

EXPLORER DISCERNMENT

BOOK 1

Parish Discernment Committee



Diocese of
Southern Ohio

DISCERNMENT PROCESS: BASIC INFORMATION DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN OHIO

The Explorers' Day is the entry point for the discernment process, and all who desire to begin a formal exploration of a possible call to ordained ministry are required to attend. The Explorers' Day typically occurs on a Saturday in late January.

- **Guidance to Clergy:**
 - Sponsoring clergy (Rector or Priest-in-Charge) attend the Explorers' Day with the Explorer.
 - Explorer's Day is for those who are at the beginning of exploring God's call in their lives. It is not required that the Explorer (or the clergy) be clear about the Explorer's sense of call prior to attending Explorer's Day.
 - Only those who have been confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church and have been active members of your parish for at least two years should attend the Explorers' Day.
- There is no age limit for people entering the discernment process.
- Please note the canonically mandated retirement age is 72. After that age, an ordained person may serve only if they have written permission from their Bishop.

The stages in the path to ordination are:

- **Explorer**
 - First step – might be in this stage for multiple years
 - Discernment at own parish and further discernment during internship
- **Postulant**
 - Named by Bishop, after being endorsed by their Discernment Committees, Vestry, and the CoM
 - For many, professional education (Seminary or Deacon School) happens while a Postulant
- **Candidate**
 - Named by Bishop, after being endorsed by their Vestry, the CoM, and the Standing Committee.
 - Happens (typically) in October three or four years after becoming a Postulant.
- **Ordinand**
 - Named by the Bishop, after being endorsed by their Vestry, the CoM, and the Standing Committee
 - Happens (typically) in the spring, with ordination then in early June.
 - Could have two Ordinand decisions – Deacon (transitional) then Priest

In the Explorer stage, the Bishop and Commission on Ministry are looking for these competencies:

- Compelling Faith
- Spiritual Practices (an understanding of the ones that work for them and knowledge of others)
- Self-awareness and ability to reflect
- Maintains appropriate boundaries
- Understanding of baptismal ministry and the orders of ministry (developed during internship)
- Understanding of Episcopal worship & polity
- Willingness to engage with issues of Beloved Community, Creation Care, Substance Abuse and to confront issues of racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism & religious bias in themselves and their community
- Willingness and ability to be vocationally flexible
- Willingness to take risks, to fail and to learn from failure

If you have questions about the discernment process along the way, please contact Robin Holland, Chair of the Commission on Ministry at rholl10554@aol.com or The Rev. Melanie Slane (Transition Minister) at transitions@diosohio.org.

OVERVIEW OF TYPICAL ORDINATION PROCESS TIMELINE*

Late-January Year A	Explorers' Day (attendance required to begin process)
January-April Year A	Explorer and their respective clergy meet with Bishop for approval to begin the Explorer process
Mid-December Year A	DUE: Parish Discernment Committee Report
January Year B	CoM Interviews with those who have submitted PDC materials. CoM makes invitations to participate in an Internship
February -July Year B	Internship
February-July Year B	DUE: Psychological & Medical Exams, background checks, request transcripts to be sent to Diocese, fill out "Information Sheet for Those Discerning a Call" and send to the Bishop's Office.
Early Sept, Year B	DUE: Internship Committee Report , Priest & Vestry/Mission Council endorsements of applicants
September Year B	DUE: Completion of Bishop's consultation with applicants
October , Year B	COM interviews applicants to determine recommendation for Postulancy
October Year B	Bishop grants postulancy; seminary visits, applications & financial aid search
Year C Formation Begins	School for Diaconal Formation (SDF) enrollment (those discerning for the diaconate) or Seminary enrollment (those discerning for the priesthood)
October, Year E	Interview by CoM and Standing Committee; recommendation for Candidacy
January, Year F	General Ordination Exams (those discerning for the priesthood) Written work due and oral exam with Examining Chaplains (those discerning for the diaconate)
April, Year F	CoM and Standing Committee recommendations for Ordination
Year F	Ordination as Vocational Deacon or Transitional Deacon
Year G	CoM and Standing Committee recommendations for Ordination to Priesthood
Year G	Ordination to Priesthood

*Note that the actual timeline for each individual can be quite different. See Isaiah 55:8-11.

