



The Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of Montreal
Bishop's Commission on Ministry

A Process for the Discernment and Formation of Candidates for Ordination as Deacons in the Church

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
Foreword.....	iii
Procedure for Ordination	4 – 5
1. First Steps	4
2. Local Exploration	4
3. Diocesan Assessment	5
4. Preparation for Ordination.....	5
5. Ordination.....	5
Guidelines for Participants in the “First Steps” and “Local Exploration” Stages	6
Guidelines for a Ministry Discernment Group	7
Areas of Exploration by the Ministry Discernment Group	8
Guidelines for the Bishop’s Commission on Ministry (BCOM).....	13
BCOM Representative to the Ministry Discernment Group	14
Guidelines for Mentors	15
Appendices	
I – Candidate’s History Form.....	16 – 19
II – Evaluation of the Ministry Discernment Group.....	10 – 12

NOTE: Although the pages are numbered consecutively, please note that the two forms are printed in the middle of the booklet to facilitate their removal for use.

FOREWORD

We believe that the ministry of Jesus Christ is a servant ministry (*Phil.2:7; Lk. 22:27*) and that all baptized Christians, according to their gifts, are called to participate in this ministry of servanthood (*diakonia*) both within the Church (*Matt.20:26-27; John 13:12-17*) and outside it in the world (*John 12.2; Matt. 25:31-46; Acts 6:1-6; Acts 8:26-40*).

Though this diaconal ministry is proper to the whole People of God we believe that some members of the Church are called to the specific order of Deacon (*diakonos*) to model servant ministry, showing Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself; to enable and encourage the servanthood of other members of the Church; to make known the love of Christ; to interpret to the Christian community the needs, concerns and hopes of the world in which they live; to serve all people in the name of Jesus Christ, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.

This document outlines a process for the discernment of such vocations to the ordained diaconate. It concerns the enquirer or applicant, the faith community to which he or she belongs, the community where his or her diaconal ministry is exercised, the Bishop's Commission on Ministry (BCOM) and the Bishop.

The process includes, both for applicants and their communities, information and education concerning the diaconal ministry of the whole Church and of those who are called to be Deacons. It assumes that the sponsorship of an applicant by a faith community will be understood and accepted not only as the nomination of a prospective candidate but also as commitment to ongoing support of the candidate ministry as an integral part of that community's own diaconal (servant) ministry.

PROCEDURE FOR ORDINATION

1. FIRST STEPS

When a faith community or a place of ministry beyond the church identifies a person carrying out a diaconal ministry it may encourage that person to become an enquirer or applicant. The enquirer or applicant consults with a parish priest, the director of the enquirer's ministry, the Coordinator of Diaconal Ministry, the Chair of the BCOM or the Bishop, in an initial exploration.

Exploratory reflection and prayer will normally characterize this first stage. It is assumed that this initial stage of discernment will include study (see suggested readings at the end of this section) and conversations with Lay Persons, Deacons and Priests concerning the servant ministry of all the baptized and the ministry of the Deacon. Attendance is also recommended at such events as a Gifts for Ministry Workshop or Retreat as well as the monthly meetings of the diocesan Community of Deacons. Information may be obtained from the Coordinator of Diaconal Ministry at Synod Office, (514-843-6577, fax: 514-843-6344) or the diocesan website at <www.montreal.anglican.org>.

An enquirer makes application by filling out a Candidate's History Form (see following) and giving it to the Chair of the BCOM, accompanied by three supporting letters.

At this or any other stage the candidate may choose a mentor, that is, someone who is thoroughly familiar with diaconal ministry and who can accompany and counsel the applicant while remaining outside the formal process. This person's role is like that of a personal chaplain to the applicant with no accountability to parish or diocese (see following under "Guidelines for Mentors").

