



Anglican Diocese of South Carolina

New Guidelines for Clergy Endorsement of Aspirants for Ordination

Dear Rectors and Vicars,

In an effort to streamline the discernment process in our diocese, we have revised the preliminary steps of the process.

If you believe that a member of your parish is hearing a call to ordination and you concur, please do the following.

1) Complete [this checklist](#) online.

2) Write a letter of endorsement on church letterhead addressed to Bishop Edgar. Email the letter to **both** Canon Jim Lewis (jewis@adosc.org) and me (jharder@adosc.org) using the following guidelines

- Your relationship to the applicant (length of time known and pastoral context).
- Evidence of a genuine call to ordained ministry that has been tested over time.
- Specified order (diaconate or priesthood)
- Spiritual maturity, including prayer life, love of Scripture, sacramental faithfulness, and growth in holiness.
- Character and integrity, including reputation, humility, emotional stability, and trustworthiness.
- Family life (if applicable), including marital stability and spousal support.
- Demonstrated gifts for ministry, such as leadership, pastoral care, service, and initiative.
- Teaching ability and doctrinal soundness, including faithfulness to Scripture and Anglican theology.
- Temperament for pastoral ministry, including resilience, conflict management, and ability to receive correction.

- Ability to serve within Anglican polity, including respect for authority and willingness to work under episcopal oversight.
- Fruitfulness in ministry, supported by specific examples.
- Areas for growth or concerns, stated candidly and charitably.
- A clear recommendation, stating whether you endorse further discernment, endorse with reservations, or do not recommend at this time.
- Letters should be specific, truthful, and evidence-based, avoiding vague praise or exaggerated claims.
- Please include the aspirant's email address and cell phone number in the letter.


3) Ask the aspirant to contact Canon Lewis to set up an appointment to discuss an overview of the ADOSC discernment process. (jlewis@adosc.org)

Following the meeting with Canon Lewis, I will ask the aspirant to complete a series of documents. Upon completion of those documents an appointment will be made for the aspirant to meet with Bishop Edgar. If Bishop Edgar approves of the aspirant's moving forward, he will direct that a Parish Discernment Committee be formed.

Many thanks for your assistance as we work together to guide those discerning a call on their lives.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

In Christ Alone,



The Revd Joyce Harder
Coordinator of Commission on Ministry, Ordinations and Events

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