

# FORMATION PLAN: PRIESTHOOD

Every Postulant is required to work with his or her Advisor to create a Formation Plan that adheres to Canonical Guidelines outlined in Title III Canon 8 Section 5. This plan can include formal coursework, prior education and life experience; practical experience; and spiritual/emotional formation. Once completed, the proposed Formation Plan must be approved by the Bishop and the COM.

The areas of preparation are discussed fully in the “Formation Guide” and “Competencies for the Ordination Process” found at [www.edomi.org/COM](http://www.edomi.org/COM). The basic goals are summarized here:

## CANONICAL AREAS OF PREPARATION

*Portfolio: over the course of the period of formation, you will assemble a portfolio of artifacts that demonstrate your learning and work in these areas. Refer to Formation Guide for examples of artifacts.*

### 1. The Holy Scriptures

- Ability to identify, describe, analyze, and interpret biblical texts and their theological textures, attentive to their historical, literary, and canonical contexts;
- engage in careful interpretation of the Holy Scriptures that is sensitive to the contexts and needs of a variety of interpreting communities; and
- listen for, reflect, and articulate the living word and wisdom of God in the Scriptures, for personal nourishment and for congregational life and public leadership

### 2. History of the Christian Church

- Familiarity with the history of the Church; the diversity of Christian thought; the Anglican tradition; and the Episcopal Church, including an understanding of the Doctrine of Discovery, The Episcopal Church’s involvement with the history of slavery and racism in America, and the colonialist legacy of the Episcopal Church;
- Understanding not only of how doctrines and traditions emerged, but also of how both society and the church were formed by particular contexts and events;
- Ability to apply this framework to questions of how the Church might stand in relationship to various tensions and changes in the current culture.

### 3. Christian Theology

- Ability to articulate a faith that seeks to learn and grow, and empower others to do the same;
- Broad understanding of theologies in the Christian tradition;
- Awareness of the ways in which theology shapes and is shaped by all areas of our lives;
- Application of theological ideas to pastoral ministry.

### 4. Christian Ethics & Moral Theology (including environmental ethics and theology)

- Be conversant with processes of ethical decision-making and different models of ethics in the Christian tradition;
- Ability to discern Jesus’ call to justice in contemporary issues both in the Church and in the world, with particular emphasis on the ethics of race, privilege and structural oppression; and environmental ethics;
- Recognition of the many ways Christian Ethics inform and challenge our personal and congregational decisions; and pastoral sensitivity to the reality that there will always be competing goods.

## **5. Christian Worship**

- Deep knowledge of the history and content of the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal 1982, alongside familiarity with all the authorized supplemental texts;
- Ability to use these resources to create and lead worship that nourishes, forms, and calls the worshipping community.

## **6. The Practice of Ministry in Contemporary Society**

- Cultural Competence and Social Location: recognize your own cultural context and strengthen capacities to learn from and minister within other contexts;
- Public Witness: understand the church's call to proclaim the gospel challenge and assurance in the public realm;
- Leadership: lead, organize and equip others; innovation and adaptability;
- Interpersonal: skills and attitudes for working with individuals, groups, and communities.

## **7. Personal Formation and Christian Spiritual Practices**

- To become a mature person of faith, capable of meeting people wherever they might be, out of the depth of who we are in Christ.

### **COMPETENCIES FOR ORDINATION**

*All of these areas overlap and are informed by each other. But these areas of study will be particularly helpful in strengthening the four Competencies.*

#### **1. Compelling Faith**

Scripture Study; Christian Theology; Christian Worship; Personal Formation  
EYSJ; Spiritual direction; retreats

#### **2. Self-Awareness and Openness to Growth**

Church History; Christian Ethics and Moral Theology; Personal Formation  
EYSJ; Therapy; Spiritual Direction; anti-racism training; CPE

#### **3. Vocational Awareness and Community Affirmation**

Church History; Christian Worship;  
EYSJ; Field Education; CPE

#### **4. Leadership and Context**

Practice of Ministry; Church History; Christian Ethics  
EYSJ; Field Education; CPE

# FORMATION PLAN: PRIESTHOOD

Postulant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's name/contact info: \_\_\_\_\_

## Context for Formation

\_\_\_\_\_ Residential/Full-time Seminary (e.g. VTS, ETS, EDS at Union) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Low residency program (e.g. Bexley-Seabury; CDSP) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Local Formation (e.g. CALL at CDSP, ASJ at Union) \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION 1: AREAS OF FORMATION

*List relevant courses:* Title, Location and Date (e.g.: Intro to Hermeneutics, ETS, Fall 2022)  
*List relevant experiences and practices:* Description, Location and Date (e.g.: led three-part Adult Education series on Anglican ethical decision making; Christ Church, Detroit; 2020)

### 1. The Holy Scriptures

### 2. History of the Christian Church

### 3. Christian Theology

**4. Christian Ethics & Moral Theology**

**5. Christian Worship**

**6. The Practice of Ministry in Contemporary Society**

**7. Personal Formation and Christian Spiritual Practices**

*Spiritual Director:*

*Therapist:*

*Courses, retreats, workshops, spiritual practices, etc:*

## SECTION 2: PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

<b>Field Education</b> <i>(note: EDOMI requires 2 years of Supervised Field Placement)</i>
Year One Placement <i>Location:</i>  <i>Program Dates:</i>  <i>Supervisor:</i>
Year Two Placement <i>Location:</i>  <i>Program Dates:</i>  <i>Supervisor:</i>
<b>Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)</b> <i>(note: must be completed prior to Application for Candidacy)</i>
<i>Location:</i>  <i>Program Dates:</i>  <i>Supervisor:</i>

## SECTION 3: OTHER DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS

<b>Prevention of sexual misconduct against both children and adults; including civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.</b>
_____ Safe Church, Safe Communities (date/location: _____) _____ Other equivalent training (date/location: _____)
<b>The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church</b>
_____ Title IV training (date/location: _____) _____ Other equivalent training (date/location: _____)
<b>The Church's teaching on racism</b>
<b>Community Organizing Training</b> <i>(3-5 day program, through or approved by the bishop's office)</i>

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Postulant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date Submitted