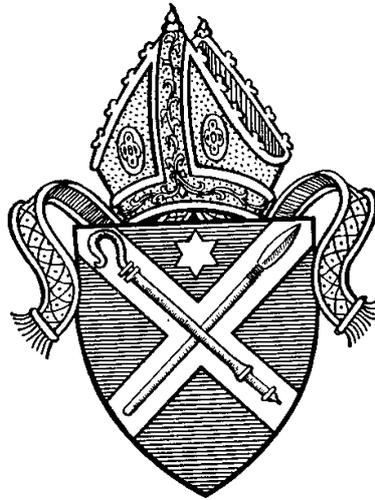


DIOCESE OF NATAL
Anglican Church of Southern Africa

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION & FORMATION

THE LORD'S CALL



A Step by Step Process of
Discernment for the Ordained Ministry

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THE PROCESS AS OUTLINED IN THIS MANUAL

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Ministry Training is an Ongoing Process Beyond Ordination

INTRODUCTION

The next day John was standing there again, with two of his disciples when he saw Jesus walking by. "There is the Lamb of God" he said. The two disciples heard him say this and this and went with Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and asked, "What are you looking for?". They answered, "Where do you live Rabbi?" "COME AND SEE," he answered. John 1:35

Do these words of Jesus have meaning for you? Has your life taken an "about turn" and are you feeling very unsettled and possibly confused with what is happening? Do you have questions and are not too sure what you need to do?

Is God calling you? Is God calling you into a specific ministry?

Is God calling you into a different ministry now?

Are you just assuming this or is something really happening to you?

Maybe people around you have made comments about you and your ministry; perhaps someone else, or your parish priest feels that you have a different ministry and this has made you think hard about your calling. God's calling to ministry takes many different forms. No two people are called by God in exactly the same way. So where do you go from here?

You may have spoken to either your Rector or a member of the Diocese/Parish and you have been given this booklet to read. TAKE YOUR TIME TO READ THROUGH IT CAREFULLY. It is intended to be a STEP BY STEP guide to the discernment of ministry. This document should be read in conjunction with other material such as the Agreement between Rectors, Self-Supporting Deacons/Priests and Churchwardens.

In what ministry is God calling you to serve?

- ❖ **TO THE ORDAINED MINISTRY:**
 - SELF-SUPPORTING DEACON/PRIEST?
 - STIPENDIARY (CHURCH – SUPPORTED) DEACON OR PRIEST?
 - A PERMANENT DEACON (STIPENDIARY OR SELF-SUPPORTING)?

- ❖ **TO RELIGIOUS LIFE:**
 - COMMUNITY OF JESUS' COMPASSION (CJC)
 - ORDER OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD (OGS)
 - ORDER OF ST FRANCIS

- ❖ **TO LAY MINISTRY: (Volunteer or Stipendiary)**
 - A PASTORAL WORKER?
 - AN EVANGELIST?
 - A YOUTH WORKER/PASTOR?

- ❖ **TO A SPECIFIC MINISTRY OF SERVICE IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY:**
 - TO YOUNG PEOPLE?
 - HOSPITALS OR FRAIL CARE?
 - SOME FORM OF SOCIAL MINISTRY TO THE POOR?
 - ANY OTHER SPECIFIC AREA OF NEED?

There are so many questions that need answers. Let this manual guide you through the steps of this process of discernment to see where God may be leading you. Let God, the church and those whom God chooses, walk this journey with you. In time you will find some clarity and answers to what the right direction may be for you.

Please note that there is no guarantee this process is specifically leading you to the Ordained Ministry but may lead you into one of these other ministries

Step 1: Approaching Your Rector/Priest-in-Charge of Your Parish

Please Note:
Sometimes the Rector or Priest-in-Charge can approach you first, having discerned in you a possible calling to the ordained ministry.

The first step is to **talk with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of your parish.**

Make an appointment that is at least an hour long so that you both have time to explore what you believe God is saying to you. Allow your Rector to ask you a number of questions that will help you to access the significance of his calling. Use the opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

At the end of this appointment and depending on the outcome that you both feel is right for you, your Rector or Priest-in-Charge may submit your name to the Parish Council. If it is your Parish leadership that has approached you, then continue to follow this step.

