

**Constitution**  
and  
**Canons**  
Together with  
**The Rules of Order**



For the governance of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the  
United States of America, otherwise known as

**The Episcopal Church**

Adopted and Revised in General Conventions 1785–2022

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**The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of  
The Protestant Episcopal Church  
of the United States of America**

*Edited by*

**The Office of the General Convention**

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Presbyter or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation, or as directed by the Bishop.

**Canon 5: Of General Provisions Respecting Ordination**

**Sec. 1**

*Episcopal authority.*

- a. The canonical authority assigned to the Bishop Diocesan by this Title may be exercised by a Bishop Coadjutor, when so empowered under Canon III.11.9.a, and at the request of the Bishop Diocesan, by a Bishop Suffragan, or by any other Bishop of a Church in full communion with this Church who was ordained in the historic succession, at the request of the ordinand’s Bishop.
- b. The Council of Advice of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, and the board appointed by a Bishop having jurisdiction in an Area Mission in accordance with the provisions of Canon I.11.2.c, shall, for the purpose of this and other Canons of Title III have the same powers as the Standing Committee of a Diocese.
- c. In case of a vacancy in the episcopate in a Diocese, as defined in Canon III.12.4.d, the Ecclesiastical Authority may authorize and request the President of the House of Bishops of the Province to take order for an ordination.

**Sec. 2** No Nominee, Postulant, or Candidate for ordination shall sign any of the certificates required by this Title.

- a. Testimonials required of the Standing Committee by this Title must be signed by a majority of the whole Committee, at a meeting duly convened, except that testimonials may be executed in counterparts, any of which may be delivered by facsimile or other electronic transmission, each of which shall be deemed an original.
- b. Whenever the letter of support of a Vestry is required, the letter must be signed and dated by at least two-thirds of all of the members of the Vestry, at a meeting duly convened, and by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of the Parish, and attested by the Clerk of the Vestry. Should there be no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the letter

*Testimonials.*

*Vestry’s letter of support.*

shall be signed by a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the nominee and the Parish, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

- c. If the congregation or other discernment community of which the nominee is a member is not a Parish, the letter of support required by Canon III.6 or Canon III.8 shall be signed and dated by the Member of the Clergy and the council of the congregation or other community of faith, and shall be attested by the secretary of the meeting at which the letter was approved. Should there be no Member of the Clergy, the letter shall be signed and dated by a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the nominee and the congregation or other community of faith, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

*Member of a Religious Order or Community.*

- d. If the applicant is a member of a Religious Order or Christian Community recognized by Canon III.14, the letters of support referred to in Canon III.5 or Canon III.6 and any other requirements imposed on a congregation or Member of the Clergy may be given by the Superior or person in charge, and Chapter, or other comparable body of the Order or Community.

*Dispensations.*

**Sec. 3.** An application for any dispensation permitted by this Title from any of the requirements for ordination must first be made to the Bishop, and if approved, referred to the Standing Committee for its advice and consent.

**Canon 6: Of the Ordination of Deacons**

**Sec. 1. Selection**

*Selection and nomination of Deacons.*

The Bishop, in consultation with the Commission, shall establish procedures to identify and to select persons with evident gifts and fitness for ordination to the Diaconate.

**Sec. 2. Nomination**

A confirmed adult communicant in good standing, may be nominated for ordination to the diaconate by the person’s congregation or other community of faith.

- a. The Nomination shall be in writing and shall include a letter of support by the Nominee's congregation or other community of faith committing the community to
1. pledge to contribute financially to that preparation, and
  2. involve itself in the Nominee's preparation for ordination to the Diaconate.

If it be a congregation, the letter shall be signed by two-thirds of the Vestry or comparable body, and by the Member of the Clergy or leader exercising oversight.

- b. The Nominee, if in agreement with the nomination, shall accept the nomination in writing and shall provide the following to the Bishop:

*Application for admission as Postulant.*

1. Full name and date of birth.
2. The length of time resident in the Diocese.
3. Evidence of Baptism and Confirmation.
4. Whether an application has been made previously for Postulancy or the person has been nominated in any Diocese.
5. A description of the process of discernment by which the Nominee has been identified for ordination to the Diaconate.
6. The level of education attained and, if any, the degrees earned, and areas of specialization, together with copies of official transcripts.