Suggested Readings for the Enquirer

Being a Deacon Today by Rosalind Brown

The Monday Connection by William E. Diehl

The Liberation of the Laity by Anne Rowthorn

The Servant Church by John Booty

The Diaconate by James Barnett

Many Servants by Ormonde Plater

The Deacon's Ministry by Christine Hall

The Diaconate as Ecumenical Opportunity - The Hanover Report Anglican-Lutheran International Commission

2. LOCAL EXPLORATION

When informed by the Chair of the BCOM that an application has been received, the faith community (parish or other ministry group) forms a Ministry Discernment Group in order to carry out a local assessment of the diaconal character of an applicant's ministry and his or her suitability for ordination, and so informs the Chair of the BCOM. At this point the Chair of the BCOM will request that the applicant obtain a Police Records Check.

The BCOM undertakes the preparation of the Ministry Discernment Group for its role in the discernment process. In cooperation with the parish priest and/or director of the candidate's ministry, the BCOM will normally engage the faith community of the applicant in a programme of education involving presentations, printed information and a workshop on diaconal ministry. Completed copies of the Candidate's History Form are then distributed to the Ministry Discernment Group along with copies of other resource material.

For a period of a minimum of six months the Ministry Discernment Group meets with the applicant to explore his or her sense of vocation to diaconal ministry and aptitude for ordination to the diaconate. In the event that the applicant's ministry community is different from his or her faith community the Ministry Discernment Group will consult with the ministry community in order to form an adequate appreciation of the servant ministry of the applicant.

When it is satisfied that its exploration is complete the Ministry Discernment Group will convene to review and share its members' findings, using the form Evaluation of the Ministry Discernment Group (see following), seeking consensus and

involving the parish priest or other minister. The Ministry Discernment Group then meets with the applicant. Where a vocation to the ordained diaconate is believed to exist the recommendation of the Ministry Discernment Group is communicated to the BCOM. Where such a vocation is not believed to exist it is the responsibility of the Ministry Discernment Group, with the parish priest or other minister, to support and redirect the applicant with, if necessary, the help of the BCOM.

3. DIOCESAN ASSESSMENT

The above decision is communicated to the BCOM which reviews all information received and may, where necessary, request additional information. For example, if the applicant's ministry community is different from his or her faith community, the BCOM may require further input from that source. The applicant is then informed of the further steps in the process and a meeting is arranged with the Bishop.

The Bishop meets with the applicant to learn about his or her servant ministry, and hopes for further vocational development, as well as to inform the applicant about the direction and particular emphases of diaconal ministry in the diocese.

Members of the BCOM meet with the applicant for further exploration of his or her intellectual, emotional and spiritual capacities and overall suitability for ordination. The applicant also undergoes psychological evaluation by a competent professional, cognizant of the demands of ordained diaconal ministry, who makes a recommendation. The applicant is invited to participate in the next available Diaconal Discernment Retreat. A discernment report from the retreat is also communicated to the BCOM. The BCOM, on the basis of all the information at its disposal, then makes a written recommendation to the Bishop. Where a vocation to the ordained diaconate has been discerned it is recommended that an applicant become a postulant for ordination and the Bishop then makes his or her decision. At this time, the candidate may enter the diocesan formation programme for deacons. Where such a vocation has not been discerned the BCOM, in collaboration with the Coordinator of Diaconal Ministry and the Mentor if there is one, meet with the applicant to offer support and redirection.

4. PREPARATION FOR ORDINATION AS A DEACON

Naturally a postulant accepted by the Bishop will continue in a programme of Education and Formation for Deacons as determined for the particular candidate by the BCOM and its Director of Studies. The postulant undertakes this programme of theological study and diaconal formation under the supervision of the Director of Studies. It will normally include field placement in which case the postulant will be supervised and evaluated by his or her field placement supervisor. At regular intervals a written overall evaluation is prepared by the Director of Studies, taking into account the field supervisor's evaluation and the candidate's self-evaluation, and it is submitted to the BCOM and the Bishop, along with any other required reports or diplomas.

