

## **Canonical Process under Canon 8 for Priesthood—2006 Canons**

1. Guidelines for Ordination Process set forth by the bishop and COM
2. Confirmed adult communicant in good standing may be nominated to the Priesthood by congregation or other community of faith per Canon III.8.2.a
3. Nominee accepts in writing to the bishop per Canon III.8.2.b

### **Postulancy Procedures per Canon III.8.3**

Postulancy is the time between nomination and candidacy and may initiate the formal preparation for ordination. Postulancy involves continued exploration and decision about the Postulant's call to the priesthood.

4. Conference with the bishop
5. Bishop consults with Nominee about financial resources available for support during formation. Provisions made for periodic review of financial condition and plans of the Postulant during formation.
6. COM reviews application and prepares and evaluation of the Nominee's qualifications to pursue a program of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood.
7. COM presents its evaluation and recommendations to the bishop
8. Bishop may admit Nominee to Postulancy
9. [Bishop and Commission work with Postulant to develop a plan of formation as required under III.8.5]

### **Procedures for Candidacy per Canon III.8.4**

Candidacy is a time of education and formation in preparation for ordination to the Priesthood, established by a formal commitment by the Candidate, the Bishop, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the congregation or other community of faith.

10. Make application to bishop which must include: date of admission to postulancy and letter of support signed and dated by 2/3s of the Vestry of the Postulant's congregation.
11. COM attests to the continued formation of the Postulant
12. Approval from the Standing Committee in writing after an interview with the postulant and a review of all documentation
13. Bishop may admit the Postulant to Candidacy

Other Requirements:

- Communication with Bishop four times a year in Ember weeks reflecting on the Candidate's academic experience and personal and spiritual development
- Within 36 months prior to ordination as Deacon under Canon 8, the following must be accomplished
  - i. Background check, according to criteria established by Bishop and Standing Committee
  - ii. Medical and psychological evaluation by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms prepared for the purpose by The Church Pension Fund, and if desired or necessary, a psychiatric referral.

**Ordination to the Diaconate for those called to the Priesthood per Canon III.8.6**

The bishop obtains in writing and provides the following information to the Standing Committee in writing.

14. Application from the Candidate Requesting ordination as a deacon under this canon
15. A Letter of support from the Candidate's congregation
16. Evidence of admission to Postulancy and Candidacy
17. A certificate from the seminary or other program of preparation showing the Candidate's scholastic record in the subjects required by the Canons, and giving an evaluation with recommendation as to the Candidate's other personal qualifications for ordination together with a recommendation regarding ordination to the Diaconate under this canon
18. A certificate from the Commission giving a recommendation regarding ordination to the Diaconate under this Canon.

Upon receipt of such certificates, the Standing Committee, a majority of all members consenting, shall certify that the canonical requirements for ordination to the Diaconate under this Canon have been met and there is no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds and that they recommend ordination by a testimonial addressed to the Bishop in the form specified in Canon III.8.6.d and signed by the consenting members of the Standing Committee.

19. Standing Committee sends testimonial to the bishop certifying requirements per Canon III.8.6.d
20. Bishop may ordain Candidate to the Diaconate

### **Ordination to the Priesthood per Canon III.8.7**

Must be ordained at least six months as a Deacon under this Canon and eighteen months from the time of acceptance of nomination by the Nominee as provided in III.8.2.

Medical, psychological, and background checks must be no more than 36 months old.

The Bishop obtains in writing and provide to the Standing Committee:

21. Application from the Deacon requesting ordination as a Priest
22. Letter of support from the Deacon's congregation
23. Evidence of admission to Postulancy and Candidacy, including dates of admission, and ordination to the Diaconate.
24. A certificate from the seminary or other program of preparation, written at the completion of the program of preparation, showing the Deacon's scholastic record in the subjects required by the Canons, and giving an evaluation with recommendations as to the Deacon's other personal qualifications for ordination together with a recommendations regarding ordination to the Priesthood.
25. A statement from the Commission attesting to the successful completion of the program of formation designed during Postulancy under Canon III.8.5, and proficiency in the required areas of study, and recommending the Deacon for ordination to the Priesthood.

Upon receipt of such certificates, the Standing Committee, a majority of all members consenting, shall certify that the canonical requirements for ordination to the Priesthood under this Canon have been met and there is no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds and that they recommend ordination by a testimonial addressed to the Bishop in the form specified in Canon III.8.7.c and signed by the consenting members of the Standing Committee.

26. Standing Committee sends testimonial to the bishop certifying requirements per Canon III.8.7.c
27. Bishop may ordain Deacon to the Priesthood
28. New priest must be assigned a mentor by the Bishop in consultation with the COM