



Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast

CANDIDATE

EMBER DAY LETTERS

Ember Days are days of special prayer for the ministry of the Church. They are traditionally observed on the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after the First Sunday in Lent, the Day of Pentecost, Holy Cross Day and after St. Lucy's Day on December 13. It is sufficient to have the letter to the Bishop by the end of the month.

The Ember Letter should be a brief (1 page maximum) letter written to the Bishop, reporting on personal and ministry life through this period.

INITIAL DEACONAL YEAR MINISTRY PLAN

Where will you be serving in your ministry and training as a Deacon during your first Year? Please work with your Sr. Pastor or clergy mentor to make sure you have agreed on a plan for your ministry as a deacon, whether volunteer, part-time or full-time, and a mentor to guide you through the diaconal year.

For **Priest** candidates, the transitional diaconate typically lasts for one year. A person with previous pastoral leadership experience may request a period of six to nine months. The Bishop makes the final decision on the duration of the transitional diaconate.

For **Deacon** candidates, the first year as a deacon is a time of formation, learning and development.

From Anglican Church in North America Canons

Canon 3, Section 3 - Concerning Length of Diaconate

1. We recognize the importance of the Vocational Diaconate as an essential and historic ministry of the Church.
2. A Transitional Deacon shall not be ordained to the office of Presbyter for at least one year, unless the Bishop having jurisdiction shall find good cause for the contrary, so that the Deacon's manner of life and ministry may be tested and observed before admission to the order of Presbyter.

DATE OF ORDINATION

New deacons are ordained on the campus of HopePointe Anglican Church during our Diocesan annual Synod which occurs in November each year. Every effort is made for presbyter ordinations to take place at the home church of the candidate. The ordinations in the home church need to be scheduled 6 to 12 months in advance, working with the Bishop's office and your Sr. Pastor/Rector.

PLANNING OF ORDINATION LITURGY

The **Ordinal** is a complete resource for the preparation of the ordination service. The service should be created based on the approved Ordinal. The service must be approved by the Bishop.

RETREAT WITH BISHOP & DEANS

During the Candidacy phase for the Diaconal Ordination, a retreat is held for those who will be ordained. This is a gathering for those who are in the final stages of the process. This retreat is designed to better equip and encourage those who have been faithfully preparing for ordained ministry. The Bishop, Deans, and Diocesan Clergy support this final step in the ordination journey.

IDENTIFY LAY AND CLERGY PRESENTERS

Each Ordinand invites two lay sponsors and one clergy sponsor to the ordination service. It is preferable that one lay sponsor be the spouse of the candidate, if possible. It is preferable that the clergy sponsor be the Sr. Pastor/Rector or clergy mentor of the candidate.

The role of the sponsoring clergy and lay presenters is an important role. These individuals will be seated near you and your family during the ordination service. All presenters will have a role in the ordination that requires they come forward and present you before the Bishop and the congregation.

ORDINATION VESTMENTS

As soon as possible, order a white cassock-alb and a red deacon's stole. Online vestment suppliers include: almy.com, psgvestments.com. If you need help with selection, please see your sponsoring clergy.