5. ORDINATION

When the BCOM has determined that the postulant has met the requirements of diaconal formation and is ready to be ordained it will nominate him or her to the Bishop as a candidate for ordination. **The Bishop in consultation with the BCOM and the Coordinator of Diaconal Ministry will make the final decision regarding ordination to the diaconate.**

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE “FIRST STEPS” AND “LOCAL EXPLORATION” STAGES

Suggested questions to bear in mind:

1. Has the person been baptized, confirmed or received into membership of the Anglican Church of Canada for at least three years and been an active member of a faith community of the Anglican Diocese of Montreal for at least two years?
2. What is the person’s understanding of the diaconal ministry of the Church?
3. Is the person now, or has she or he in the past, been engaged in some form of diaconal ministry?
4. What is the person’s understanding of the role of the Deacon in the Church?
5. How is the person viewed by other members of the faith community and by colleagues or other participants in his or her ministry community, if any?
6. Is there anything in the person’s present life or character that would significantly enhance or impede the exercise of the ministry of a Deacon in the Church?
7. What support does the person have from spouse, children or significant others?
8. What is your estimate of the person’s capacity to undertake a program of training for the diaconate?
9. What is your estimate of the person’s physical, emotional, and spiritual capacity to handle the demands of the ordained diaconate?
10. Do you feel that this person is, or would be, able to give support to those in need, and what would lead you to believe this?
11. Do you feel that the person is open to receiving feedback and support?
12. Do you feel that the person has a clear sense of the requirements for accountability to Bishop, Parish Priest and those with whom he/she is implicated in ministry?
13. Would you be comfortable having this person as a Deacon in your church or ministry?

GUIDELINES FOR A MINISTRY DISCERNMENT GROUP

- Composition** Appointed by the priest and wardens of a parish or the director and board of another ministry focus the Ministry Discernment Group is composed of three or four lay members who are active in the life of the organization and a deacon if there is one, all of whom should be able to assess the candidate with objectivity. Priests do not serve as members nor do they attend its meetings.
- Purpose** The purpose of a Ministry Discernment Group is to explore past and present experiences of the candidate's servant ministry and to examine further his or her sense of calling to, and suitability for, the ordained diaconate in the Anglican Church of Canada. Discernment of a call is a serious responsibility which is undertaken on behalf of the parish or ministry focus and should not be considered lightly or quickly. It is anticipated that the exploration will take place in a period of at least six months. Information acquired in the process must be handled with utmost discretion, the relationship between the candidate and the Ministry Discernment Group being one of great trust. Confidentiality is essential.
- Procedure**
1. At a first meeting, which may include the parish priest, the Ministry Discernment Group (MDG) will choose a convener for their meetings and explorations. Members should agree on a division of labour in achieving a collective appropriation of some of the suggested readings above, including at least one of *The Monday Connection* and *The Liberation of the Laity*, and at least two of *The Servant Church*, *The Diaconate*, *Being a Deacon Today*, *Many Servants* and *The Deacon's Ministry*.
 2. The convener will contact the Chair of the BCOM to arrange an orientation meeting for all members of the MDG with some members of the BCOM. At this time the BCOM will ensure that each member of the MDG receives a copy of the Candidate's History Form including the account of his or her spiritual journey and the three letters of support, as well as any other pertinent resource material.
 3. Once the members have reviewed this material and received any additional information they consider necessary, the convener contacts the candidate to arrange the schedule for the exploration process.
 4. The MDG meets with the candidate regularly over the agreed period to explore his or her sense of vocation and aptitude for the ordained diaconate. At least some meetings with the candidate should be with the group as a whole but some meetings may be with individual members.
 5. Upon completion of this exploration the MDG meets to review their findings and to prepare the assessment of the candidate's sense of vocation and aptitude for the ordained diaconate, guided by the "Guidelines for Participants" above, the MDG's own formation as outlined in 1 and 2 above and the categories of the form, *Evaluation of the Ministry Discernment Group*.
 6. The MDG provides a copy of its assessment to the parish priest and together they meet with the candidate and his or her chaplain/accompanier, if there is one, to inform the candidate of their assessment. Following this meeting the convener of the MDG forwards their evaluation to the Chair of the BCOM, along with any other written comments by the MDG and/or the parish priest.
 7. In the event of a recommendation that the candidate continue in the next stage of the discernment process, the task of the MDG is completed, and if there are no further candidates in the parish may be dissolved. In the event that the MDG does not discern a vocation to the ordained diaconate, it will prepare, in consultation with the parish priest, the mentor and the Chair of the BCOM, a plan that includes any other needed resources for support and redirection of the candidate.