As a guide and starting point in your discussions, remember that at your Confirmation the Bishop, before laying his hands upon you, prayed for you to be empowered through the Holy Spirit for:

- **WORSHIP**
- **WITNESS (MISSION)** and
- **SERVICE (MINISTRY)**

Questions to Consider:

If you are active in your parish community, what contribution have you made in these three areas?

What is it that shows you that God may be calling you into a deeper level of active ministry?

If you believe you are being called to ordination, read the Ordination of Deacons and Priests service in *An Anglican Prayer Book, 1989, pages 571 -593*

Reflect on the question: *What is the nature and function of a permanent deacon/priest?*

NB: If you offer yourself to the ordained ministry please be aware that the first step in this process will be to become a licensed lay minister in your Parish (if you are not one already).

“Spend a little time considering the above questions as they will help you discover more about your motivation”.

Step 2: The Parish Endorsement Process

Your **Rector or Priest-in Charge (PIC)** has a responsibility to discuss your ministry and its future development, and where applicable, your spouse's involvement in your ministry as well as his/her own ministry. This is done at a special parish council which is called a **Parish Endorsement** which consists of the **Rector/Priest-in-Charge and Parish Council as well as the Archdeacon.**

The Parish Council represents your parish. They are the decision-making body together with your Rector/PIC, The Archdeacon represents the Diocese.

A set of guidelines is available for the FOV Wardens, Rector and the Parish Council as the basis of this interview (A copy has been added to this manual – **APPENDIX 1a**).

The interview and the information shared at the Parish Endorsement is **CONFIDENTIAL. The ONLY person to report back to you will be your Rector/PIC.**

PLEASE do not try to obtain any information from any other member of your Parish Endorsement Process.

If the parish endorsement team is confident that there are no reasons why you should not become a member of the Fellowship of Vocation, then your name will be submitted to the Theological Education and Formation office. with an application.

“Kindly note that the purpose of the Parish Endorsement is to determine the possibility of a calling and not to make any decision about ordination. Such a decision will be made by the Bishop at the Annual Discernment Conference”

Please note that the Parish Endorsement Meeting might not accept your candidacy. This decision **MUST be respected**

Step 3: Completing the Registration Forms

Complete the **CANDIDATE'S RECORD CARD** (Which will be given to you by your Rector/PIC). Make sure that you include certified copies of the following documents:

- ❖ Birth Certificate or Identity Document
- ❖ Driver's Licence (where applicable)
- ❖ Baptismal Certificate
- ❖ Confirmation Certificate
- ❖ Marriage Certificate (where applicable)
- ❖ Divorce or Separation papers (where applicable)
- ❖ Matric certificate or highest standard/grade passed in school
- ❖ Certificates of any other Course, Degree, Diploma or Certificate you may have completed. These need not necessarily be theological studies.
(Please note that any non- South African qualifications must be accredited with SAQA).
- ❖ Certificates related to being a Lay Minister, etc. (where applicable)
- ❖ A current photograph of you and your family (where applicable)
- ❖ List Studies you are currently engaged in
- ❖ What college or university are you studying with?

Step 4: Registering with Theological Education and Formation Office

- Set up a meeting with the FOV Warden and ensure that all documentation is submitted to them. (Step 3 above)
- It is the responsibility of your Regional FOV Warden to send your CANDIDATE'S RECORD CARD, and forward all your details, documents and photographs to the Theological Education and Formation office as soon as possible after your Parish Endorsement Conference.
- The Theological Education and Formation office will acknowledge your registration to you, your Rector/PIC, and your Regional FOV Warden.

Please note that this process cannot continue until YOU have met with your FOV Wardens and submitted the necessary documentation

Step 5: The Academic Programme

You must make an appointment with the Theological Education and Formation Director to discuss an appropriate academic programme of study you should pursue.

After the approval of an academic programme the candidate will register with an accredited academic institution, with the assistance of representatives from these institutions and the FOV Warden.

Maintain regular contact and submit transcripts of complete courses to your FOV Warden who will then submit these to the Theological Education and Formation office.

Candidates must study at the highest levels of their academic competence!

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Finances for these courses are YOUR responsibility. However you may approach your Rector and Parish Council for financial assistance. The Anglican Church of Southern Africa has a primary Theological Education Bursary Fund for TEEC students. Application forms are available through the Theological Education and Formation Office. Application for these bursaries must be submitted through the Theological Education and Formation Office before 1st July for the following academic year. Failing all else, please request assistance from the Bishop.