REGARDING PARISH DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Some Things to Look for in Selecting PDC Members

1. The Parish Discernment Committee should be made up of 4-6 lay people from the Explorer's congregation. It is not appropriate for deacons or priests to be members of a PDC. Each PDC should include:
 - a. 1 person who knows the explorer well;
 - b. 1 person who doesn't know the explorer well;
 - c. Someone who is considered to have abilities in the area of discernment.
2. It seems best to have one PDC per explorer. In a parish with multiple Explorers, smaller committees may be created to allow for multiple committees.
3. The following may **not** serve on the IDC:
 - Deacons or priests
 - Postulants, Candidates, or other Explorers currently in the discernment process
 - Spouses, partners, or family members of any clergy of the parish or the explorer.

*Although the above cannot be members of the IDC, the CoM encourages the Explorer (and their spouse, partner, and/or family) to informally discuss potential realities of ordained households with clergy spouses, partners, and/or family members as seems appropriate for the Explorer and clergy family.
4. The rector or priest-in-charge (or ecclesiastical authority) should meet with the committee at minimum for the 3 meetings about orders of ministry and may meet with the committee for all the meetings.
5. PDC members should be people of prayer.
6. PDC members will be active baptized lay members of Episcopal congregations, attending worship regularly and taking part in the activities/programs of his or her congregation.
7. PDC members should have a basic understanding of the faith, with the ability to express that faith and share their own spiritual journey with others in the group.
8. PDC members should have good communication skills, including assertiveness and openness in a caring manner, and should be able to work collaboratively.
9. PDC members should be sensitive, observant, respectful, and able to honor diversity.
10. PDC members should have demonstrated reliability in previous congregational work.
11. PDC members should have a basic understanding of "group process" and commit to attend all meetings.
12. All PDC members should be willing and able to make a commitment to maintain confidentiality.

Note: If the site has multiple worship services, the member of the PDC and Explorer will be attending the same service(s) Meaningful interactions and observations will be important. The IDC should see the Explorer in a vestry meeting, serving liturgically, informally in coffee hour etc.

The Commission on Ministry has several members who serve as resources to Parish Discernment Committees.

CONFIDENTIALITY *

In the Discernment Process, confidentiality is crucial because we are dealing with very sensitive issues in peoples' lives.

What should be kept confidential?

- all proceedings of the committee meetings
- personal spiritual journeys of the members
- individual evaluations
- vote tallies

When asked by a member of the congregation, "How are things going with the PDC?" A member might respond: "We are enjoying getting to know one another and working together." If they continue to press, something like this may be appropriate: "I appreciate your concern, but since our work is confidential, I am unable to talk about it. I hope you understand."

Information about someone may be public or private. For example: If a parishioner asks how many children the Explorer has, it is OK to say "Two". This is public knowledge. If a parishioner asks if the Explorer has ever suffered from depression, this is private knowledge. If there is any doubt whether an issue is in the private or public domain, then treat the information as confidential.

Respect the group process. Under no circumstances should a member of the committee take it upon him-or-herself to discuss with the Explorer regarding any problem or observation which has arisen during a meeting where the Explorer is not present. Such observations are only shared with the Explorer within the committee meeting or by the convener if so directed by the committee as a whole. Discussions pertaining to the parish discernment process should remain within the context of the meetings and not as side conversations apart from the group.

* It is helpful to differentiate confidentiality from "secrets". The motive behind secrets is to exercise power over an individual, e.g. "I know this and you don't, therefore I am more important than you." The motive behind confidentiality is to guard information so as to protect privacy and vulnerability.

GUIDELINES FOR THE RECTOR OR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE AND PDC

It is the **congregation** that traditionally calls people to various forms of ministry. It is the principal place where assistance is offered in answering the questions: "To what ministry is God calling me? Is this ministry to be exercised as a lay person, or is God calling me to the ordained ministry? What training do I need to fulfill this lay or ordained ministry?" The congregation is the spiritual and pastoral home of the Explorer. It is for this reason that an Explorer needs the endorsement by his or her sponsoring Vestry.

