

Appendix P1

Criteria for Ordination to Priesthood

This appendix is for use by all who are involved in the discernment process. The criteria outlined here should be kept in mind throughout the entire process, and will be in evidence in several of the other appendices.

1. **Priestly Identity:** We seek a person whose calling is rooted in an understanding of the sacramental nature of the Church and the calling of priests to enable the celebration of the sacraments in the community. We seek those gifted in gathering diverse people into a community and then building and developing that community over time; who can help groups of people come together around the sacraments of the church, shared values and a sense of purpose. We seek those who can assist others in identifying and developing their gifts and skills in service to God, the Church and the broader community.
2. **A person who has a pattern of spiritual practice that is rooted in a Christ-centered, Anglican approach to spirituality:** We seek a person who is committed to a life of prayer. We seek a person who is regular in the daily offices, faithful in their participation in the eucharist, and active in the practice of personal and intercessory prayer. We seek a person who pays attention to their interior life, practises their spiritual discipline privately and publicly, and who is working with or seeking a spiritual director. Those seeking to serve the church as priests should show an understanding of the role of presbyters in the Anglican tradition, and a be actively learning ways in which to connect these understandings to their own sense of spirituality.
3. **Personal awareness and understanding:** We seek a person whose presence grounds, encourages and inspires others. We seek a person who is working on their self-awareness and who nurtures authentic and productive relationships with others. This includes understanding emotions and having the ability to communicate them; being aware of strengths and areas needing attention in terms of relationships with others; and having and being attuned to the impact of their presence, words and actions on others. We seek a person of emotional resilience who can persevere and stay in relationship with others when situations get difficult.
4. **A leader who both carries authority and can live productively in relationship to those in authority:** We seek a leader who is comfortable exercising a style of leadership that is both relational and carries authority. We seek a person who, 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 them.
5. **A listener who loves to learn:** We seek a person committed to life-long learning, who sees God as moving and active in Scripture, tradition and reason, a person open to learning from other disciplines and in the wisdom of the community. We seek those who learn from their experience of both success and failure.
6. **A good steward:** We seek a person who practises self-care of body, mind and spirit, and who nourishes the important relationships in their life. We seek a person who generously gives time, talent and treasure in gratitude to God who is the source of all. We seek a person who has developed and is working with a “Rule of Life” and whose life reflects a deep commitment to all the dimensions of their baptismal covenant, including care for creation.