DIOCESAN REQUIREMENTS FOR ORDINATION

You will need to have completed your academic programme (Diploma) before ordination as either a Permanent Deacon or as a Priest (i.e. final point of ordination).

The ordinands training for the stipendiary and self-supporting ministry will need to have completed their degree or diploma before being ordained to the diaconate.

The candidate should be younger than 60 years of age.

Step 6: Fellowship of Vocation and the Structure to Support You

YOU ARE NOW PART OF FOV! This is a group of people, like yourself, who are in the process of testing their vocation while undergoing academic studies.

Regional FOV members take place regularly throughout the year (at least four times) to focus on various aspects of calling and ministry, according to a set syllabus. This is the “**Diocesan Discernment Conference Selection Criteria**” document. This document is divided into nine different sections and covers most of the areas of your life and ministry. The document is available from the department of Theological Education and Formation.

You will also be expected to attend the annual **FOV WEEKEND CONFERENCE**. These Weekend programmes are an important part of the process of discernment, as well as giving those who oversee your formation an opportunity to get to know you in an informal context.

The whole FOV process is designed to continue testing your vocation and deepening your understanding of the four principles that are at the heart of this process.

You must spend at least a year longer in FOV, before being invited by the Diocesan Bishop to attend a Discernment Conference.

- **PASTORAL MINISTRY**
- **THEOLOGICAL STUDIES**
- **SPIRITUAL FORMATION**
- **DISCIPLING**

You have your support of your:

Rector/PIC
Parish Community
Friends
Family
Theological Education and Formation Director
Bishop

Attendance at these meetings is a compulsory part of your commitment to the whole discernment process, as is attendance of the Annual FOV Weekend Conference

Step 7: Spiritual Direction

“A Spiritual Director is an important companion for anybody on the journey of discernment. He/She would help you deepen your relationship with God”.

The next step is that you will be required to find a spiritual director to assist you in this process of discernment.

This journey began with God calling you, and if we are to be faithful to this journey, at each step we need to be faithful to hearing and discerning increasingly that call which is growing within you.

Your spiritual director needs to be someone who is **spiritually mature and gifted** in the art of listening and discerning God’s will. Your FOV warden or the Theological Education and Formation Director can direct you to people who offer this ministry. Your spiritual director, however, CANNOT be your own priest, your FOV warden or a member of the discernment team.

The role of your spiritual director is to:

- Help you discern what God is calling you to, and to accompany you on this journey.
- Enable you to reflect on the nature of your calling and other motivations that might be shaping you.
- Help to reflect on your practical ministries and where God’s spirit is for you in these.
- Talk with you about your prayer life and what God is saying to you.
- Help you to reflect on how this calling might be lived given your own particular family needs and situations.
- Pray for you and to listen to you and God speaking within your desire.

This person must be someone that you can trust, someone you can be open and completely honest with, and someone who is not afraid to tell you the truth as they perceive it.

Spiritual direction is the conscious and deliberate attempt to accompany you on your journey to and with God as you grapple with how God is calling you to serve.

Continuous Assessment

A continuous assessment of your journey will be taking place between your Fellowship of Vocation Warden and you!

In addition to the Regional FOV meetings, your FOV Warden will arrange to meet with you bi-annually. The reason is twofold:

In these bi-annual meetings you and your FOV Warden will get **an opportunity to discuss one-on-one issues** such as:

- your study progress
- your understanding of faith
- your balance of life
- your growth in faith, etc.

To enable everyone responsible for you **to keep your file up to date with all the relevant information needed, you must submit the results of any courses passed, as well as any changes such as addresses, phone numbers etc. to Theological Education and Formation Office. This is part of your** preparation for the discernment conference.

Your FOV Warden will submit an Annual Assessment of your journey to the Theological Education and Formation Office.

“The continuous assessment is meant to help you maintain a balance in your life. It is also meant to give you a sense of direction in your journey of discernment”.

Step 8: The Annual Diocesan Discernment Conference

“At the Annual Discernment, Conference, even if you are accepted, there is NO GUARANTEE that you will be ordained. The process of discernment continues through the whole period of your study and formation, until the ordination itself. If you are not accepted, you cannot and should not regard it as either failure or rejection. God might have other plans for your ministry as an active lay person.”

