

## *Ordination to the Office of a Priest*

For those seeking to serve as a Priest, the Bishop receives the final recommendations from all those involved to this point. The Bishop then makes a decision about the suitability and timing of ordination to the Office of a Priest. All baptized Christians share in the ministry of Christ. From time to time God calls faithful people in the church to be ordained and to use their gifts in this way. Some definitions:

### *Diaconate*

People who wish to be involved in a servant ministry, taking the Gospel into the world. Usually they do not receive a stipend (salary).

### *Non-Stipendiary Priest*

People who have been identified from local congregations and affirmed by the church to assist in the life of the congregation. They do not receive a stipend (salary).

### *Stipendiary Priest*

People who are seeking to serve in full-time stipendiary work as a priest in the Church.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit, Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

Amen.

(from the Book of Alternative Services, p. 160)

This brochure summarizes the various steps in the process towards ordination. The House of Bishops guidelines state, "*Admission as a Postulant does not imply any guarantee or promise of ordination.*"

Please see also:

- ✘ Requirements for Ordination  
(The Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island)
- ✘ Ordination Prerequisites  
(The Anglican Church of Canada)

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*Do you perceive  
that you  
may have a call  
to the ordained ministry of  
The Anglican Church?*



*Diocese of Nova Scotia  
&  
Prince Edward Island*

*The Rt. Rev. Sue Moxley  
Bishop*

## *The Early Stages*

The first step is to discuss your calling with your parish priest and to explore your understanding of ministry, both lay and ordained. People seeking ordination in the Anglican Church need to be baptized, a communicant for at least 3 years and actively involved in an Anglican parish for the past year.

You are encouraged to make an appointment with the Bishop who will talk more with you about ordination and the various forms that ordained ministry can take and the requirements for each.

A Letter of Recommendation from your parish to the Bishop, is required prior to your formally entering the discernment process. The Letter of Recommendation must be received by the Bishop by March 1<sup>st</sup> of any given year. You will be asked to prepare some written reflections and to undergo a Police Services background check and psychological testing.

Having been assured by the results, we can then proceed and you will be invited to attend a Vocations Conference. Following this Conference, you will be asked for a Letter of Commendation from your parish. If the parish commends you, the Bishop will consider sending you to the ACPO Conference. Your task during all of this time is to begin testing your call with the wider church community.

## *Vocations Conference*

This conference takes place in late summer or early fall and is a weekend conference. You will explore issues related to vocation and the variety of ordained ministries in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. The conference will assist you in looking at what you perceive to be your call to ordained ministry. Personal discernment is encouraged throughout the entire process as well as group discussions.

## *ACPO*

Upon referral by the Bishop, you will attend an ACPO Conference (Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination). An annual event in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, this is a weekend conference during which time you will have interviews with clergy, lay people and a person who is skilled in psychological evaluation. By Sunday night, the Conference's recommendation to the Bishop on your status as a Postulant will be shared with you. Those candidates discerning a call to be a Non-Stipendiary Priest or a Deacon will be involved in a similar Diocesan ACPO conference held in the spring.

## *Status as a Postulant*

The Bishop will receive and consider the recommendations of ACPO and make a declaration on your status.

## *Formal Training*

Those seeking to serve in the full-time stipendiary Priesthood would normally enter an accredited theological school to obtain a Master of Divinity. The official school for our Diocese is the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax. While at the theological school, the individual will be part of the Anglican Formation Program. Those seeking to serve in the Non-Stipendiary Ordained ministry, either priesthood or diaconate, would engage in the educational program designated by the Diocese.

## *Pre-Ordination Review*

At the end of your formal education there will be a Diocesan review of your readiness for ministry. Upon recommendation for ordination and the availability of an appointment, you will be ordained a deacon.

## *Year of Mentoring*

During your first year of ordained ministry you will be in a parish and involved in the Mentoring of the Newly Ordained Program. During this year you will meet regularly with a priest to reflect on your new experience in parish work and your transition to the role of an ordained person.