



Overview of the Ordination Process

This overview assumes a functioning website for the Office of Clergy Credentialing & Deployment. That website is a portal to an information system currently under development. It is not available for web access as of this date.

Ordination to the Diaconate

Parish

At the Parish level there must take place an initial discernment phase, in the context of normal parish life. The Rector supervises this phase.

Steps for the Parish

1. **An Aspirant meets with the Rector** to discuss:
 - a. The Vision of the AMiA
 - b. The Values of the AMiA
 - c. The Ministry of the AMiA
 - d. The Aspirant's sense of call to ordination
 - e. The Aspirant's agreement with the theological distinctions of the AMiA (the historic creeds, 39 Articles, and Solemn Declaration)

2. **The Aspirant submits an ordination application** electronically as a attached document via email to the Rector which includes
 - a. Completed Application Form
 - b. References
 - c. Transcripts for all college- and graduate-level study(the applicant should request these to be sent directly to the Office of Clergy Credentialing and Deployment at the Pawleys Island address.)
 - d. Curriculum Vitae (a fuller form of a resume)
 - e. Signed AMiA Solemn Declaration Subscription

3. **Application Review by Rector.** If approved, the Rector
 - begins a Candidate Sheet for this Aspirant on the ordination process website, posting all of the documents associated with the application (step 2).
 - appoints a Parish Discernment Committee to meet with the Aspirant over a prescribed period of time or number of sessions. The local rector is responsible for the specifics of this discernment committee's work. Suggested guidelines for these

committees are available from the Office of Clergy Credentialing and Deployment on the ordination process website.

If not approved at the time of the Review, the Rector will redirect the Aspirant to the work of the ministry in the local church, knowing that all in Christ are called to serve our Lord and one another.

4. The Aspirant meets with the Parish Discernment Team. The purpose of this step is twofold.

- First, a broader group from within the church seeks to discern the Aspirant's calling and ministry to enable that person to fulfill that calling. This means that the team is committed to that candidate's flourishing as a person in their divine calling so that any outcome is a positive outcome, including specifically redirecting them into lay ministry.
- Second, the Aspirant is assured through this process that the whole Church recognizes and supports his or her call to ministry. This is an important source of confidence for the future minister facing conflicts and trouble, and an important source of confidence for the lay minister who sets aside their thoughts of ordained ministry.

5. Parish Discernment Team Report. The team submits a formal written Report to the Rector as an email attachment with their recommendation, with one of two possible recommendations:

- One can be to further the aspirant to postulancy for ordination
- The other can call for specific redirection to further ministry within the church.

A copy of this Report is posted on the ordination process website by the Rector.

6. Rector's Recommendation for Postulancy is filed on the ordination process website by the Rector if he approves the Committee's recommendation for postulancy.

Network

In this second phase, core competencies for ministry are demonstrated and gathered into a ministry portfolio. This takes place at the network level and is supervised by the Network Clergy C3.

Steps for the Network (All steps are indicated when completed on the ordination process website, by the Network C3 and/or Leader, and bishop.)

1. Initial Network approval for Postulancy. The Network must receive the Postulancy Recommendation for this candidate. This step helps prevent idiosyncratic profferance of candidates for ministry.

2. **Aspirant Meeting with and approval of the Bishop.** At this early stage, the overseeing bishop may redirect or accept the Candidate, with direction for training for ministry.
3. **Portfolio Completion** which includes (in addition to the materials submitted from the Parish, which are the Application, References, Transcript, cv, AMiA Solemn Declaration Subscription)

To be done by the Postulant, submitting all information to the Network C3

- a. A written Personal Philosophy of Ministry
- b. Quarterly Personal Reports to Bishop
- d. Any Network-specific requirements (to be determined by the Network; postulants should check with the C3)

To be scheduled and completed by the Postulant in coordination with the C3:

- a. Background Check
- b. “Avoiding the Millstone” (Sexual Harrassment Prevention) Training
- c. Marital Health Assessment
- d. Psychological Assessment

To be done regarding the Postulant: (the Network C3 ensures that these are carried out)

- a. Diaconal Skills Assessment
- b. Any Network-specific requirements

4. Formal Network Recommendation for Ordination

Bishop

The final phase culminating in ordination to the Diaconate occurs at the level of the Council of Bishops and is coordinated through the Office of Credentialing and Deployment.

Steps for the Bishops

1. **Written Examinations.** This consists of two assessments to be written by the aspirant.
 - The first is a closed book, proctored session for answering questions about the English Bible. The Network C3 will provide this exam and a proctor.
 - The second is a time-limited, take-home exam where all available resources can be used, treating Anglican theological distinctives referenced by the AMiA Solemn Declaration.
2. **Council of Bishops Approval**
3. **Placement** (if possible)
4. **Ordination to the Diaconate**

Ordination to the Priesthood

For those called to the Presbyterate, all of the requirements for the Diaconate must be already completed. The Parish (under the leadership of the Rector), the Network (under the leadership of the C3), and the Bishop all administer assessments of the candidate's readiness for ordination to the Priesthood.

Steps

1. **Leadership Placement Assessment** to be carried out by the Office.
2. **Priestly Foundation Examination** consisting of a time-limited, open resource exam covering biblical, theological, Church historical, pastoral, and liturgical topics. The Network C3 will administer this exam, filing a completed copy with the Office.
3. **Priestly Skills Assessment** (to be determined by the Network)
4. **Formal Recommendation** for Priesthood by the Rector.
5. **Formal Recommendation** for Priesthood by the Network.
6. **Review and Approval by the Bishop**
7. **Placement**
8. **Ordination to the Presbyterate**