The decision for you to attend the Discernment Conference is made by the Diocesan Bishop. For this to happen, you should have:

1. submitted all required documentation to the Theological Education and Formation office.
2. completed at least two or more courses of your study programme
3. met bi-annually with your FOV Warden
4. regularly attend Regional FOV meetings
5. regularly attend the FOV Annual Weekend Conference
6. met regularly and continuously with your Spiritual Director
7. been formally licensed as a Lay Minister

Your FOV Warden and your Rector, in conjunction with other relevant stakeholders, and will advise the Director of Theological Education and Formation of your readiness for the residential **ANNUAL DIOCESAN DISCERNMENT CONFERENCE**.

This information plus all other relevant documents will be forwarded to the Diocesan Bishop who will prayerfully decide who to invite.

The conference usually takes place over a twenty four hour period and is residential. It takes place at a convenient venue and includes, where applicable, spouses.

The Theological Education and Formation office will inform you in writing of the date, time and venue, if you are invited. The conference normally starts sometime after 17:00 and continues through the evening and ends in the afternoon of the following day.

The Diocesan Bishop shall select a suitable discernment panel for the **ANNUAL DIOCESAN DISCERNMENT CONFERENCE**.

One of the Spiritual Gifts of the Holy Spirit is that of DISCERNMENT. In the opening prayers and readings the Bishop will prepare the whole group for the interviews. The candidates are then interviewed individually, together with their spouses, by different members of the discernment panel. The members of the discernment panel will be **asking a variety of questions of you (and your spouse), discerning aspects of your pastoral, educational, and spiritual experience; your involvement in worship, ministry and mission; your family life and support.** The questions will be based on the document ‘**Diocesan Discernment Conference Selection Criteria**’, which you would have been working through the FOV meetings.

You (and your spouse) will be given opportunities to ask questions of the Bishop and the team, both in the group sessions and in the interviews.

Once you have finished the interviews, usually after lunch, you will be free to leave. The team will remain with the Bishop and spend time discussing the outcome of the interviews. The panel then goes home. The Bishop (on whose shoulders lies the weighty decision as to God's calling on your life) will spend the following few days praying about each individual candidate. Once he has decided, he either writes you a letter, or sets up an interview with you a few days later.

If the Bishop does not discern in you a vocation to the ordained ministry, then you will need to discern your vocation in other areas as a lay person. This means that you must focus your prayers and searching on one or more of the many ministries that are open to a lay person. Please speak to your Rector, or if needs be to the Director of Theological Education and Formation.

Practically it means that you are no longer a FOV member. You may not be admitted to FOV for a minimum of two years or longer, if you are still convinced that God is calling you to ordained ministry.

Step 9: Ordination Formation

You are now an ordinand. You are no longer required to be a members of FOV.

Stipendiary Ordinands:

Where appropriate, the Bishop may require the ordinands to spend some time at the College of Transfiguration in Grahamstown.

Self-Supporting Ordinands:

Ordinands will remain in their full time employment. They will continue their theological studies with suitable institutions such as TEEC College or Unisa. They will remain in their parishes as their rectors train them to be ordained ministers. The Theological Education and Formation department will provide training during the year, usually over weekends. These are compulsory workshops, focusing on ordained ministry within the Diocese of Natal.

It is the Diocesan Bishop, in consultation with your rector, the director of Theological Education and Formation, who decides when you are ready for ordination. The Bishop will take into account your progress in theological studies, your practical ministry experience as well as your spiritual maturity in deciding if you are ready for ordination. This could take anything from three to ten years.

Step 10: Ordination to the Diaconate

You will be ordained DEACON (Stipendiary or Self-Supporting) once you have met all the requirements laid down by the Diocesan Bishop. The ordination will be held in the Cathedral in Pietermaritzburg, unless the Diocesan Bishop decides otherwise.

This should be a very special occasion in your life. **Your family and friends, your parish community and a number of guests will be with you to witness your ordination.**

The Suffragan Bishop's office in Pietermaritzburg will prepare various documents for you and your Rector to complete. Your Rector and Parish Council will prepare a contractual agreement for you. This agreement will have both Diocesan and Parish components setting out your **responsibilities to the Bishop, the Diocese and the Parish**. This process will be repeated before your priestly ordination, unless you are ordained a permanent deacon.

The Bishop will also provide you with **Permission to Officiate (Self-Supporting) or the Bishop's Licence (Stipendiary)** and **The Oath of Obedience**, which will be part of the service.

