

**Parish Discernment Committee Report**  
**Name of Parish/Faith Community**  
**Address of Parish/Faith Community**  
**Contact telephone numbers and e-mail address**

TO: The priest of (Name of Parish/Faith Community)  
FROM: Discernment Committee for (Name of Aspirant)  
(Name, telephone number and e-mail address of Chair(s);  
Names of Committee Members)  
DATE: (Final date of report)  
RE: Discernment Committee Report

**Background Information:**

- Who is the aspirant? How do members of the committee know him or her?
- How long has he or she been a member of the parish? Describe the aspirant's involvement in the life of the parish, community, and Church and for what period of time.
- How would parishioners describe this person's current ministry in the parish and community?
- What is your sense of the aspirant's level of commitment and faithfulness in connection with parish or Church work taken on?

Please give examples.

**Relationship with God**

- How have you heard him or her speak in a personal, thoughtful, and compelling way of his or her experience of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit?
- In what ways is the aspirant able to describe his or her spiritual journey and growing relationship with Christ? Give examples.
- Where is the Holy Spirit at work in the aspirant's life?
- Does the aspirant have the ability to express his or her faith theologically, to think reflectively, and to articulate his or her understanding within the Episcopal tradition, given his or her formation thus far?
- Give your impressions of the aspirant's prayer life, worship, and reception of the sacraments.
- Does faith ground and center the aspirant's work in and out of the Church?

**How Is God's Call Unfolding?**

How is the aspirant currently experiencing his or her call to ordained ministry? In what ways is the aspirant currently engaged in service to the church through leadership, pastoral care, community service or other specific involvement?

### Gifts & Strengths

- What gifts and strengths do the aspirant bring to this ministry, and what unusual gifts, skills, experiences do the aspirant have that would serve the rapidly changing, increasingly diverse and missionary church?

### Leadership, Collaboration & Communications

- Describe the qualities of effective leadership, collaboration, and communication that the aspirant brings to his or her current ministries. Does he or she articulate a clear vision and possess the capability to motivate others to share in that vision?
- What problems has the aspirant confronted in his or her involvement in parish or Church activities and how were they resolved?
- Has the aspirant initiated ministry and in what ways?

### Pastoral Abilities

- Does the aspirant have a pastoral and kind presence? Give examples of what kind of presence you saw in the group's meetings. How have you seen the aspirant loving God, neighbor, and self? How does this life prepare him or her for life as an ordained person?
- What is your perception of the aspirant's sensitivity to pastoral issues in people's lives? How does he or she respond to pain and joy and complexity in others' lives?
- Is the aspirant able to claim his or her strengths?
- What is your sense of the aspirant's ability to recognize his or her own fears and conflicts? How do they impede or facilitate the aspirant's sensitivity or responses to other people and to situations of conflict?

### Relationships

- What is the nature of the aspirant's significant relationships? Has the aspirant tested this call with family and friends?
- Describe the aspirant's relationship with his or her primary partner. Does the couple have a realistic picture of the gifts and challenges of the formation process and the ordained life? What support do they have or will they need to meet these challenges?

### Growth and Maturity

- Is this aspirant mature enough to handle the challenges of the ordained life? Is he or she possessed of personal integrity, authenticity, and reliability? Does he or she display sound judgment? Why or why not? Give examples.
- Describe how the aspirant responded within the group, e.g. his or her willingness to share deep personal concerns and commitments, openness to differences of opinion, willingness to consider new insights.
- From your observation, are there any areas of growth that the Individual should pursue prior to or during theological education (other than the normal course of study)?
- How has the aspirant experienced and integrated loss, change or adversity?

- What is or has been the aspirant's major area of struggle? How is it resolving?
- What is your sense of the balance in this aspirant's life? How and how well does the aspirant balance his or her work or profession with parish and Church involvement? With family or social life? With avocational interests or hobbies?

**How Is God Calling this Aspirant to Serve in the Body of Christ?**

- What new ministries does he or she envision undertaking in the future? Why is this the right time to pursue a call to ordained ministry?
- What is the vision of the ministry to which the aspirant feels called?
- Do you have any reservations about the individual? Please explain.
- In what specific ways does the aspirant believe that ordination would serve his or her sense of call? Does the aspirant understand that ordained ministry requires leaving the sponsoring congregation to serve the wider Church under the direction of bishops?
- Based on your own knowledge and observation, in what particular area do you see him or her ministering as a priest or deacon? In what particular area or areas would you not see the aspirant ministering? In both cases, why? Please give examples.
- What obstacles or weaknesses are present that may prevent this person from serving fully and fruitfully as an ordained minister of the Church? What additional training, skills, and resources does this person need to respond to this call?
- Does the committee feel the aspirant needs to be ordained to pursue this call to ministry? Why ordination rather than a disciplined and committed lay ministry?
- What do you believe has led the aspirant to pursue ordination?
- What are the aspirant's thoughts and attitudes about the vows required at ordination?
- If the aspirant is not invited into the ordination process, where might he or she be called to serve? What steps might he or she take to discern and prepare for these lay ministries?

***The Parish Discernment Committee is encouraged to supplement the above categories with any additional information about the aspirant which they believe would be helpful.***

We recommend that \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ pursue Lay Ministry in the area(s) of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ enter the diocesan process for ordination to the Diaconate

\_\_\_\_\_ enter the diocesan process for ordination to the Priesthood

Additional Comments (*Please be specific*)