A primary function of the congregation – and, more broadly, the entire lay community – is to help the Explorer appreciate that this is the beginning of a period of exploring and testing that **may or may not** lead to ordination. This cannot be stressed enough. We are all called by God to our various ministries, lay and ordained. Not all are called to ordained ministry.

A "no" to the ordained ministry **must** also be understood as an affirming "yes" to the ministry of the laity. The congregation and the Explorer are entering into a decision-making process that is both personal and communal. This is a central element of the Anglican and Episcopal tradition. As the PDC facilitates exploration for the individual, it also carries the discernment process into the larger community. This process is not a training course in ministry for one person, but the education of a whole congregation about ministry and faith development.

The Rector or Priest-in-Charge will recruit the members of the PDC from the Explorer's congregation. In accordance with the guidelines given above, the PDC is made up of 4-6 members .

The PDC is asked to enter into a special relationship with the Explorer on behalf of the congregation and the larger church. This requires a commitment of time and energy, a willingness to share of themselves, and a commitment to ask difficult and challenging questions of one another. In the course of their work they may enter spiritual depths in their life as a group and individually that will reward and challenge them.

People entering the commitment to serve on a PDC may ask, "What do I have to offer? Who am I to judge?" The simple truth is that we depend on every member's gifts and discernment. The basic qualifications are within each of us in our life experience and in the Christian commitment we offer. This task calls for a willingness to be open, honest, and candid in the context of a caring and respectful community; to both support and confront the Explorer. While the principal purpose lies in helping the Explorer clarify a calling, the process will result in a mutual journey for all involved.

The Explorer will ask: "What form should my ministry take: lay, deacon, or priest?"

The PDC and ultimately the Vestry/Mission Council and Rector or Priest-in-Charge will ask:

- Does this individual sufficiently understand the ministry of all baptized persons, and appreciate the opportunities for his or her lay ministry?
- Does ordained ministry seem to me and to us to be the form of ministry to which God is calling this person?
- Can we in good faith send this person to become a leader of other congregations?

As outlined above, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge is not a member of the PDC, which is comprised of all lay members, but will, however, meet with the PDC for a minimum of the 3 meetings about orders of ministry, and may meet with the committee for all meetings. In addition, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge may, at times provide, as needed, pastoral care or supply specific information.

During the course of their work together, the time may come when it seems proper to the Explorer to decide not to proceed to the ordained ministry, or the committee may decide not to recommend that person for ordained ministry. In this event the PDC should assist the Explorer in finding a suitable form in which to express his or her ministry.

NOTE: The PDC recommends; the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, Vestry/Mission Council and Diocese are the canonical authorities to decide whether to recommend continuation towards ordination.

The work by the PDC and its report (see page 17) are among the most important parts of this process. Members have a sustained and intimate contact with the Explorer and frequently become identified and involved with the Explorer. Openness, candor and support are encouraged, but it is also important to balance these qualities with objectivity. It may seem difficult to say "no" to ordination and "yes" to lay ministry because this sounds to an Explorer like a rejection of his or her perceived gifts. However, please know that you are doing the Explorer a favor (in the long run) if you provide an authentic, caring "no."

Please note that a recommendation for continuing towards ordination by the PDC **does not** have to be unanimous; a simple majority in favor of recommending for continuing is sufficient. In fact, specific questions or concerns given as a minority opinion can be very instructive to the Explorer, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry, and the Diocese as the Explorer moves forward in his or her discernment journey. For the Vestry recommendation, The Episcopal Church canons require a two-thirds majority.

PROCEDURES FOR THE PARISH DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

What follows is an outline of the steps in the Parish Discernment Process and is designed to assist you in your work with your Explorer. The Parish Discernment Committee Process must be completed in time to submit the report to the Vestry for the Vestry's **November meeting** so that all materials (PDC report, vestry endorsement, and the endorsement of the rector or priest-in-charge) can be submitted to the Diocese c/o Sarah Beegle (sbeegle@diosohio.org) by **Mid-December** (the date may vary year to year.)

