of Learning]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canons III.5, 6, 9, 10, and 8 be amended as follows and that Canon 7 be deleted:

CANON 5 4.
Of Postulants for Holy Orders

Sec. 1. ~~This Canon shall be interpreted in its plain and literal sense, except that words of male gender shall also imply the female gender. All Bishops of Dioceses and other Clergy shall make provisions to identify fit persons for Holy Orders and encourage them to present themselves for Postulancy.~~

Sec. 2(a). ~~Every Each person desiring to be admitted as a Postulant for Holy Orders is, in the first instance, to consult his immediate Pastor, shall initially consult the Member of the Clergy in charge of the Congregation of which the person is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing. or, if he have none, some Presbyter to whom he is personally known, The person shall set setting before him forth the order to which the person feels called, the grounds of his the desire for admission to Holy Orders, together with such personal circumstances as may bear on his the person's qualifications or tend to affect his course of preparation.~~

(b)(1). ~~If, as the result of a careful inquiry into the physical, intellectual, moral emotional, and spiritual qualifications of the applicant, he is counseled by the aforesaid Presbyter to persevere in his intentions, he shall make his desire known personally, if possible, or in writing, to the Bishop in whose jurisdiction he has been canonically resident for the three months preceding. The Member of the Clergy in charge shall make a careful inquiry, in consultation with other leaders of the Congregation, into the physical, intellectual, moral, emotional, and spiritual qualifications of the person. If the person has been a communicant in good standing of the Congregation for at least one year and the conclusion is that the person should persevere, the Member of the Clergy shall counsel the person to make this desire known to the Bishop in whose jurisdiction the person resides and shall report the findings to the Bishop.~~

(2). ~~If the Bishop is unable to accept an applicant who otherwise would qualify for Postulancy, But, with the written consent of the said Bishop may give written consent to the person to apply to the Bishop of another Diocese for admission. and on the recommendation of at least one Presbyter of the said jurisdiction who is acquainted with the applicant, the latter may at once apply to some other Bishop. He The applicant shall give to that Bishop the name of the Member of the Clergy in charge of the applicant's Congregation his Parish or Mission, or, if~~

~~he have none, of some other~~ **Presbyter in good standing, to whom he is personally known, from whom the Bishop shall ascertain, either by personal conference or by direct written report, the applicant's in writing, his qualifications for admission as a Postulant. for Holy Orders.**

(c). Before accepting an applicant for Postulancy, the Bishop shall determine that the person is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing of a Congregation within that Bishop's Diocese which is willing to involve itself in the applicant's preparation for Holy Orders.

(d). The applicant shall state to the Bishop in writing, the following information:

(1). His Full name, date of birth, and marital status.

(2). The length of time he has been resident in the Diocese.

(3). When, and by whom, he was baptized.

(4). When, and by whom, he was confirmed.

(5). When, and where he was admitted to Holy Communion.

(6 5). Whether application has been made previously he has ever before applied for admission as a Postulant for Holy Orders.

(7 6). On what grounds he the applicant is moved to seek Holy Orders.

(8 7). The level of education he has attained, and, if any, the with degrees earned if any, and areas of specialization.

~~(d e).~~ **Before the admission of a Postulant, the Bishop shall confer in person with the applicant, and shall require the applicant to submit to a thorough examination, covering both mental and physical medical and psychological condition, by professionals appointed by the Bishop. The appointed professionals shall use the forms for medical and psychological and psychiatric reports prepared by the Church Pension Fund shall be used for this purpose. These reports shall be kept on file by the Bishop. and When deemed appropriate the Bishop may make shall be made available information from the reports to the Commission with proper regard for confidentiality. on Ministry.**

Sec. 3 (a). On the basis of the application and of the personal interview, the Bishop shall notify the applicant and the Commission whether or not he the Bishop is moved to proceed. If he the Bishop is moved to proceed, the said Commission, either as a whole, or by means of a committee charged with the responsibility, shall meet with the applicant to review the application and to prepare an evaluation in respect of the applicant's qualifications to pursue a course of preparation for Holy Orders. In each case the applicant must satisfy the Bishop regarding intellectual ability and competence to pursue a course of study preparatory to ministry in Holy Orders. This meeting may take place at an interdiocesan conference in the conduct of which the Commission is represented.

(b). The Commission shall lay before present to the Bishop the aforesaid its evaluation, together with its reasons. therefor.

Sec. 4. The following papers shall be laid before presented to the Bishop and the Commission: to wit

(a). The formal application specified in Sec.2(d) of this Canon.

(b). The evaluation of the Commission, as provided in Sec 3(a) of this Canon. above.

(c). If the applicant is or has been a student in a theological school, a transcript of ~~his~~ *the applicant's* academic record together with the school's evaluation of ~~his~~ *the applicant's* personal qualifications for Holy Orders in this Church.

