

DIACONAL DISCERNMENT AND FORMATION TRACK (Revised November 24, 2005)

<p align="center"><u>CANDIDATE</u> A person who has felt an individual call to diaconal ministry or has been locally affirmed by her/his parish</p>	<p align="center"><u>DDGOM/DEACONS</u> A sub-set of DDGOM¹ specifically charged with the discernment of a person's call to the diaconate.</p>	<p align="center"><u>CO-ORDINATOR OF DEACONS' FORMATION (CDF)</u>² A resource person for diaconal applicants, candidates, and postulants.</p>	<p align="center"><u>BISHOP</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>PARISH/ FAITH COMMUNITY</u>³ A discerning and supporting faith community which, initially, using Diocesan resources, especially the CDF, educates itself regarding Baptismal, Priestly and Diaconal Ministry</p>
<p>1. Confirmation, reception or communicant in Anglican Church for at least 3 years. Regular participation in worship and life of supporting Parish in Anglican Church of Canada for at least 1 year prior to application.</p>				
<p>2. The initial request for a person to be considered a diaconal candidate may come from the Bishop, Parish Priest, Faith Community, or self. Contacts Bishop or CDF for initial information.</p>		<p>2. Provides support and guidance to candidate. Refers the candidate to parish priest and/or faith community.</p>	<p>2. As for CDF until the establishment of a CDF.</p>	
<p>3. During the pre-postulant period, applicant should be able to contact CDF with any reasonable concerns not within the purview of the Parish Priest and/or Faith Community.</p>		<p>3. Writes to applicant and Parish Priest/Faith Community giving an explanation and outline of the process.</p>	<p>3. As for CDF until the establishment of a CDF.</p>	<p>3. Meets with candidate to continue discernment process. Forms Parish Discernment Group using guidelines provided by DDGOM/Deacons. ⁴ Consults with CDF as necessary.</p>
<p>4. Meets with Parish Discernment Group for a period of no more than 9-12 months for process of discernment within the community.</p>				<p>4. Parish Discernment Group meets with candidate for a period of up to 12 months for the process of discernment within the community.</p>

				5. If process is to continue, Parish Priest/Vestry/Parish Discernment Group agree on contents of and sign <i>Letter of Commendation /Deacons</i> as outlined in <i>Ordination Prerequisites/Deacons</i> , and send to Bishop: copy to CDF. This completes work of Parish Discernment Group.
6. Meets with Bishop. If approved, becomes Candidate. Given Information Sheet and essay topics.		6. Receives copy of Letter of Commendation. Consults with Bishop as necessary.	6. Receives Letter of Commendation /Deacons from Parish. Consults with CDF as necessary. Interviews candidate. Requests DDGOM/Deacons meet with candidate.	
7. Completes Information Sheet and essays. Meets with DDGOM/Deacons for one or more interviews re: attendance at ACPO/D (<i>ACPO /Deacons</i>).	7. For the first interview, Panel meets with candidate and Parish Priest/Faith Community. Further interviews, as necessary, with Candidate alone. Recommends to Bishop re: attendance or non-attendance at ACPO/D.		7. Anglican Centre Office checks with Child Abuse Registry and Criminal Record files.	
			8. Approves recommendation to ACPO/D. If not approved, meets with candidate for pastoral counselling or provides same through CDF.	8. Parish Discernment Group disbanded.
9. Attends ACPO/D. If approved, becomes postulant.			9. Informs candidate in writing of acceptance as postulant. If not, provides pastoral counselling as in 8.	9. Parish Support Group in the home parish is formed for the postulant to provide support and guidance until ordination or withdrawal from the process for whatever reason. (In a small parish, persons may serve on Discernment and Support Groups.)

