

# DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE



## APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE VOCATIONAL DIACONATE PROGRAM

**PART I:** To be completed by applicant

APPLICANT INFORMATION			
Name:		Date of Birth:	
Baptism Date:		Place:	
Confirmation Date:		Place:	
Marriage <i>(If applicable)</i> Date:		Place:	
Languages Spoken:			
Languages Written:			

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND	
Please state grades completed and / or courses taken:	
1.	
2.	
3.	
<i>* Please note: This is for information purposes only. There are no educational requirements at time of application.</i>	

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION	
A Spiritual Director is required as a part of the information process. If you presently have a Spiritual Director (e.g. your rector), please list below. If not, leave blank.	
Name of Spiritual Director:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Deacons are living sacraments, symbols of the servant Christ and his Church. Deacons, whose ministry is distinctly oriented to servanthood, function in specialized ministries among the poor, the sick, and the needy. This brings the vision of the historic Diaconate into a reality for our time.

The call of the deacon is two-fold: The deacon is called by God as is proclaimed through the Church by ordination and by recognition by the parish of that person's ministry. The deacon is also called by an inward commitment to the Lord for a life of service and a willingness to serve amongst the most desperate of situations. Deacons, by virtue of their ordination, have all the rights and responsibilities of that office as assigned to them by Canon Law [Canon 2, Sub 1(c)].

Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate is a life long commitment to that Order. Should the Vocational Deacon be called to seek further Ordination one must begin the formation / selection process again, starting at its earliest point. The Vocational Deacon, in a servant ministry, works in a non-stipendiary capacity. Deacons are accountable to the body of Christ and, as ordained persons, enter into a relationship of obedience to the Bishop. The Vocational Deacon must hold Episcopal license and ministers within a particular Parish under the authority of and responsible to the Incumbent as outlined in their letter of appointment.

Ordination is the sole prerogative of the Bishop. Admission to this program or completion of tasks set out by the Postulant Advisory Committee does not automatically guarantee admission to the Order of Deacon.

The information given above is true to the best of my knowledge and I have read and understand the policy pertaining to the Vocational Diaconate attached as Appendix A to this application.

Applicant's Signature	Dated [yy/mm/dd]



**PART III:** To be completed by Parish Wardens

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>PARISH SUPPORT OF APPLICANT FOR THE VOCATIONAL DIACONATE:</b>	
Name of Parish:	
Address:	
In a meeting of Vestry as defined by Canon 21, we have by secret ballot affirmed, in the form of a motion, the applicant's ministry in this Parish. (Please attach copy of motion)	
Date of Motion:	
The following people have agreed to serve on the Postulant Advisory Committee to assist in the formation of the applicant:	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Name:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
<p>We (ARE / ARE NOT) able to support the applicant financially to attend meetings.</p> <p>We (ARE / ARE NOT) able to support the applicant financially to take required courses.</p> <p>We will support the applicant throughout the program with our prayers both publicly and privately.</p> <p>We will support the applicant through recognition and integration of the ministry of Vocational Deacon within the total ministry of this Parish.</p>	
Signature of Rector's Warden	Signature of People's Warden

**PART IV:** To be completed by Incumbent

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>INCUMBENT'S STATEMENT</b>	
Please describe the present ministry being performed by the Applicant:	
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
What change do you foresee if the applicant is ordained as a Vocational Deacon?	
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
Are you able to be involved in the formation process (tutor, spiritual director, etc.) of this applicant?	
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
What is your overall assessment of this applicant's suitability for ordained ministry, in Deacon's orders?	
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	
Signature	Dated

## APPENDIX A

### POLICY 12

#### DIACONATE / VOCATIONAL

##### **The Vocational Deacon**

Deacons are living sacraments, symbols of the servant Christ and his Church. Deacons, whose ministry is distinctly oriented to servanthood, function in specialized ministries among the poor, the sick, and the needy. This brings the vision of the historic diaconate into a reality for our time. The call of the deacon is two-fold: The deacon is called by God as is proclaimed through the Church by ordination and by recognition by the parish of that person's ministry. The deacon is also called by an inward commitment to the Lord for a life of service and a willingness to serve amongst the most desperate of situations. Deacons, by virtue of their ordination, have all the rights and responsibilities of that office as assigned to them by Canon law [Canon 2, Sub1(c)].

##### 1. Recruitment and Selection

The congregation plays a crucial role in calling forward people from among their members to serve their parish and community as deacons. Candidates are recognized by their Christian communities as individuals already exercising a servant ministry. An individual discerning a call to the vocational diaconate will make known to the congregation by both word and action their desire to enter into specialized servant ministry. The will of the congregation shall be expressed by a two thirds majority vote taken by secret ballot at a meeting of the Vestry.