AREAS OF EXPLORATION BY THE MINISTRY DISCERNMENT GROUP

Introduction

The following areas of exploration are suggested to guide and focus the MDG's discussions with the candidate. They are not intended to be prescriptive since the particulars of each candidate and context will also inform the discernment process. They are intended to open up for discussion some important areas of concern in the discernment process and to inform the writing of the final evaluation.

Faith and Commitment

Relationship and commitment to the servant ministry of Jesus:

How coherent and clear is the candidate in telling his/her story? Does the account of his/her spiritual journey show evidence of maturing faith issuing in diaconal service? What is the person's way of life, prayer, worship, service, study? What particular gift(s) does the person have that suits him/her for the ordained diaconate in the Anglican Church of Canada?

Membership and Role in Community

The New Testament exhorts the Church to be a place of the deepest kind of sharing that touches every level of human experience: spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social, political and material.

What have been the communities, social groups and activities that have most formed, shaped and nurtured the candidate's life? How has the Church, as a community, been a part of this process? Who are the people, in the Church and in the world, who have had the most impact on the candidate and on his/her decision to seek ordination? What secular interests and involvements does this person have which indicate a healthy awareness of, and concern for, the needs and hopes of the people who make up the society in which he/she lives? What prior experience, training or employment make this person especially suited for ministry as a deacon of the Anglican Church? What servant ministry does he/she exercise at this time? Does this person exhibit an open and affirming style with others, regardless of their race, age, gender or social situation?

Family and Community History

When a person seeks to serve the Church in an ordained capacity, it is essential that his or her private and public life be compatible with a maturing Christian faith within the context of the Anglican Church of Canada. Later in the process, thorough physical and psychological examinations will be required. Therefore only a general sense of the candidate's well being is required at this time.

How does this person understand his/her private or family life as an extension of his/her faith?

How does he/she understand his/her public life as a reflection of his/her faith?

Is the candidate's interest in the diaconate supported by family and/or those closest to him/her? How is this support expressed and shown? What do you know of the candidate's business or professional relations? How is he/she perceived by those with whom he/she is in daily contact?

Does the candidate understand that as a deacon ministering under the authority of the bishop he/she may be asked to serve in a number of situations? Is the person able to go where reasonably required in modelling Christ's servant ministry and giving servant leadership for the Church?

Religious Background

Grace flows into one's life from different sources. An ordained leader in the Anglican Church is expected to have integrated old and new allegiances and experiences.

In what religious tradition has the candidate been raised? What has

participation in that tradition brought to his/her experience and understanding as a Christian and as an Anglican? With what other congregations or ministries has the candidate been associated? At what stage in the person's life did his/her life as a committed and active Christian begin? Why is he/she an Anglican? If a convert what drew him/her to the Anglican Church? What drew him/her to this particular parish or ministry? How long has the person been a confirmed or received member of the Anglican Church?

Affirmation by the Church

Through the workings of the Holy Spirit, people with gifts and qualities of leadership are identified for ordained ministry in the Church, and that vocation is affirmed and authenticated by the members of the Body of Christ. When one feels called to the ordained ministry, there need to significant signs within the person's congregational and institutional experience, which indicate that the Church affirms that call.

Who are the people who are identifying the candidate as having gifts to be offered through ordained service in the Church? What are these gifts and how are they made evident?

Who is encouraging the candidate to seek ordination? What are their reasons for so doing? If no one is encouraging the candidate, why is he/she undertaking this process?

