



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH ~ COMMISSION ON MINISTRY MANUAL

FORM E: Report of the Parish Discernment Committee (PDC) to the Vestry

Name of Aspirant _____

Report Date _____

Starting Date of PDC _____ Ending Date _____

Sponsoring Congregation _____ City _____

PDC Chair Name _____

PDC Chair Cell Number _____

PDC Chair Email Address _____

Rector/Sponsoring Priest Name _____

Rector/Sponsoring Priest Cell Number _____ Office _____

Rector/Sponsoring Priest Email Address _____

As each parish and PDC are unique, the report should include an overview of the process undertaken by the Committee. This should include the number of meetings held, the names of committee members, significant points of disagreement, if any, the final consensus of the Committee, whether the report is endorsed by all members of the committee, and the grounds for any voices opposing the consensus.

The report should provide sufficient detail about the nature of the Committee's interaction with the nominee in the discernment process to demonstrate that a full, fair, and informed process was conducted. This would include key questions asked of the nominee, their responses and new insights learned about the nominee and their spiritual journey.

Report topics: The following clusters of questions are intended to serve as a guide to the subjects that the Committee should explore with the Inquirer.

Spiritual: In what discernible ways is the Inquirer already engaged in the disciplines of prayer and worship? How does the person's life reflect the love of God? What has the Committee learned about the person's devotional life and discipline? Is the person regular in attending worship and participating in the liturgy?

Family: What is the nature of the Inquirer's significant relationships? How has the Inquirer tested or explored this call with family and friends? If they have a spouse/partner, how does that person feel about this call? Does the Inquirer understand they might need to relocate for part of the process if they are discerning for the priesthood?

Personal: How do they spend Sabbath time? Leisure time? Does the Inquirer have a stable employment history? What else have did the Committee learn from the person's



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employment history? What unusual gifts, skills, or experiences does the Inquirer bring to ministry?

Parish & Church: Describe the Inquirer's ability to develop and maintain relationships in the parish. Is the Inquirer encouraging and enabling of other people's ministries? How has the Inquirer demonstrated leadership in the parish community? Can they accept the authority of others? What experiences does the Inquirer have in ministry and service in the Church and in the community?

Outlook: Does the person think theologically, giving evidence of an awareness of God's involvement as much in the ordinary and the everyday as in the sacred? How has the Inquirer experienced and integrated loss, change or adversity? How might the Inquirer respond to the stresses and expectations of formation for ordained ministry?

Call: How does the Inquirer understand their call? how is it expressed in their current ministry? In what specific ways does the Inquirer believe that ordination would serve their sense of call? Does the Inquirer understand that ordained ministry generally requires leaving the sponsoring congregation to serve the wider Church under the direction of Bishops?

Concerns: Does the Committee have any concerns about the Inquirer's fitness for ministry? Is there defensiveness or other evidence of insecurity? Are the person's expectations of themselves, and of others, realistic? In what areas does the Inquirer need particular care and guidance for further growth?

Past: Does the Inquirer have a history of problematic substance use or any other situation that might be revealed in a background check that needs to be addressed before entering into formation for ordained ministry? If so, how has the Inquirer attended to it?

Learning: Describe the Inquirer's attitude to learning. Are they teachable and able to learn from other perspectives? What evidence did the Committee see of the Inquirer's skills in crossing barriers of class, race, culture, education and age? Does the Committee believe this person is capable of meeting the challenges of seminary or diaconal formation, and of the ministry?

Deacon: All ordained clergy in the Episcopal Church are ordained a Deacon. Does the Inquirer have a deacon's character, being able to serve without the need for recognition? For additional guidance on a deacon's specific role, please refer to the liturgy for Ordination to the Diaconate in the Book of Common Prayer, beginning on page 537.

Timing: How is the Inquirer experiencing now their call to ordained ministry? In what ways is the Inquirer currently engaged in service to the church through leadership, pastoral care, community service or other specific involvement? What new ministries do they imagine undertaking in the future? Why is this the right time to pursue a call to ordained ministry?

Alternatives: If the Inquirer is not invited into the ordination process, where might they be called to serve? What steps might they take to discern and prepare for these lay ministries?



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We, the undersigned, as members of the PDC, recommend to the vestry of (*parish name*)

_____ that (*name of aspirant*)

_____ be nominated to continue to discern

his/her/their call to Holy Orders in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh under the COM.

PARISH DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Submitted by:

Signature of PDC Chair

Printed Name of PDC Chair

Date

Approved by:

Signature of Rector/Sponsoring Priest

Printed Name of Rector/Sponsoring Priest

Date

Completed original forms should be submitted to:

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
Attention: Executive Assistant to the Bishop
325 Oliver Avenue, Suite 300
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Or electronically to arath@episcopalpgh.org

Copies scanned/sent/emailed to Chair, Commission on Ministry, jlsphone1@gmail.com