The PDC will need to have a Convener/Chair **appointed by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge**, who will chair the meetings and lead the preparation of the final report. (The Rector or Priest-in-Charge may ask the committee to decide on their chair.) Alternatively, the PDC may also have recorder (appointed by the Convener/Chair) who will prepare the committee's recommendation on the **"Report of the Parish Discernment Committee."** Many PDCs also find that appointing a member as a "lay chaplain" for the PDC is helpful.

APRIL MEETING : PDC Q & A (DIOCESAN MEETING ON ZOOM)

Who attends: PDC, Explorer, Rector or Priest-in-Charge

The meeting will typically take place via Zoom for all Parish Discernment Committees being formed in the Diocese this year. Check with the Commission on Ministry for the specifics for the current year.

Prior to the meeting all Explorers, Clergy, Parish Discernment Members should:

- Watch **The Parish Discernment Committee Orientation Video:**
 - <https://diosohio.org/ordination-process/>
- All members of the PDC and the Rector or Priest-in-Charge should have a copy of the PDC process and the **Explorer Discernment Process Book I**
 - <https://diosohio.org/ordination-process/>

Preparation for the MAY Meeting

Before the May meeting the Rector or Priest-in-Charge should complete and submit the **Parish Discernment Committee** form listing members of the PDC. (see page 15) to Sarah Beegle (sbeegle@diosohio.org)

Before the MAY MEETING, each member of the PDC should prepare a **spiritual autobiography** for the next meeting. (see page 16)

- For the Explorer, this spiritual autobiography is intended to provide a more detailed exploration and reflection of the Explorer's life journey, spiritual formation and particular elements of the perceived call to ministry. This autobiography (not to exceed ten double-spaced pages) is to be sent to the PDC **prior to the May** meeting.

- For the other members of the PDC, the spiritual autobiography is prepared by reflecting on your journey of faith and your life in relationship to God. To prepare, prayerfully reflect on especially formative or meaningful events in your life: where was God for you in those moments and/or where did God seem absent? How does your journey affect your current beliefs? Please prepare a brief summary **in advance of** the May meeting as a personal aid in discussion. Note that you will **not** be asked to share this written document with others, although you will be expected to share some of the content orally in the PDC meeting.

May Meeting and Reflection Questions: Spiritual Autobiography and Practices & Faith

Members of the Committee should have worked on a “spiritual autobiography” prior to this meeting. Share reflections and findings.

Each Member shares what their spiritual practices are. Explorer shares their own.

Discuss Daily Office and resources available; discuss Lectio Divina and resources available. Encourage explorer to engage spiritual practices to deepen sense of discipleship and discernment.

The first 3 questions in the Baptismal Covenant have to do with “what we believe” in declaring our beliefs in the Persons of the Trinity. Discuss each of the three questions and the members relationship with each person of the Trinity.

- *Following this meeting each member of the committee should write an answer to the question “When the explorer talks about their faith and spiritual practices what most stands out for you?”*
- *Following this meeting the explorer should write an answer to the question “When thinking about your faith journey, what common theme or themes do you see running through your life?”*
- ***In preparation for the June meeting** the committee is asked to read the “Baptismal Covenant” in the BCP, pages 304-305*

June Meeting and Reflection Questions: Lay Ministry

The next 5 questions in the Baptismal Covenant have to do with “how we live” our Faith. Discuss each question and each members current practices, ministry, or reflections.

- *Following this meeting each member of the committee should write an answer to the questions “As the explorer reflected on the variety of ministry of the laity, where did you hear the most passion and engagement? How have you experienced the explorer’s ministry in your congregation?”*
- *Following this meeting the explorer should write an answer to the question “As you reflect on your current ministries, what brings you the most joy and why?”*
- ***Prior to the July meeting**, the committee is asked to read the ordination vows of a Deacon (BCP 543-544)*

July Meeting and Reflection Questions: Diaconate

What is the role of the Deacon in the BCP 855 and 543-544?

What part of the vows resonated with the Explorer? Which did not?

How are the currently ministries of the Explorer like the Diaconate? Which are more like the Laity?

- *Following this meeting each member of the committee should write an answer to the questions “As the explorer reflected on the ministry of the diaconate where did you hear the most passion and engagements? In what ways could you see (or do you currently see) the explorer exercising diaconal ministry?”*
- *Following this meeting the explorer should write an answer to the question “In what ways can you see yourself (or do you currently see yourself) exercising diaconal ministry?”*
- ***Prior to the August meeting** the committee is asked to read the ordination vows of a Priest (BCP 531-532)*

August Meeting and Reflection Questions: Priesthood

What is the role of the Priest in the BCP 855 and 531-532?

What part of the vows resonated with the Explorer? Which did not?

How are the currently ministries of the Explorer like the Priesthood? Which are more like the Diaconate or Laity?

- *Following this meeting each member of the committee should write an answer to the questions “As the explorer reflected on the ministry of the priesthood where did you hear the most passion and engagements? In what ways could you see (or do you currently see) the explorer exercising priestly ministry?”*
- *Following this meeting the explorer should write an answer to the question “In what ways can you see yourself (or do you currently see yourself) exercising priestly ministry?”*
- ***In preparation for September meeting**, the committee is asked to read the Catechism in the BCP concerning Prayer, Worship, and Sacraments, pages 856-861*

September Meeting and Reflection Questions: Sacraments

What are the Sacraments? How are they lived out in the life of the explorer and committee members?

What is Baptism? How is Baptism experienced in the life of the explorer and committee members? What are the effects of Baptism?

What is the Holy Eucharist? The BCP states that “The Holy Eucharist is the principal act of Christian worship” (BCP, 13). Is the Holy Eucharist central in your life? What did you experience in Mass this week that supports this claim? Name one meaningful moment you personally experienced.

- *Following this meeting each member of the committee should write an answer to the question “As the explorer reflected on the sacraments, how did you hear echoes of your discussions about lay ministry, diaconal ministry and priestly ministry?”*
- *Following this meeting the explorer should write an answer to the question “As you reflected on the sacraments, how did you hear echoes of your discussions about lay ministry, diaconal ministry and priestly ministry?”*

- **In preparation for the October meeting**, the committee is asked to read the “Orders of Ministry” from the Catechism on pages 855-856 of the BCP as well as the ordination vows of a Deacon (BCP 543-544)

October Meeting and Reflection Questions: End of Parish Discernment Committee Reflection

How has the Explorer grown over the last 6 months?

What ministries has the explorer excelled? Which have been “growth moments?”

Where does the Explorer see their call growing?

The committee should prepare a document (see the form on pages 17-18) with the answers to the questions from each month and review and edit it as a group. The committee should add an answer to the following question “In the course of our discussions with the explorer, we believe that we heard a call (or calls) to the following order(s) of ministry”. It is okay for the committee to have heard a call to more than one order of ministry. Please follow your answer with a paragraph of explanation about why you believe that is the call you heard.

The explorer should prepare a document (see the form on page 19) with the answers to the questions from each month and add with a paragraph about the order of ministry they believe they are called to and why. Should the explorer apply to enter the ordination process, this document and the spiritual autobiography, along with the Information Form (see pages 20-23) a will serve as their application.

October Meeting 2 Share the IDC Report and Recommendations with the Explorer

There should be a meeting with the PDC and the Explorer to share the completed PDC Report before it is submitted.- There should be no surprises for the Explorer about the reflections and recommendations of the PDC.

November/December

Discernment Committee Reports to Vestry

Vestry Endorses Application to enter Diocesan process (see page 24)

Parish Clergy sends report to COM

Parish Clergy sends a recommendation/report letter

Explorer applies to COM to enter Diocesan process by submitting their Explorers Responses(see page 19), spiritual autobiography, and Information Sheet (see page 20)

If it is discerned that the Explorer should go forward, Internship Discernment Assignments are made.