(d)(1). A certificate from the Rector and Vestry of the Parish of which the applicant is a confirmed adult communicant ~~of this Church~~ in good standing, setting forth the grounds upon which they judge ~~him~~ *the applicant* to possess such qualifications as would fit ~~him~~ *to be admitted* ~~be fitting for admission as~~ a Postulant for Holy Orders, and whether their judgment is based on personal knowledge or on *other* evidence. ~~satisfactory to them.~~

(2). This certificate must be signed by both the Rector of the Parish ~~to of~~ which the applicant belongs ~~is a member~~ and by a *two-thirds* majority of the whole Vestry, and must be attested by ~~the Rector, or by the Clerk or of the Vestry or the Recording Secretary of the Vestry,~~ as follows, *viz.:* ~~of the meeting at which the vote was taken in the following form:~~

I hereby certify that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry of _____ Parish, _____, duly convened at _____ on the _____ day of _____, _____, and that the names attached are those of all (or a *two-thirds* majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed) _____
Clerk (or Secretary) of *the* Vestry.

~~But should the Parish be without a Rector it shall suffice that in his place the certificate from the Vestry be signed by some Presbyter of the Diocese in good standing to whom the applicant is personally known, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.~~

~~(b). Should there be no organized Parish at the place of residence of the applicant, or should it be impracticable, through circumstances not affecting his moral or religious character, to obtain the signatures of the Rector of the Parish and Vestry, or of the Vestry, it may suffice if the certificate be signed by at least:~~

~~(1). One Presbyter of the Diocese in good standing to whom the applicant is personally known, and,~~

~~(2). Four Lay Persons, confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing, to whom the applicant is personally known.~~

~~In such case, the reasons for departing from the regular form must be given in the attesting clause, which shall be signed by the same, or some other, Presbyter of this Church in good standing, and shall be in the following words, viz.:~~

~~I hereby certify that the Lay Persons whose names are attached to the foregoing certificate are confirmed adult communicants of this Church in the good standing, and that this form of certificate was used for no reasons affecting the moral or religious character of the applicant but because (here give the reasons for departing from the regular form).~~

~~Date _____ (Signed) _____.
Presbyter of the Diocese of _____.~~

~~Sec. 5. In the case of a member of a Religious Order or Community officially recognized under Canon III.28, a certificate from the Superior, or person in charge, and Chapter, or other comparable body, shall be sufficient to comply with the foregoing section.~~

Sec. 5. When admitting the applicant to Postulancy, the Bishop shall consult with the applicant regarding the 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 conditions and plans of the Postulant.

~~Sec. 6. When the aforesaid~~ *Upon compliance with these requirements, have been complied with,* the Bishop may admit the applicant as a Postulant for Holy Orders. ~~He shall~~ *The Bishop shall* thereupon record ~~his~~ *the Postulant's* name, with the date of his admission, in a ~~book to be Register~~ kept for that purpose, and shall inform the Postulant, ~~the Rector of the Postulant,~~ the Commission, ~~on Ministry,~~ *the Standing Committee,* and the Dean of the Seminary ~~he the Postulant may be attending, or proposes to attend,~~ of the fact and date of such admission.

Sec. 7(a). The Bishop and the Commission shall work closely with the Postulant to develop and monitor a program of preparation for Holy Orders, including theological training, practical experience, emotional development, and spiritual formation, and to insure that pastoral guidance is provided throughout the period of preparation.

~~(b). If the Postulant is not a graduate as aforesaid, and has not attained the age of 32 years, he may be required to obtain an accredited baccalaureate degree, if not, he shall be required to pass an examination, to be administered by the Commission on Ministry, or otherwise satisfy them that his knowledge is sufficient in the following subjects:~~

~~(b). The Postulant, before entering upon or pursuing further his course of theological studies, must lay before present to the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry satisfactory evidence that he is the holder of holding an accredited baccalaureate degree, or its equivalent, together with a full transcript of the completed academic work. he has completed. If this work includes sufficient instruction in the subjects specified in Clause (b) of this Section, and is otherwise deemed adequate and satisfactory, no examination shall be required. This work shall include sufficient instruction in the following subjects:~~

~~(1). English, or The language (including grammar and composition), and (2). literature, and culture of the people among whom of the country in which he the Postulant expects to exercise his Ministry;~~

~~(3 2). History, and~~

~~(4 3). One Two of the following subjects:~~

- ~~(a). Mathematics,~~
- ~~(b). A Natural Science,~~
- ~~(c). Philosophy,~~
- ~~(d). A Social Science.~~

~~(c). If the Postulant is does not a graduate as aforesaid, hold a baccalaureate degree, and has attained the age of 32 years, and but has shown such proficiency in his an occupation or profession as gives promise of usefulness in Holy Orders, he shall be examined in the subjects listed in Sec. 7(b) above, or otherwise satisfy the Commission on Ministry that his knowledge in these fields is generally satisfactory. the Postulant may be required to obtain an accredited baccalaureate degree; or else shall be required to pass an examination in the subjects listed in Sec. 7(b) of this Canon, and any subjects required by the theological school or other program of preparation for Holy Orders in which the Postulant is to be enrolled, or otherwise satisfy the~~

Commission of sufficient knowledge in these subjects. The Commission shall report to the Bishop whether the above requirements have been met.

