



**Is God
calling you to Ordained Ministry ?
(Deacon or Priest)**



Overview

The Diocese of Leicester's discernment process for ordained ministry seeks to uncover God's calling for you. We want to explore whether your gifts point towards ordained ministry, or if your calling in fact lies elsewhere. Evidence is gathered through a series of conversations as well as paperwork from yourself and others.

When there is enough evidence then our sponsoring Bishop, Bishop Guli, decides if the time is right for the calling to be tested nationally by a Bishop's Advisory Panel. They make a recommendation to Bishop Guli who makes the final decision.

The series of conversations mentioned start with your own church leader, family and friends. When you or your church leader feel it is right then one of you contacts the Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO), Canon Paul Rattigan. This begins a more formal process of gathering evidence. This can take one to two years and will involve one off interviews as well as working with one person for an extended period of time, typically nine months.

All the way through the conversations will be probing and encouraging as this is a life changing decision for you and the church. It is thorough as we need to be sure that you are informed and have a realistic picture of the joys and challenges of Ordained Ministry and that God is calling you to this particular ministry.

Prayer

I know you love me and have plans for me but sometimes I am overwhelmed by the thought of my future. Show me how to walk forward one day at a time. May I take heart while I search openly, learn all about the choices, listen to others for advice, and pay attention to my own feelings. May I hear your call to live a life that will let me love as only I can, and allow me to serve others with the special gifts you have given me. I ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Some specific stages

Enquiry

You or your vicar makes contact with the DDO and there is an initial meeting.

Exploring

If both parties feel there is something here then the next stage is to go to an Ordained Ministry Adviser. This is an in depth interview of about 75 minutes. Most of the focus is on whether the candidate is called to ordained ministry but gaps are looked for in the other criteria. These gaps may be addressed by reading, writing, placements, conversations etc.

Discerning

This is the extended one to one stage working through each of the criteria in turn and gathering much of the evidence that will be presented to Bishop Guli. Alongside this part of the process there may be other conversations with people about colleges, courses, finance etc. as you gain a better picture of what training and ordination will involve. There will be reading and writing to do as well as visits to other churches, maybe for an extended period of time.

Deciding

This involves a meeting with Bishop Guli after she has seen some of the paperwork that has been prepared by yourself and the person you have been working with. With her agreement you then move to the next stage.

Preparatory

Before going to a Bishops Advisory Panel there is a time of preparation, mainly with the DDO but also involving others. This is so that you understand the process and are ready to present your calling in the best light to the panel.

Bishops Advisory Panel

It is a daunting few days away but most find it a prayerful and uplifting time as with others you dig deeply into you, your faith and your calling. A week or so later the panel feeds back a recommendation to Bishop Guli.

Some FAQs

Age

The minimum age for sponsorship is 18. There is not an absolute around a maximum age but typically someone would be under the age of XXX before being ordained to full time stipendiary ministry and under the age of YYY before being ordained to non-stipendiary or self-supporting ministry.

Divorce and remarriage

Divorce in itself does not stop someone being ordained. However, if you have remarried and your former spouse is still alive (or you are married to someone who has been previously married and their former spouse is still alive) there is an additional process which involves obtaining a Faculty under Canon Law from the Archbishop of Canterbury. The process investigates carefully the circumstances surrounding both the divorce and remarriage.

Educational Qualifications

Candidates are required to have the following qualifications:

If under 25 years of age, five passes in academic subjects in GCSE, one of which must be English Language, and two at A level, or equivalent qualifications.

If aged 25 or over, the academic standard is not laid down in terms of GCSE or in any other absolute form, but individuals are considered and assessed in accordance with their existing qualifications and the type of training which they should do if accepted as candidates

Contact Details

Lead Administrator: Claire Stapleton Claire.Stapleton@LecCofE.org

DDO: Canon Paul Rattigan Paul.Rattigan@LecCofE.org