ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF NIAGARA
THE DIACONAL DISCERNMENT AND FORMATION PROCESS

Minimum of three months to one year process

Annual Application Deadline:

February 1

Call to Ordained Diaconal Ministry

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Discussions with Rector

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Inquirer and their Rector meet with the Director and/or Deputy Director of the College of Deacons

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Inquirer and their Rector meet with the Bishop

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Orientation of Parish Council by Director and/or Deputy Director of the College of Deacons, or designate, to ministry of deacons and process of discernment

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Recommendation of Rector and Parochial Committee to proceed to Diocesan Diaconal Discernment interviews

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Application for Ordination to the Diaconate with Rector's signature → Rector informs Regional Archdeacon

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Diocesan Diaconal Discernment (first) interviews

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Diocesan Diaconal Discernment Committee recommendations → Mentor assigned

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Meet to review recommendations with the Executive Assistant, Rector, and Mentor regarding plan for ongoing discernment and formation process, as required, and schedule annual follow-up

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Discernment and preparation as required

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Formation of Parish Discernment Committee (Meets until completion of Parish Commendation)

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Prior to Diocesan Diaconal Discernment (second) interviews, the following are to be completed and submitted:

- Academic requirements
- Job description
- Parish Commendation with vestry motion

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Diocesan Diaconal Discernment (second) interviews and recommendation to the Bishop

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Bishop's decision with respect to ordination

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Meet with Director and/or Deputy Director of the College of Deacons for orientation to the College of Deacons

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Ordination

Ongoing Discernment

Regular participation in life and worship of home parish

Meet regularly with spiritual director

Educational Requirement: completion of the Diaconate Preparation Pathway offered through the Niagara School for Missional Leadership (NSML) (may be taken concurrently)

Full process may take two or more years

At no time during the candidacy process can the diocese guarantee ordination to an applicant

Revised: August 30, 2023