~~(d). If the native language of the Postulant is other than English, and he is to exercise his Ministry in Holy Orders among peoples of his own language and culture, the Bishop may, on the recommendation of the Commission on Ministry, dispense him from the academic requirements of Sec. 7 (b) above, precedent to his being admitted to Postulancy.~~

Sec. 8 Every Postulant and Candidate for Holy Orders shall communicate with the Bishop personally or by letter, four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the individual's academic experience and personal and spiritual development.

Sec. 9. Any Postulant may be removed from the Register of Postulants at the sole discretion of the Bishop, who shall give the reasons personally to the Postulant with written notice to the Rector of the Postulant, the Commission and the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the theological school the Postulant may be attending or the director of the program of preparation.

~~Sec. 10.(e). Should a~~ *A Postulant who has been examined in any of the subjects prescribed in Sec. 7(b) above of this Canon and who afterwards apply applies for admission as Postulant in any other Diocese, he shall lay before present to the Bishop of such the other Diocese a certificate from the Bishop who admitted him as a Postulant, of the examining Diocese stating what examinations he has have been taken and the result of each.*

~~The Commission on Ministry may accept, in lieu of examination, satisfactory evidence that the Postulant has fulfilled the requirements in any one or more of the subjects specified.~~

~~(f). In every case the applicant must satisfy the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry of his intellectual ability and competence to pursue a course of study preparatory to Ministry in Holy Orders.~~

~~Sec. 8. The Commission Shall report to the Bishop in writing whether the above requirements have been met.~~

Sec. 11. No Bishop shall consider accepting as a Postulant any person who has been refused admission as a Candidate for Holy Orders in any other Diocese, or who, having been admitted, has afterwards ceased to be a Candidate, until the applicant produces 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 a decision is made to proceed in the matter, the Bishop shall send the letter to the Commission.

CANON 6 5.

Of Candidates for Holy Orders

~~Sec. 1. This Canon shall be interpreted in its plain and literal sense, except that words of male gender shall also imply the female gender.~~ *Sec.2. A Postulant for Holy Orders, having been duly admitted in accordance with Canon III. 4 above, may apply for admission as a Candidate for Holy Orders by the Bishop under upon compliance with the following conditions:*

~~(a). A space of~~ *At least six months shall have elapsed since his admission as a Postulant for Holy Orders.*

~~(b). He *The Postulant* shall have been enrolled for at least nine months in a theological school or seminary or in some other program of preparation for Holy Orders approved by the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry for at least nine months, and received the evaluation and recommendation of the school or director of the program as to his personal qualifications for the exercise of Holy Orders.~~

~~(c). *The Bishop* He shall have received.~~

~~(i). The reaffirmation in writing *from the Rector and the Vestry* of the certificate required in canon III. 5 4.4(d).~~

~~(ii). *The evaluation and recommendation of the theological school or director of the program of preparation, as to the Postulant's personal qualifications for the exercise of Holy Orders.*~~

~~(iii). (d). *The Postulant shall have received the recommendation in writing of the Standing Committee and the evaluation of A report from the Commission on Ministry as to the Postulant's readiness to be received as a Candidate for Holy orders.*~~

~~(iv). *The approval in writing of the Standing Committee, who may have interviewed the Postulant and who shall have had an opportunity to review the documentation relating to the application of the Postulant.*~~

~~(e). *In the case of a member of a Religious Order or Community officially recognized under Canon III.28, a certificate from the Superior or person in charge, and Chapter, or other comparable body, shall be sufficient to comply with this section.*~~

~~(d). *The Bishop shall interview the Postulant and ascertain the Postulant's readiness to make the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.*~~

Sec. 2. Upon satisfactory compliance with the above provisions, the Bishop may admit and list the Postulant as a Candidate for Holy Orders and shall inform the Candidate, the Rector of the Candidate, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the theological school the Candidate is attending, or the director of the program of preparation in which the Candidate is enrolled.

~~Sec. 3(a). *No Bishop shall consider accepting as a Candidate any person who has been refused admission as a Candidate for Holy Orders in any other Diocese, or who, having been admitted, has afterwards ceased to be a Candidate, until he shall have produced a letter from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which he has been refused admission, or in which he has been a Candidate, declaring the cause of refusal or of cessation.*~~

~~(b). *Should the Bishop then decide to proceed in the matter, he shall send the said letter or a copy thereof to the Commission on Ministry.*~~

Sec. 5 3.(a). During the course of the Candidate's academic preparation for Holy Orders, an annual report shall be rendered to the Bishop and to the Candidate by the theological school he is attending, or by the Presbyter(s) the director of the program under whom he the Candidate is assigned to pursue his studies; which report shall contain an evaluation both of his academic performance and of his personal qualification for ordination.

