

Inquirer Materials and Process

Commission on Ministry 2021



EDOMI Discernment Process

- Importance of Clergy Support and Involvement at the beginning of the process.
- Moving to a Competency Based Approach
- EYSJ is still normative but no longer strictly mandated

INITIAL STEPS

1. A Call is sensed or named
2. Individual meets regularly with Clergy about Call (Clergy may recommend EYSJ) * If a person is at a congregation that does not have a rector/vicar/priest-in-charge please contact the Canon for Congregational Development, The Rev. Ellen Ekevag eekevag@edomi.org.
3. Individual continues to invest and be an active leader in the congregations
4. Once the clergy and individual agree that further discernment is needed, they submit the Inquirer Packet to the Bishop's office.

THE INQUIRER PACKET

Email to Bishop's Executive Assistant
Crystal Ramirez: cramirez@edomi.org
or snail mail to the Bishop's Office
4800 Woodward Ave. Detroit, 48201

- Clergy Sponsor Letter
- Applicant Inquirer Letter
- Community Discernment
Committee Process (CDC
Process)

Clergy Sponsor Letter

1. *Compelling Faith: How has this person shared their faith with you in compelling and real ways?*
2. *Self-Awareness and Openness to Growth: In what ways has this person in conversation with you demonstrated that he/she/they are open to growth?*
3. *Vocational Awareness and Community Affirmation: Which holy order (priest or deacon) is the inquirer most interested in discerning at this moment? And why?*
4. *Leadership in Context: In what ways has this person been engaged and ministering in your congregation or faith community?*



Letter from Principal Clergy/Clergy Representative on Inquirer's Discernment and Proceeding with Community Discernment Committee (CDC)

To the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan,

_____ has been an adult confirmed communicant in good standing at _____ for at least the past twelve months and desires to continue his/her discernment as a nominee. As the Principal Clergy/Clergy Representative of this parish/faith community, I support the inquirer's further discernment of a call to Holy Orders. I have been personally acquainted with this inquirer for _____ year(s).

Please reflect on the strength in the qualities that we seek in an Inquirer (*Please feel free to use a separate page to answer the questions:*)

- I. *Compelling Faith: How has this person shared their faith with you in compelling and real ways?*
- II. *Self-Awareness and Openness to Growth: In what ways has this person in conversation with you demonstrated that he/she/they are open to growth?*
- III. *Vocational Awareness and Community Affirmation: Which holy order (priest or deacon) is the inquirer most interested in discerning at this moment? And why?*
- IV. *Leadership in Context: In what ways has this person been engaged and ministering in your congregation or faith community?*

Clergy Sponsor Letter

**The Clergy
Sponsor
letter also
includes the
Naming of
the CDC
Members**

The members of the proposed Community Discernment Committee (for more information on CDC please to the CDC Manual)

Lay Convener _____

Email and Phone: _____


Members: (3-4) Lay People from Congregation (1) Lay Episcopalian from outside congregation

Signature of Cleric

Date

Applicant Inquirer Letter

1. How long have you been in conversation with your sponsoring clergy? And what are your biggest takeaways from your conversation with your sponsoring clergy?
2. What ministries and leadership roles are you currently involved in your congregation?
3. What questions are you taking with you into your Community Discernment Committee?



Letter from Inquirer to Proceed with a Community Discernment Committee (CDC)

To the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan,

I, _____, have been an adult confirmed communicant in good standing at _____ for at least the past twelve months and I desire to continue my discernment as an inquirer. I have been a member of this congregation for _____ years.