### Sec. 3. Postulancy

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

*Postulancy for the Diaconate.*

- a. Before granting admission as a Postulant, the Bishop shall

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|---------------------------------------|---|
|                                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. determine that the Nominee is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing, and</li> <li>2. confer in person with the Nominee,</li> </ol>   |
| <i>Application review.</i>            | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. If the Bishop approves the Nominee proceeding into Postulancy, the Commission, or a committee of the Commission, shall meet with the Nominee to review the application and prepare an evaluation of the Nominee's qualifications to pursue a program of preparation for ordination to the Diaconate. The Commission shall present its evaluation and recommendations to the Bishop.</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Previous refusal or cessation.</i> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. No Bishop shall consider accepting as a Postulant any person who has been refused admission as a Candidate for ordination to the Diaconate in any other Diocese, or who, having been admitted, has afterwards ceased to be a Candidate, until receipt of a letter from the Bishop of the Diocese refusing admission, or in which the person has been a Candidate, declaring the cause of refusal or of cessation.</li> </ol>  |
| <i>Admission to Postulancy.</i>       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>d. The Bishop may admit the Nominee as a Postulant for ordination to the Diaconate. The Bishop shall record the Postulant's name and date of admission in a Register kept for that purpose. The Bishop shall inform the Postulant, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the director of the Postulant's program of preparation, of the fact and date of such admission.</li> </ol> |
| <i>Ember Weeks.</i>                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. Each Postulant for ordination to the Diaconate shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter, four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the Postulant's academic, diaconal, human, spiritual, and practical development.</li> </ol>   |
| <i>Removal.</i>                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. Any Postulant may be removed as a Postulant at the sole discretion of the Bishop. The Bishop shall give written notice of the removal to the Postulant and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith,</li> </ol>  |

the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the director of the program of preparation.

#### Sec. 4. Candidacy

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

*Definition of Candidacy.*

- a. A person desiring to be considered as a Candidate for ordination to the Diaconate shall apply to the Bishop. Such application shall include the following:
  1. the Postulant's date of admission to Postulancy, and
  2. a letter of support by the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith. If it be a congregation the letter shall be signed and dated by at least two-thirds of the Vestry or comparable body and by the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight.
- b. Upon compliance with these requirements, and receipt of a written statement from the Commission attesting to the continuing formation of the Postulant, and having received approval in writing of the Standing Committee who shall have interviewed the Postulant and who shall have had an opportunity to review the documentation relating to the application of the Postulant, the Bishop may admit the Postulant as a Candidate for ordination to the Diaconate. The Bishop shall record the Candidate's name and date of admission in a Register kept for that purpose. The Bishop shall inform the Candidate, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the seminary the Candidate may be attending or proposes to attend, or the director of the Candidate's program of preparation, of the fact and date of such admission.
- c. A Candidate must remain in canonical relationship with the Diocese in which admission has been granted until

*Admission to Candidacy.*

*Transfers to another Diocese.*

ordination to the Diaconate under this Canon, except, for reasons acceptable to the Bishop, the Candidate may be transferred to another Diocese upon request, provided that the Bishop of the receiving Diocese is willing to accept the Candidate.

*Candidate may  
be removed.*

- d. Any Candidate may be removed as a Candidate, at the sole discretion of the Bishop. The Bishop shall give written notice of the removal to the Candidate and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the director of the program of preparation.
- e. If a Bishop has removed the Candidate's name from the list of Candidates, except by transfer, or the Candidate's application for ordination has been rejected, no other Bishop may ordain the person without readmission to Candidacy for a period of at least twelve months.

**Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination**

*Assignment.*

- a. The Bishop and the Commission shall work with the Postulant or Candidate to develop and monitor a program of preparation for ordination to the Diaconate in accordance with this Canon to ensure that pastoral guidance is provided throughout the period of preparation.
- b. The Bishop may assign the Postulant or Candidate to any congregation of the Diocese or other community of faith after consultation with the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight.

*Formation.*

- c. Formation shall take into account the local culture and each Postulant or Candidate's background, age, occupation, and ministry.
- d. Prior education and learning from life experience may be considered as part of the formation required for ordination.
- e. Wherever possible, formation for the Diaconate shall take place in community, including other persons in preparation for the Diaconate, or others preparing for ministry.