~~(b). The Bishop shall keep these reports shall be kept on file in the Bishop's office, and shall make copies thereof shall be made available to the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee.~~

~~Sec. 4. (a). A Candidate must remain in canonical relationship with the Diocese in which admission has been granted, he has been admitted, until his ordination to the Diaconate, except as hereinafter otherwise provided in Sec. 4(b) of this Canon.~~

~~(b). For reasons satisfactory to the Ecclesiastical Authority, Bishop, Letters Dimissory to another Diocese may be granted to a Candidate on his own upon request; to any other Diocese, Provided, that the same is acceptable to the Ecclesiastical Authority Bishop of the receiving Diocese is willing to accept the Candidate, thereof, with the consent of the Standing Committee of that the receiving Diocese.~~

~~Sec. 6(a). Every Candidate for Holy Orders shall communicate with the Ecclesiastical Authority, personally or by letter, four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on his academic experience and his personal and spiritual development.~~

~~Sec. 5. At the Bishop's sole discretion, any Candidate may be removed from the list of Candidates, with reasons given personally to the Candidate and written notice given to the Candidate, the Rector of the Candidate, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the theological school or the director of the program in which the Candidate is enrolled.~~

~~(b). If a Candidate for Holy Orders shall fail to present himself for canonical examinations (see Canon III.30) within three years from the date of his admission as a Candidate, his name may, after due notice, be removed from the list of Candidates by the Bishop, after consultation with the Standing Committee.~~

~~(c). If a Candidate for Holy Orders shall have passed his canonical examinations, but on other grounds is refused recommendation for ordination, the Bishop, with the consent of the Standing Committee, may remove his name from the list of Candidates after due notice and indication of the grounds for removal have been given the Candidate.~~

~~Sec.76. A Candidate for Holy Orders, in any Diocese of this Church, or of any Church in communion with this Church, whose If a Bishop has removed the Candidate's name shall have been removed from the list of Candidates, except by Letters Dimissory, or the Candidate's whose application for ordination shall have been rejected, no other Bishop may ordain the person shall not be ordained without readmission to Candidacy, continuing for at least twelve months. said Candidacy to continue for not less than one whole year.~~

CANON 9 6.

Of the Ordination to the Diaconate of Deacons

~~Sec. 1. No one shall To be ordained Deacon until he shall a person must be at least twenty-one years of age.~~

~~Sec. 2. No one shall be ordained Deacon within eighteen months one year from his admission as a Candidate for Holy orders, unless, under special circumstances, the Bishop, with the advice and consent of a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee, shall shorten the time of his Candidacy, and in no case shall the time be shortened to less than six months.~~

Sec. 3. Before the ordination of a Deacon the Bishop shall require the applicant to submit to a thorough examination, covering both ~~mental and physical~~ *medical and psychological* condition, by professionals appointed by the Bishop. The forms for medical and *psychological and* psychiatric reports prepared by The Church Pension Fund shall be used for these purposes. These reports shall be kept on file by the Bishop and shall be ~~submitted available~~ to the Standing Committee. ~~when application is made by the Candidate to be ordained Deacon.~~

Sec. 4(a). The Candidate shall have completed a course of study for such time and to such extent as is judged suitable by the Bishop after consultation with the Commission in the following subject matter:

- (1). Holy Scriptures: contents and background;*
- (2). Church History: a general outline;*
- (3). Christian Theology: The Church's teaching as set forth in the Creeds and An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism;*
- (4). Christian Ethics and Moral Theology;*
- (5). Studies in contemporary society, including racial and other minority groups;*
- (6). Liturgics: The contents and use of the Book of Common Prayer;*
- (7). Theory and practice of ministry.*

(b). The Candidate shall take and pass an examination, the form and content of which shall be determined by the Bishop and the Commission.

(c). The Candidate shall have completed training or practical experience suitable to the Candidate's occupation, and ministry in the Church and the world. A record of all such training and an evaluation of the Candidate's attainments shall be submitted in writing to the Commission.

Sec.4 5. No one shall be ordained Deacon ~~unless he be first recommended to the bishop by~~ *without the recommendation of the Standing Committee of the Diocese to which he belongs.* ~~to the Bishop.~~

Sec. 5 6. In order to be recommended for ordination the Candidate must ~~lay before~~ *present* to the Standing Committee:

~~(1 a).~~ *An application for ordination therefor in writing, signed by the Candidate, himself, which shall state stating the Candidate's date of his birth, including a statement of how the Candidate intends to exercise the ministry of a Deacon both in the Church and in the world and that there is no intent to apply for ordination to the Priesthood.*

~~(2 b).~~ *Certificates from the Bishop(s) by whom he the Candidate was admitted a Postulant and a Candidate, declaring the dates of admission as a Postulant and as a Candidate and in what manner the ministry of the Deacon is to be exercised. But when such certificate cannot be had, other evidence satisfactory to the Committee shall suffice.*

~~(3).~~ *A Certificate from a Presbyter of this Church, known to the Ecclesiastical Authority, in the following words, viz.:*

~~To the Standing Committee of~~ _____ (Place)
_____ (Date) _____

~~I hereby certify that I am personally acquainted with A.B. and that I believe this person to be well qualified to minister in the Office of Deacon, to the glory of God and the edification of His Church.~~

~~(Signed) _____~~

~~4(c)(1). A certificate from the Rector or Member of the Clergy in charge and Vestry of the Parish of which he *the person* is a member, in the following words, viz:~~

~~(a). To the Standing Committee of *the Diocese of* _____ (Place)
_____ (Date) _____~~

~~We do certify, that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that A.B., for the space of *last* three years *last past*, has lived a sober, honest, and godly life, and is loyal to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of this Church, and does not hold anything contrary thereto. And, moreover, we think A.B. a person worthy to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Deacons.~~

~~(Date) _____~~

~~(Signed) _____~~

~~(2). This certificate must be attested by the Rector or Member of the Clergy in charge of the Parish, or by the Clerk or Secretary of the Vestry, at which the vote was taken as follows, viz: in the following words:~~

~~(b) I hereby certify that A.B. is a member of _____
Parish in _____ and a confirmed adult
communicant of ~~this Church~~ in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was
signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at~~

~~and that the names attached are those of all (or a *two-thirds* majority of all) the
members of the Vestry.~~

~~(Signed) _____ The Rector or Member of the Clergy in
charge of or Clerk or Secretary of *the* Vestry.~~

~~(d). A report from the Commission that the Candidate has successfully completed the required
course of study and training, (5) A certificate from the theological seminary where he has
been studying, or from those under whose direction he has been pursuing his studies, showing
his scholastic record in the subjects required by the Canons, and giving an evaluation with
recommendation as to his personal qualifications for Holy Orders. in this Church.~~

~~Sec. 6. Should the parish be without a Rector or Member of the Clergy, it shall suffice that
the certificate required in paragraph (4) above be signed by some Presbyter of the Diocese
in good standing, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.~~

~~Sec. 7.(a). Should there be no organized Parish at the place of residence of the Candidate,
or should it be impracticable, through circumstances not affecting his moral or religious
character, to obtain the signatures of the Rector or Member of the Clergy and Vestry, or of
the Vestry, it may suffice if the certificates be signed by at least one Presbyter of the Diocese
in good standing, and six Lay Persons, confirmed adult communicants of this Church in
good standing, or should the Candidate within the space of three years last past have been
a Member of the Clergy or Licentiate in some other body of Christians, by three Presbyters~~

~~of this Church as to the period during which he has been a Candidate, and by six adult members in good standing of the denomination from which the Candidate came, as to the period within the space of three years last past, before he became a Candidate.~~

~~(b). In such case, the reasons for departing from the regular form must be given in the attesting clause, which shall be signed by the same, or some other Presbyter of this Church in good standing, and shall be in the following words, viz.:~~

~~I hereby certify that the Lay Persons whose names are attached to the foregoing certificate are confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing, and that this form of certificate was used for no reasons affecting the moral or religious character of the Candidate, but because (here give the reasons for departing from the regular form).~~

~~(Signed) _____
Presbyter of Diocese, or Missionary Diocese,~~

~~Sec. 8 7. The Standing Committee, on the receipt of the certificates prescribed above and the report of the Board of Examining Chaplains prescribed in Canon III.30.4, and having reason to believe that all other canonical requirements have been complied with, and having no reason to suppose the existence of any sufficient obstacle, ~~physical, mental~~ *medical, psychological*, moral, or spiritual, may, at a meeting duly convened, a majority of all the members of the Committee consenting, *may* recommend the Candidate for ordination by a testimonial *in the following words* addressed to the Bishop ~~in the following words, viz: and signed by all consenting to its adoption:~~~~

~~To the Right Reverend _____,
Bishop of _____: We,
being a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee of~~

~~before presented to us satisfactory certificates that for the space of *last* three years ~~last past~~ A.B. has lived a sober, honest, and godly life, and is loyal to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of this Church and does not hold anything contrary thereto. ~~And Accordingly, we hereby recommend A.B. for ordination to the Diaconate.~~~~

~~In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord _____.~~

~~(Signed) _____~~

~~This testimonial shall be signed by all consenting to its adoption.~~

~~Sec. 9 8. The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on grounds ~~physical, mental, medical, psychological~~, moral, doctrinal, or spiritual, the Bishop may take order for the ordination; and at the time of the ordination the Candidate shall subscribe *publicly* and make, in *his the* presence of *the Bishop*, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.~~

~~Sec. 10 (a). A person of Christian character, proven fitness, and leadership in his community, who is willing to serve in the capacity of Deacon without relinquishing his secular occupation, may be proposed and recommended to the Bishop, for admission as a Postulant by the Member of the Clergy in charge and Vestry of the Parish in which his service is desired, or~~

~~(should the Parish be without a Member of the Clergy) by the Vestry and some other Presbyter of the Diocese in good standing, or (if it is intended that the Postulant should serve outside, or apart from, an organized Parish) by one such Presbyter and six Lay Persons who are confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing who are well informed regarding the area of circumstances within which it is proposed that the Postulant should serve. This recommendation shall be in writing, and shall include a statement indicating whether the person is being proposed for the Diaconate only or for the Diaconate and subsequently for the Priesthood. Such a Postulant may be admitted as a Candidate upon the following conditions~~

~~(1). He shall have reached the canonical age for Deacons, and attained such maturity as the Bishop, Commission on Ministry, and Standing Committee shall find acceptable for ordination.~~

~~(2). The requirements of Canon III.5.2(c) and (d), 3, 4, 6, 7, and 8, and of Canon III.6, except for the provisions as to time contained in Sec. 2 (b) of Canon III.6, shall be fulfilled in such manner as is pertinent to the circumstances.~~

~~(3). Fulfillment of the requirements of subparagraph (c) or (d) of Sec. 7 or Canon III.5 shall suffice as educational qualification for admission as a Candidate.~~