10. Provides <i>Record of Education and Experience</i> to CDF/Bishop for evaluation regarding appropriate Diaconal training/education.		10. Passes <i>Record of Education and Experience</i> to <u>an appropriate body</u> for evaluation and recommendation re: further training or education programme for this diaconal postulant.	10. As for CDF until the establishment of a CDF.	10. A caution. Following the evaluation of education and experience, the period of training and further experience required should not be protracted.
11. Participates in developing Initial Covenant between postulant and Faith Community. Meets regularly with Support Group and Parish or Supervising Priest during training. Meets annually (or more frequently) with a member of DDGOM/D for “in process” interview(s).	11. Liaises annually (or more frequently) with postulant for “in process” interview(s). Any written report is shared with candidate, CDF, Bishop, and other relevant parties.			11. Draws up Initial Covenant between Faith Community and postulant. ⁵ Support Group and Supervising Priest meet regularly with postulant. Any substantive issues reported to Bishop and CDF, and communicated to other relevant parties.
12 Requests annual meeting with Bishop and/or CDF.		12. Meets at least annually with the postulant.	12. May meet annually with postulant at postulant’s request. Substantive issues communicated to relevant parties.	12. Parish Priest consults with Parish Support Group and writes report to DDGOM/D re: postulant’s readiness for ordination. (See note 8.); cc to CDF.
13. When sufficient Diaconal training completed, meets with CDF to discuss ordination.		13. Meets with postulant to discuss readiness for ordination. Refers postulant to Bishop.	13. Meets with postulant to discuss ordination. Requests DDGOM/D to determine postulant’s readiness for ordination.	13. Recognizes that training not necessarily completed. Evaluates and revises Covenant accordingly.
14. Receives letter from DDGOM/D setting out pre-ordination essay topics and arrangements for pre-ordination interview once essays have been received. Complies.	14. Sends letter to postulant re: pre-ordination essays and interview.			
15. Meets with a DDGOM/D panel for pre-ordination interview.	15. Receives essays. Sets up panel interviews postulant and makes recommendation to CDF and Bishop.	15. Receives recommendation from DDGOM/D.	15 .Informs postulant, Parish or Supervising Priest, and Parish Support Group of recommendation. If positive, determines date and place of ordination. Informs	

			relevant parties. If negative, provides, or provides for, pastoral counselling.	
16. Ordained Deacon. Completes any outstanding training commitments, and participates in Deacons' Network.			16. Ordains the postulant as Deacon.	16. Reviews and revises Covenant.

ITEMS NEEDING FURTHER ATTENTION:

1. Consider the questions of placements:
Necessary at all for any particular candidate?
If so, how many? Where?
Qualities, qualification of supervisor, priest or otherwise?
Will CPE be required?
2. The role of Parish Priest, Parish Council, Discernment Group, and Support Group will have to be carefully delineated. (Qu'Appelle uses both groups.)
3. Will there be a DDGOM/D mentor for each postulant?
4. The CDF will have to meet early in the process with the Parish Priest/ Faith Community, and Discernment and Support Groups.
5. How can the persons on the "waiting in the wings" list with DDGOM be effectively and expeditiously "processed"?
6. Re Box 12 (Parish responsibilities): The Parish or Supporting Priest and the Parish Support Group, once they have commended the postulant, will continue the journey with the postulant. The Parish or Supporting Priest, after consultation with the Parish Support Group, will write a report towards the conclusion.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ DWG and/or DDGOM will have to draw up a table showing characteristics of a Deacon relative to Baptismal Covenant, Roles, Qualities, Knowledge, Skills as presently used by DDGOM for Priest.
- ² The position of Co-ordinator for Diaconal Formation [CDF] position will have to be established sooner, rather than later. The CDF will have to be able to communicate not only with the diocesan, candidates, parishes, support groups, DDGOM, but also with relevant educational and training institutions. With the educational/training institutions, and using the candidate's Education and Experience Report, the CDF will help determine whether or not further education/training is required. If it is required, these same parties will finalize the requirements.
- ³ We recognize that the candidate may be a chaplain at an institution, for example, with liturgical responsibilities. There needs to be a liturgical community as part of the picture, and visible diaconal participation in leadership in that community.
- ⁴ The Diocese of Qu'Appelle document with appendix "Guidelines for the Discernment Phase" could be a useful resource.
- ⁵ Qu'Appelle appendix "Building a Covenant" could be a useful resource.