**Rector/Priest in Charge Letter Sponsoring an Applicant for Postulancy**

**To accompany applications for Postulancy for either diaconate or priesthood.**

To: The Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(Name)\_\_\_\_\_ has been a communicant in good standing of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (congregation)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the past \_\_\_\_\_\_(timeframe)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and desires to apply for Postulancy. As the sponsoring priest, I hereby endorse this application.

Sponsoring Priest:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor’s Description of the Applicant—Please complete each question using specific anecdotes and descriptions to flesh out your response.**

How long have you been personally acquainted with the applicant?

What precipitated the applicant’s decision to discern a call to ordination?

Describe the applicant’s spiritual life and relationship with Jesus, as you have observed it. How deeply rooted is this faith, how is it nourished, and how spiritually mature is this person?

How does the applicant communicate this faith to others—inside the congregation, among neighbors and co-workers, and on social media or other platforms?

Describe the applicant’s understanding of their baptismal identity and vocation. What does baptism mean to this person in the context of discerning a call to ordination?

Our church is changing rapidly, as is our wider society. What is the applicant’s vision of their professional ministry? How do they see themselves adapting to the changing church? What is their proficiency with technology, and how do you believe they will adapt to technological changes and challenges over the course of their ministry?

How has this person demonstrated leadership? How do they behave and function in groups, whether as a leader or as a participant? How do they amplify voices that might otherwise go unheard?

Describe how the applicant deals with disappointment and failure.

Describe the applicant’s home situation. If married or partnered, does their spouse or partner support this application? What is the applicant’s current employment? What is their financial situation, and how is it likely to be affected by the costs of a period of formation?

Describe the applicant’s support system, including, but not limited to, family, friends, therapist, spiritual director, or others.

What is your estimate of the general suitability of this person for ordination in this church?

Any other comments or observations you wish to make?