You will have an opportunity to run through the service and know what will be expected of you. You must attend an **Ordination Retreat** during the week of your ordination. The Theological Education and Formation's office will inform you where and when the retreat will take place.

“Your Diaconate will continue until your study programme is complete. Only then are you eligible to be ordained to the priesthood”

Step 11: Ordination to the Priesthood

The last step in the process will be your ordination to the priesthood (Stipendiary or Self-Supporting).

This will normally take place at the Annual Diocesan Ordination Service in the Cathedral, unless the Diocesan Bishop decides otherwise.

You will be prepared for this in the same way as your ordination to the Diaconate and many of the requirements will be similar.

Once again, you will be required to prepare for this occasion with an Ordination Retreat which will be arranged for you by the Theological Education and Formation's office.

Step 12: Ongoing In-Service Training (OIT)

After your ordination as a deacon, you will become a member of the Diocesan **ONGOING IN SERVICE TRAINING (OIT)**. YOU

“OIT is a compulsory part of your training and should not be avoided. You will remain in OIT for a period of three years”

This programme is run by Theological Education and Formation department.

The Director of Theological Education and Formation will contact you and invite you to attend. OIT provides on-going training after ordination. **It deals with the practical as well as the spiritual aspects of the ordained ministry.**

This is an important part of training and you are expected to attend these sessions.

OIT takes into consideration those members who, because of work commitments, cannot always attend during the week. Thus, arrangements are made for you to attend sessions on a Saturday.

YOU WILL CONTINUE IN OIT FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS

The Stipendiary Priest will also be required to attend a compulsory **NEW RECTORS COURSE** on the completion of the above three year OIT. This will cover mostly the legal and Canonical requirements of running a parish.

The Nature of Ministry

- Ministry, whether lay, pastoral or ordained, is an ongoing journey in a life of faith.
- Ordination is not an end but a beginning.
- We are required to continue learning, experiencing new areas of ministry, reading, studying and maintaining our disciples each day to make it an effective ministry both for you and for all those whom God has called you to serve within the church.

Guidelines for the Transition of Self-Supporting Clergy to Stipendiary Clergy

1. The candidate shall attend a Diocesan Discernment Conference to test the vocation to stipendiary ministry.
2. If the candidate is accepted by the Diocesan Discernment Conference for Stipendiary ministry he/she shall not be licenced as a stipendiary deacon/priest until the following conditions have been fulfilled:
 - 2.1 He/she shall have earned a Degree in Theology where possible, but at least a Diploma in Theology.
 - 2.2 He/she shall spend at least one year at the College of Transfiguration or in the event that this is not feasible, he/she shall spend at least one year in a parish other than the candidate's home parish, working under the direction of the Rector. Upon receipt of a recommendation from either the Rector or the College of Transfiguration or the parish Rector and Parish Council (whichever is applicable) the candidate shall be accepted as a stipendiary clergy person of the Diocese. During this one year period the candidate shall receive an allowance equivalent to that of an ordinand of the diocese preparing for stipendiary ministry.
 - 2.3 The candidate shall complete the Diocesan requirements for newly ordained stipendiary clergy, including , inter alia, the new rector's course.

Appendix 1: THE PARISH BASED ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

Guidelines for Parish Councils

You as a member of Parish Council, are being given the responsibility, together with your Rector to discern a **possible** vocational calling of a member (s) of your community.

Please note that this is not a “Discernment Conference”. That will happen much later at a “Diocesan Discernment Conference”. Thus the candidate is not being interviewed, and thus is not present at the Parish Based Endorsement meeting.

Vocations to ministry do not develop in a vacuum, but within the context of the parish where an ethos has developed of helping all the baptized to discern their God-given vocation to ministry within either the local community or the wider Church.

The discernment of a vocation cannot happen as a once off event. It is part of a process that has been developed with our Diocese in such a way that **the Parish, through the Parish Council, has an ongoing responsibility, once a possibility of a vocation has been discerned, to support, care for, encourage and financially support where possible, the candidate(s) concerned THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE PROCESS.**

This is the only one step of many in the process and the Rector/PIC will continue to support you in the process alongside the Bishop, the Director of Theological Education and Formation and the Regional FOV Warden.

The FOV Warden will then convey your recommendation to the **Bishop** via the Department of Theological Education and Formation.