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- f. Before ordination each Candidate shall be prepared in and demonstrate basic competence in five general areas: *Competencies.*
1. Academic studies including, The Holy Scriptures, theology, and the tradition of the Church.
  2. Diakonia and the diaconate.
  3. Human awareness and understanding.
  4. Spiritual development and discipline.
  5. Practical training and experience.
- g. Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding *Training.*
1. prevention of sexual misconduct against both children and adults.
  2. civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
  3. the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.
  4. the Church's teaching on racism.
- h. Each Candidate for ordination to the Diaconate shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter, four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the Candidate's academic, diaconal, human, spiritual, and practical development. *Ember Weeks.*
- i. During Candidacy each Candidate's progress shall be evaluated from time to time, and there shall be a written report of the evaluation by those authorized by the Commission to be in charge of the evaluation program. Upon certification by those in charge of the Candidate's program of preparation that the Candidate has successfully completed preparation and is ready for ordination, a final written assessment of readiness for ordination to the Diaconate shall be prepared as determined by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission. This report shall include a recommendation from the Commission regarding the readiness of the Candidate for ordination. Records shall be kept of all evaluations, assessments, and the recommendation, and shall be made available to the Standing Committee. *Evaluation of progress.*

*Examinations  
and evaluations.*

- j.** Within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Deacon, the following must be accomplished
  - 1. a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee.
  - 2. medical and psychological evaluation by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms prepared for the purpose by the Standing Commission on Ministry and Formation in accordance with principles and directions adopted by the General Convention and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral.
- k.** Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain a part of the permanent diocesan record.

**Sec. 6. Ordination to the Diaconate**

- a.** A person may be ordained Deacon:
  - 1. after at least eighteen months from the time of written acceptance of nomination by the Nominee as provided in III.6.2.b, and
  - 2. upon attainment of at least twenty-four years of age.

*Ordination  
papers.*

- b.** The Bishop shall obtain in writing and provide to the Standing Committee:
  - 1. an application from the Candidate requesting ordination as a Deacon under this Canon.
  - 2. a letter of support from the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, signed and dated by at least two-thirds of the Vestry and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight.
  - 3. written evidence of admission of the Candidate to Postulancy and Candidacy, giving the dates of admission.
  - 4. 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.

- 5. a certificate from the Commission giving a recommendation regarding ordination to the Diaconate under this Canon.
- c. On the receipt of such certificates, the Standing Committee, if a majority of all members consent, shall certify that the Canonical requirements for ordination to the Diaconate under this Canon have been met, that there is no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds and that they recommend ordination. The Standing Committee shall evidence such certification, by a testimonial, addressed to the Bishop in the form specified below and signed by the consenting members of the Standing Committee.

*Standing  
Committee to  
consent.*

**To the Right Reverend \_\_\_\_\_, Bishop of \_\_\_\_\_ We, the Standing Committee of \_\_\_\_\_, having been duly convened at \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, do testify that A.B., desiring to be ordained to the Diaconate under Canon III.6 has presented to us the certificates as required by the Canons indicating A.B.'s preparedness for ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.6; and we certify that all canonical requirements for ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.6 have been met; and we find no sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we recommend A.B. for ordination. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_.**

**(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_**

- d. The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds, the Bishop may ordain the Candidate to the Diaconate under this Canon; and at the time of ordination the Candidate shall subscribe publicly and make, in the presence of the Bishop, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.

*Declaration of  
conformity.*

require the Deacon seeking to return to the ministry to sign a written declaration as required in Article VIII of the Constitution, without recourse to any other ecclesiastical jurisdiction and execute such declaration in the presence of the Bishop and two or more members of the clergy of this Church.

- d. Thereafter the Bishop, taking into account the facts and circumstances surrounding the Deacon’s removal and release, may permit, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, the return of the Deacon into the ordained Ministry of this Church.
- e. The provisions of this Canon III.7.11 shall not be applicable to any Deacon who has been removed, released, or deposed from their ministry as the result of any proceeding of Title IV of these Canons.
- f. Notice of the Deacon’s return to the ordained Ministry of this Church shall be provided in writing to the same persons and entities receiving notice under Canon III.7.10.

**Canon 8: Of the Ordination of Priests**

**Sec. 1. Selection**

The Bishop, in consultation with the Commission, shall establish procedures to identify and select persons with evident gifts and fitness for ordination to the Priesthood.

*Selection and nomination to the Priesthood.*

**Sec. 2. Nomination**

A confirmed adult communicant in good standing may be nominated for ordination to the Priesthood by the person’s congregation or other community of faith.

- a. The Nomination shall be in writing and shall include a letter of support by the Nominee’s congregation or other community of faith committing the community to:
  - 1. pledge to contribute financially to that preparation, and
  - 2. involve itself in the Nominee’s preparation for ordination to the Priesthood.