Please reflect on the following questions (*Please feel free to answer questions on a separate sheet of paper*):

- I. How long have you been in conversation with your sponsoring clergy? And what are your biggest takeaways from your conversation with your sponsoring clergy?
- II. What ministries and leadership roles are you currently involved in your congregation?
- III. What questions are you taking with you into your Community Discernment Committee?
- IV. Additional Comments

Signature of Inquirer

Date

Other Resources to Use in Initial Conversation

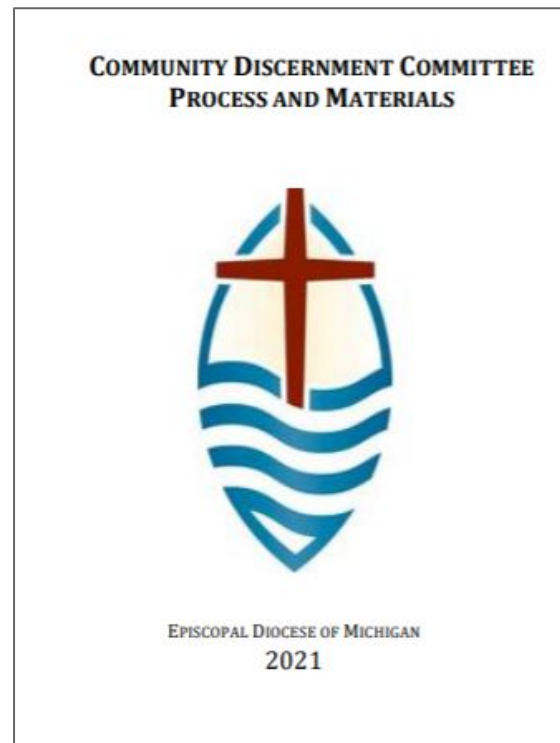
1. Discuss their prayer and spiritual life
2. Begin to ask them to take on greater and greater leadership roles in the ministry and worship life of the congregation and reflect with them on those experiences.
3. Have the inquirer write their spiritual autobiography and give it to you and reflect on it.
4. Study the Baptismal Covenant
5. Study the Ordination Services
6. Review the overall ordination process
7. If interested in further discernment walk through the CDC Process and discuss possible members for their CDC.

Community Discernment Committee (CDC)

Introduction and Formation
of a CDC

The Sessions

Supplemental Materials



Introduction and Formation of CDC

The selection of the Committee:

- A. The Committee is to be established by the rector/vicar/sponsoring priest in consultation with the inquirer.
- B. The CDC is Composed of:
 - Convener a Lay Person who will convene and organize the CDC
 - 3-4 members who are communicants in good standing, exhibit emotional and spiritual maturity, and are active in the liturgical life and ministry of the congregation/community. (We suggest at least one member be from the vestry as a liaison.)
 - 1-2 member(s) who are Episcopalian(s) from another worshipping community.
 - Wherever possible, the committee should reflect racial, cultural and gender diversity and have an appreciation for the breadth and depth of the Anglican Tradition.

Each Session Follows the Same Format

It is our hope that the Reflections
and Guiding Questions will be helpful
and insightful for not only the
inquirer, but also the members of the
CDC.

We hope the CDC is a chance for
every member of the CDC to grow in
faith and understanding

Opening Prayer
In this Session
Guiding Questions
Closing

The Sessions

The Committee meets with the inquirer once or twice a month for about ninety minutes. The Theme for each Session are:

1. Orientation and Commissioning (The CDC first meets with member(s) of the COM to go over the process and expectations.) CDC Forms Covenant
2. Compelling Faith Part A: Inquirer Gives Spiritual Autobiography
3. Compelling Faith Part B: Inquirer Leads Bible Study
4. Self Awareness and Openness to Growth: Inquirer Leads the Prayer Practice of Examen
5. Vocational Awareness and Community Affirmation: CDC works directly with ordination services and competencies
6. Leadership in Context: Inquirer leads opening prayer with creative element
7. Reflections and Blessings: CDC Ends its time of discernment with the Inquirer

The Supplemental Material

- Introduction to Competencies
- Guidelines for a Spiritual Autobiography (Session 2)
- Guidelines for the Bible Study (Session 3)
- Guidelines for Examen (Session 4)
- The CDC Membership Form
- Sample Covenant for a CDC
- Sample CDC Recommendation Letter

The Inquirer Packet is now available on
the EDOMI website:

<https://www.edomi.org/com/>