



ORDINATION EXPLORATION PROCESS

Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

Spiritual Autobiography Instructions – Permanent Diaconate

Please provide a short essay (2-3 single-spaced pages) describing the pilgrimage that has led you to seek ordination and submit it with your application.

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

- a. What were the family patterns of religious affiliation and practice when you were growing up?
- b. What significant events and persons influenced how you see yourself today as a person of faith?
- c. Describe your current involvement in the Church. In what ways do you directly engage in servant ministry inside and outside the Church now?
- d. Discuss how you nurture your relationship with God.
- e. Describe the discernment process which has led you to explore the possibility of ordained ministry. How and when did you become aware of a possible call to ordained ministry and in what ways has that call been affirmed by others?
- f. As a deacon, how do you see the role of the Church in the world today?
- g. What do you think makes diaconal ministry distinct from lay ministry?
- h. If ordained, what strengths and weaknesses do you envision yourself bringing to the Church?
- i. If ordained as a deacon, how do you envision your future servant ministry and how might that change with ordination?
- j. What do you think it means to have “a heart of a deacon?”