

## **Guidelines for Rectors of Parishes with Members Discerning a Call to Ordination**

1. Individuals must be a member of the parish for at least a year before starting an ordination process.
2. The Rector should be the first point of contact for someone discerning if God is calling them to Holy Orders.
3. If the Rector feels it is appropriate and the time is right to move forward, the Rector schedules an appointment with the Bishop to introduce the aspirant and Bishop and discuss the sense of call and next steps.
4. When Rector and parishioner are ready they initiate the formal process by contacting the Chairperson of the Commission on Ministry to begin a parish discernment group.
5. Rector will choose members for that discernment group in conjunction with the aspirant (traditionally including one member from another parish).
6. COM Chairperson will attend the first organizational meeting of the discernment group, along with the Rector, to begin their process.
7. Otherwise, the Rector becomes the contact person for the discernment group and communicates any questions or concerns to the COM Chairperson.
8. When the discernment group is nearing its conclusion and the aspirant would like to make a formal application, the Rector helps aspirant to follow instructions in Vocational Discernment Handbook (available on the diocesan website) to complete that application. This will include meeting with the Vestry and Bishop as well as completing paperwork and evaluations toward postulancy.
9. The sponsoring parish will be expected to contribute one third of the cost of the psychological evaluation (the other thirds to be paid by the diocese and the aspirant).
10. The sponsoring parish will also commit to supporting their postulant with financial resources during their time in seminary. This may include a contribution for books, transportation or other expenses. The amount is at the discretion of the clergy and Vestry according to the resources of the parish.

### **Other Considerations:**

- A. The Rector of the person in the ordination process will always have input and authority at any stage. Your voice is always welcomed, needed and encouraged to be shared with the COM and/or Bishop at any point in the ordination process.
- B. The Chairperson(s) of the COM is always a resource for questions.
- C. Vocational Discernment Handbook (including ordination canons) -

<http://com.episcopalrochester.org/commission-on-ministry-vocational-handbook.html>