*Application for admission to Postulancy.*

If it be a congregation, the letter shall be signed by two-thirds of the Vestry or comparable body, and by the Member of the Clergy or leader exercising oversight.

- b. The Nominee, if agreeing, shall accept the nomination in writing, and shall provide the following to the Bishop:
  - 1. Full name and date of birth.
  - 2. The length of time resident in the Diocese.
  - 3. Evidence of Baptism and Confirmation.
  - 4. Whether an application has been made previously for Postulancy or the person has been nominated in any Diocese.
  - 5. A description of the process of discernment by which the Nominee has been identified for ordination to the Priesthood.
  - 6. The level of education attained and, if any, the degrees earned and areas of specialization, together with copies of official transcripts.

### **Sec. 3. Postulancy**

*Postulancy for  
the Priesthood.*

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

- a. Before granting admission as a Postulant, the Bishop shall
  - 1. determine that the person is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing.
  - 2. confer in person with the Nominee.
  - 3. shall consult with the Nominee regarding financial resources which will be available for the support of the Postulant throughout preparation for ordination. During Postulancy and later Candidacy, the Bishop or someone appointed by the Bishop shall review periodically the financial condition and plans of the Postulant.

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| <p><b>b.</b> If the Bishop approves proceeding, the Commission, or a committee of the Commission, shall meet with the Nominee to review the application and prepare an evaluation of the Nominee's qualifications to pursue a program of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood. The Commission shall present its evaluation and recommendations to the Bishop.</p>  | <p><i>Application review.</i></p>            |
| <p><b>c.</b> No Bishop shall consider accepting as a Postulant any person who has been refused admission as a Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood in any other Diocese, or who, having been admitted, has afterwards ceased to be a Candidate, until receipt of a letter from the Bishop of the Diocese refusing admission, or in which the person has been a Candidate, declaring the cause of refusal or of cessation.</p>  | <p><i>Previous removal or cessation.</i></p> |
| <p><b>d.</b> The Bishop may admit the Nominee as a Postulant for ordination to the Priesthood. The Bishop shall record the Postulant's name and date of admission in a Register kept for that purpose. The Bishop shall inform the Postulant, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the seminary the Postulant may be attending or proposes to attend, or the director of Postulant's program of preparation, of the fact and date of such admission.</p> | <p><i>Admission to Postulancy.</i></p>       |
| <p><b>e.</b> Each Postulant for ordination to the Priesthood shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter, four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the Postulant's academic experience and personal and spiritual development.</p>  | <p><i>Ember Weeks.</i></p>                   |
| <p><b>f.</b> Any Postulant may be removed as a Postulant at the sole discretion of the Bishop. The Bishop shall give written notice of the removal to the Postulant and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the director of the program of preparation.</p>   | <p><i>Removal.</i></p>                       |

**Sec. 4. Candidacy**

<i>Definition of Candidacy.</i>	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.
<i>Application for Candidacy.</i>	<div><div>a. A person desiring to be considered as a Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood shall apply to the Bishop. Such application shall include the following:<div><div>1. the Postulant’s date of admission to Postulancy, and</div><div>2. a letter of support by the Postulant’s congregation or other community of faith. If it be a congregation, the letter shall be signed and dated by at least two-thirds of the Vestry or comparable body and by the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight.</div></div></div></div>
<i>Admission to Candidacy.</i>	<div><div>b. Upon compliance with these requirements, and receipt of a statement from the Commission attesting to the continuing formation of the Postulant, and having received approval in writing of the Standing Committee who shall have interviewed the Postulant and who shall have had an opportunity to review the documentation relating to the application of the Postulant, the Bishop may admit the Postulant as a Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood. The Bishop shall record the Candidate’s name and date of admission in a Register kept for that purpose. The Bishop shall inform the Candidate, the Member of the Clergy or leader exercising oversight of the Candidate’s congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the seminary the Candidate may be attending or proposes to attend, or the director of the Candidate’s program of preparation, of the fact and date of such admission.</div></div>
<i>Transfer to another Diocese.</i>	<div><div>c. A Candidate must remain in canonical relationship with the Diocese in which admission has been granted until ordination to the Diaconate under this Canon, except, for reasons acceptable to the Bishop, the Candidate may be transferred to another Diocese upon request, provided</div></div>

that the Bishop of the receiving Diocese is willing to accept the Candidate.

