

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.
- When discerner and clergy both agree they are ready, a Community Discernment Committee is formed and the Inquirer Packet is submitted

Inquirer Packet includes:

1. Letter from Applicant
2. Letter from Sponsoring clergy (includes the names of Discernment Committee members)

After the Inquirer packet is received, the COM will appoint a team to commission and orient the discernment committee.

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 a call towards ordination is NOT discerned, the CDC, sponsoring clergy & congregation continue to support discernment until God's call on their life becomes more clear

The Nominee Application Packet includes:

1. Personal Information Form (with required info in TEC canon 3.6.2.b or canon 3.8.2.b)
2. Letter from Sponsoring clergy (using Sponsor Letter Form)
3. Report from the CDC
4. Three Essays, using the instructions on the COM website (www.edomi.org/com)
 - 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 up to two advisors (typically the COM chair and one other COM member) review the Nominee packet
- The Applicant meets with the Bishop and a member of review team, and their sponsoring clergy person

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

If YES, the bishop concurs with the discerned call towards ordination, the applicant officially becomes a NOMINEE and prepares for the Postulancy Interview Weekend and completes the Postulancy Packet

If a call towards ordination is NOT discerned, the CDC, sponsoring clergy & congregation continue to support discernment until God's call on their life becomes more

The Postulancy Packet includes:

- Application for Postulancy (either for Diaconate or Priesthood)
- Congregational Endorsement form
- Authorization to Release Information form
- Medical and Psychological evaluations
- Background Check

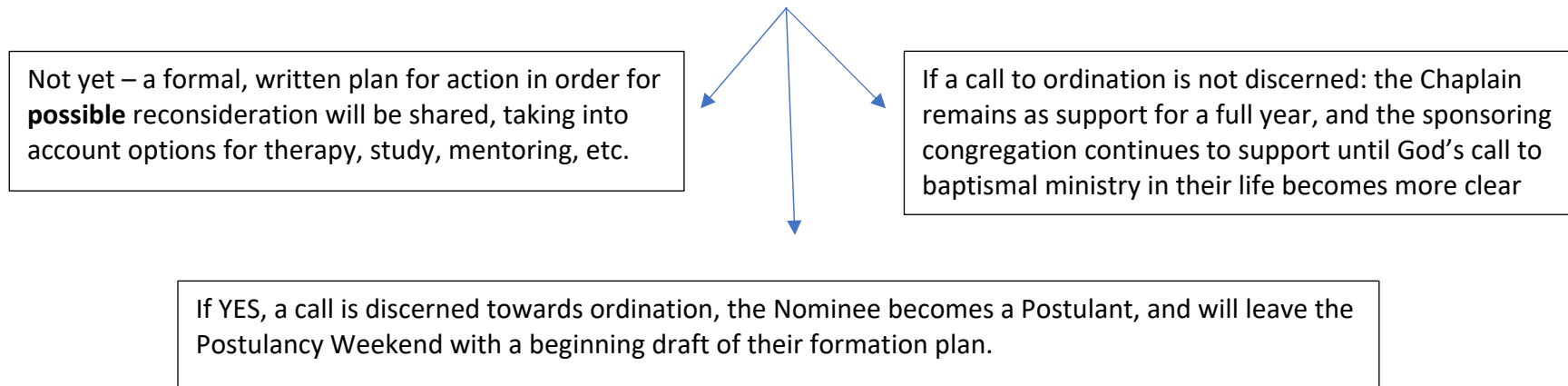
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Ordination Process (Deacon and Priest): Postulancy Interview Weekend At-A-Glance

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 all items in the Postulancy Packet, 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 Chaplain(s) to the process will be available at the weekend, and there will also be time to share in worship and meals together. 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:



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:

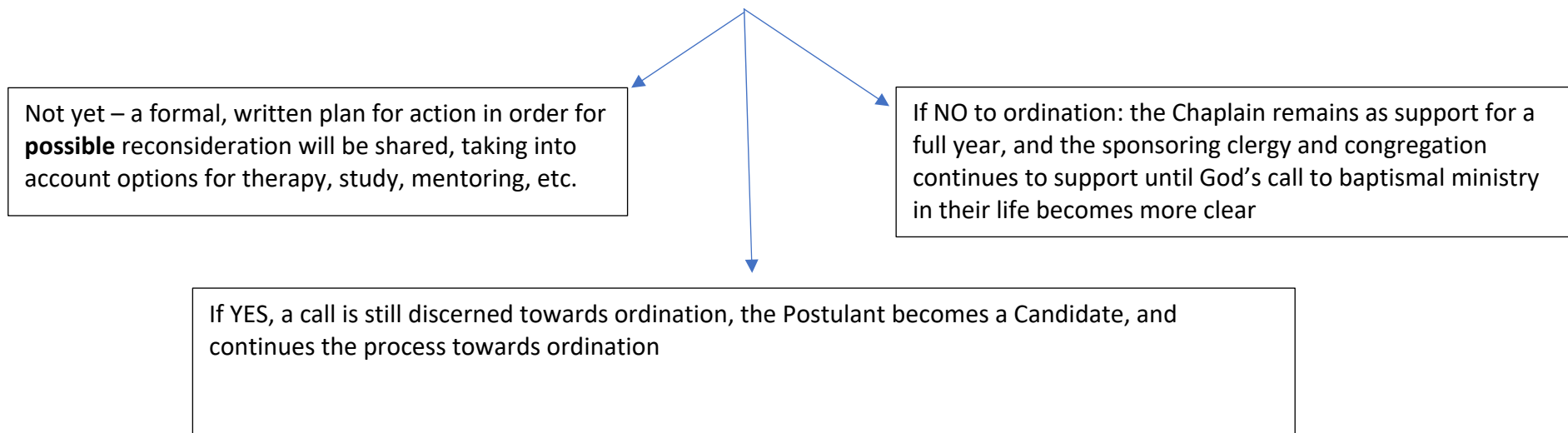
- Continue to be engaged in a worshipping community
- Be assigned to a COM advisor
- Engage in their formation and education, as laid out in their formation plan with the Bishop and COM
- Begin field education placements (*two academic years are required for ordination, at least one year must be completed before applying for candidacy*)
- 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, and file certificates with the bishop's office:
 - Safeguarding training
 - Anti-racism training
 - Canon law, including Title IV training
- For those on the Deacon track: complete the Minimum Content Exams for the Liturgy 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

In the spring approximately one year before “expected” completion of the formation program, the Postulant will apply for candidacy. The Candidacy Packet includes:

1. Application Letter and Candidacy Essay from Postulant
2. Letter of support from sponsoring congregation
3. Letter of support and evaluation from Field Ed supervisor
4. Progress report and evaluation from formation program (such as a “Middler Evaluation” from a seminary)
5. CPE evaluation should be on file

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:



Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Ordination Process (Deacon and Priest):
[Applying for Ordination to the Diaconate At-A-Glance](#)

Ordinations to the Diaconate (vocational and transitional) are held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit, typically in November and June. Please review the COM calendar for the application date for ordination!

Prior to applying for ordination to the diaconate, the Candidate should ensure that:

- It has been at least 18 months since the time of their nomination
- It has been less than 36 months between the date of ordination and their most recent background, medical and psychological evaluations
- All other evaluations and certificates for ordination requirements are on file with the bishop's office including Clinical Pastoral Education evaluation, and certificates or transcripts showing completed Safe Church training, the church's teaching on anti-racism, and canon law with a focus on Title IV.

The Diaconate Ordination Packet includes:

1. An application for ordination from the Candidate, that includes the dates of Postulancy and Candidacy
2. An endorsement from the sponsoring congregation
3. A certification and recommendation for ordination from the seminary or other program of study.

Candidates for the Transitional Diaconate may plan to take the General Ordination Exam (GOEs) after their ordination to the diaconate, but before their ordination to the priesthood. GOEs are held in the beginning of January each year.

Episcopal Diocese of Michigan Ordination Process (Deacon and Priest):
Applying for Ordination to the Priesthood At-A-Glance

Ordinations to the Priesthood are typically held at the congregation where the priest will serve their first call, or sometimes at their sponsoring congregation. Please review the COM calendar for the application date for ordination!

Prior to applying for ordination to the diaconate, the Candidate should ensure that:

- It has been at least six months between their ordination to the diaconate and the proposed date of ordination to the priesthood
- It has been less than 36 months between the date of ordination and their most recent background, medical and psychological evaluations
- All other evaluations and certificates for ordination requirements are on file with the bishop's office
- A "first call" has been accepted for exercising priestly ministry

The Priesthood Ordination Packet includes:

4. An application for ordination from the deacon, that includes the dates of Postulancy, Candidacy & Diaconal Ordination
5. An endorsement from the sponsoring congregation
6. A certification of completion and a recommendation for ordination to the priesthood from the seminary or other program of study.