



Anglican Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast

ASPIRANT

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.

DIACONAL CORE COMPETENCIES INTERNSHIP

The Aspirant's Senior Pastor/Rector serves as the Core Competency mentor, as he will be the one to recommend, on the local level, from his experience and perspective, if and when the Aspirant has shown competency in the required areas. The Senior Pastor/Rector may assign someone else, at his discretion from the local congregation to assist him in the mentorship assessment process, if he desires. In this case, both his and the assisting mentor's initials should be included on the Core Competency Assessment.

The **core competencies** internship is to be completed prior to becoming a Candidate and conducted regularly over the course of the 6 - 12 month internship. The competency mentor will write a brief evaluation for each competency and will go over the evaluation with the Aspirant. When completed the original should be sent to:

Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast
HopePointeAnglicanChurch
Campus 3333 So. Panther Creek Dr.
The Woodlands, TX 77381
ATTN: Sandy, Ministry Formation Administrator

LOCAL PARISH DISCERNMENT PROCESS

The Senior Pastor/Rector organizes a team of lay people to meet with the Aspirant over three to six months. This team makes a recommendation to the Vestry/Leadership of the church. They may recommend a call to ordained ministry, or a call to lay ministry or possibly a period of continued discernment or preparation.

IDENTIFY SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Equipping and preparing clergy is, at its core, a spiritual endeavor that must include the spiritual formation of the Aspirant. Each Aspirant should have a spiritual director that they meet with face-to-face and at least once a month for the duration of the journey into ministry (and actually, it is recommended as a discipline throughout ministry life). This spiritual director is not to be a guide to the process but someone who, through relationship, will pray for and with the aspirant and encourage them to a deeper living faith. There should be regular contact between the aspirant and spiritual director throughout the process.

CONVERSATION WITH THE DEAN OF DEACONS

A meeting should be scheduled with Deacon Lisa Schwandt - Dean of Deacons either in person or by video conference.

BACKGROUND CHECK

We are required by canon to complete a criminal background check, a credit check, and a motor vehicle check, along with full employment and personal references for the past ten years. There are fees for this service that the Aspirant is responsible for and payment must be received by the Diocesan House – Credentialing Office prior to proceeding with the required checks/assessment. Please contact the Diocesan House – Ministry Formation Administrator when you are ready to proceed. Email – sandy@dwgc.org, Phone – 281-466-1972.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT/ MARRIAGE ASSESSMENT

Ordained ministry has unique challenges that can have negative effects on both individual and family relationships. If a person does not have emotional health or healthy supportive relationships, their potential for successful ministry may be significantly hindered. To address these issues and to provide support and guidance for potential areas of concern, we require assessments of aspirant and their spouse/fiancee. The reports of these assessments will be sent to the Credentialing Office. There is a cost for this service that the aspirant is responsible for. The fee is directly paid to the individual counselor providing the service.

Also, please forward Marriage License, Decree of Divorce (if applicable), New Marriage License (if applicable), Petition of Consideration (if applicable) to the Diocesan House – Ministry Formation Administrator.

Note that the Archbishop, according to the ACNA Constitution and Canons MUST approve Aspirants who are seeking ordination when there has been a divorce in the individual's past. This step should be completed sooner than later. The Anglican Church in North America does not normally admit persons to Holy Orders who have divorced and remarried. Special application for consideration (which is made by your clergy sponsor) can be made to the Bishop of the Diocese, who if approves, will forward a Petition of Consideration to the Archbishop. Good cause in particular in light of Matthew 19 and 1 Corinthians 7, may be considered grounds to remove the impediment.

From the Anglican Church of North America Canons

Canon 2, Section 4 - Concerning Requirements for Married Candidates With and Without Children In the case of persons who are or have been married, and/or have children, every Bishop shall take care that such persons manage their own family well, for as Holy Scripture attests, "If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?" (1 Timothy 3:4-5, 12; Titus 1:6).

Canon 2, Section 5 - Concerning Upholding the Sanctity of Marriage Especially for Those to Be Ordained Marriage as a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman, where the two become one flesh, is both an ordinance of Creation, affirmed as such by our Lord, and commended by Saint Paul as a sign of the mystical union between Christ and his Church (Matthew 19:3-9; Ephesians 5:22-32). As wholesome examples and patterns to the entire flock of Christ, all married persons to be admitted to Holy Orders shall remain married to their spouse for life, and in accordance with the vows they exchanged in Holy Matrimony. Subject to Section 6 of this Canon, no person shall be admitted into Holy Orders who has divorced and remarried.

ANNUAL SYNOD ATTENDANCE

Our Diocesan Synod, an annual gathering of all the churches in The Diocese of the Western Gulf Coast, takes place in November of each year. This gathering includes a brief business meeting, but primarily is a time of fellowship, uplifting worship, great presentations and teaching . . . all in the company of other clergy and lay people from churches around the Diocese. This is an impactful gathering for everyone and time for the Lord's encouragement!

