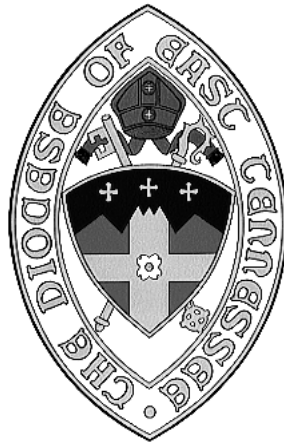


**RECTOR REFERRAL AND  
RECOMMENDATION FORM**



**DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE**

## **Recommended Areas of Discussion Between Rector and Aspirant**

Please go back through the church records to make sure the aspirant has been a confirmed communicant in good standing for at least one year. The preference of this diocese is that the aspirant be actively involved for at least two years in the life of the church.

### Vocation

Discuss the different orders of ministry. Why the “ordained” route? How does the spouse/family feel about this perceived call? Is there a clear understanding of what the financial picture ahead will look like? If interested in the priesthood, does the aspirant have a realistic view of what that life is really like (not Mitford)? If interested in the diaconate, is the aspirant involved in a “ministry in the world” outside of the local church?

### Spiritual Life

Discuss the aspirant’s spiritual journey as written in his/her spiritual autobiography. Can the aspirant articulate his/her faith? Does the aspirant have an on-going prayer life or spiritual discipline? Does the aspirant see “gray areas” in the faith, or is everything either “black or white”? Is the aspirant a regular participant in Adult Christian Education?

### Academics

Discuss the aspirant’s past education - can he/she handle graduate level courses? How well does he/she express himself/herself verbally and on paper? Discuss what books or authors the aspirant has read. (Perhaps assign a book for the aspirant to read and then discuss with you.) Make sure the aspirant has a general familiarity with the contents of the Book of Common Prayer and basic Inquirer’s Class knowledge. Can the aspirant discuss the Catechism? Has the aspirant read the four Gospels?

### Personal Traits

Does the aspirant have good listening skills? How much does the aspirant need to be in control of situations? Does the aspirant have a need to always be liked by others? Explore the aspirant’s current lay involvement in the church. Has the aspirant taken on leadership roles in any way? Should this aspirant have more involvement with leading groups before moving on in the process? Does the aspirant have stable, healthy relationships with family and others?

**RECTOR RECOMMENDATION FORM**  
**Diocese of East Tennessee**  
**For One Seeking Ordination to the Diaconate**

Date of this application:            \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Full name of Aspirant: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\_ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone                    ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work/School Telephone            ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth                        \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Marriage (if applicable)    \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Divorce (if applicable)    \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

List Children/Ages (if applicable)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Present College/Level or Occupation/Length of Employment  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number of years schooling, College Name, Undergraduate Degree and Major  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postgraduate Degree, College Name and Subject  
\_\_\_\_\_

Present Parish                      \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Time Confirmed/  
Communicant in Good Standing    \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Time you have  
known aspirant                      \_\_\_\_\_

On an attached sheet, please respond to the questions below, clearly noting the question by number.

1. In what way(s), and for how long, have you been associated with the aspirant?
2. When did you first meet together for the purpose of discussing the aspirant's sense of call to Holy Orders? Outline your meetings/discussions with the aspirant concerning this call. Did you recruit this person for Holy Orders, or did he/she first approach you? Give your perception of the aspirant's reason for seeking Holy Orders.
3. Give aspirant's past and present involvement in the Church. How has the aspirant demonstrated commitment to public and private worship, leadership ability, desire for learning and willingness to grow and change?
4. Give aspirant's history of involvement in ministry in the community. (The Commission on Ministry and the Bishop require past and present involvement in ministry to the poor, sick, suffering and helpless in the world. Refer to: "The Discernment Process for the Diaconate", The Diaconate, pages 3-4.
5. If aspirant is married (or contemplating marriage), in your opinion, how supportive is the spouse and does the spouse fully understand the education requirements and the potential for transfer inherent in the Order of Deacons?
6. Does the aspirant (and spouse) understand that a background check will be required of the aspirant?
7. Does the aspirant understand that if the Bishop recommends that he or she continue in this process, the aspirant will be required to undergo physical and psychological examinations by a physician and psychiatrist/psychologist selected by the Bishop's office?
8. What strengths, weaknesses, and growing points do you identify in this aspirant for the diaconate?
9. Have you discussed with the aspirant the discernment process as described in the first two sections of the Discernment Manual for the Diaconate?
10. How confident are you that this person possesses the stability, gifts and experience needed for ordained life? (i.e. "The evident gifts and fitness for ordination" - Title III, Canon 5, Sec 1; Canon 8, Sec 1.)
11. Do you recommend that we proceed to consider the aspirant's application for postulancy at this time?

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Signature of Rector

Please return form to:

The Rt. Rev. Charles G. vonRosenberg  
Diocese of East Tennessee  
814 Episcopal School Way  
Knoxville, TN 37932