- d. Any Candidate may be removed as a Candidate at the sole discretion of the Bishop. The Bishop shall give written notice of the removal to the Candidate and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the seminary the Candidate may be attending or the director of the program of preparation. *Candidate may be removed.*
- e. If a Bishop has removed the Candidate's name from the list of Candidates, except by transfer, or the Candidate's application for ordination has been rejected, no other Bishop may ordain the person without readmission to Candidacy for a period of at least twelve months.

**Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination**

- a. The Bishop and the Commission shall work with the Postulant or Candidate to develop and monitor a program of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood and to ensure that pastoral guidance is provided throughout the period of preparation.
- b. If the Postulant or Candidate has not previously obtained a baccalaureate degree, the Commission, Bishop, and Postulant or Candidate shall design a program of such additional academic work as may be necessary to prepare the Postulant or Candidate to undertake a program of theological education. *Pre-theological education.*
- c. Formation shall take into account the local culture and each Postulant or Candidate's background, age, occupation, and ministry. *Formation.*
- d. Prior education and learning from life experience may be considered as part of the formation required for the Priesthood.
- e. Whenever possible, formation for the Priesthood shall take place in community, including other persons in preparation for the Priesthood, or others preparing for ministry.



	<p>f. Formation shall include theological training, practical experience, emotional development, and spiritual formation.</p>
<p>Theological education.</p>	<p>g. Subject areas for study during this program of preparation shall include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The Holy Scriptures.</li><li>2. History of the Christian Church.</li><li>3. Christian Theology.</li><li>4. Christian Ethics and Moral Theology.</li><li>5. Christian Worship according to the use of the Book of Common Prayer, the Hymnal, and authorized supplemental texts.</li><li>6. The Practice of Ministry in contemporary society, including leadership, evangelism, stewardship, ecumenism, interfaith relations, mission theology, and the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups.</li></ol>
<p>Training.</p>	<p>h. Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. prevention of sexual misconduct against both children and adults.</li><li>2. civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.</li><li>3. the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof, utilizing, but not limited to use of, the Title IV training website of The Episcopal Church.</li><li>4. the Church’s teaching on racism.</li></ol>
<p>Ember Weeks.</p>	<p>i. Each Postulant or Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter, four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the Candidate’s academic experience and personal and spiritual development.</p>
<p>Evaluation of progress.</p>	<p>j. The seminary or other formation program shall provide for, monitor, and report on the academic performance</p>

and personal qualifications of the Postulant or Candidate for ordination. These reports will be made upon request of the Bishop and Commission, but at least once per year.

- k.** Within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Deacon under this Canon, the following must be accomplished

  1. a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee.
  2. medical and psychological evaluation by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms prepared for the purpose by the Standing Commission on Ministry and Formation in accordance with principles and directions adopted by the General Convention, and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral.

**l.** Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain a part of the permanent diocesan record.

*Examinations and evaluations.*

**Sec. 6. Ordination to the Diaconate for those called to the Priesthood**

- a.** A Candidate must first be ordained Deacon before being ordained Priest.

**b.** To be ordained Deacon under this Canon, a person must be at least twenty-four years of age.

**c.** The Bishop shall obtain in writing and provide to the Standing Committee:

  1. an application from the Candidate requesting ordination as a Deacon under this Canon.
  2. a letter of support from the Candidate’s congregation or other community of faith, signed and dated by at least two-thirds of the Vestry and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight.
  3. written evidence of admission of the Candidate to Postulancy and Candidacy, giving the date of admission.
  4. a certificate from the seminary or other program of preparation showing the Candidate’s scholastic

*Ordination of Deacons with a call to the Priesthood.*

*Ordination papers.*

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.

5. a certificate from the Commission giving a recommendation regarding ordination to the Diaconate under this Canon.

*Standing  
Committee to  
consent and  
certify  
Candidates.*

- d. On the receipt of such certificates, the Standing Committee, a majority of all the 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 below and signed by the consenting members of the Standing Committee.

**To the Right Reverend \_\_\_\_\_, Bishop  
of \_\_\_\_\_ We, the Standing Committee  
of \_\_\_\_\_, having been duly convened  
at \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, do  
testify that A.B., desiring to be ordained to the  
Diaconate and Priesthood under Canon III.8 has  
presented to us the certificates as required by the  
Canons indicating A.B.'s preparedness for ordination to  
the Diaconate under Canon III.8; and we certify that all  
canonical requirements for ordination to the Diaconate  
under Canon III.8 have been met; and we find no  
sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we  
recommend A.B. for ordination. In witness whereof, we  
have hereunto set our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_, in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_.**

**(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_**

*Declaration of  
conformity.*

- e. The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds, the Bishop may ordain the Candidate to the Diaconate under this Canon; and at the time of ordination the Candidate shall

subscribe publicly and make, in the presence of the Bishop, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.