Ministry: Lay or Ordained

In the Anglican Church we are looking for deacons who are drawn into the life of the Church out of confidence that it is indeed our Lord's own body in the world, and who seek to use their particular gifts to enable it to be that body all the more faithfully and effectively. These persons understand that they will play a significant role in its various ministries of worship, education, fellowship, pastoral care, witness and service. They also recognize that ministry is one of enabling and encouragement so that all of the baptized may claim their own particular ministries. It is therefore important that such persons be comfortable working with others, and give evidence of the ability to listen and respond appropriately to what people around them are saying and doing. We are looking for persons whose self-esteem is sufficiently healthy to enable them to be interdependent with those persons with whom they work and live.

Many capable, gifted, motivated and committed people have a hard time believing that they are, as lay people, what God has intended them to be: authoritative sources of life and ministry in the Body of Christ. They mistakenly believe that only ordination can validate their ministry or give them authoritative status. If such status and authority has not been apparent in their ministry as a lay person, it should be seriously questioned whether this could be conferred by ordination.

Can the candidate cite instances and situations in which his/her lay ministry has been particularly effective and satisfying? How does the candidate understand the ministry of the laity? How does the candidate understand the differences and similarities between ministering as a lay person and as an ordained person? How does he/she view the relationship between laity and clergy? Do all concerned in this local discernment step, the candidate, his/her sponsors, and members of the MDG, have a clear sense of what distinguishes the ministry of a deacon from that of a priest? How does the candidate react and behave in a situation of conflict? How does the candidate respond to the question, "What will you do if the Church does not affirm your desire to be ordained?"

EVALUATION OF THE MINISTRY DISCERNMENT GROUP

Please return this form to: The Bishop's Commission on Ministry
Cathedral Place, 1444 Union Ave
Montreal, QC H3A 2B8

Name and address of candidate: _____

Telephone numbers: daytime _____ evenings and weekends _____

Name and address of candidate's parish _____

Name and telephone number of parish rector/incumbent _____

Name of MDG Convenor _____ Parish position _____

Names and parish positions of MDG members _____

Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability, giving specific examples. These questions are to be answered by the MDG as a group. You may use additional pages if more space is required.

1. Please list meeting dates with the candidate _____

2. a. What is the candidate's understanding of Christian ministry? _____

2. b. What is the candidate's understanding of diaconal ministry? _____

3. What does he/she have to offer the Church? _____

4. What is the candidate's understanding of his/her vocation to the ordained diaconal ministry? _____

5. How clearly is the candidate able to talk about this vocation? _____

6. Describe the candidate's past and present history of ministry, especially of diaconal roles. Please be specific.____

7. What is your impression of the candidate's intellectual, emotional and spiritual capacities?

- a. Intellectual _____
- b. Emotional _____
- c. Spiritual _____

8. Describe the candidate's strengths. Please be specific. _____

9. Describe the areas which need strengthening. Please be specific _____

10. What is your general sense of the candidate's suitability for ordination to the diaconate? _____

11. Would you be happy to have him/her, after training, as a deacon in your parish or community? _____

12. If negative or qualified, please explain: _____

13. Are there any other factors which you consider significant? _____

14. Do you recommend that the candidate should continue in the discernment process? YES NO

Why? _____

15. Does the rector/incumbent agree with your recommendation? _

Signed on: _____

Convenor of Ministry Discernment Group

Rector/Incumbent

Members of MDG

Candidate (having read this evaluation and discussed it with the MDG)

GUIDELINES FOR THE BISHOP'S COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Composition

Membership of the BCOM should include, for five year staggered terms, two deacons, one of whom would be the Coordinator of Diaconal Ministry, preferably selected after consultation with and endorsement by the diocesan Community of Deacons. It is hoped that there would also be at least four lay persons on the BCOM. The collective membership should possess skills in interviewing, communicating and counselling and a good understanding of diaconal ministry. If possible, the membership should reflect the fact that clergy and laity in the Anglican Diocese of Montreal are both male and female, old and young, anglophone and francophone and of various ethnic backgrounds.

