

## *Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Ordination Process (Deacon and Priest):* Discernment And Nominee Application at-a-glance

### The Inquirer/Applicant Stage: Early Discerning

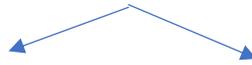
- Individual prayer and discernment as call is sensed or named
- Talk with clergy of congregation: then if they concur with discernment (either yes or maybe) leads into active leadership in the congregation. Exploring Your Spiritual Journey (EYSJ) normative for this part of the discernment process.
- When discerner and clergy both agree they are ready, a Community Discernment Committee is formed:

### CDC Request Packet includes:

1. Letter from Applicant
2. Letter from Priest-in-Charge
3. After the CDC is formed, and charged, the group covenant and charge will also be on file

### Community Discernment Stage: formal discernment process with a Community Discernment Committee (CDC), charged by COM

If YES, a call towards ordination is discerned, they complete the Nominee Packet and apply to the bishop to become a Nominee for Postulancy



If NO, a call towards ordination is NOT discerned, the CDC & congregation continue to support discernment until God's call on their life becomes more clear

### The Nominee Application Packet includes:

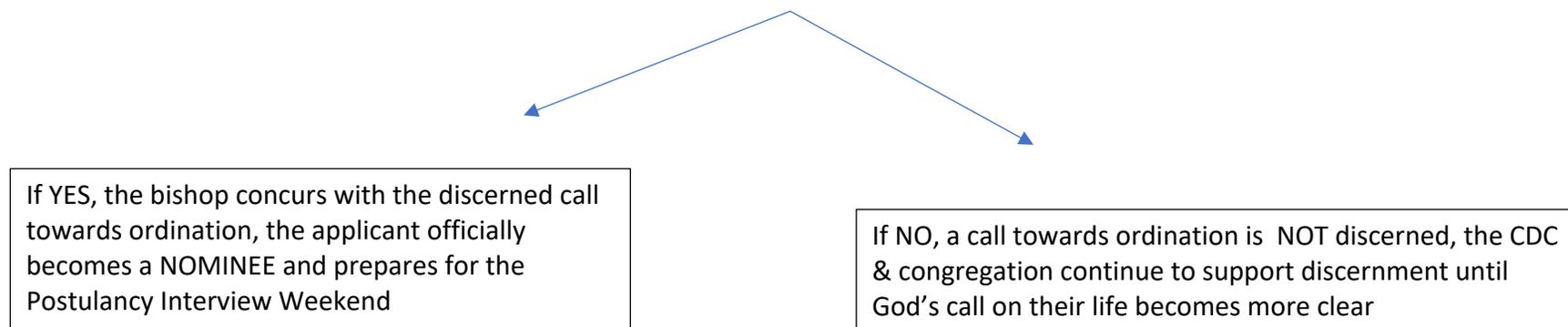
1. Applicant letter (with required info in TEC canon 3.6.2.b or canon 3.8.2.b )
2. Letter from Priest-in-Charge or Warden (using Sponsor Letter Form)
3. Congregational Support Letter (see TEC canon 3.6.2.a or canon 3.8.2.a)
4. Report from the CDC
5. References
6. Three Essays (no more than 1500 words each)
  - a. Spiritual Autobiography
  - b. Dismantling Racism
  - c. Living Faith in Context

*Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Ordination Process (Deacon and Priest):*  
Becoming A Nominee at-a-glance

Once the Nominee packet is received:

- The bishop and two advisors (typically the COM chair and one other COM member) review the Nominee packet
- The Applicant meets with the Bishop and the review team, and their own clergy person

Following the interview, the bishop will communicate with the applicant and the clergy about Nominee status:



## *Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Ordination Process (Deacon and Priest):* Postulancy Interview Weekend At-A-Glance

Once the applicant is made a Nominee by the bishop, a letter is sent to the Nominee and the clergy or warden in charge of the congregation, and the Nominee prepares for the Postulancy Interview Weekend:

- The Nominee is assigned to the Chaplain for the discernment and ordination process
- Nominee completes psychological and physical evaluations, and background check, and submits those to the bishop's office
- Nominee engages the support of both a spiritual director and therapist (if they haven't already)

The Postulancy Interview Weekend includes a series of interviews around the core competency topics: compelling faith; self-awareness and an openness to growth; vocational awareness; and leadership. The Nominee will give a presentation about their leadership and ministry – for example, leading a small group Bible study or sharing about a ministry they have led and what they have learned in that process. More detailed instructions will be included in the invitation to the Postulancy Weekend.

At the conclusion of the Postulancy Interview Weekend, each nominee will have one of three outcomes:

Not yet – a formal, written plan for action in order for **possible** reconsideration will be shared, taking into account options for therapy, study, mentoring, etc.

If NO to ordination: the Chaplain remains as support for a full year, and the sponsoring congregation continues to support until God's call to baptismal ministry in their life becomes more clear

If YES, a call is discerned towards ordination, the Nominee becomes a Postulant, and will leave the Postulancy Weekend with a beginning draft of their formation plan.

*Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Ordination Process (Deacon and Priest):*  
Being A Postulant At-A-Glance

Postulancy is a time of continued formation and growth. During this phase, the Postulant will:

- Continue to be engaged in a worshipping community
- Be assigned to a COM advisor
- Engage in their formation and education, as laid out in their formation plan with the Bishop and COM
- Continue to work with a spiritual director and therapist
- Write Ember Day letters to the Bishop
- Complete Clinical Pastoral Education, and file evaluation with the bishop's office
- Participate in Community Organizing training
- Complete trainings required by canon for ordination:
  - Safeguarding training
  - Anti-racism training
  - Canon law, including Title IV training
- For those on the Deacon track: Minimum Content Exams for the BCP and Scripture
  - > *Postulants on the priest track will take General Ordination Exams (GOEs), typically after candidacy is granted*

## *Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Ordination Process (Deacon and Priest):* Applying for Candidacy At-A-Glance

Approximately one year before “expected” ordination to the diaconate (whether vocational or transitional), the Postulant will apply for candidacy. The Candidacy Application Packet includes:

1. Application Letter and Candidacy Essay from Postulant
2. Letter of support from sponsoring congregation
3. Letter of support from Field Ed supervisor
4. Progress report and evaluation from formation program (such as a “Middler Evaluation” or the “Knowing Being Doing Assessment” from the Academy)

When the Candidacy application packet is complete, the Postulant will be invited to a Candidacy Interview Day with members of the COM and Standing Committee (SC), along with the bishop. The COM and SC make recommendations to the bishop, who makes the final decision about candidacy, and communicates one of the following to the applicant:

