

Section 4

Diocese of Iowa Ordination Process

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DIOCESE OF IOWA ORDINATION PROCESS

The Ordination Process

Initial Discernment

Discernment of a vocation to ordained ministries in the Episcopal Church begins on the local level. When a person responds to a call to consider ordained ministry in the Diocese of Iowa, the initial discernment process takes place in the congregation or other supporting agency, where those who have known the discerner over time are best able to assist in the process.

Initial Conversation:

Ordinarily, this process would begin with a frank discussion with the pastor or other local priest who knows the aspirant well. When the pastor and the discerner agree that it is appropriate to continue, a discernment committee would be set up. They would normally work together to choose the committee members. A broad range of persons may be considered for this committee. The Diocese of Iowa will make available materials that will be helpful in this process, along with the necessary forms needed to proceed beyond the local level.

Vestry Endorsement:

If in the judgment of the discernment committee the discerner should proceed to the next step, the committee shall prepare a written report for the Vestry. This report will give details of the process undertaken, along with critical questions dealt with along the way. It will include a specific recommendation regarding the discerner. The Vestry will then be asked to recommend or nominate the discerner. At this point there should be some clarity regarding the nature of the vocation.

Nomination:

Assuming the Vestry makes the nomination, a nomination form will be sent to the Bishop, along with the written report and recommendation from the discernment committee. The nomination form will include information required by the national Canons, concerning the nominee’s age, length of residence in the diocese and evidence of baptism and confirmation. {Canon III.6 (b)} The aspirant will provide a biographical summary, including educational information, and a spiritual autobiography (See appendices C & D).

Upon receipt of the nomination form, the Bishop will schedule an interview with the nominee. If the Bishop desires to continue the process, psychological and physical examinations will be scheduled. Background checks will typically be done at this point, and in all cases will be completed prior to ordination. Upon completion of these examinations, a follow-up interview will be scheduled with the Bishop. If after reviewing the results of these exams, the nominee desires to continue, the Bishop may arrange an interview with the Commission on Ministry.

Deacon Nominees

What is a deacon?

“The ministry of the deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need, and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.” (BCP p. 856)

Postulancy:

”Postulancy is the time between nomination and candidacy and may initiate the formal preparation for ordination. Postulancy involves continued exploration of and decision about the Postulant's call to the Diaconate.” (Canon III.6.3)

An interview will be scheduled with the Commission on Ministry when both the nominee and the Bishop agree to proceed. (See Appendix G – Commission Interview Process.) On the basis of the interview, the nominee may be recommended by the COM for Postulancy. Recommendations may also be made regarding special training. Deacons are expected to participate in the educational process as developed and administered by the diocese. Other requirements for preparation may be based upon the special nature of the diaconal ministry envisioned.

Candidacy:

“Candidacy is a time of education and formation, in preparation for ordination to the Diaconate, established by a formal commitment by the Candidate, the Bishop, the Commission, the Standing Committee and the congregation or other community of faith. (Canon III 6.4)

When the postulant and the Bishop are agreed that the time is right, application may be made for candidacy. Again, the local Vestry must endorse this application. The COM and the Standing Committee will interview the postulant. Upon their recommendation, the Bishop may grant Candidacy.

Required Preparation: Candidates for ministry as deacons are expected to attain proficiency in the following areas: {Canon III.6.f,g}

- Academic studies, including The Holy Scriptures, theology, and the tradition of the church
- Diakonia and the diaconate
- Human awareness and understanding
- Spiritual development and discipline
- Practical training and experience (This may be determined to a large extent by the nature of the projected ministry of the individual.)

In addition, the following mandated trainings are required of all:

- Prevention of sexual misconduct

- Civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse
- The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, in particular Title IV (Disciplinary Canons)
- The Church's teaching on Racism
- Any other mandated training

Ordination:

A minimum of 18 months will have elapsed from the time of acceptance of nomination until the time of ordination. If more than 36 months have gone by, the required physical and psychological checks and criminal background check will need to be updated.)

An ordination examination will be conducted at the end of the training period. With the evidence that the candidate is proficient in the requisite canonical areas, application may be made for ordination. The local Vestry will again endorse the application, along with the COM and the Standing Committee. Ordinations will ordinarily take place during the festival Eucharist at the Diocesan Convention.

Ongoing formation: {Canon III.4(g), 5}

Mentor: Each newly ordained deacon shall be assigned a mentor by the Bishop, in consultation with the Commission on Ministry. This mentor will usually be a deacon. For at least one year, the mentor and the deacon will meet regularly.

Continuing Education: The Bishop will authorize a continuing process of formation lasting for a period of two years following ordination. The Bishop and the COM will provide for this continuing education and shall maintain a record of such education.

Priest Nominees

What is the ministry of a priest?

“The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the Bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.” (BCP p. 856)

Postulancy:

“Postulancy is the time between nomination and candidacy and may initiate the formal preparation for ordination. Postulancy involves continued exploration of and decision about the postulant's call to the priesthood.” (Canon III 8.3)

An interview will be scheduled with the Commission on Ministry when both the nominee and the Bishop agree to proceed. (See Appendix G, Commission Interview Process.) On the basis of the interview, the nominee may be recommended by the COM for postulancy. This recommendation will include suggestions and directions regarding preparation for the nominee. In the Diocese of Iowa, a three-year residential seminary

normally will be the venue for such preparation. In certain exceptional circumstances an alternate equivalent may be undertaken under the direction of the Commission and the Bishop. Even in these circumstances, it is likely that some seminary experience will be expected. (See Appendix E: Episcopal Seminaries.)

Candidacy:

“Candidacy is a time of education and formation in preparation for ordination to the priesthood, established by a formal commitment by the candidate, the Bishop, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the congregation or other community of faith.” (Canon III 8.4)

At approximately the midpoint of the training (for seminarians, midway through the middler (second) Year) application may be made for the granting of candidacy. The Vestry of the sponsoring congregation will endorse the application. Consideration will be given to the academic work and (for seminarians) the middler evaluation from the seminary. The Bishop’s Office will request these endorsements and evaluations. A new interview will be scheduled with the COM, at which point an assessment will be made of the individual’s progress, both academic and experiential. At this point further recommendations may be made. If the COM recommends Candidacy, an interview will be scheduled with the Standing Committee. With the Standing Committee’s approval, the Bishop may grant candidacy.

Transitional Diaconate:

Assuming that preparation is proceeding satisfactorily, it has become the custom in the Diocese of Iowa for seminarians to be considered for ordination to the transitional diaconate at about the mid-point of their senior year. An application for ordination will be endorsed by the sponsoring Vestry. The candidate may be interviewed again by the COM and/or the Standing Committee. Upon the recommendation of COM and the consent of the Standing Committee, it is the Bishop’s prerogative to schedule the ordination.

Required Preparation:

Normally, discerners for the priesthood will have a bachelor’s degree and will pursue a course of studies in an approved seminary. In exceptional circumstances, the educational requirements may be deemed to have been satisfied in other ways, though even then, one year of seminary will normally be required.

Proficiency in these areas shall be assessed on the basis of the General Ordination Examinations, along with seminary transcripts and perhaps a portfolio of academic projects. (Canon III.8.5 [g])

- (1) The Holy Scriptures
- (2) Church history, including the ecumenical movement
- (3) Christian theology, including missionary theology and missiology
- (4) Christian ethics and moral theology
- (5) Studies in contemporary society, including the historical and contemporary

experience of racial and minority groups, and cross-cultural ministry skills
Cross cultural ministry skills may include the ability to communicate in a contemporary language other than one's first language.

- (6) Liturgics and church music: Christian worship and music according to the contents and use of the Book of Common Prayer and the hymnal and authorized supplemental texts
- (7) Theory and practice of ministry, including leadership, and the ministries of evangelism and stewardship

In addition to proficiency in the above areas, the following mandated trainings are required:

- Prevention of sexual misconduct
- Civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse
- The constitution and canons of the Episcopal Church, in particular Title IV (Disciplinary Canons)
- The Church's teaching on racism
- Other mandated training

Clinical Pastoral Education (C.P.E) will normally be required at some point during the preparation for ordination.

Ordination to the Presbyterate:

Upon satisfactory completion of the preparation, a transitional deacon may apply for ordination to the priesthood. This application must be endorsed by the sponsoring parish. The COM and the Standing Committee may schedule interviews with the applicant at this point,; or they may simply review the files. With the recommendation of the COM and the consent of the Standing Committee, the Bishop may ordain the individual as a presbyter in the church, provided that:

1. At least six months have elapsed since ordination to the transitional diaconate.
2. The individual will have been appointed to serve in a recognized parochial cure or other recognized ministry judged appropriate by the Bishop.
3. If more than 36 months has elapsed, the required background checks, psychological and physical examinations must be updated.

Ongoing Formation: {Canon III.9.1-2}:

Mentor:

For each newly ordained priest, the Bishop, in consultation with the COM, will appoint a mentor. The mentor and the new priest will meet regularly for at least a year and will use these meetings as an opportunity for guidance, information and continued formation. In addition, the newly ordained priest will be expected to participate in the diocese's "Fresh Start" program.

Continuing Education

The Bishop and COM shall require and provide for the continuing education of priests and shall keep a record of such education.

Ordination or Reception of Clergy from Other Churches {Canon III.10}

General Requirements:

Required checks:

Prior to reception or ordination, the following must be provided:

1. A background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee
2. Medical and psychological evaluations

If more than 36 months elapse between the completion of these requirements and ordination or reception, the required checks will need to be updated.

Special Training:

Evidence will also be required that the individual has received training in the following areas:

- Prevention of sexual misconduct
- Civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse;
- The constitution and canons of the Episcopal Church, in particular Title IV (Disciplinary Canons)
- The Church's teaching on racism
- Other mandated trainings

Mentor:

Prior to ordination or reception the Bishop will assign each clergy person a mentor priest, in consultation with the COM. The mentor and clergy person shall meet regularly for sustained dialogue regarding ministry in the Episcopal Church

Clergy from Churches in Communion with the Episcopal Church{III.2(a)}

(Note: The provisions of these canons apply to clergy from other member churches of the Anglican Communion; they also apply to clergy from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, and to various other churches.)

Evidence of Valid Credentials and Good Standing in Previous Church:

Before being permitted to officiate in the Episcopal Church, a member of the clergy of a church in Communion will need to provide a recently dated certificate from the originating diocese that his/her credentials are in order; and that there is satisfactory evidence of moral and godly character and of theological qualification. Prior to taking charge of a congregation in the Episcopal Church, letters dismissory (or equivalent) shall be required from the appropriate authority of the previous church or diocese.

Evidence of Preparation:

Prior to reception as a member of the clergy in the Episcopal Church, the individual will be examined by the Bishop and at least one presbyter concerning his/her knowledge of

Episcopal Church history, worship and government. The Bishop will also be satisfied with the person's theological qualifications.

Promise of Submission:

The individual will promise in writing, witnessed by two presbyters of the Episcopal Church, that he or she will submit to the discipline of the church and uphold its teachings (See Article VIII regarding Holy Scriptures and the doctrine, discipline and worship of this church).

When these requirements have been fulfilled, the Bishop may receive the person into the diocese as a member of its clergy. Persons who are received as deacons will not be ordained as priests until one year has elapsed and all the requirements of Title III.8 have been fulfilled.

Mentor:

A mentor will be assigned by the Bishop to continue to meet with the new cleric and provide ongoing support and guidance.

Clergy Ordained in a Church whose Bishops are in the Historic Succession but that is not in Communion with the Episcopal Church:

Application:

An applicant for Holy Orders in this category will provide the following information:

1. Evidence of confirmation and communicant standing in a congregation of the Episcopal Church
2. Evidence of valid credentials and previous ministry in the church of origin
3. Letters attesting the applicant's moral and godly character
4. Transcripts of all academic and theological studies
5. Statements from at least two Episcopal priests attesting that they believe the person's departure from the previous communion was not related to any unfavorable circumstance of moral or religious character
6. Certificates signed by the clergy and Vestry of a local Episcopal Parish supporting the person's application
7. A written statement of the applicant's reasons for seeking ordination in this church

Educational Preparation:

Generally speaking, the applicant's educational preparation is expected to be the same as that of priests ordained originally in the Episcopal Church. If the applicant has been functioning successfully as a cleric in the previous communion and can show evidence of satisfactory theological training, the applicant will be examined by the COM with respect to proficiency in the following subjects:

1. Church history: the history of the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church
2. Doctrine, as set forth in the Creeds and the Outline of the Faith
3. Liturgics and principles of worship expressed in the Book of Common Prayer

4. Practical theology
5. The points of doctrine, discipline, polity and worship at variance with those of the church from which the applicant comes

Special Training:

The applicant will submit evidence that he or she has received training in the following areas:

- Prevention of sexual misconduct
- Civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse
- The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, in particular Title IV (Disciplinary Canons)
- The Church's teaching on Racism
- Other mandated trainings

Certificate from the Standing Committee:

Prior to the examination above, the applicant shall receive from the Bishop and from the Standing Committee a certificate that he/she is acceptable as a member of the clergy of the Episcopal Church.

Promise of Submission:

The applicant will promise in writing, witnessed by two presbyters of the Episcopal Church, that he or she will submit to the discipline of the church and uphold its teachings (See Article VIII regarding Holy Scriptures and the doctrine, discipline and worship of this church)

Ordination:

Upon satisfaction of the above requirements, the Bishop may, with the consent of the Standing Committee do one of the following:

1. Receive the applicant into Episcopal Church in the orders to which he or she has already been ordained by a bishop in the historic succession
2. Confirm and make the applicant a deacon, and, when at least four months have elapsed, a priest
3. Ordain the applicant as a deacon, and when at least six months have elapsed, ordain him or her conditionally (if there is some question regarding the status of the Bishop who conferred the previous ordination)

Mentor:

The newly ordained clergy person shall be assigned a mentor priest to facilitate continued discussion and formation.

Clergy Ordained in a Church whose Bishops are not in the Historic Succession:

Application:

The applicant will show evidence of the following:

1. Status as a confirmed communicant of a congregation of the Episcopal Church

2. Evidence that the applicant has served in the previous communion with diligence and has maintained a good reputation
3. Evidence of the extent of the applicant's training and education
4. Evaluation of the necessary preparations for ordination in the Episcopal. In some cases, the COM may require an additional year of studies at an approved seminary, leading to a certificate in Anglican Studies. The General Ordination Examinations may also be required as a tool for assessment.

Process:

Nominations will be made with the endorsement of the Vestry of the applicant's congregation. Postulancy and candidacy will proceed in the usual way, overseen by the COM and the Standing Committee. Once candidacy has been granted, however, the minimum period of candidacy may be shortened.

Evaluation:

The applicant will be evaluated on the subject matter as listed above for clergy ordained in the historic succession. In addition, they will show evidence of training in the following areas:

- Prevention of sexual misconduct
- Civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse
- The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, in particular Title IV (Disciplinary Canons)
- The Church's teaching on Racism
- Other mandated training.

Ordination:

When these canonical requirements have been fulfilled, and assuming that twelve months have elapsed since Confirmation, the Bishop may with the consent of the Standing Committee ordain the person as a deacon in this church. When at least six months have elapsed, the person may be ordained a priest at the Bishop's discretion.

Mentor:

As with all new clergy, a mentor priest will be assigned to provide ongoing guidance and support.

Ministry Development Teams

What is a Ministry Development Team?

A Ministry Development Team is a committed group of people whose vocations are discerned by their larger congregation. In the process of discernment, members of the team may be identified as priests or deacons. In addition, other specific ministries may be discerned for members of the team. These include, but are not limited to, the roles of administrator, pastor, catechist, evangelist, and preacher.

Discernment:

The formation of Ministry Development Teams in the local congregation begins with a period of congregational discernment in conversation with the Bishop and the COM. Several formats may guide this process, but at its end, a nomination is made. Members of the congregation give to the Bishop the names of those persons they would deem suitable for positions on the team. The Bishop will talk with each person so commended. Those who choose to do so will become part of the Ministry Development Team.

Preparation:

Those who accept the nomination will covenant to meet together for a period of study and formation using the Iowa Course of Studies. The course consists of 40 sessions that the team will pursue over a period of up to four years. At least one coach will be assigned to meet with the group and assist with their progress.

Postulancy:

At some point after the first unit has been completed, the coach for the group and the COM will arrange for a postulancy interview. A representative group from the COM will conduct this interview at the local church. If there is evidence that the team is functioning well and that it has been diligently pursuing the Iowa Course of Studies, the COM may recommend that the Bishop grant postulancy to the team.

Candidacy:

When the team has completed unit three of the Iowa Course of Studies, the coach may recommend that it be considered for candidacy. By this point, there should be clarity regarding the various roles of the individuals within the team, including the identification of those to be ordained priest and deacon. The team and the representatives of the congregation should be able to articulate a mission for both the team and the congregation. Representatives of the COM and of the Standing Committee will conduct a second interview at the local church. In addition to the team itself, local participants should include a warden and another member of the Vestry or Bishop's Advisory Committee. Those identified for ordained roles will fulfill the canonical requirements regarding physical and psychological evaluations and background checks.

Evaluation:

At the completion of the Iowa Course of Study, the team will be assessed as a whole regarding proficiency in the required canonical areas. An examination process will be designed for this purpose by the COM and the Bishop.

Ordination and Commissioning:

When the canonical requirements have been met and 18 months have passed, those to with a priestly vocation may be ordained as transitional deacons. When a further six months have elapsed, they may be ordained to the priesthood. Deacons may be ordained and other members of the team commissioned at this time.

Continuing Education:

After the completion of the Iowa Course of Studies, members of the team will engage in continuing education through the e-seminary and other appropriate venues. National canons require such training for those ordained, and diocesan policy requires it of all team members. Congregations are expected to assume the cost of this continuing education.

Roles of Participants in the Discernment and Ordination Process

Typically, the identification of a call to ordained ministry emerges in a congregational setting, with the support and encouragement of a congregation. Members of congregations are therefore key to the discernment process. Clergy and Vestry members are especially charged to be alert to those persons who may be called into a more intentional ministry, whether lay or ordained. But it may be that gifts and graces for ministry are more apparent to those who work regularly together on a project or who share a small group experience than to those in the formal leadership structures of the parish. The national canons of the Episcopal Church encourage an atmosphere of ongoing discernment within each local congregation. Congregations need to develop a heightened awareness of God's call to all the baptized and then be ready to affirm and support their members in the ministries to which they are called. That being said, the clergy and Vestry in a local congregation have specific canonical responsibilities regarding those called to ordained ministry.

I. Clergy:

When a cleric sees in a member of the congregation a complex of gifts and attitudes that would be particularly suited to an ordained ministry, he or she should raise with the possibility of such ministry with the individual and offer information and guidance. The possibility of a call to ordained ministry should also be raised from time to time among the young people of the parish.

An individual may discern a call to ordained ministry and then seek the input from people in the congregation in order to clarify this call. He or she should also contact the rector or priest-in-charge of the parish for guidance. Through careful listening, honest feedback, careful prayer and discernment, the priest will assist the individual in assessing his or her call. It is important for the cleric to share any reservations honestly with the potential aspirant. If the cleric agrees there is evidence of a vocation, a discernment committee should be formed. The COM discernment handbook describes the role and function of the discernment committee.

II. Discernment Committee: (See COM discernment handbook for more detailed information.)

When the discernment committee has completed its work, it shall prepare a written report of its recommendations, along with a summary of its discussions. This report shall be made available to the Vestry, the Bishop and the COM.

III. Vestry:

When a report from a discernment committee is received, the Vestry of the congregation is expected to exercise due discretion with regard to endorsing a nomination. Since the

support of the congregation for the nominee will need to be ongoing and thoroughgoing, the Vestry needs to consider carefully the support that will be available as the nominee goes through the process. Vestry support of a potential nominee requires a 2/3 majority vote of the total Vestry. Thus, if in a duly called meeting of a Vestry with 12 members, only 9 are present, 8 members of the Vestry would need to vote to endorse the nominee. If the potential nominee is a member of the Vestry, he or she may not be counted in the vote or sign the required certificate.

Nomination: When a Vestry is ready to nominate a person to Holy Orders, the nomination must include the nominee's full name, date of birth, length of time resident in the diocese, evidence of baptism and confirmation, an indication whether or not the person has previously been nominated as a postulant in this or any other diocese, a description of the process of discernment and its conclusions, a list of educational attainments, and a letter of support from the congregation. The discernment committee should express its intention to continue in the ongoing discernment and preparation of the nominee.

IV. Role of the Bishop

Nominations for Holy Orders shall be made to the Bishop, who makes the final determination whether or not a person may be made a postulant. At any time, the Bishop may end the process at his or her sole discretion. The Bishop will notify all interested parties should such a decision be made.

Deacons: After a period of conversation with the nominee, the Bishop may admit him/her to postulancy. Either during this period or prior to admission to candidacy, the Bishop shall arrange for appropriate background checks and for medical and psychological/psychiatric evaluations. These checks must be done prior to postulancy.

Priests: If, after initial conversations, the Bishop determines that a nominee may proceed, arrangements will be made for background checks and for medical and psychological/psychiatric evaluations. The results of these exams will be shared with the nominee, and if he or she and the Bishop agree, an initial interview will be scheduled with the COM. Upon recommendation of the COM, the Bishop may admit the nominee as a postulant. The COM and the Bishop will determine the nature and duration of preparation.

Ember Day Letters: Postulants and candidates will correspond with the Bishop, in writing, at least four times each year, during Ember Days. These letters are intended to keep the Bishop abreast of each person's progress, both academically and spiritually. The Bishop may require that certain topics be covered in each letter.

V. Role of Commission on Ministry in Discernment Process:

The role of the COM is to advise the Bishop (canon III.2). It assists the Bishop in the administration of the title III canons, with respect to the ministry of all the baptized. The Commission continually evaluates the nature and demands of ministry within the context of the diocese of Iowa. The COM establishes the criteria for competency, sets standards for training and evaluation, and monitors educational programs of preparation for various ministries.

Deacons: The COM will interview nominees for the diaconate and may recommend them to the Bishop for postulancy. The COM will provide a contact person for each postulant. This contact person shall monitor the postulant's progress and provide needed help. The COM shall interview each postulant at the time of candidacy and may make recommendations concerning further training and preparation. The COM then approves candidates for ordination when it is satisfied that the necessary preparation has been completed.

Priests: When the Bishop and nominee are satisfied that the process should continue, an interview will be scheduled with the COM for the purpose of approving the aspirant for postulancy. This initial interview is a part of the nominee's ongoing process of discernment. Further questions from and discussions with people who may not know the nominee will give an opportunity for further reflection. The interview will also focus on practical issues of preparation and future plans for ministry. The COM will make a recommendation to the Bishop regarding approval for postulancy; it may also make recommendations regarding the aspirant's preparation, both academic and experiential.

Postulancy: During the period of postulancy, the postulant's designated contact person, through regular contact, will assist the COM in monitoring the postulant's progress and facilitate communication between the postulant and the COM. Ideally, the contact person will become a genuine companion for the person in the process.

Candidacy: The candidacy interview will usually be scheduled in the spring of the middler year in seminary. By this time, the canonical time requirements will have been met. Academic preparation will be well underway, and the seminary will provide middler evaluations from the faculty. In addition, any clinical pastoral education will usually have been completed. The interviews, while covering many of the same topics as the initial interview, will explore the candidate's growth in understanding of his or her call and the nature of his or her future ministry. At the conclusion of the interview, the COM may make a recommendation to the Bishop regarding candidacy.

Ordination to the Diaconate: After six months, the COM will consider the candidate for ordination to the diaconate. Increasingly, the Diocese of Iowa is ordaining seminarians to the diaconate during their final year in seminary, usually prior to the General Ordination Examinations. If there are no unanswered concerns about the candidate's progress, the COM may recommend for ordination without a further interview. The COM will also review the results of GOEs or equivalent for each candidate. If the results are less than satisfactory, the COM may prescribe additional study, possibly with a mentor from the COM itself, in order to ensure that the individual is adequately prepared.

Ministry Development Teams:

The commendations of persons for ordained ministries within a local Ministry Development Team will be done only after a lengthy period of discernment and preparation for ministry by the entire team. Once the specific ministry of each person is determined, the canonically required evaluations and checks will occur. The COM will meet on site with the team to evaluate its progress in preparation. These meetings will occur at set points in the curriculum.

VI. Role of the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee advises the Bishop at crucial points in the ordination process. The committee's consent is necessary for a postulant to proceed to candidacy. It must also consent to all ordinations. Although the Bishop may refuse to ordain a person even if the Standing Committee consents, he or she may not ordain anyone without the express consent of a majority of the Standing Committee. The committee may ask to meet with any candidate at any point in the ordination process.

VII. Role of Those in Process:

Be open to surprise answers: The process leading to ordination is an ongoing period of discernment, and the person in process must remain open to the unexpected. Every stage along the way is intended to provide new information for the person, the COM, the Bishop, and the Standing Committee. All parties need to be open to the possibility that a call to ministry has been misunderstood or misdirected. At any point along the way, the process toward ordination may be halted or suspended.

Respond to his/her COM contact in a timely manner: Each meeting of the COM includes a review of all of those persons and ministry teams currently in process toward ordination. Members maintain contact with the person or persons for whom they are responsible. This contact must be frequent enough to enable the member to provide a report at the scheduled meetings of the COM. Those in process should respond in a timely manner to emails or phone calls from their contact person so that up-to-date information may be shared.

Complete Ember Day letters: Ember Days occur four times in each year. The Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays following the First Sunday in Lent, the Day of Pentecost, Holy Cross Day (September 14th and December 13th are so designated). As described in Section 5, all postulants and candidates for ordination are expected to correspond with the Bishop in order to keep him abreast of their academic and spiritual formation. A set of questions to guide these reports is available from the diocesan office.

Let the Bishop and COM know of any issues that may affect your progress so that they may be addressed. It is important for the Bishop and the COM to know about any health issues, financial problems or family emergencies that might be affecting a person's progress or performance. Those in process are expected to report such exigencies as soon as possible.

Take seriously any recommendations made: The person in process is expected to undertake in good faith any recommendation made concerning training or formation. Some recommendations will involve definite expectation; others may be suggestions; but they are nonetheless made with the intention of enhancing the preparation of those in the process.

Maintain contact with the supporting congregation or agency. The person in process is expected to communicate with his or her home congregation on a regular basis. This helps to ensure ongoing prayer and support from those who have helped in the discernment of the vocation.

Appendices:

- A. Glossary (from discernment handbook)
- B. Process checklists
 - 1. Priest

- 2. Vocational deacon
- 3. Ministry Development Team

- C. Nomination Form
- D. Spiritual autobiography
- E. List of Episcopal seminaries
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(Date)..... (Signed).....
Rector of the Parish

VESTRY

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(The above must be signed by a two-thirds majority of the Vestry, at a meeting duly convened)

ATTESTATION

I hereby certify that is a member of
.....(parish) in, Iowa; and a
confirmed adult communicant in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of
the Vestry duly convened at on the day of
....., in the year....., and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-
thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed).....
Clerk of Vestry

(8) ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATION IN WRITING BY THE NOMINATED PERSON.

I hereby accept Nomination for Ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.6

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Applicant

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

This is to certify that in our judgment is qualified to pursue a course
of preparation for ordination to the Diaconate, our further evaluation and recommendations attached.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Chairperson

CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION AS A POSTULANT FOR ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

This certifies that _____,
having complied with all of the necessary requirements in accordance with Title III, Canon 6, is hereby
admitted as a Postulant for Ordination to the Diaconate in the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Bishop of Iowa



Commission on Ministry

This is to certify that in our judgment..... is engaged in continuing formation and in the prescribed course of preparation for Ordination; and hereby receives our recommendation for admission as a Candidate for Ordination to the Diaconate.

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

(Date)

(Signed).....

Chairperson



Standing Committee

Having interviewed and reviewed the documentation relating to his/her application for candidacy, we approve the admission of as a Candidate for Ordination to the Diaconate.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

(Date)

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CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION AS A CANDIDATE FOR ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

This certifies that, having complied with all of the necessary requirements in accordance with Title III, Canon 6, is hereby admitted as a Candidate for Ordination to the Diaconate in the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date).....

(Signed).....

Bishop of Iowa



- cc: Candidate
- Member of Clergy / leader with oversight
- Commission on Ministry
- Standing Committee
- Dean of seminary / director of program of preparation

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA
CERTIFICATES FOR ORDINATION TO THE VOCATIONAL DIACONATE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE III, CANON 6: OF THE ORDINATION OF DEACONS

Application

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

I hereby make application for ordination to the Vocational Diaconate. I was born , A.D.....; and was admitted to Postulancy and Candidacy, effectiveand.....respectively.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Candidate



Certificate from Rector and Vestry

We do certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that possesses such qualifications as would be fitting for Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate. (Additional letter of support may be attached.)

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Rector

VESTRY

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(The above must be signed by the Vestry, or in case of no organized parish, by six laypersons, communicants of this Church in good standing).



Attestation

I hereby certify that is a member of(parish) in, Iowa; and a confirmed adult communicant in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at on the day of, in the year....., and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed).....
Clerk of Vestry



Certificate of Seminary/Program of Preparation

This is to certify that has been duly enrolled in and that a transcript of

his/her academic work, along with our evaluation of his/her personal qualifications for the ministry of this church, and our recommendation for Ordination have been furnished to the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Dean/Director
◇ ◇ ◇

Bishop's Certificate

I hereby certify that the Candidate applying above has completed the terms of Postulancy and Candidacy, which beganand.....respectively.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Bishop of Iowa
◇ ◇ ◇

Commission on Ministry

This is to certify that in our judgment has successfully completed the necessary requirements; and hereby receives our recommendation for ordination to the Vocational Diaconate.

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

(Date)..... (Signed)
Chairperson
◇ ◇ ◇

Testimonial of the Standing Committee

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

We, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Iowa, having been duly convened at, do testify that, desiring to be ordained to the Diaconate under Canon III.6, has presented to us the certificates as required by the Canons indicating’s preparedness for ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.6; and we certify that all canonical requirements for ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.6 have been met; and we find no sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we recommend for ordination.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this day of, in the year of our Lord

STANDING COMMITTEE

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(Or a majority of all members thereof. This testimonial shall be signed by all consenting to its adoption.)

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(Date)..... (Signed).....
Rector of the Parish

VESTRY

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(The above must be signed by a two-thirds majority of the Vestry, at a meeting duly convened)

ATTESTATION

I hereby certify that is a member of(parish) in, Iowa; and a confirmed adult communicant in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at on the day of, in the year....., and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed).....
Clerk of Vestry

ACCEPTANCE OF NOMINATION AND APPLICATION FOR POSTULANCY

I hereby accept Nomination and request admission to Postulancy for Ordination to the Priesthood under Canon III.8.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Applicant

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

This is to certify that in our judgment is qualified to pursue a course of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood, our further evaluation and recommendations attached.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Chairperson

CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION AS A POSTULANT FOR ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

This certifies that, having complied with all of the necessary requirements in accordance with Title III, Canon 8, is hereby admitted as a Postulant for Ordination to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Bishop of Iowa

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AS A **CANDIDATE** FOR ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD
IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE III, CANON 8: OF THE ORDINATION OF PRIESTS

Application

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

I,
(first) (middle) (last)

hereby make application for admission as a Candidate for Ordination to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Iowa. I was admitted as a Postulant on.....
(date)

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Postulant



Letter of Support by Congregation (or other community of faith)

We do certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that possesses such qualifications as would be fitting for admission as a Candidate for Ordination to the Priesthood. (Additional letter of support may be attached.)

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Member of Clergy (or other leader exercising oversight)

VESTRY (or comparable body)

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(The above must be signed by at least two-thirds of the Vestry, or comparable body).



Attestation

I hereby certify that is a member of(parish) in, Iowa; and a confirmed adult communicant in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at on the day of, in the year....., and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed).....
Clerk of Vestry



Commission on Ministry

This is to certify that in our judgment..... is engaged in continuing formation and in the prescribed course of preparation for Ordination; and hereby receives our recommendation for admission as a Candidate for Ordination to the Priesthood.

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

(Date)

(Signed).....

Chairperson



Standing Committee

Having interviewed and reviewed the documentation relating to his/her application for candidacy, we approve the admission of as a Candidate for Ordination to the Priesthood.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

(Date)

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CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION AS A CANDIDATE FOR ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

This certifies that, having complied with all of the necessary requirements in accordance with Title III, Canon 8, is hereby admitted as a Candidate for Ordination to the Priesthood in the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date).....

(Signed).....

Bishop of Iowa



- cc: Candidate
- Member of Clergy / leader with oversight
- Commission on Ministry
- Standing Committee
- Dean of seminary / director of program of preparation

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA
CERTIFICATES FOR ORDINATION TO THE TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE
IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE III, CANON 8: OF THE ORDINATION OF PRIESTS

Application

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

I hereby make application for ordination to the Transitional Diaconate. I was born , A.D.....; and was admitted to Postulancy and Candidacy, effectiveand.....respectively.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Candidate



Certificate from Rector and Vestry

We do certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that possesses such qualifications as would be fitting for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate. (Additional letter of support may be attached.)

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Rector

VESTRY

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(The above must be signed by the Vestry, or in case of no organized parish, by six laypersons, communicants of this Church in good standing).



Attestation

I hereby certify that is a member of(parish) in, Iowa; and a confirmed adult communicant in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at on the day of, in the year....., and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed).....
Clerk of Vestry



Certificate of Seminary/Program of Preparation

This is to certify that has been duly enrolled in and that a transcript of

his/her academic work, along with our evaluation of his/her personal qualifications for the ministry of this church, and our recommendation for Ordination have been furnished to the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Dean/Director

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Bishop's Certificate

I hereby certify that the Candidate applying above has completed the terms of Postulancy and Candidacy, which beganand.....respectively.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Bishop of Iowa

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Commission on Ministry

This is to certify that in our judgment has successfully completed the necessary requirements; and hereby receives our recommendation for ordination to the Transitional Diaconate.

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

(Date)..... (Signed)
Chairperson

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Testimonial of the Standing Committee

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

We, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Iowa, having been duly convened at, do testify that, desiring to be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate under Canon III.8, has presented to us the certificates as required by the Canons indicating’s preparedness for ordination to the Transitional Diaconate under Canon III.8; and we certify that all canonical requirements for ordination to the Transitional Diaconate under Canon III.8 have been met; and we find no sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we recommend for ordination.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this day of, in the year of our Lord

STANDING COMMITTEE

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(Or a majority of all members thereof. This testimonial shall be signed by all consenting to its adoption.)

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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA
CERTIFICATES FOR ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD
IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE III, CANON 8: OF THE ORDINATION OF PRIESTS

Application

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

I hereby make application for ordination to the Priesthood. I was born A.D.....; and was ordained to the Diaconate on A.D.....; having been granted Postulancy and Candidacy, which beganand.....respectively.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Candidate



Certificate from Rector and Vestry

We do certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that possesses such qualifications as would be fitting for Ordination to the Priesthood. (Additional letter of support may be attached.)

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Rector

VESTRY

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(The above must be signed by the Vestry, or in case of no organized parish, by six laypersons, communicants of this Church in good standing).



Attestation

I hereby certify that is a member of(parish) in, Iowa; and a confirmed adult communicant in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at on the day of, in the year....., and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed).....
Clerk of Vestry



Certificate of Seminary/Program of Preparation

This is to certify that has been duly enrolled in and that a transcript of

his/her academic work, along with our evaluation of his/her personal qualifications for the ministry of this church, have been furnished to the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Dean/Director



Bishop's Certificate

I hereby certify that the above-named applicant was ordained to the Diaconate on, A.D.....; having completed the terms of Postulancy and Candidacy, which beganand.....respectively.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Bishop of Iowa



Commission on Ministry

This is to certify that in our judgment has successfully completed the program of formation designed during Candidacy under Canon III.8.5; and hereby receives our recommendation for ordination to the Priesthood.

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

(Date)..... (Signed)
Chairperson



Testimonial of the Standing Committee

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

We, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Iowa, having been duly convened at, do testify that, desiring to be ordained to the Priesthood, has presented to us the certificates as required by the Canons indicating’s preparedness for ordination to the Priesthood; and we certify that all canonical requirements for ordination to the Priesthood have been met; and we find no sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we recommend for ordination.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this day of, in the year of our Lord

STANDING COMMITTEE

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(Or a majority of all members thereof. This testimonial shall be signed by all consenting to its adoption.)



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO POSTULANCY

Application

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

We, as a ministry team, hereby make application for admission to Postulancy in the Diocese of Iowa.

..... <i>(first)</i>	..... <i>(middle)</i>	..... <i>(last)</i>
..... <i>(first)</i>	..... <i>(middle)</i>	..... <i>(last)</i>
..... <i>(first)</i>	..... <i>(middle)</i>	..... <i>(last)</i>
..... <i>(first)</i>	..... <i>(middle)</i>	..... <i>(last)</i>
..... <i>(first)</i>	..... <i>(middle)</i>	..... <i>(last)</i>
..... <i>(first)</i>	..... <i>(middle)</i>	..... <i>(last)</i>

(Date).....

Ministry Team of
..... Church
..... , Iowa



Certificate from Rector and Vestry

We do certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that the aforementioned Ministry Team possesses such qualifications as would be fitting for admission to Postulancy.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Rector/Senior Warden

VESTRY

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(The above must be signed by the Vestry, or in case of no organized parish, by six laypersons, communicants of this Church in good standing).



Attestation

I hereby certify that are members of(parish) in, Iowa; and confirmed adult communicants in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at on the day of, in the year....., and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed).....
Clerk of Vestry



Certificate of Program of Preparation

This is to certify that has been duly enrolled in and that our evaluation of his/her/their personal qualifications for the ministry of this church, have been furnished to the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Dean/Director/Coach



Commission on Ministry

This is to certify that in our judgment is engaged in continuing formation; and hereby receives our recommendation for admission to Postulancy.

