

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON POSTULANTS FOR ORDINATION**

### **POSSIBLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

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(**Notes** to assessors: Words in *italics* are taken from the service for the ordination of priests. The questions, identified by bullet points, are meant to guide you in your interviews. Similar types of questions are grouped together for you to select the ones you find the most useful.)

#### ***The Presentation from the Ordination of a Priest***

*Will you be loyal to the doctrine, discipline and worship of Christ as this Church has received them?*

#### **Confession of faith, personal and ecclesial**

- Tell me about the resurrection [or any other doctrine] and its meaning for you.
- Describe God. Describe your God.
- How does your faith relate to the credal affirmations of the Church? Why do you choose to live out your faith within the Anglican community?
- How did you get here? What are you looking for? Why do you want to be ordained? In what kind of church?
- Tell me something about your faith journey. What have been the key moments in your journey? What does your personal faith mean to you?
- Tell me about a time when you have experienced God's grace. How has God worked in your life? How have you responded?
- Describe your life as a follower of Jesus.

#### **Authoritative doctrine (trine God, Christology, Spirit and the Church)**

- Who is Christ for you?
- What is your relationship with God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit? What does the Trinity mean for you?
- Who, what is the Spirit?
- Is it your duty to make church fun? Relevant? Worshipful? Therapeutic?
- Are you prepared to live up to the conformity of Church teaching? Are you willing to work within the dictates of our denomination?

#### ***The Examination from the Ordination of a Priest***

*All baptized people* are called to make Christ known as Saviour and Lord, and to share in the renewing of His World.

*Ordinands* are called to work as *pastor, priest and teacher*, i.e. to:

- Proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Christ
- Fashion one's life in accordance with the precepts of the Gospel of Christ
- Love and serve the people among whom one works
- Preach
- Declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners
- Pronounce God's blessing
- Preside at the administration of holy baptism and at the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's body and blood
- Perform the other ministries entrusted to one
- Nourish and strengthen Christ's people

## Call

*Do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to this priesthood?*

- What gifts have been affirmed in you?
- Do you have an image or vision of your potential ministry?
- How will this course affect your family? How will it affect others? How does your family feel about what you want to do?
- Is the course that you are considering motivated by zeal? by love?
- What are your feelings about your call? How intense are they? Is there an image that describes how you feel?
- How long have you wanted to do this? Is now the time? How do you know?
- Do you feel obligated to do this? Do you feel that it is your duty? Are you trying to be obedient to God? What if God says no?
- What people have influenced you in your perception of call? How?
- Do you see Christ in the homeless, the marginalized, the unloved? Do they see Christ in you?

## Episcope

*Will you respect and be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?*

- What is the key to your ministry?
- Has God ever met you at a time of great weakness? Tell me about it.
- How would you make decisions within a parish? What models of leadership in the church have you seen, and which are you most comfortable with? How are you willing to work within the parochial structure? Can you share leadership with parish leaders?
- Do you see a priest as leader? What do you do with the notion of priest as servant?
- Where do you see the church going? What changes would you like to see?
- How do you perceive and feel about the role of authority in the church? Are you prepared to follow the directions of the bishop?
- Are you open to ministry in rural, town or city churches?

## Study

*Will you be diligent in the reading and study of holy scriptures, and in seeking the knowledge of such things as may make you a stronger and more able minister of Christ?*

- [No specific questions suggested]

## Ministry of Word and Sacrament

*Will you endeavour so to minister the Word of God and the Sacraments of the new covenant, that the reconciling love of Christ may be known and received?*

- The church affirms scripture as the "Word of God". What does this mean to you?
- What is your favourite scripture passage / book? How does Scripture inform your life? How do you presently exercise ministry of the Word?
- What would you see as the primary teaching needed in the church?
- Describe a particularly memorable experience of the Eucharist. How is the sharing in Eucharist important in your spiritual life?
- Tell me about your baptism.
- Can you talk about the "mystery" of the sacraments? Tell me your understanding of the sacraments.
- In terms of worship, how do you see the ministry of word and sacrament?
- Why do you want to be ordained to exercise ministry of word and sacrament?



### **Pastoral Care**

*Will you undertake to be a faithful pastor to all whom you are called to service, labouring together with them and with your fellow ministers to build up the family of God?*

- What is the ministry of pastoral care in your view? What is the most important pastoral role of a priest? How are you currently exercising this ministry?
- When you are very down, where do you find the strength to go on?
- What is your understanding of priest as reconciler?
- Tell me some examples of how you have helped someone grow in their faith.
- From where do you draw your sense of the value of people?
- Tell me about a recent experience when you have received pastoral care. What did you learn from it?

### **Witness by word and deed**

*Will you do your best to pattern your life (and that of your family) in accordance with the teaching of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to your people?*

- Who do you want to introduce to Jesus?
- Tell me about a time in your life when you have been able to share by word and example the good news of Jesus Christ. What do your colleagues / friends say about the way you share your faith? Describe a time you spoke to someone about Jesus. Tell me some ways you share your faith, talk about your faith.
- Can you be open to the faith of others without giving your own away? How do you respond to people talking about their faith experiences? How open are you to the faith of others?

### **Prayer**

*Will you persevere in prayer, public in public and in private, asking God's grace, both for yourself and for others, and offering all your labours to God, through the mediation of Jesus Christ, and in the sanctification of the Holy Spirit?*

- What does prayer mean to you? Tell me about your prayer life. Who do you pray to? How do you sustain your personal prayer life?
- "Lord, teach us to pray". What has Jesus taught you about prayer?
- Where do you pray?
- Who are you praying for now and why?