~~(b). A Candidate so admitted may be ordained to the Diaconate at any time after six months from his admission as a Candidate, upon the following conditions:~~

~~(1). He shall have prepared for the Diaconate by studying the topics specified in Canon III.7.2(a) for such time and to such extent as is judged suitable by the Bishop, after consultation with the Commission on Ministry, and with the Member of the Clergy and Lay Persons who proposed and recommended the said Candidate. Similarly, after consultation with persons experienced in the area or field in which this Candidate for the Diaconate is to serve, the Bishop shall appoint such other training or practical experience as is suitable to the Candidate's occupation, his role in the community, and his ecclesiastical ministry. A record of all such training, and an evaluation of the Candidate's attainments, shall be made in writing, and kept on file.~~

~~(2). He shall be recommended for ordination to the Diaconate by the Standing Committee, as required by Sec. 5 of this Canon except as to term of Candidacy.~~

~~(c). Sec. 9 (a). A Deacon ordained under the provisions of this Section Canon may execute all the functions pertaining to the office of Deacon, subject to the general provisions of Canon III. 13, and He may be assigned by the Ecclesiastical Authority to be in charge of a Congregation which is unable receive the services of a resident Priest. at the request, or with the consent, of the Rector and Vestry, he may be assigned as an assistant to serve in one or more Parishes or Missions.~~

~~(b). He The Deacon may not be transferred to another jurisdiction nor given a license to perform the duties of the office of Deacon in another jurisdiction, except upon the express written request in writing of the Ecclesiastical Authority Bishop thereof, which request must be supported by the written consent of the Standing Committee of such other jurisdiction.~~

~~(d c). The provisions of Canon I.8, "Of the Church Pension Fund," shall not apply, as to either assessments or benefits, to Deacons ordained under the provisions of this Section Canon, except that Deacons ordained under this provision who are employed in the active service of this Church on or after January 1, 1990, shall be entitled to the same provisions for pension~~

protection as other Deacons under the Rules of the Church based on prospective service on and after January 1, 1990.

Sec. 10. A Deacon ordained in accordance with the provisions of this Canon shall not be eligible for ordination to the Priesthood, except that, with the prior written consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee, and for good cause shown, the Deacon, after the requirements of Canon III. 7 have been fulfilled, may be ordained by the Bishop to the Priesthood.

~~(c). A Deacon ordained in accordance with this Section, who is willing to serve in the capacity of Priest without relinquishing his secular occupation, may be accepted for ordination to the Priesthood if he has been so recommended in accordance with the provisions of Sec. 10(a) of this Canon, or if he has been so recommended subsequently. In such cases, he is to prepare for ordination to the Priesthood in accordance with the provisions of Canon III. 11. 3.~~

CANON 10 7.

Of Ordination to the *Diaconate and Priesthood*

Sec. 1. A Candidate must first be ordained Deacon before being ordained Priest.

Sec. 2. To be ordained Deacon a person must be at least twenty-one years of age.

Sec. 3. No one shall be ordained Deacon under this Canon within eighteen months from admission as Candidate for Holy Orders, unless, under special circumstances, the Bishop, with the advice and consent of a majority of the members of the Standing Committee, shall shorten the time of Candidacy; and in no case shall the time be shortened to less than six months.

Sec. 4. Before the ordination of a Deacon the Bishop shall require the applicant to submit to a thorough examination, covering both medical and psychological condition, by professionals appointed by the Bishop. The forms for medical and psychological and psychiatric reports prepared by The Church Pension Fund shall be used for these purposes. These reports shall be kept on file by the Bishop and shall be available to the Standing Committee.

Sec. 5 (a). Before ordination to the Diaconate, the Candidate must be examined and show proficiency in the following subject matter:

- (1). The Holy Scriptures;*
- (2). Church History, including the Ecumenical Movement;*
- (3). Christian Theology;*
- ~~*(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, respectively;*
- ~~*(7). Theory and practice of ministry.*~~

(b). A Candidate who has been an adult member in some other body of Christians shall also be examined in writing on those points of doctrine, discipline, polity, and worship in which that Communion from which the Candidate has come differs from this Church.

Sec. 6. No one shall be ordained Deacon without the recommendation of the Standing Committee of the Diocese to the Bishop.

Sec. 7. In order to be recommended for ordination the Candidate must present to the Standing Committee:

(a). An application for ordination signed by the Candidate stating the Candidate's date of birth;

(b). Certificates from the Bishop(s) by whom the Candidate was admitted a Postulant and a Candidate, giving the dates of admission as a Postulant and as a Candidate.

(c). A certificate from the Rector and Vestry of the Parish of which the Candidate is a member, in the form specified in Canon III.6.6(c).

(d). A certificate from the theological school or from those under whose direction the Candidate has been pursuing studies, 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 Holy Orders.

Sec.8. On the receipt of the certificates prescribed above and the report of the Board of Examining Chaplains prescribed in Canon III.30.4, and having reason to believe that all other canonical requirements have been complied with, and having no reason to suppose the existence of any sufficient obstacle, medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual, the Standing Committee, a majority of all the members consenting, may recommend the Candidate for ordination by a testimonial addressed to the Bishop in the form specified in Canon III. 6. 7 and signed by all consenting to its adoption.

