



Diocese of Saskatchewan

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN THE NORTH

Discernment Process

Policy Number: MN-001	Effective Date: 2025-Jun-30
Original Policy Approval Date: 2025-Jun-30	Last Revised and Approved: 2026-Sept-12
Approved by: The Rt. Rev. Richard Reed	
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I. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this policy is to provide both the discerner and the diocese with a roadmap of what experiences, education, and background references need to come together in order to confidently put forward the candidate for ordination.

II. DEFINITIONS

- a. **Aspirant** – A lay member who aspires to be ordained in the Diocese of Saskatchewan.
- b. **Postulant** – A lay person who has been accepted by the bishop into a formal relationship of inquiry with the diocese for future ministry. Postulancy is not a guarantee of future employment or eventual ordination. Postulants will typically be educated and be placed on internships with the bishop's approval and input.
- c. **Ordinand** – A postulant who has been approved for ordination and whose ordination date has been set. Ordinand status is not a guarantee of ordination or employment.
- d. **Advisory Committee for Postulant Ordination (ACPO)** – An advisory committee of the Province of Northern Lights which advises the bishop on a postulant's suitability for the **priesthood**. ACPO is not suitable for candidates to the permanent diaconate.
- e. **Permanent Deacon** – A deacon who does not wish to proceed to ordination as a priest but feels called to permanent diaconal ministry.
- f. **Transitional Deacon** – A deacon who wishes to proceed to ordination as a priest and feels called to presbyteral ministry.

- g. **Oaths and Subscriptions** – The vows of obedience that each ordinand makes to the Bishop of Saskatchewan immediately before they proceed to ordination. The oaths and subscriptions require obedience to the Bishop of Saskatchewan and all his successors, to the doctrine and discipline of the Anglican Church of Canada, and to the Holy Scriptures as expressed in the doctrine of the Book of Common Prayer (1962).

III. POLICY

This policy is meant to be malleable and fit a number of different paths to ordination. It should also be noted that no ordinand will be perfectly prepared in every aspect listed here. For example, a person may be ordained who has had some, but relatively little preaching experience. Another person may be a proficient preacher but has had very limited experience in a pastoral care setting like visiting the sick in a hospital. Post-ordination this checklist becomes a document to highlight ongoing training that needs to take place to continue growing each individual priest or deacon into the best and most effective minister of the Gospel that they can be.

Experiences

- Internship or regular lay ministry in a congregational context.
- Regular experience preaching in a congregational context.
- Regular practice of the daily offices—both Morning and Evening Prayer.
- Pastoral care experience especially in hospital and care home settings.

Education

- Thorough knowledge of both the Old and New Testaments, the story of salvation, and a clear ability to articulate the Gospel using scripture.
- Thorough understanding of Christian theology including but not limited to
 - The doctrine of God
 - The doctrine of Sin and Salvation
 - The Holy Spirit and the Spiritual Gifts
 - The Sacraments, especially Holy Baptism and Holy Communion
 - The Church and Ordination
 - Christian Marriage
- Thorough understanding of Christian history—the early church, medieval, reformation, global mission, and modern periods.
- An ability to articulate both the Anglican Church's and the Diocese of Saskatchewan's place within that history.
- Liturgical training and competency in using both the Book of Common Prayer and the Book of Alternative Services in public worship and pastoral care, especially
 - Morning and Evening Prayer

- Holy Communion
 - Baptisms, Weddings, and Funerals
 - Anointing of the Sick
- Administrative Training, including
 - Record-keeping required by clergy such as recording services, baptisms, weddings, and burials in the parish records.
 - Documentation required by E-Health Saskatchewan for registering marriages performed by clergy.
- An understanding of the synodal responsibilities of clergy to the diocese and the wider church including participation in synods, clergy conferences, and other events and committees from time to time.

References

- A letter of reference from your Priest or Clergy in Charge of your parish articulating what they know of your sense of call and your suitability for this ministry.
- A letter of reference from your spouse (if applicable) articulating their understanding of ordination, how it will affect the family, and their sense of God's call upon you as a family unit.
- A letter of reference from the elders, wardens, or vestry of your church articulating their sense of your call and your suitability for this ministry.
- If your call is to the Priesthood, then you will likely be asked to attend the Advisory Committee for Postulant Ordination (ACPO) who will provide an additional letter of reference to the bishop.
- A clear criminal record check is required to be licensed for ministry in the Diocese of Saskatchewan.

Expectations

- Each candidate for ordination will be provided ahead of ordination day with a copy of the oaths and subscriptions which they will be required to take, vowing obedience to the Bishop of Saskatchewan and his successors, and to the doctrine and discipline of the Anglican Church of Canada.
- Engagement with the discernment process including being named a postulant of the diocese is in no way a guarantee of eventual ordination.
- Normally candidates for ordination will not be ordained in the Diocese of Saskatchewan without a ministry within the diocese to which they will be immediately licensed.

IV. REPORTING AND MONITORING

Each aspirant, postulant, ordinand, and transitional deacon reports directly to the Bishop of Saskatchewan.

V. REVIEW OF POLICY

This Policy will be reviewed triennially by the Bishop of Saskatchewan.