Ordination Exploration Process for the Diaconate in the Diocese of Southern Virginia

Applications accepted: September 1-December 31

OEP admittance is not a guarantee of advancement to the next stage in the Ordination Exploration Process or of being ordained.

The expectation of the Bishop is that anyone entering the process for the Diaconate will receive formation and training through a process approved by the Bishop.

Applicant Meets with Rector

Applicant meets with Rector to express interest in ordination.

If congregation is without a priest, speak to the Dean of the Convocation.

A member of a congregation engaged in a search process for a rector will have to wait to apply until after the new rector arrives.

Applicant Discusses Application Process with Rector

Using the OEP Application Checklist (found on Diocesan website) Applicant discusses and reviews the application process with Rector.

Home Parish Discernment Committee Formed

The Rector forms a Home Parish Discernment Committee (HPDC) for the Applicant, comprised of 3-5 members.

Meetings with Home Parish Discernment Committee

Applicant meets with the Home Parish Discernment Committee on 5 occasions, then HPDC writes and sends report to the Rector.

Directions for the HPDC are found on the Diocesan website.

Rector's Recommendation and Home Parish Discernment Committee's Report

Rector writes a letter of recommendation. Rector submits both letter of recommendation and HPDC report to the diocesan office no later than December 31st.

Applicant Submits Complete Application (September 1-December 31)

Applicant submits ALL application materials as noted on OEP Application Checklist as a single electronic package to the diocesan office. Any incomplete application or late submittals will be returned to the applicant.

\$100 Application Fee due no later than December 31st.

Applicant Meets with Clergy for Interviews (March-April)

Director of Vocational Ministries contacts Applicant to schedule separate interviews with three individual members of the clergy.

Clergy Interviewers Write Reflections (April-May)

Each clergy interviewer writes a reflection on the interview with the applicant and sends it to the diocesan office.

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Bishop Reviews Application and Clergy Reflection Letters (May-June)

Bishop decides if the Applicant will meet with the Commission on Ministry (COM) for postulancy interview.

Applicant Granted Interview with COM (May-June)

The diocesan office will contact Applicant to arrange for background check and psychological assessment.

Application for Postulancy form and Vestry Nomination Letter for Postulancy form are due. \$450 Program Fee due at this time.

Applicant Interviews with COM (October-December)

COM makes recommendation to Bishop. Bishop makes decision regarding postulancy. Final \$450 Program Fee due October 1st.

Applicant Granted Postulancy

Director of Vocational Ministries will go over diaconal formation process with Postulant.

Applicant Not Recommended for Postulancy

Applicant Not Granted Interview with COM