



Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast

ASPIRANT

EMBER DAY LETTERS

Ember Day Letters are a brief (1 page maximum) letter written to the Bishop, on Ember Days, reporting on personal and ministry life through this period. Your Ember Day letter should arrive to the Bishop punctually during Ember Day. A guide is provided.

IDENTIFY LOCAL CHURCH & COMPETENCY MENTOR

Residential Seminary Students please provide the name of the local church which you attend when away from your sponsoring church. **All Aspirants** please provide the name of the mentor who will be coaching you through the Diaconal Core Competency Internship.

DIACONAL CORE COMPETENCIES INTERNSHIP

The core competencies internship is to be completed prior to becoming a Candidate and conducted regularly over the course of the 6 to 12 month internship. The competency mentor will write a brief evaluation for each competency and will go over the evaluation with the Aspirant. When completed the original should be sent to:

Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast
HopePointe Anglican Church Campus
3333 So. Panther Creek Dr.
The Woodlands, TX 77381
ATTN: Sandy, Ministry Formation Administrator

LOCAL PARISH DISCERNMENT PROCESS

The Senior Pastor/Rector organizes a team of lay people to meet with the Aspirant over three to six months. This team makes a recommendation to the Vestry/Leadership of the church. They may recommend a call to ordained ministry, or a call to lay ministry or possibly a period of continued discernment or preparation.

CONVERSATION WITH THE DEAN (Deacon or Presbyter)

A meeting should be scheduled with your Dean (Deacon or Presbyter) either in person or by video conference.

Please contact them directly:

Dean of Deacons – Lisa Schwandt

lisa@hopepointe.org

Dean of Presbyters – Fr. Stan Gerber

sgerber97@aol.com

IDENTIFY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Equipping and preparing clergy is, at its core, a spiritual endeavor that must include the spiritual formation of the Aspirant. Each Aspirant should have a spiritual director that they meet with face-to-face and at least once a month for the duration of the journey into ministry (and actually, it is recommended as a discipline throughout ministry life). This spiritual director is not to be a guide to the process but someone who, through relationship, will pray for and with the aspirant and encourage them to a deeper living faith. There should be regular contact between the aspirant and spiritual director throughout the process. Please have provided **form** signed by your spiritual director and returned to us.

BACKGROUND CHECK

We are required by canon to complete a criminal background check, a credit check, and a motor vehicle check, along with full employment and personal references for the past ten years. There are fees for this service that the Aspirant is responsible for and payment must be received by the Diocesan House – Credentialing Office prior to proceeding with the required checks/assessment. Please contact the Diocesan House – Ministry Formation Administrator when you are ready to proceed. Email – sandy@dwgc.org, Phone – 281-466-1972.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT MARRIAGE ASSESSMENT

Ordained ministry has unique challenges that can have negative effects on both individual and family relationships. If a person does not have emotional health or healthy supportive relationships, their potential for successful ministry may be significantly hindered. To address these issues and to provide support and guidance for potential areas of concern, we require assessments of aspirants and their spouses/fiances. The reports of these assessments will be sent to the Credentialing Office. There is a cost for this service that the aspirant is responsible for. The fee is directly paid to the individual counselor providing the service.

Also, please forward Marriage License, Decree of Divorce (if applicable), New Marriage License (if applicable), Petition of Consideration (if applicable) to the Diocesan House – Ministry Formation Administrator.

Note that the Archbishop, according to the ACNA Constitution and Canons MUST approve Aspirants who are seeking ordination when there has been a divorce in the individual's past. This step should be completed sooner than later. The Anglican Church in North America does not normally admit persons to Holy Orders who have divorced and remarried. Special application for consideration (which is made by your clergy sponsor) can be made to the Bishop of the Diocese, who if approves, will forward a Petition of Consideration to the Archbishop. Good cause in particular in light of Matthew 19 and 1 Corinthians 7, may be considered grounds to remove the impediment.

From the Anglican Church of North America Canons

Canon 2, Section 4 - *Concerning Requirements for Married Candidates With and Without Children*
In the case of persons who are or have been married, and/or have children, every Bishop shall take care that such persons manage their own family well, for as Holy Scripture attests, "If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?" (1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12; Titus 1:6).

Canon 2, Section 5 - *Concerning Upholding the Sanctity of Marriage Especially for Those to Be Ordained*
Marriage as a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman, where the two become one flesh, is both an ordinance of Creation, affirmed as such by our Lord, and commended by Saint Paul as a sign of the mystical union between Christ and his Church (Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:22-32). As wholesome examples and patterns to the entire flock of Christ, all married persons to be admitted to Holy Orders shall remain married to their spouse for life, and in accordance with the vows they exchanged in Holy Matrimony. Subject to Section 6 of this Canon, no person shall be admitted into Holy Orders who has divorced and remarried.

READ ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA CONSTITUTION AND CANONS – SIGN & AFFIRM

To find the Anglican Church in North America Constitution and Canons, go to their website at www.anglicanchurch.net. You will find the Constitution and Canons under the tab "about" and then "governance". After reading, please sign and affirm by completing the provided **form** and returning it to the Credentialing Office.

OATH OF CONFORMITY

From the Anglican Church in North America Canons

Canon 3, Section 2 - *Concerning the Required Declaration of Ordinands*

No persons shall be ordained a Deacon in the Church until such person shall have subscribed without reservation the following declaration:

"I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary to salvation, and I consequently hold myself bound to conform my life

and ministry thereto, and I do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of Christ as this Church has received them.”

Please sign the provided form, indicating that you understand that these are the 2 oaths you will be signing, without reservation, at your ordination. Your signature also acknowledges that at this time, there is nothing that would impede you from doing so.