Sec. 9. The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on grounds medical, psychological, moral, doctrinal, or spiritual, the Bishop may take order for the ordination; and at the time of the ordination the Candidate shall subscribe publicly and make, in the presence of the Bishop, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.

Sec. 10. No one shall be ordained Priest until: ~~he be twenty four years of age.~~

(a). Reaching the age of twenty-four.

(b). Two years from admission as a Candidate, and one year from ordination to the Diaconate, ~~Sec. 2. No one shall be ordained Priest until he has been a Deacon one full year, unless it shall seem good to the Bishop, for reasonable causes, with the advise and consent of a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee, to shorten the time, nor within two years from his admission as a Candidate for Holy Orders, unless the Bishop for urgent reasons fully stated, with the advice and consent of a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee, shall shorten the time. And In no case shall he a Deacon in training for Priesthood be ordained Priest within less than one year from his admission as a Candidate for Holy Orders, nor until he has been a Deacon for at within least less than six months from ordination to the Diaconate.~~

(c). Completing practical training in work as a Deacon in preparation for ordination to the Priesthood.

(d). ~~Sec. 3. No Deacon shall be ordained Priest unless he be first Recommended to the Bishop by the Standing Committee of the Diocese to in which he belongs the Deacon is canonically resident.~~

Sec. 4 11. In order to be recommended for ordination by the Standing Committee, the Deacon must ~~lay before~~ *present to* the Committee:

~~(1 a).~~ An application ~~therefor in writing for ordination~~ signed by the Deacon, himself, which shall state ~~the stating the~~ Deacon's date of his birth.

~~(2 b).~~ A certificate from the Bishop declaring that the terms of his Postulancy and Candidacy and the time of his service in the Diaconate have been completed. ~~but when such certificate cannot be had, other evidence, satisfactory to the Committee, may suffice.~~

~~(3 c)~~ (1). A certificate from the ~~Member of the Clergy in Charge~~ Rector and Vestry of the Parish where he resides, ~~to which the Deacon is assigned~~ in the following words viz:

(a) To the Standing Committee of _____ (Place)
_____ Date
_____ We do certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that the Reverend A.B., Deacon since the _____ day of

the Diaconate (or for the space of *at least* three years ~~last past~~), has lived a sober, honest, and godly life, and has not written, taught, or held, anything contrary to the Doctrine, Discipline, or Worship of this Church. And, moreover, we think the Reverend A.B. a person worthy to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Priests.

(Signed) _____

This certificate must be attested by ~~the Member of the Clergy in charge of the Parish or by the Clerk or Secretary of the Vestry~~, as follow s, viz. :

(b) I hereby certify that the Reverend A.B. is a resident of _____ Parish in _____; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at _____ on the _____ day of _____, and the names attached are those of all (or a *two-thirds* majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed) _____ The Rector or Member of the Clergy in charge of or Clerk or Secretary of *the* Vestry.

~~Sec. 5.~~ But should the Parish be without a Member of the Clergy, it shall suffice that in this place the certificate signed by some Presbyter of the Diocese in good standing, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

~~Sec. 6(a).~~ Should there be no organized Parish at the place of residence of the Candidate, or should it be impracticable, through circumstances not affecting his moral or religious character, to obtain the signature of the Member of the Clergy and Vestry, or of the Vestry, it may suffice if the certificate be signed by at least:

~~(1.)~~ One Presbyter of the Diocese in good standing; and

~~(2.)~~ Six Lay Persons, confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing.

(b). In such case, the reasons for departing from the regular form must be given in the attesting clause, which shall be signed by the same, or some other, **Presbyter of this Church in good standing, and shall be in the following words, viz.:**

I hereby certify that the Lay Persons whose names are attached to the foregoing certificate are confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing, and that this form of certificate was used for no reasons affecting the moral or religious character of the Candidate, but because (here give the reason for departing from the regular form):

(Signed) _____
Diocese or Missionary Diocese of

Sec. 712. The Standing Committee, On the receipt of the certificates prescribed above and the report of the General Board of Examining Chaplains prescribed in Canon III. 30. 4, Commission that the training and academic requirements have been successfully completed, and having reason to believe that all other canonical requirements have been complied with, and having no reason to suppose the existence of any sufficient obstacle, physical, mental, medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual, may, at a meeting duly convened, the Standing Committee, a majority of all the members of the Committee consenting, may recommend the Deacon for ordination by a testimonial in the following words addressed to the Bishop in the following words, viz: and signed by all consenting to its adoption:

To The Right Reverend _____, Bishop
of _____:

We, being a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee of convened at _____, do testify that the Reverend A.B., Deacon, desiring to be ordained Priest, has laid before presented to us satisfactory certificates that since the _____ day of _____ in the year _____, being the date of ordination to the Diaconate (or for the space of last three years last past), *The Reverend A.B.* has lived a sober, honest, and godly life, and has not written, taught, or held anything contrary to the Doctrine, Discipline, or Worship of this Church; and we hereby recommend the Reverend A.B. for ordination to the Priesthood.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this _____ day of _____, in the year of our Lord _____.

