

## A WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT

**To explore a call to ordained ministry is a holy and serious thing.**

If you sense that God may be calling you toward ordained ministry, the Diocese of Qu'Appelle would be glad to walk with you in prayer, conversation, formation, and discernment.

Discernment is not about proving yourself, or rushing toward an answer. It is about listening carefully to God, to the Church, and to those who know you well.

*May Christ give you courage to listen, patience to wait, and grace to become more fully the person God is calling you to be.*

**The Right Reverend Helen Kennedy**

Bishop of Qu'Appelle

### First steps

- Pray regularly and worship faithfully in your parish.
- Speak with your incumbent, priest-in-charge, or local clergy.
- Talk with trusted members of your church family about the stirrings you are noticing.
- Consider a soul friend or spiritual director who can help you listen well.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The process is deliberately careful. It helps the Church discern whether the call being explored is to priestly ministry, another ordained vocation, or a lay ministry in the Church and world.

1

**Inquiry** - Begin with conversation, prayer, local clergy support, and an introductory conversation with the Diocese.

2

**Discernment** - Explore vocation through worship, local ministry, spiritual direction, and diocesan formation resources such as Called: Ministry and Me.

3

**Application** - If invited, complete the diocesan application, parish commendation, references, and required screening checks.

4

**Interview and assessment** - The Diocese considers call, character, maturity, gifts, formation, and readiness for the next stage.

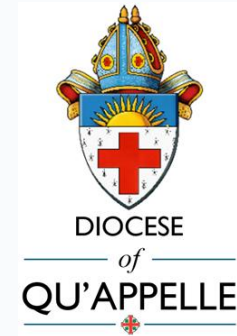
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**Postulancy / candidacy** - Further formation may include theological study, ministry placements, CPE, mentoring, supervision, ACPO, and psychological/vocational assessment.

6

**Ordination** - A person becomes an ordinand only when the Bishop invites them to present for ordination. Ordination is never automatic. Priests are ordained as transitional deacons first (usually serving as a deacon for a 12 month period). Deacons are always non-stipendiary.

**The whole journey can take 2-4 years, sometimes longer.**



## Discernment and Formation for Ordained Ministry

A guide for those exploring a possible call to ordained (priestly) ministry in the Anglican Church of Canada.

**A New Way for a New Future**  
**WORSHIP • SERVE • GROW**

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*For more information, contact the Diocesan Office  
and ask for the Executive Archdeacon / Director of Ministry.*

## INQUIRY AND APPLICATION

**A vocation to ordained ministry is tested in community. If you believe you may be called, you do not discern alone.**

- Begin by speaking with your local clergy or parish leadership or Regional Archdeacon
- Be active in worship, prayer, Scripture, and parish life.
- Attend introductory diocesan formation where offered.
- Meet with diocesan leadership when invited.
- Complete application materials only when asked to do so by the Diocese.

**Applicants are normally assessed for evidence of:**

- a living and maturing Christian faith;
- a credible sense of call to priestly ministry;
- emotional maturity and self-awareness;
- good character, integrity, and teachability;
- capacity for leadership, collaboration, and pastoral care;
- a heart for worship, mission, evangelism, and service.
- an understanding of both the vocational (permanent) and transitional diaconate, and the journey toward priesthood.

## FORMATION FOR PRIESTHOOD

Formation is more than education. It is the shaping of the whole person for public, representative, accountable ministry in Christ's Church.

**A formation pathway may include:**

- **theological education**, such as an M.Div. or equivalent formation pathway;
- **diocesan courses** and learning events;
- **supervised ministry placements** in parish and community contexts;
- **regular mentoring** and pastoral support;
- a **spiritual director** chosen by the candidate;
- vocational/**psychological assessment** where required;
- local (diocesan) **discernment panel**
- **ACPO** or another provincial/national discernment process;
- review against the Anglican Church of Canada diaconal / priesthood competences.

*The Diocese may adapt the pathway to the person, but discernment remains careful, prayerful, and accountable.*

**No guarantee of ordination**

Participation in the process does not guarantee ordination. The Bishop, in consultation with the appropriate diocesan bodies, determines whether and when a candidate may be invited to present for ordination.

## TERMS YOU MAY HEAR

**Inquirer:** A person beginning to explore whether God may be calling them to ordained ministry.

**Applicant:** An inquirer who has been invited to complete the diocesan application process.

**Postulant:** A person formally received into a period of deeper formation and testing of vocation.

**Candidate:** A person continuing in an approved formation pathway toward possible ordination.

**Ordinand:** A person whom the Bishop has invited to present for ordination.

**Mentor:** A person appointed to help interpret the process, encourage growth, and offer practical wisdom.

**Spiritual Director:** A trusted guide, independent of the formal process, who helps the person attend to prayer, vocation, and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

**The Church discerns with you**

A call to diaconate / priesthood is never only a private feeling. It is discerned through prayer, worship, community, formation, testing, and the Bishop's oversight.

*The goal is not simply to reach ordination, but to become more fully formed for faithful ministry in the service of Christ and Christ's Church.*