**DISCERNMENT ‘CURRICULUM’
for CANDIDATES FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY**

The Criteria for Selection provide a framework and tool for the Discernment Process, Selection Panels and SEI’s Formation Outcomes for ordinands. Conversations and reports are shaped around the Criteria. So it is important for candidates to engage with the Criteria from an early stage. They will have to provide evidence for having fulfilled each Criterion.

This Discernment Curriculum does not have the rigidity of a ‘course’, but should be viewed more along the lines of ‘accumulating a portfolio’. Candidates should undertake some but not necessarily all of the suggested reflections and activities.

**A: CHRISTIAN TRADITION, FAITH AND LIFE**

Plot your faith journey, asking questions such as ‘who was God for me at this point?’, ‘where was God?’, ‘how did I develop in faith?’ and so on. (Could use visuals etc. as well as words)

Take a well-known hymn and explore/identify its ideas as examples of Christian doctrine.

Identify the theological significance of the major feasts of the Church year.

Write on ‘What it means to be a Christian’ for several different contexts, e.g. church magazine; local newspaper; church study group …

Participate in some form of discussion (any subject) with people of a different perspective from yours.

Describe an experience and identify a Biblical passage or character which helps you to reflect theologically on it.

Write an article on a contemporary issue from a Christian point of view.

 **B: SPIRITUALITY AND WORSHIP**

Meet regularly with Spiritual Director / Soul Friend.

Describe how leading worship in various ways has illuminated your sense of vocation.

Write a reflection on worship experienced at a church other than candidate’s home church.

Explore different modes of spirituality.

Write up an Ignatian reflection or creative piece on discernment of God’s presence in own life/life of world.

 **C: PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER**

Assessment of self – e.g. using MBTI, Enneagram, ‘write own obituary’.

Life-map/history and what it reveals about character and personality – responses to events.

Try an activity that you can probably not excel in and reflect on the experience.

Psychological assessment (only if needed).

 **D: RELATIONSHIPS**

Do some practice pastoral exercises.

Reflection on pastoral experience and on situations of conflict.

Experience of diversity of various kinds - e.g. by visits to groups outside usual experience or comfort zone.

 **F: MISSION AND EVANGELISM AND DEVELOPING DISCIP-LESHIP**

Engage in missional activity and participate in mission planning in the congregation.

Look at 5 Marks of Mission and put them in order of priority (for you) and explain why.

Identify a current film, TV programme, novel, game etc. which could be used as a basis for evangelism and demonstrate how.

Write an account of how you have encouraged and developed someone else’s faith.

Make a survey of your local context, identifying the possibilities for mission and evangelism within it. How would you go about partnering with others and finding necessary resources?

 **G: LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY**

Study leadership styles and be aware of own leadership style (questionnaires/analytical tools can be made available).

Get some experience of presenting a topic, leading discussions and collaborating on a project.

Reflect on the experience of leading change; collaborating; leading teams.

 **F: VOCATION AND MINISTRY IN THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Reading (see Reading list) .

Filling out the Registration Form.

Reflection on the Ordinal – write 1500-2000 words on ‘The office of a priest’?

Ecclesiology of the SEC (e.g. look at Grosvenor Essay 4 (2007) from the Doctrine Committee of SEC ‘The shape of our Church’).

Visit to or placement in a church in a different context and/or different tradition of SEC.

Reflect on authority, service and servant ministry, discipline, hierarchy.