

The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee

Manual of Resources for Ministry Discernment Weekend



From the
Manual of Resources for Discerning a Call to Ministry
Lay and Ordained
Sections 6.1, 6.2.A, 6.2.B, 6.2.C, 6.3.A, 6.3.B, 6.3.C

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I. Ministry Discernment Weekend with Commission on Ministry

- A. The Ministry Discernment Weekend (MDW) is the time set aside with the Commission on Ministry (COM) to continue discernment from a wider perspective than in the PMDC process.
- B. The MDW serves as the Nominee's Postulancy interview with the COM.
- C. The weekend occurs in September/October of each year.
- D. It begins with fellowship and dinner on Friday night, followed by the sharing of stories and/or other activities to enable members of the COM and the Nominees to get to know each other.
- E. The rest of the time together consists of individual interviews of about 45 minutes each with small groups of COM members.

II. Role of the Commission on Ministry During the Ministry Discernment Weekend

- A. The COM, on behalf of the Bishop and diocese, assess an Aspirant's readiness to continue in the discernment process, by evaluating the following areas:
 - 1. Christian ministry, faith, and calling.
 - 2. Emotional, physical, and personal health.
 - 3. Academic, intellectual, and leadership abilities.
- B. Additional areas for exploration for those who have been previously ordained.
 - 1. Determine whether the Nominee's previous service was with diligence and good reputation.
 - 2. Examines the reasons which impel the Nominee to leave their previous judicatory and seek ordination in the Episcopal Church.
 - 3. Determines the nature and extent of the Nominee's education and theological training.
 - 4. Determines the Nominee's preparations necessary for ordination in the Episcopal Church.

1. Describe your calling.
2. Give an example of an experience when you saw God clearly at work?
3. Who are God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for you?
4. How do you see the difference between ordained and lay ministry? What is your understanding of your call to remain a lay person?
5. What is your understanding of your calling to chaplaincy?
6. What is your commitment and desire to be endorsed by the Episcopal Church?
7. What sort of chaplaincy do you see yourself being called to? Health Care/Prison/Military/Long Term Care?
8. What has been the most exciting ministry you have done to date? The most challenging?
9. What is your theology of stewardship and how does that translate into your life?
10. Describe your practice of personal prayer, study, and corporate worship.
11. What sustains you daily? How do you refresh yourself spiritually?
12. Who is your community and how do you stay connected with them? How does your community nurture your spiritual growth?
13. The call to chaplaincy may require you to move in order to find a position that is right for you. How easy or how difficult will it be for you to pick up and move? How does your significant other feel about moving?
14. The call to chaplaincy is the call to ministry outside of the Christian Church. Given your ministry focus you described earlier, how will you respond if you are re-directed – especially outside of your comfort zone? How do you experience yourself fitting in with a diverse array of people? With whom do you work well? Who might challenge you?
15. How do you see your role in respecting, ministering to and advocating for people regardless of their physical, emotional, and spiritual issues and differences?
16. What do you value the most? What can't you live without?

1. How would you describe your personality?
2. What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses?
3. What rewards do you think come from being and working with people?
4. Describe activities in which you perceived and followed as a leader.
 - a. In worship?
 - b. In service?
 - c. In teaching?
 - d. In community gathering?
 - e. In the wider world?
5. Tell us what you do maintain physical, emotional and mental health.
 - a. Exercise program?
 - b. Stewardship of time, talent, and treasures?
 - c. Recreation?
 - d. Maintain and reconcile relationships?
 - e. Which of these is the greatest challenge?
6. What is your interest in books, literature, music, art?
7. What hobbies or serious interests do you have? What places do you like to visit?
8. What would you change in your life if you could?
9. Who are your friends? What careers are they in? Why do you find them to be good friends? How do you see that relationship changing?
10. Who are the people (from history) you would most like to be with?
11. Tell us about a time you failed and what you learned from the experience?
12. Tell us about a time when you took responsibility rather than place blame
13. Tell us about a time when you underwent a major change in your life that went smoothly and a change you found to be difficult. What made it smooth? What made it difficult? How are you handling this change?
14. Tell us how you understand how your life story has impacted your interest in becoming a chaplain and your ability to provide pastoral care to others.

1. How comfortable/familiar are you with Episcopal worship, discipline and polity? How long have you been an Episcopalian?
2. How did you like school? What were your favorite courses? What did your favorite teachers do to inspire and encourage you to learn?
3. What is your learning style? How do you best learn?
4. What excites you about seminary and CPE? What do you think will be challenging for you?
5. Are you willing and able to meet all the requirements that are needed to be a certified chaplain?
6. What are your intellectual interests? What are you passionate about?
7. What are you doing to pursue ongoing lifelong learning?
8. How are you as a communicator? Tell me when you inspired someone? Tells us when you successfully influenced.
9. Tell us about a time when you successfully practiced active listening. Tell us about a time when you successfully negotiated.
10. How do you see your role in developing people?
11. How do you see your role in leading ministry?
12. Tell us about a time when you resolved conflict?
13. How do you advocate for people who are unable to advocate for themselves?
14. How do you hold yourself accountable for the mission of the church?
15. How do you seek out knowledge and experiences that will help you grow and develop?

1. Describe your calling.
2. Give an example of an experience when you saw God clearly at work?
3. Who are God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit for you?
4. What is your ministry focus at this point and time? Vision for the future? What sort of ministry do you see yourself called to? Urban/Rural/Suburban? CEO/Program Director/Pastor?
5. What has been the most exciting ministry you have done to date? The most challenging?
6. How do you see the difference between ordained and lay ministry? Why is ordination required to fulfill your Baptismal Covenant?
7. What is your theology of stewardship and how does that translate into your life?
8. Describe your practice of personal prayer, study, and corporate worship.
9. What sustains you daily? How do you refresh yourself spiritually?
10. Who is your community and how do you stay connected with them? How does your community nurture your spiritual growth?
11. The call to Holy Orders is often a call to itinerancy, i.e., a call to serve wherever God might be calling. How easy or how difficult will it be for you to pick up and move? How does your significant other feel about moving?
12. The call to ministry is the call to the wider church. Given your ministry focus you described earlier, how will you respond if you are re-directed – especially outside of your comfort zone?
13. What do you value the most? What can't you live without?

1. How would you describe your personality?
2. What are your strengths? What are your weaknesses?
3. What rewards do you think come from being and working with people?
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7. How are you as a communicator? Tell me when you inspired someone? Tells us when you successfully influenced. Tell us about a time when you successfully practiced active listening. Tell us about a time when you successfully negotiated.
8. How do you see your role in developing people?
9. How do you see your role in leading ministry?
10. Tell us about a time when you resolved conflict?
11. How do you hold yourself accountable for the mission of the church
12. How will you empower the ministry of all baptized persons?
13. How do you seek out knowledge and experiences that will help you grow and develop?