PARISH DISCERNMENT REPORT TO VESTRY AND RECTOR OR PRIEST-IN-CHARGE:

The final report (see pages 17-18) is shared with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and Vestry/Mission Council. The report should be presented to the vestry in time for discussion at their November meeting.

If the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and Vestry/Mission Council concur with the PDC report and endorse the Explorer to enter the formal Diocesan process by beginning the Internship, the report, the Vestry endorsement (signed by no less than 2/3 of the Vestry/Mission Council), and the endorsement of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge are all sent to the Bishop and Commission on Ministry c/o Sarah Beegle (transitions@diosohio.org). Please use the Vestry Endorsement form on page 24 and attach letters of support from the Rector or Priest-in-Charge.

Should there be disagreement between the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, Vestry/Mission Council, and/or PDC, they have the option of meeting together to see if they can come to consensus. It may also be appropriate to include a CoM member, the CoM Chair, and/or the Diocesan Liaison.

ONGOING SUPPORT

It is natural for the PDC to want to continue to care for and support the Explorer at the end of this process, regardless of the outcome. The CoM encourages healthy, constructive on-going support, not the least of which is to remember the Explorer in one's prayers.

In addition, assuming the Explorer completes the Internship Discernment process and becomes a Postulant, the sponsoring Vestry has a canonical obligation to provide some financial support the Postulant (Title III, Canon 6, Sec 2a and Title III, Canon 8, Sec 2a).

FORMS

Parish Discernment Committee

Date _____

Explorer _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Parish _____

Rector or Priest-in-Charge _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Members:

Chairperson _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Spiritual Autobiography

Commission on Ministry

In 1200-1500 words, write your spiritual autobiography or faith story.

Your name, address, phone, e-mail, sponsoring congregation should be in a header on each page. Use the following questions as guides to share your story with us.

- Describe your family of origin and how belief in God was expressed in your family.
- Describe when you came to understand who Jesus is for you and how your faith in God has helped you wrestle with doubt, disappointment, failure, joy and sorrow. Please tell us the story of some of those times.
- How do you live out the Gospel in who you are and what you do?
- What is your understanding of the Christian faith in relationship to the church and the world?

- What excites and encourages you about your faith that you would like to share with others?
- How does your faith continue to develop? What practices do you engage for its continuing development and for critical reflection on your faith? What aspects of faith have been most challenging for you?
- How do your current ministries reflect diaconate traits? Priesthood traits?
- Given all that you have written above, what brings you to the discernment process this point in your life? How has your sense of vocation developed in the conversations you have had with your clergy person over the past year?

Appendix: (not part of the 1500-word spiritual autobiography)

- How does your household feel about your exploration of ordained ministry?
- In what ways do you think that your life and the life of your household will change if you are called to be ordained? Do they agree with your understanding of this change?
- How do you and how does your household feel about the possibility of moving or changing congregations?

REPORT OF THE PARISH DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

Date: _____

Explorer's Name: _____

To the Vestry/Mission Council of _____
CONGREGATION NAME AND LOCATION

The findings of the Parish Discernment Committee on the questions furnished by the Commission on Ministry of the Diocese of Southern Ohio are as follows: *(please attach your responses to this form)*:

1. When the explorer talks about their faith and spiritual practices what most stands out for you? (May)

2. As the explorer reflected on the variety of ministry of the laity, where did you hear the most passion and engagement? How have you experienced the explorer's ministry in your congregation? (June)

3. As the explorer reflected on the ministry of the diaconate where did you hear the most passion and engagements? In what ways could you see (or do you currently see) the explorer exercising diaconal ministry? (July)

4. As the explorer reflected on the ministry of the priesthood where did you hear the most passion and engagements? In what ways could you see (or do you currently see) the explorer exercising priestly ministry? (August)

5. As the explorer reflected on the sacraments, how did you hear echoes of your discussions about lay ministry, diaconal ministry and priestly ministry? (September).

❖ **RECOMMENDATION**

In the course of our discussion with the Explorer, we believe that we heard a call (or calls) to the following order(s) of ministry:

- _____ Recommend for Lay Ministry_____
- _____ Recommend continuing exploration toward the Vocational Diaconate.
- _____ Recommend continuing exploration toward the Priesthood.
- _____ Recommend other alternatives at this time.

