

Appendix D3

Discernment Worksheet for Ordination to the Diaconate

This worksheet is a record-keeping tool for use by the parish discernment group as they complete their meetings with the enquirer, using the detailed process outlined at Appendix D5. It is based directly on the “Criteria for Ordination to the Diaconate” (Appendix D1).

As the discernment process unfolds, individual members of the group are encouraged to use this worksheet to help organise their observations and thoughts, with a view to preparing a joint recommendation concerning the applicant’s suitability for ordained ministry. This recommendation (see Appendix D6) is made to the bishop and director of deacons. The notes made using this worksheet will inform that recommendation, but are not to be submitted as part of it.

In assessing suitability for ordination to the diaconate, the church considers the character, skills and knowledge of candidates. These are sometimes described as “character, charisms, and content,” or as proficiencies of the “heart, hands and head.” We are looking for the qualities described in the “Criteria for Ordination to the Diaconate.” Please note that no one is expected to possess these qualities in full. However, we do seek enquirers who show promise of growth, in addition to an evident affinity for the ministry of a deacon.

For an example of a completed worksheet, please see Appendix D4.

Diaconal Discernment Worksheet

<p>Diaconal Identity. We seek someone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• whose day-to-day ministry and commitments are already compellingly diaconal in nature;• who is practised in the ways of both the church and the world, and who is committed to the wellbeing of both;• with a growing understanding of diakonia within the mission of the church; and• who can imagine how such diakonia could play out in their own church context.
<p>Experienced or Observed Strengths: Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p>Areas Needing Development: Click or tap here to enter text.</p>
<p>Comments / Questions / Notes Click or tap here to enter text.</p>

A pattern of spiritual practice rooted in a diaconal, Christ-centred, Anglican approach to spirituality. We seek someone who:

- is working with a “rule of life;”
- is regular in the daily offices, faithful in their participation in the eucharist, and active in the practice of personal and intercessory prayer;
- pays attention to their interior life;
- has or is initiating a relationship with a qualified spiritual director;
- can articulate how their spirituality relates to the vocation of a deacon.

Experienced or Observed Strengths

Click or tap here to enter text.

Areas Needing Development

Click or tap here to enter text.

Comments / Questions / Notes

Click or tap here to enter text.

Personal awareness and understanding. We seek someone:

- whose presence grounds, encourages and inspires others.
- who is working on self-awareness and who nurtures authentic and productive relationships with others. This includes:
 - an openness to, and respect for, differing social and cultural communities in church and society;
 - understanding and having the ability to communicate emotions; and
 - being attuned to the impact of one’s presence, words and actions on others.
- who responds appropriately to conflict, and who has the emotional resilience to persevere and remain in relationship with others when situations get difficult

Experienced or Observed Strengths

Click or tap here to enter text.

Areas Needing Development

Click or tap here to enter text.

Comments / Questions / Notes

Click or tap here to enter text.

Community engagement. We seek someone who:

- demonstrates knowledge of their local community, and eagerness to learn more about contemporary issues;
- shows sensitivity to human suffering and injustice;
- is committed to interpreting to the church the needs, concerns and hopes of the world.

Observed or Experienced Strengths

Click or tap here to enter text.

Areas Needing Development

Click or tap here to enter text.

Comments / Questions / Notes

Click or tap here to enter text.

Rootedness in the biblical narrative. We seek someone who:

- has an awareness of the sweep of the biblical narrative, its content and themes, especially those foundational to diaconal ministry;
- is aware of the authority of scripture as understood in the Anglican tradition;
- can articulate some of the challenges put to scripture in our contemporary context.

Observed Experiences or Strengths

Click or tap here to enter text.

Areas Needing Development

Click or tap here to enter text.

Comments / Questions / Notes

Click or tap here to enter text.

Gatherer and builder of community. We seek someone who:

- is gifted in gathering diverse people into a community and then building and developing that community over time;
- can help groups of people come together around shared values and a sense of purpose;
- can assist others in identifying and developing their gifts and skills in service to God, the church and the broader community.

Observed Experiences or Strengths

Click or tap here to enter text.

Areas Needing Development

Click or tap here to enter text.

Comments / Questions / Notes

Click or tap here to enter text.

A leader who both carries authority and can live productively in relationship to others in authority. We seek a leader who:

- is comfortable exercising a style of leadership that is both relational and carries authority;
- having made ordination vows, acknowledges the authority and responsibility that others (ordained or lay) carry in relationship to them; and
- can nurture productive relationships with those in authority.

Observed Experiences or Strengths

Click or tap here to enter text.

Areas Needing Development

Click or tap here to enter text.

Questions / Comments / Notes

Click or tap here to enter text.

A listener who loves to learn. We seek someone who:

- is committed to lifelong learning;
- sees God as moving and active in scripture, tradition and reason;
- is open to learning from other disciplines, and from the wisdom of the community.
- learns from their experience of both success and failure.

Observed Experiences or Strengths

Click or tap here to enter text.

Areas Needing Development

Click or tap here to enter text.

Questions / Comments / Notes

Click or tap here to enter text.

A good steward. We seek someone who

- practises self-care of body, mind and spirit;
- nourishes the important relationships in their life;
- is committed to stewardship of the created order;
- gives generously of their time, talent and treasure in gratitude to God.

Observed Experiences or Strengths

Click or tap here to enter text.

Areas Needing Development

Click or tap here to enter text.

Questions / Comments / Notes

Click or tap here to enter text.