Purpose

1. To support and assist the diocesan Community of Deacons in their carrying out the Bishop's mandate to facilitate and coordinate the restoration of the diaconate in the Diocese of Montreal.
2. To support and assist the diocesan Community of Deacons in their informing and educating the Church concerning diaconal ministry.
3. To support and assist the Bishop in the role of determining the suitability of potential candidates for ordination to the diaconate.
4. Using the resources of the diocesan Community of Deacons as appropriate, to provide guidance to communities of faith and ministry in the discernment of possible vocations to the diaconate.
5. To assess motive, maturity, academic qualifications, moral character, and the psychological state and the diaconal character of those persons considering the ordained diaconate.
6. To prepare and maintain a process for the selection and support of candidates and to offer counselling if there is a decision for redirection or postponement.
7. To define and supervise the formation programme for deacons in the Diocese, following the progress of ordinands and deacons within it and dealing with requests for exemption in specific cases.

Knowledge and Skills Required

The combined membership of the BCOM should:

- possess personal knowledge and understanding within a broad range of diaconal ministries;
- be members of the Anglican Church of Canada with an knowledge of our faith and an appreciation of our particular style of worship.
- understand the nature and place of the ministry of deacons, especially of its complementary but distinctive place in the ordained ministry of the Church, in the context of the ministry of the whole people of God;
- be able to guide candidates in reflection on their possible calling by:
 - a) listening with empathy and responding appropriately;
 - b) asking insightful questions;
 - c) giving specific feedback;
 - d) clarifying expectations;
 - e) using humour effectively and constructively.

BCOM REPRESENTATIVES TO MINISTRY DISCERNMENT GROUP

As soon as a Ministry Discernment Group (MDG) has been appointed, representatives from the BCOM should meet with all the members of the MDG and the rector/incumbent of the parish to brief them on their duties and responsibilities in the discernment process. The representatives should also meet with both those responsible for the diaconal work/ministry of the candidate and with the beneficiaries of that ministry to ensure that the discernment process benefits from their input. These representatives will continue to be available to all concerned for consultation during this process.

The Role of the BCOM Representatives:

1. To interpret diaconal ministry and the ministry of the Deacon.
2. To present the rationale for a MDG, emphasizing the importance of the role of the laity in the process of discernment.
3. To explain the diocesan policy and procedure for discernment, formation and ordination.
4. To describe the function of the MDG
 - a. See Guidelines for Ministry Discernment Group
 - b. Note that a Convenor needs to be elected or appointed
 - c. Reiterate that priests do not serve as members of the MDG, nor do they attend its meetings
 - d. Emphasize the absolute necessity of confidentiality in all deliberations
 - e. Explain the role of a mentor if one is engaged by the candidate
 - f. Explain that the MDG is the group in consultation with the rector/incumbent which recommends to the BCOM whether or not the candidate should be encouraged to proceed with the discernment process.
 - g. Explain that in the event of a negative recommendation, it is the responsibility of the group, if necessary with the help of the BCOM, to support and redirect the candidate.
5. To ensure that all necessary diocesan material is made available to members of the MDG.
6. To be a continuing link between the MDG and the BCOM
7. To meet with the rector/incumbent and the MDG at the conclusion of their explorations to:
 - a. review the results of the process and determine that all the necessary points have been covered.
 - b. ensure that the candidate has access to all material which will be made available to the BCOM.
 - c. ensure that adequate support is given to the candidate, whether the recommendation be positive or negative.

GUIDELINES FOR MENTORS

Nature and purpose The participation of a mentor for the candidate is a strongly recommended element of the process of discernment and formation. Its principal purpose is accompaniment of the candidate, the decision for such accompaniment being the candidate's. In this accompaniment the mentor may serve at various times as personal chaplain, advisor, resource person, spiritual director, representative or advocate. However, the essential function is that of accompaniment by a person who will assist the candidate's self-assessment and who will support, guide and assist the candidate at any point in the process where requested by the candidate in ways agreed between them. The mentor is responsible to the candidate, with no accountability to parish, diocese or any other focus in the process. The mentor is outside the formal process and participates in it only as companion or agent of the candidate.