▪ The Fellowship of Vocation (FOV) is a Diocesan organisation, set up by the Diocesan Bishop to help people to take the next step and reflect at a deeper level their possible vocation to the ordained ministry. It also helps prepare people for the Diocesan Discernment Conference.

▪ *Please see page 9 for more information*

“You are not asked at this stage to discern whether the candidate has a calling or not ... you are asked to discern if there is any reason why they should not join FOV”

Appendix 1a: THE PARISH ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

Questionnaire for the Recommendation of Candidates to join the Fellowship of Vocation

1. The most important question that the Council should be asking is this:

Is there any reason why the person should not become a member of the Fellowship of Vocation?

2. A person should not be accepted as a candidate against the wishes of his/her spouse or against the advice of the local congregation (represented by the Parish Council).

3. EVALUATION OF THE PERSONAL QUALITIES AND CALLING:

- a. Does the candidate have a living relationship with God?
- b. Does the candidate have a discipline of daily prayer and personal Bible study?
- c. Does the candidate participate in the Eucharist on a regular basis?
- d. Is the candidate a member of a House Church /Bible Study group?
- e. Do you consider the candidate to have Christ-like values and standards in respect of their marriage and family life?
- f. Does the candidate express a concern for the society in which we live and a commitment to working for justice and peace?
- g. Does the candidate practice and uphold Christian standards in respect of their marriage and family life?
- h. Does the candidate have a financial commitment to the local Church in respect of systematic and proportional giving?
- i. Does the candidate serve the local community in any other capacity?

4. LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AND MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT:

- a. What existing areas of ministry is the candidate involved in the life of the Parish community?
- b. How effective are these areas of ministry both for the candidate and for the community?
- c. Does the candidate have clear elements of leadership in respect to ability and willingness?
- d. Does the candidate have a willingness to work with other people in the community including other members of the leadership team?
- e. How effectively does the candidate relate generally with other members of the community?
- f. Does the candidate have a willingness to engage in a lifelong programme of spiritual formation, academic study and training?
- g. How would you rate the candidate's moral integrity? Do you discern/know of any problems that would be a disadvantage / hinderance to recommending this candidate for this process?
- h. To what extent will the candidate be able to finance his/her academic requirements and what commitment will the parish be able to make to assist the candidate to meet the costs of the required academic training?

Appendix 2: Rector's Responsibilities within the Parish Endorsement

- Receive **prayerfully** a parishioner's sense of wanting to respond to God's love by offering themselves for the ordained ministry **or**
- Alert a parishioner to your own/others sense that they may be called.
- Encourage the parishioner to find a spiritual director/companion.
- Agree with the parishioner about when to seek parish council's **recommendation** and take the issue to parish council accordingly.
- If the parish council agrees, refer the candidate to the **Regional FOV Warden** and help the candidate to fill in the **Candidate's Record Card**.

Please advise any candidate wishing to register with TEEC that they may register from October 1st until the closing date which is 31st January of the following year

Appendix 3: PROCEDURES FOR THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN DISCERNMENT CONFERENCE

1. Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Bible Reading and Prayer for the Guidance of the Holy Spirit
4. Explanation of the Process

Points to Cover

- The purpose of the Discernment Conference
- The procedure that will be followed:
 - Interview the candidate and spouse.
 - Period of discernment which will take place in their absence.
 - Bishop to share with the candidate the result of the discernment at a later stage.
- Encourage everyone to speak in the language of their choice.
- Encourage people to ask questions if anyone is not sure of anything, encourage **confidentially**.

Areas that may be covered in the Discernment:

- Spirituality
- Ministry
- Leadership and team work
- Family Life/Personal relationships/Children
- Studies/learning (quality of mind)
- Personality and character
- Vocation- inner conviction
- Knowledge of the CPSA
- Morality (Pastoral Standards- Previous sexual offences?)
- Health
- Ordination
- Sacraments
- Other

5. Ask if there are any questions for clarification.
6. The Discernment then takes place.
7. After the discernment, a prayer is offered for the candidate and his/her spouse (where applicable) before they leave the room. The discernment team, meeting on its own, discusses and makes recommendations to the Bishop.
8. The Bishop will inform the candidate of the decision in writing. The Bishop may, if necessary, meet with the candidate.

DIOCESE OF NATAL
CANDIDATE'S RECORD CARD
FOV APPLICATION FORM

To be completed by those who have been recommended by their Rector as well as the Parish Endorsement Conference.