#### **Sec. 7. Ordination to the Priesthood**

##### **a. A person may be ordained Priest:**

1. after at least six months since ordination 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.b, and *Ordination requisites.*
2. upon attainment of at least twenty-four years of age, and
3. if the medical evaluation, psychological evaluation, and background check have taken place or been updated within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Priest.

##### **b. The Bishop shall obtain in writing and provide to the Standing Committee:**

*Ordination papers.*

1. an application from the Deacon requesting ordination as a Priest, including the Deacon's dates of admission to Postulancy and Candidacy and ordination as a Deacon under this Canon,
2. a letter of support from the Deacon's congregation or other community of faith, signed by at least two-thirds of the Vestry and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight,
3. evidence of admission to Postulancy and Candidacy, including dates of admission, and ordination to the Diaconate,
4. 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 recommendation as to the Deacon's other personal qualifications for ordination together with a recommendation regarding ordination to the Priesthood, and

5. 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.

*Standing Committee to consent and certify for ordination to Priesthood.*

- c. On the receipt of such certificates, the Standing Committee, a majority of all the members consenting, shall certify that the canonical requirements for ordination to the Priesthood 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 below and signed by the consenting members of the Standing Committee.

**To the Right Reverend \_\_\_\_\_, Bishop of \_\_\_\_\_ We, the Standing Committee of \_\_\_\_\_, having been duly convened at \_\_\_\_\_, do testify that A.B., desiring to be ordained to the Priesthood, has presented to us the certificates as required by the Canons indicating A.B.'s preparedness for ordination to the Priesthood have been met; and we certify that all canonical requirements for ordination to the Priesthood have been met, and we find no sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we recommend A.B. for ordination. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_.**

**(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_**

*Declaration of conformity.*

- d. The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds, the Bishop may ordain the Deacon to the Priesthood; and at the time of ordination the Deacon shall subscribe publicly and make, in the presence of the Bishop, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.

*Exercise of office before ordination.*

- e. No Deacon shall be ordained to the Priesthood until having been appointed to serve in a Parochial Cure within the jurisdiction of this Church, or as a Missionary

under the Ecclesiastical Authority of a Diocese, or as an officer of a Missionary Society recognized by the General Convention, or as a Chaplain of the Armed Services of the United States, or as a Chaplain in a recognized hospital or other welfare institution, or as a Chaplain or instructor in a school, college, or other seminary, or with other opportunity for the exercise of the office of Priest within the Church judged appropriate by the Bishop.

- f. A person ordained to the Diaconate under Canon III.6 who subsequently expresses a call to the Priesthood shall apply to the Bishop Diocesan and the Commission on Ministry. The Commission on Ministry and Bishop Diocesan shall ensure that the Deacon meets the formational requirements set forth in III.8.5.g and shall recommend such additional steps as may be necessary and required. Upon completion of these requirements and those required for Postulancy and Candidacy as set forth in Canon III.8, the Deacon may be ordained to the Priesthood.

*Deacons called to the Priesthood.*

**Canon 9: Of the Life and Work of Priests**

**Sec. 1.** The Bishop and Commission shall require and provide for the continuing education of Priests and keep a record of such education.

*Continuing education.*

**Sec. 2.** Mentoring for Newly Ordained Priests Each newly ordained Priest, whether employed or not, shall be assigned a mentor Priest by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry. The mentor and new Priest shall meet regularly for at least a year to provide guidance, information, and a sustained dialogue about priestly ministry.

*Mentors.*

**Sec. 3.** The Appointment of Priests

a. Rectors.

- 1. When a Parish is without a Rector, the Wardens or other officers shall promptly notify the Ecclesiastical Authority in writing. If the Parish shall for thirty days fail to provide services of public worship, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall make provision for such worship.

*Parish without a Rector.*

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| <p>g. Statements made during the course of proceedings under this Canon are not discoverable nor admissible in any proceedings under Title IV <i>provided</i> that this does not require the exclusion of evidence in any proceeding under the Canons which is otherwise discoverable and admissible.</p> | <p><i>Nondiscoverable and inadmissible statements.</i></p> |
| <p>h. Sections 14 or 15 of this Canon shall not apply in any Diocese whose Canons are otherwise consistent with Canon III.9.</p>  | <p><i>Diocesan Canons apply.</i></p>                       |

*Diocesan records.*