The Mentor It is appropriate that the mentor be a person of experience who is personally involved in ministry, most appropriately in the Anglican tradition, and who has an appreciation of diaconal ministry. The mentor should be thoroughly familiar with this diocesan process of discernment and formation, being briefed if necessary by the Chair of the BCOM or a person delegated by him/her, or the Coordinator of Diaconal Ministry. The mentor is chosen by the candidate who can obtain names of appropriately qualified persons from the Chair of the BCOM, the Coordinator of Diaconal Ministry, or from the diocesan Community of Deacons.

The Role of the Mentor At the request of the candidate, the mentor may attend one or more of

- a) the briefing of the Ministry Discernment Group by the BCOM which launches the local discernment step;
- b) the meeting between the candidate and the MDG at the conclusion of the local discernment step;
- c) the final meeting between the candidate and the BCOM in the event that a vocation has not been discerned at the Diocesan Assessment step;
- d) any decisive meeting between the candidate and the Director of Studies during the postulancy period.

Appendix 1

CANDIDATE'S HISTORY FORM

This form is to be used in conjunction with the document entitled "A Process for the Discernment and Formation of Candidates for Ordination as Deacons in the Church". One copy is forwarded to the Bishop's Commission on Ministry, one is kept by the candidate, one by the rector/incumbent, and one copy is made available to the Ministry Discernment Group should it be convened. Information on the form may be shared with anyone involved in the discernment process, including a psychologist. Completion of this form is only the first step in a process which, depending on the individual's continuing suitability and previous theological training or experience, could require considerable time before ordination as a deacon.

Note: If there is insufficient room to answer the questions fully, please use additional pages.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name _____ Surname(s) _____

Address _____

City, Province, Postal Code _____

Telephone (office) _____ Telephone (home) _____

Email _____

Present Parish _____

Recto/Incumbent _____ Length of affiliation with this parish _____

Date and place of baptism _____

Date, place and by whom confirmed
or received into the Anglican Church of Canada _____

Former denomination(s) – if applicable _____

Have you previously applied for admission
to the ordination process in this or any other diocese? Yes No

If yes, give date, diocese and name of Bishop _____

Have you ever applied for ordination in another denomination? Yes No

If yes, give date, place and denomination _____

Have you been ordained in another denomination? Yes No

If yes, give date, place and by whom _____

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Date and place of birth _____ Citizenship _____

Marital Status Single Married Common-law spouse Divorced Separated Widowed

Spouse's name _____ Spouse's occupation _____

Names and birth dates of children (if applicable) _____

Are you financially independent? Yes No

If no, would you require bursary assistance from the diocese if you were accepted into the process? Yes No

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

High School _____ Year of graduation _____

CEGEP (or community college) _____ Year of graduation _____

University _____ Year of graduation _____

Major(s) _____ Degree(s) _____

Other certificate(s) or license(s) _____

Professional Association(s) _____

Language(s) French spoken read written

English spoken read written

Other _____ spoken read written

WORK EXPERIENCE

Present occupation and employer _____

Length of service _____

Previous occupation and employer _____

Length of service _____

Provide names and coordinates of two professional references _____

To what professional organisation do you belong? _____

SECULAR, VOLUNTARY AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

To what community organisation(s) and/or association(s) do you belong? _____

What is your role in these? _____

What are your main leisure activities? _____

CHURCH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Present parish involvement? _____

Present deanery/diocesan/provincial/national involvement? _____

SPIRITUAL BACKGROUND

Note: If there is insufficient room to answer the questions fully, please use additional pages.

Referring to the servant ministries reported earlier in this form, write an account, of one to two pages in length, of how you have been engaged in ministry "to the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely," and of your experience, if any, in interpreting to the Christian community "the needs, concerns and hopes of the world."

Write an additional account, 1 to 2 pages in length, of your spiritual journey

How do you understand the role of the ordained deacon? _____

How do you see yourself in that role? _____

What do you see as evidence of your call to the ordained diaconate? _____

Describe how your sense of vocation has been tested to date _____

Signed on _____

Candidate