Submission shall then be made to the Diocesan by the incumbent or priest-in-charge, the select vestry, and the candidate, for acceptance by the bishop for ACPO consideration and ordination to the vocational diaconate, on the prescribed form. Careful consideration shall be given to the following: a) if married, the approval and support of the spouse; b) family life; c) high standards and good reputation in the community; d) recognition of active community service; e) an understanding that ordination to the vocational diaconate is for life.

Upon receipt of a submission, the bishop shall arrange an interview with the candidate and ACPO assessment (see Appendix A). Being satisfied as to the candidate's suitability, the bishop shall then acknowledge the individual as a postulant for ordination to the vocational diaconate with or without further stipulations concerning formation and training. In the event of an applicant being found unacceptable for Ordination the Bishop will, in consultation with the parish and the applicant, determine a more appropriate ministry for the individual.

Once the applicant has been accepted as a postulant they will then begin a minimum two year postulancy formation process as outlined below.

## II. Postulancy Process - Spiritual Formation

Spiritual formation is designed to ensure a personal commitment to God through Jesus Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit. This will include regular attendance of Sunday parish services especially the Holy Eucharist, daily prayer in accordance with Canon XXI which is to include personal intercessions, the reading of scripture and meditation. The adoption of a rule of life to include those aspects of the spiritual life as outlined in the BCP regarding a rule of life (p.555 BCP) shall be undertaken within the first three months of postulancy. Spiritual formation shall further include a spiritual director, community support groups, parishioners and family. A course in spirituality may be required. Attendance at a guided retreat is required annually by each postulant and deacon, the cost of which shall be borne by the parish.

## III. Postulancy Process - Academic Formation

Postulants will relate to the Postulants Advisory Committee (See Appendix B) in order to determine the acceptability of their course selections. The following core courses shall be taken as partial fulfillment of the academic formation:

1. Old Testament Studies
2. New Testament Studies
3. Anglicanism in Church History
4. Pastoral Care
5. Liturgy
6. The Church in community

In addition, two electives shall be taken as determined by the Postulants Advisory Committee as pertaining to the postulant's field of service. (These courses may include, for example: Preaching, Understanding drug and alcohol abuse, etc.) The cost of all courses shall be arranged by the candidate and/or the local parish.

## IV. Postulancy Process - Practical Formation

Practical training or experience must be compatible with the candidate's occupation in the world and their diaconal ministry. This refers to supervision within the particular ministry to which the postulant is called. This must include but need not be limited to:

- the liturgical function of a deacon in public worship;
- stress management training;
- the ability to function pastorally;
- an understanding of Church administration.

It will be the responsibility of the Postulant's Advisory Committee to ensure that the required experience for practical formation is obtained.



## V. Conclusion

Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate is a life commitment to that Order. Should the Vocational Deacon be called to seek further Ordination they must begin the formation/selection process again, starting at its earliest point. The Vocational Deacon, in a servant ministry, works in a non-stipendiary capacity. They are accountable to the body of Christ and, as ordained persons, enter into a relationship of obedience to the Bishop. The Vocational Deacon must hold Episcopal license and ministers within a particular Parish under the authority of and responsible to the Incumbent as outlined in their letter of appointment.

### Appendix A

Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination (A.C.P.O.): The provincial A.C.P.O. committee does not consider candidates for the Vocational Diaconate. A diocesan A.C.P.O. for candidates to the Vocational Diaconate will be required. This committee will be appointed by the Bishop and will consist of:

1. A senior Priest of the diocese;
2. Two laity with expertise in the candidate's area of calling;
3. Two other appointees

It is recommended that all costs of providing A.C.P.O. be borne by the Parish(es) involved. The Parish(es) involved and the Executive Archdeacon will agree upon a budget before each A.C.P.O.

### Appendix B

Postulant's Advisory Committee:

A PAC for each candidate and/or postulant shall be made up of:

- i) a permanent Diocesan representative, in Priest's Orders, appointed by the Bishop. This individual shall be a member of all PACs to ensure that Diocesan standards are maintained and to provide continuity in the programme.
- ii) a regional representative as appointed by the Bishop. This individual may or may not be in Orders.
- iii) two parish representatives approved by a meeting of the Vestry as defined by Canon 24.

The PAC is responsible in consultation with the candidate to ensure there is appropriate compliance with the formation process as outlined in sections I, II and III.