Please read "The Lord's Call" enclosed, and then complete this form in full and return it to: Email: dean.studies@dionatal.org.za

Please PRINT or TYPE your responses.

A. PERSONAL DETAILS:

1. Surname: _____

2. First Names (as it appears in your Identity Document (ID)) _____

3. Date of Birth: _____

4. Identity Number: _____

5. Citizenship (e.g. South African) _____

6. Are you in possession of a valid driver's license? _____

If yes, License No: _____ Date Issued: _____

7. Residential Address: _____
_____ Code: _____

8. Postal Address: _____
_____ Code: _____

9. Telephone Numbers : Home: _____ Work: _____
Cell: _____

10. Email: _____

11. Occupation: _____

If Self-Employed, please provide details: _____

12. Date and place of your Baptism: _____

13. Date and place of your Confirmation: _____

14. How long have you been a member of the Anglican Church? _____

B. FAMILY DETAILS

15. Marital Status: (Single, Married, Divorced) _____

16. Date of Marriage: _____ Place: _____

17. If divorced, Date of Divorce: _____

Magisterial district of Divorce: _____

18. Full names of Spouse: _____

19. Date of birth of Spouse: _____ Age: _____

20. Occupation of Spouse: _____

21. Are you and your spouse living together or apart? _____

22. Children's Names:

NAMES	DATE OF BIRTH	AGE
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Have you included the names of **all** your children? _____

23. If you have never married, names of nearest next of kin (sisters, brothers, parents)

C. PARISH DETAILS:

24. Name of your present parish: _____

Rector: _____

25. How long have you been a member of your present parish? _____

26. Date and place of parish you were licensed as a Lay Minister: _____

27. State your ministry involvement in the parish on a separate sheet and attach it to this form.

28. State the date and place of the Parish Based Endorsement which recommended that you join FOV;

Date: _____ Parish: _____

29. Name of your FOV Warden:

30. Do you have a Spiritual Director or Companion? _____

31. Name your Spiritual Director? (Not your Rector, Bishop, FOV Warden or member of your family)

D. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

32. **High School:** _____

33. Highest standard/grade passed at high school: _____ Year: _____

34. Matric, University access (Diploma, Degree, Certificate, None): _____

35. Name of High School you attended: _____

36. **Tertiary Education:** (Certificate, Diploma, Degree)

37. Name of Educational Institution: _____

Certificate, Diploma, Degree attained: _____

Year you graduated: _____

38. Name of Educational Institution : _____

Certificate, Diploma, Degree attained: _____

Year you graduated: _____

46. What other theological/biblical courses are you studying or have completed?

47. List the courses that are still outstanding and the year in which you plan to complete them:

COURSE	YEAR

48. Do you have a criminal record? _____

If yes, please furnish details _____

49. Have you ever been accused of or charged with a sexual offence? _____

If yes, please furnish details _____

50. Have you ever been suspended from Holy Communion or excommunicated? _____

If yes, please furnish details _____

51. Do you owe money that exceeds R10 000,00 ? If yes, please give details _____

52. Write (type) a paper on the question, "What is an Anglican Deacon and what is an Anglican Priest?". Attach it to this form.

53. Why do you believe God is calling you to be a deacon or priest in the Anglican Church? Attach your paper to this form.

54. Please note that the Rector of the parish and the FOV Warden will be asked to write reports.

55. Any special comments? _____

56. Please enclose the following documents with this form:

1. A photograph of yourself and, if applicable, a separate photograph of your spouse.
2. A certified copy of your Baptism Certificate.
3. A certified copy of your Confirmation Certificate.
4. Certified copies of the first pages of your ID and where applicable, your spouse's ID as well.
5. Certified copies of your Education Certificates.
6. If applicable, a certified copy of your Marriage Certificate.
7. If applicable, a certified copy of your Lay Minister's Licence.
8. If applicable, a certified copy of your Driver's Licence.
9. If applicable, a copy of your decree of divorce.
10. The two papers mentioned in 26, 51 and 52 above.
11. Any other relevant documents.

58. Have you answered all the questions on this form? _____

59. Have you enclosed all the documents requested above? _____

- I certify that all the documents contained on this form is true and correct.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

PRINT NAME

DATE

- I have checked the details on this form and confirm that they are correct, and that all the documents have been enclosed.

RECTOR'S SIGNATURE

PRINT NAME

DATE