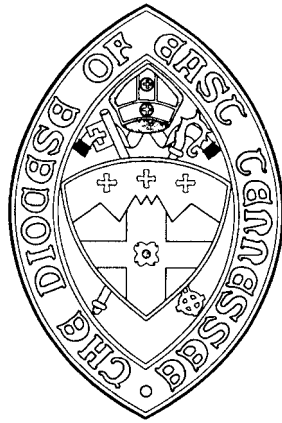


MILESTONES FOR ASPIRANTS



DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

MILESTONES FOR ASPIRANTS



Become familiar with national Canons; Title III, Canon 4

- Confer with your rector. If the rector so recommends, make an appointment with the bishop.
- Complete and submit Aspirant's Application with your spiritual autobiography
- Rector submits Rector Referral and Recommendation Form
- Submit Background Inquiry Release Form
- Submit Letter of Understanding
- Submit Authorization to Release Information, Release of Claims and Indemnity and Hold Harmless Agreement
- Submit photo

Meet with the bishop

- Aspirant and rector meet with the bishop. If married, spouse may attend but is not required.
- If the bishop recommends, begin the congregational discernment process.

Attend Congregation Discernment Committee (CDC) meetings

Vestry recommendation

- Letter from Rector and CDC evaluation sent to the bishop

Aspirant and spouse (if married) meet a second time with the bishop

Steps to complete prior to Diocesan Discernment Retreat

- Undergo physical and mental health evaluation, use appropriate forms
- Obtain forms from the bishop's assistant at the Diocesan House
- Provide proof of baccalaureate degree
- Provide transcript and evaluation from any theological school attended
- Fill out financial disclosure form
- Fill out application for postulancy

Attend Diocesan Discernment Retreat

Meet with the bishop regarding decision on your application. (If married, spouse may attend but is not required.)

As a postulant:

- Decide with the bishop which seminary would be suitable
- Apply to seminary and report acceptance to the bishop and Commission on Ministry
- Develop financial plan for seminary and discuss with the bishop
- Write Ember Day letters to the bishop
- Maintain contact with your Commission on Ministry contact and your supporting congregation
- Attend diocesan convention and other events

- Fill out application for Candidate for Holy Orders in the middle of your second year of seminary using appropriate forms, and meet with the Standing Committee.
- Written reaffirmation is required from the rector and vestry.

As a candidate:

- Continue Ember Day letters to the bishop
- Complete trainings as required by Title III: Sexual Misconduct Prevention, Title IV, Anti-Racism
- Apply for ordination to the diaconate after one year, using appropriate forms
- Vestry recommendation for ordination to diaconate
- Undergo physical and mental health evaluation, use appropriate forms. (Obtain forms from the bishop's assistant at the Diocesan House.)
- Take General Ordination Exams and then meet with the Board of Examining Chaplains
- Meet with the Standing Committee
- Standing Committee sends ordination recommendation to the bishop

As a deacon:

- Apply for ordination to the priesthood within six months to a year using appropriate forms
- Obtain vestry recommendation for ordination to the priesthood
- Standing Committee sends ordination recommendation to the bishop