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

(Date)..... (Signed)
Chairperson



CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION TO POSTULANCY

This certifies that, having complied with all of the necessary requirements in accordance with the Title III Canons, is hereby admitted to Postulancy in the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Bishop of Iowa



- cc: Postulants
Member of Clergy
Commission on Ministry
Standing Committee
Dean of seminary/Director of program of preparation



Attestation

I hereby certify that are members of(parish) in, Iowa; and confirmed adult communicants in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at on the day of, in the year....., and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed).....
Clerk of Vestry



Certificate of Program of Preparation

This is to certify that has been duly enrolled in and that our evaluation of his/her/their personal qualifications for the ministry of this church, have been furnished to the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Dean/DirectorCoach



Commission on Ministry

This is to certify that in our judgment is engaged in continuing formation; and hereby receives our recommendation for admission to Candidacy.

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

(Date)..... (Signed)
Chairperson



Testimonial of the Standing Committee

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

We, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Iowa, having been duly convened at, having interviewed the postulants, do approve for admission to Candidacy.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this day of, in the year of our Lord

STANDING COMMITTEE

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(Or a majority of all members thereof. This testimonial shall be signed by all consenting to its adoption.)



CERTIFICATE OF ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

This certifies that the Ministry Development Team ofChurch,, Iowa, having complied with all of the necessary requirements in accordance with the Title III Canons, is hereby admitted to Candidacy in the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date).....

(Signed).....

Bishop of Iowa



- cc: Candidates
- Member of Clergy
- Commission on Ministry
- Standing Committee
- Dean of seminary/Director of program of preparation/Coach

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA

APPLICATION FOR COMMISSIONING and ORDERING of a MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Application

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

We hereby make application for Commissioning and Ordering as a Ministry Development Team in the Diocese of Iowa. We, as a ministry team, were admitted to Postulancy on.....
and Candidacy on (date) (date)

..... (first)	..... (middle)	..... (last)
..... (first)	..... (middle)	..... (last)
..... (first)	..... (middle)	..... (last)
..... (first)	..... (middle)	..... (last)
..... (first)	..... (middle)	..... (last)
..... (first)	..... (middle)	..... (last)

(Date)..... Ministry Team of Church
....., Iowa



Identification of Roles - The following persons are seeking to be Ordered

I,
(first) (middle) (last)
hereby make application for Ordering as in the Diocese of Iowa.
(Transitional Deacon)

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Candidate



I,
(first) (middle) (last)
hereby make application for Ordering as in the Diocese of Iowa.
(Transitional Deacon)

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Candidate



I hereby certify that are members of(parish) in, Iowa; and confirmed adult communicants in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at on the day of, in the year, and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed).....
Clerk of Vestry
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Certificate of Program of Preparation

This is to certify that has been duly enrolled in a course of study involving **The Iowa Curriculum** and that our evaluation of his/her/their personal qualifications for the ministry of this church, have been furnished to the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Coach to Ministry Team
(Date)..... (Signed).....
Willa Goodfellow, Coach to Coaches
◇ ◇ ◇

Commission on Ministry

This is to certify that in our judgment is engaged in continuing formation and that the team's plans for continuing education meet with our approval; and hereby receives our recommendation for Commissioning and, where appropriate, Ordering as Transitional Deacons.

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

(Date)..... (Signed)
Chairperson
◇ ◇ ◇

Testimonial of the Standing Committee

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

We, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Iowa, having been duly convened at, having interviewed the candidates, do approve for Commissioning and, where appropriate, Ordering as Transitional Deacons.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this day of, in the year of our Lord

STANDING COMMITTEE

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(Or a majority of all members thereof. This testimonial shall be signed by all consenting to its adoption.)

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA

APPLICATION FOR COMMISSIONING and ORDERING of a MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Application

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

We hereby make application for reaffirmation of Commissioning and further Ordering as a Ministry Development Team in the Diocese of Iowa. We, as a ministry team, were admitted to Postulancy on.....; Candidacy on; and presbyteral candidates Ordered as transitional deacons on

Form with six rows of dotted lines for names, labeled (first), (middle), and (last).

(Date)..... Ministry Team of Church, Iowa



Reaffirmation of Roles - The following persons are seeking Ordination

I, hereby make application for Ordering as a in the Diocese of Iowa. (Vocational Deacon/Priest)

(Date)..... (Signed)..... Candidate



I, hereby make application for Ordering as a in the Diocese of Iowa. (Deacon/Priest)

(Date)..... (Signed)..... Candidate



Attestation

I hereby certify that are members of(parish) in, Iowa; and confirmed adult communicants in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at on the day of, in the year, and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

(Signed).....
Clerk of Vestry



Certificate of Program of Preparation

This is to certify that has been duly enrolled in a course of study involving **The Iowa Curriculum** and that our evaluation of his/her/their personal qualifications for the ministry of this church, have been furnished to the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa.

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Coach to Ministry Team

(Date)..... (Signed).....
Willa Goodfellow, Coach to Coaches



Commission on Ministry

This is to certify that in our judgment is engaged in continuing formation and that the team's plans for continuing education meet with our approval; and hereby receives our reaffirmation of Commissioning and, where appropriate, recommendation for Ordering as Deacon and Priest as identified above.

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

(Date)..... (Signed)
Chairperson



Testimonial of the Standing Committee

To the Bishop of the Diocese of Iowa:

We, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Iowa, having been duly convened at, having interviewed the candidates, do affirm the afforenamed ministry team of Church for Commissioning and, where appropriate, for Ordering as Deacons and Priests as identified above.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this day of, in the year of our Lord

STANDING COMMITTEE

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(Or a majority of all members thereof. This testimonial shall be signed by all consenting to its adoption.)

cc: Candidates/Ministry Team c/o Church; Member of Clergy; Commission on Ministry; Standing Committee; Dean of seminary/Director of program of preparation