Why do you make this recommendation?

Signed: _____
CONVENER/ CHAIR OF THE PARISH DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

Number of Concurrences _____ Number of Dissents _____ Number of Abstentions _____
(Please attach comments explaining dissents or abstentions).

EXPLORER'S RESPONSES PARISH DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

Date: _____

Explorer's Name: _____

Parish _____

***** PLEASE ATTACH YOUR SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY ALONG WITH YOUR RESPONSES TO EACH QUESTION BELOW**

1. When thinking about your faith journey, what common theme or themes do you see running through your life? (May)
2. As you reflect on your current ministries, what brings you the most joy and why? (June)
3. In what ways can you see yourself (or do you currently see yourself) exercising diaconal ministry? (July)
4. In what ways can you see yourself (or do you currently see yourself) exercising priestly ministry? (August)
5. As you reflected on the sacraments, how did you hear echoes of your discussions about lay ministry, diaconal ministry and priestly ministry? (September)

I believe I am called to the following order:

___Laity

___Diaconate

___Priesthood

___Other Alternatives

I believe I am called to the above order for because:

INFORMATION SHEET FOR THOSE DISCERNING A CALL TO ORDAINED MINISTRY

FULL NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

PRESENT ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (if different): _____

PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS (if different from above): _____

PHONE NUMBERS: MOBILE: () _____
HOME: () _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____ GENDER: Female: Male:

❖ CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

BAPTISM: (attach evidence of Baptism)

I was baptized

at: _____

CHURCH AND LOCATION

on: _____ by:

DATE

The Rev. _____
CLERGY PERSON

❖ CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

CONFIRMATION: (attach evidence of Confirmation)

I was confirmed

at: _____
 CHURCH AND LOCATION

on: _____
 DATE

by: The Rev. _____
 CLERGY PERSON

❖ EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

I am currently enrolled in an educational institution: YES: NO: PART TIME:

Name of Institution:-

Graduate of: _____
 HIGH SCHOOL, CITY, STATE DATE

Give the following information on each college or university attended, including present course of study (if currently enrolled)

INSTITUTION	LOCATION	YEARS	DEGREE	MAJOR	DATES ENROLLED

***Arrange for an official transcript(s) to be sent to the Diocesan Office (Attention: Commission on Ministry c/o Sarah Beegle) be the relevant institutions of high education**

❖ WORK HISTORY

Currently employed

by: _____

Full Time: Part Time: Not Employed:

Please list the positions you have held in your lifetime with the start and end date of employment (you may attach a listing)

POSITION	START DATE	END DATE

❖ FAMILY HISTORY

Present Marital Status: Single: Married: Divorced: Separated: Widowed:

Number of marriages/partnerships: Never married: One: Two: Three:

Spouse's Name: _____

Length Together: _____

Former Spouse/Partner: _____

Length Together: _____

Former Spouse/Partner: _____

Length Together: _____

Are there additional marriages/partnerships? Yes: No:

How many? _____

Have your spouse briefly describe his or her thoughts and feelings regarding your application to enter the ordained ministry:

Please List Children:

Date of Birth: Sex: Living with you Y/N:

Have you ever been charged, arrested, or convicted of any crimes or misdemeanor? Yes:
No:

If yes, please explain (use additional sheets if necessary)

❖ **MINISTRY HISTORY**

How have you been involved in the life and work of the Church? How are you currently involved? Include both your ministry within the church and outside the walls of the church.

ENDORSEMENT OF THE APPLICATION FOR INTERNSHIP BY THE VESTRY/MISSION COUNCIL "Letters of Support"

We, the undersigned, being at least two-thirds of the _____ members of the Vestry or
Mission Council of _____ Church, in
CONGREGATION OR COMMUNITY OF FAITH
_____, Ohio, support and endorse the application for Internship of
CITY

NAME OF NOMINEE

Given at a meeting of the Vestry/Mission Council on _____
DATE

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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MEMBER OF CLERGY IN CHARGE OF THE CONGREGATION
