

## What does Postulancy Involve?

- ❖ Upon fulfilling the requirements listed inside this brochure you may be made a Postulant by the Bishop
- ❖ The Postulant continues coursework at the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS)
- ❖ Ember Day letters are sent to the Bishop from this point on until your ordination

## What does Candidacy Involve?

- ❖ You are attending courses at ICS leading to admission to the School of Diaconal Training
- ❖ Your call is reaffirmed by the Rector/Vicar and Vestry of your sponsoring congregation
- ❖ You are evaluated and receive a positive recommendation by ICS
- ❖ The Commission on Ministry (COM) recommends your candidacy
- ❖ You have been interviewed by the Standing Committee and have received a positive recommendation from them

## Diaconate

- ❖ You are at least 24 years of age
- ❖ You have received training in:
  - Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse
  - Exploitation & Harassment
  - Anti-Racism Training
  - Title IV

- ❖ You have received a favorable recommendation from the School of Diaconal Training
- ❖ Your call is reaffirmed by the Rector/Vicar and Vestry of your sponsoring congregation
- ❖ You have received a positive recommendation from the COM and the Standing Committee
- ❖ At least 18 months has elapsed since your application and acceptance of your nomination

For more information on applying for Holy Orders, speak with the priest in your local parish, or call the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida at 1-800-299-3567

### Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida

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**Episcopal Diocese  
of Central Florida**

*What are the  
Steps to  
Becoming a*



*Deacon?*

**The Commission on Ministry  
The Diocese of Central Florida**

## Have you ever imagined yourself as a deacon?

Have others ever suggested that you consider the ordained ministry of the Church?

Jesus said, "Follow me," and surely all Christians are to do that. In the Book of Acts, we read, "...the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, 'It is not right that we should neglect the Word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint for the task.' " In this moment, the Diaconate was created.

Since then, through the ages, Jesus has continued to call men and women into positions of leadership, lay and ordained. In recent years the ministry of deacon has been renewed and has grown in our great diocese. Today men and women are called to minister to the needs of the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely, to make Christ known in the world by word and example, to interpret to the church the needs, hopes and concerns of the world, and to assist the community of faith in worship.

Could it be that Jesus is calling you to the ministry of deacon, participating in his ministry of servant leadership?

**This pamphlet is designed to outline the steps involved in responding to such a call.**

May the Lord greatly bless you.

Warmly in him,

+ John W. Howe  
Bishop of Central Florida

# THE STEPS TO ORDINATION

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## How do I begin?

- ❖ Request a conference with your parish priest to discuss a possible call to the diaconate
- ❖ Attend the annual Conference on Ministry
- ❖ Complete the Nomination Form
- ❖ If you have not already done so, begin attending courses at the Institute for Christian Studies (ICS)
- ❖ Work with your Parish Discernment Committee (PDC)
- ❖ Parish Internship
- ❖ Receive support from PDC, Rector & Vestry
- ❖ Interview with Bishop Howe or his designee
- ❖ The Bishop will notify the Commission on Ministry on your behalf
- ❖ Participate in BACAM Conference (*Bishop's Advisory Commission on Aspirants for Ministry*)
- ❖ Complete medical, psychological and psychiatric evaluations

## What is needed to complete the Application Process?

### **A Nominee (Aspirant) must meet specific criteria:**

- ❖ Confirmed member in Good Standing in the Episcopal Church
- ❖ Your physical and mental health are stable and good
- ❖ You have passed a background check
- ❖ You have the appropriate level of education (at least an AA degree)
- ❖ Your call is affirmed by the community of faith who pledge to contribute financially to the preparation of the Nominee and commit to involve themselves to that preparation