



Called to Serve

A call to ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church is a specific one to serve within the authority passed down from Christ to men and women. It requires careful discernment in the relationship you have with God and in the relationships you have with your church community. For this reason, the Diocese of Central Florida has created a method to help both the nominee (*“the aspirant”*) and the community of faith to discern this call, and to affirm or redirect the aspirant’s desire to serve.

God calls every Christian to a unique form of service that furthers the spread of the Kingdom. Bishops, priests, and deacons are called by God and ordained by the Church to certain offices within the Church and in the wider community that enable the unique ministries of all the baptized to flourish. They make a lifelong commitment to equip the saints for ministry.

The sacrament of Holy Orders sets them apart—indeed, changes them—by their solemn vows and the laying on of the bishop’s hands. Their unique vestments provide outward signs of their office. As servant leaders, they accept the authority of those who have been placed over them: their Lord, and those holding authority in the Church. They lead and serve others, helping the Body of Christ to proclaim the Good News with authority, to be a royal priesthood, and to serve as Jesus did.

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 or 407-423-3567

Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida

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Episcopal Diocese
of Central Florida

*Have you ever
thought about*



*being a
Priest?*

or Deacon?



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

HOW DO I DISCERN MY CALL?

Have you ever imagined yourself as a priest or deacon?

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

Os Guinness has written: “Do you have a reason for being, a focused sense of purpose in your life? Or is your life the product of shifting resolutions and the myriad pulls of forces outside yourself? Do you want to go beyond success to significance? Have you come to realize that self-reliance always falls short and that world-denying solutions provide no answer in the end? Listen to Jesus of Nazareth; answer his call.”

Throughout the ages, Jesus has continued to call men and women into positions of leadership and ministry, both lay and ordained. As he said to Peter so long ago, “Do you love me? Feed my sheep.” *

Could it be that Jesus is calling *you* to the adventure of being an “under shepherd”, participating in the leadership and servant ministry of the Great Shepherd?

This pamphlet is designed to encourage you to consider whether God is calling you to his ministry as priest or deacon.

Grace to you,
+ Gregory O. Brewer
Bishop of Central Florida

* (Quoted from: *The Call*
Word Publishing 1998)

Consider these experiences. Are some of them familiar to you?

- ❖ An inner sense that your path is to be different
- ❖ A willingness to listen and respond to whatever God has in store for you
- ❖ An urgent desire to share the good news of Jesus
- ❖ An inner sense that you have been set apart by God to equip and serve God’s people and you are open to exploring how God would have you perform this service
- ❖ A daily time of scripture study and prayer in which you are challenged to grow and find answers to questions in your life
- ❖ A personal and life-changing encounter with Jesus Christ that has resulted in, among other things, a desire to pursue ordination
- ❖ A sense that others look to you for guidance, support and direction; a sense that others are approaching you differently
- ❖ Your spouse, your parents, or those closest to you see a difference in you and identify a possible calling to the ordained ministry
- ❖ Involvement in the church in a variety of ministries; a sense of peace and fulfillment as you pursue these ministries
- ❖ An experience of divine providence that encourages this call (or longing) and a sense that doors are opening when you respond to opportunities to explore the calling
- ❖ You feel you are being drawn to either the priesthood or the diaconate and are becoming clearer about the distinction between the two callings