

BASIC EXPECTATIONS OF CANDIDATES SEEKING ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE

Holy Scriptures: Old Testament

- A knowledge of the general historical outline of the Old Testament, and the ability to put Old Testament history into a theological context.
- A familiarity with the basic narratives
- A clear understanding of such basic Old Testament theological terms as *covenant*, *sacrifice*, and *people of God*
- A familiarity with the prophetic tradition and how it relates to the work and ministry of a Deacon

Holy Scriptures: New Testament

- A knowledge of the basic outline of the life of Jesus as presented in the four Gospels, with special emphasis on the Passion and Resurrection narratives
- An awareness of the unique perspective of each of the four Gospel writers
- An understanding of the parable as a teaching tool
- A knowledge of the basic outline of the book of Acts
- Familiarity with the New Testament development of the office of Deacon
- The ability to discuss different New Testament perspectives on the relationship between church and the world

Church History

- A knowledge of Anglican church history before, during, and after the Reformation, including the ability to counter common misunderstandings regarding the Anglican Communion and the ability to articulate the unique qualities of the Episcopal Church
- The ability to discuss what it means to be a Catholic and Reformed church
- A basic knowledge of the history of the Episcopal Church and of the history of the Diocese of East Tennessee
- The ability to discuss the development of the office of Deacon throughout church history

Theology

- A clear understanding of the meaning of the word “theology”
- The ability to articulate how the candidate hears and responds to the word of God in his or her own life
- The ability to define such basic terms as *providence*, *faith*, *justification*, *salvation*, *sacrament/sacramental*, *grace*, *sin*
- Familiarity with the basic terms of the baptismal covenant
- Familiarity with the Catechism in the *Book of Common Prayer*

Christian Ethics and Moral Theology

- The ability to articulate the moral vision of the Episcopal Church
- The ability to express what it means to be a “servant leader”
- The ability, when presented with a case study of a human situation, to bring to bear the resources of scripture, tradition, and reason in fashioning a Christian ethical response

Studies in Contemporary Society

- A familiarity with the history of the Diocese of East Tennessee
- A familiarity with how the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of East Tennessee have dealt and are dealing with racial and ethnic minorities, and the ability to critique both our past and present practice
- The ability to clearly define racism, and to articulate how racism has affected the candidates' own life
- The ability to respond to case studies in ways that show a clear understanding of what it means to be a servant in the modern world

Liturgics

- A general familiarity with contents and use of the *Book of Common Prayer*
- Familiarity with the role of the Deacon in liturgy, and how it relates to the wider ministry of the diaconate
- The ability to plan and lead the Daily Offices

Theory and Practice of Ministry

- Knowledge of the lines of authority in which a Deacon exercises his or her ministry, both in the parish and in the diocese
- An awareness of appropriate and inappropriate relationships in the parish setting, and a sense of proper boundaries
- The ability to discuss proper ways of resolving conflict within a parochial staff situation
- Knowledge of the current policy and procedures for dealing with accusations of sexual misbehavior