(Signed) _____

This testimonial shall be signed by all consenting to its adoption:

Sec. 8 13. The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on grounds Physical, mental, medical, psychological, moral, doctrinal, or spiritual, the Bishop may take order for the ordination; and at the time of the ordination he shall require the Deacon shall be required to subscribe publicly and make, in his the Bishop's presence, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.

Sec. 914. No Deacon shall be ordained Priest until he shall having been appointed to serve in some Parochial Cure within the jurisdiction of this Church, or as a Missionary under the Ecclesiastical Authority of some Diocese, or as an officer of some Missionary Society recognized by the General Convention, or as a Chaplain of the Armed Forces of the United States, or as a Chaplain in some recognized hospital or other welfare institution, or as a Chaplain or instructor in some school, college, or other seminary of learning, or with some other opportunity for the exercise of the office of Priest *within the Church* judged appropriate by the Bishop.

CANON 8.

Of General Provisions Respecting Ordination

Sec. 1. The provisions of the ~~se~~ *Canons of this Title* for the admission of Postulants and Candidates, and for the ordination to the three Orders, Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, shall be equally applicable to men and women.

Sec. 2. No appointment for the ordination of any Candidate shall be made until the Bishop has had due notice ~~that of compliance with all of the canonical requirements. have been complied with:~~

Sec. 3(a). For the purpose of this and other Canons of Ordination, the authority assigned to the Bishop of the Diocese *as the Ordinary* may be exercised by a Bishop Coadjutor, when so empowered under Canon III.21.2(a), or by a Suffragan Bishop when requested by the Bishop of a Diocese, ~~or by a Missionary Bishop,~~ or *by any other Bishop of this Church the Anglican Communion* canonically in charge of a Diocese ~~or of Congregations in foreign parts at the request of the ordinand's Bishop.~~

(b). The Council of Advice of the Convocation of the American Churches in Europe, and the board appointed by a ~~Missionary 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 ~~included in of Title III of these Canons,~~ 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, or another Bishop, to take order for an ordination.

Sec. 4(a). No certificate or testimonial, the form of which is supplied by Canon, shall be valid, unless it be in the words prescribed; the omission of the date therefrom shall render such certificate or testimonial liable to rejection.

(b). No Candidate for Holy Orders shall sign any of the certificates prescribed in the Canons ~~of Ordination of this Title.~~

(c). Whenever the testimonial of the Standing Committee is required, ~~such~~ *the* testimonial must be signed at a meeting duly convened, and, in the absence of express provision to the contrary, by a majority of the whole Committee.

(d). Whenever the certificate of a Vestry is required, such certificate must be signed by a *two-thirds* majority of ~~all the whole members of the Vestry,~~ at a meeting duly convened, ~~and the fact must be attested by the Secretary of the said Vestry or and by the Rector or Member~~

of the Clergy in charge of the Parish, and the fact must be attested by the Secretary of the Vestry. Should there be no Rector or Member of the Clergy in charge, the certificate shall be signed by a two-thirds majority of all the members of the Vestry and by a Presbyter of the Diocese acquainted with the applicant and the Parish, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

(e). Should the Congregation of which the applicant is a member not be a Parish, the certificates required by Canons III.4.4 and 6 or 7 shall be given by the Member of the Clergy in charge and the local council of the Congregation, attested to by the Recording Secretary of the meeting at which the certification was voted.

(f). If the applicant is a member of a Religious Order or Community officially recognized by Canon III.28, the certificates referred to in Sec.4(d) shall be given by the Superior or person in charge, and Chapter, or other comparable body of the Order or Community.

Sec. 5. Whenever dispensation from any of the requirements of the ~~Canons of Ordination for ordination by the Canons of this Title~~ is permitted, ~~with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee,~~ the application must be first made to the Bishop, and, if he approved, ~~it, be by him~~ referred to the *Standing Committee for its advice and consent.*

Sec. 6. If, in the case of any applicant for admission as a Candidate for Holy Orders, or for ordination, a majority of the Standing Committee refuse to recommend, or shall fail to act within three months, although the required certificates have been laid before the Committee, it shall be the duty of the Committee, without delay, to give to the Bishop the reason, in writing, for *its* such refusal or failure to act .

~~Sec. 7. (a). No Bishop of this Church shall ordain any person to officiate in any Congregation beyond the limits of the United States until the testimonials and certificates required by the Canons of Ordination shall have been supplied, except as provided for as follows:~~

~~(b) .Any Missionary Bishop of this Church having jurisdiction in foreign lands, or any Bishop to whom the charge of Congregations in foreign lands shall have been assigned by the Presiding Bishop, may ordain as Deacons or Priests, to officiate within the limits of his charge, any persons of the age required by the Canons of this Church, who shall exhibit to him the testimonials required by Canon III.9 and 10, signed by not less than two Presbyters of this Church, who may be subject to his charge, and other satisfactory evidence of moral character from natives of the country not in Holy Orders; *Provided, nevertheless,* that if there be only one Presbyter of this Church subject to his charge, and capable of acting at the time, the signature of a Presbyter in good standing under the jurisdiction of any Bishop in communion with this Church may be admitted to supply the deficiency.~~

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 244.