**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DISCERNMENT OF MINISTRY**

**INITIAL ENQUIRY FOR VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT**

*Please read the notes at the end before completing,  
and then return to* [*PDO@scotland.anglican.org*](mailto:PDO@scotland.anglican.org)

**Candidate’s name:** Click or tap here to enter the candidate’s name in full

**Address:** Click or tap here to enter the candidate’s postal address

**Email:**  Click or tap here to enter the candidate’s email address

**Telephone:** Click or tap here to enter landline/mobile phone number

**Charge(s):** Click or tap here to enter text.

How long have you known this person?

Click or tap here to enter the number of years/months

Have they been a member of the congregation for the minimum 2 years? Click to choose yes/no

What types of church activity do they get involved in?

Click or tap here to list the types of activity

How long have you been discussing the idea of vocational discernment with them?

Click or tap here to enter the time in years/months

Have you any concerns about their personal life?

(*Please read Guidance Regarding Domestic Circumstances of Candidates for Ordination* below)

Click or tap here to enter any concerns after reading the guidance below

**Please comment on the candidate in relation to the summary Criteria for Selection:**

**A CHRISTIAN TRADITION, FAITH AND LIFE**

Candidates have a personal commitment to Christian faith. They show a knowledge and understanding of the key beliefs of the Christian faith, and can communicate their faith engagingly and effectively. Candidates respect and engage with those whose understanding of faith is different from their own. They live out their faith in their life.

*Comment*:

Click or tap here to enter your comment under Christian tradition, faith and life

**B**  **SPIRITUALITY AND WORSHIP**

Candidates show evidence of a commitment to a spiritual discipline, and their spirituality is deepening. Candidates have a growing understanding of spirituality and worship, and have some experience of leading prayer and worship with others.

*Comment*:

Click or tap here to enter your comment under spirituality and worship

**C PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER**

Candidates have a secure sense of self and know how to care for themselves. Candidates have the resilience to operate in complex situations. Candidates have honesty and integrity. Candidates have a robust personality and character and enjoy being with other people.

*Comment*:

Click or tap here to enter your comment under personality and character

**D RELATIONSHIPS**

Candidates’ relationships are grounded in the love and compassion of God. They have a range of healthy personal and professional relationships, and maintain appropriate boundaries between personal and professional life and within pastoral relationships. Candidates have good interpersonal skills and have the potential to exercise effective pastoral care.

*Comment*:

Click or tap here to enter your comment under relationships

**E MISSION, EVANGELISM AND DEVELOPING DISCIPLESHIP**

Candidates demonstrate their commitment to mission and evangelism in their thought, prayer and action. They have a knowledge and understanding of mission and evangelism and effective communication skillsfor them. Candidates are committed to developing the discipleship of others.

*Comment*:

Click or tap here to enter your comment under mission, evangelism and developing discipleship

**F LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY**

Candidates have the potential to exercise leadership in the Church and the wider community. They have good communication skills. Candidates have the potential to lead strategically and they collaborate with others. Candidates understand and work with the dynamics of a community.

*Comment*:

Click or tap here to enter your comment under leadership, collaboration and community

**G VOCATION AND MINISTRY WITHIN THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Candidates can articulate an inner sense of call and have also had their call affirmed by others. They are obedient to the Church’s call to ministry and what that may involve. Candidates are informed about their potential ministry and have knowledge of and commitment to the Scottish Episcopal Church. Candidates have a realistic vocation and the overall potential to be formed for ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church.

*Comment*:

Click or tap here to enter your comment under vocation and ministry within the SEC

**NOTES FOR INCUMBENTS/PRIESTS**

1. **This form is to be used for potential candidates enquiring about Ordained ministry and Lay Readership, as well as authorised ministries established locally**.

Vocational Diaconate and Priesthood (assistant and incumbent) and most chaplaincies require ordination. Lay Readership requires the same period of formation and training. Authorised ministries, including lay chaplaincies are locally discerned but the discernment process is overseen provincially. After completion of this form the enquirer will be assigned a Vocations Adviser, who will explore all these possible pathways for ministry and explain the Discernment Process. Although you may inform a candidate of a particular ministry, a different one may be discerned for them during their vocational journey. Completing this form does not indicate any form of authorisation at the outset. Only bishops can recommend an enquirer for authorised ministry and training for ordained ministry. Please discuss your completed recommendation with the individual before sending to the PDO as the SEC Discernment process is transparent for the Enquirer/Candidate with all completed documentation.

1. **Make sure that you know the candidate sufficiently well to recommend them**. Could you describe the quality of their activities in the church? Do you know whom they relate well to and whom not so well? How do they react to conflict, failure or disappointment? What do they do in their leisure time? If you find these questions hard to answer, you may need to take more time to get to know them better.
2. **If you think someone is unsuitable, say so now.** Be careful that you are not influenced to put forward a candidate because of their personal needs or pressure from others. The further an unsuitable candidate goes in the discernment process, the more painful an eventual non-recommendation is.
3. **Do allow the work of the Holy Spirit to unfold gradually.** Candidates will work with Vocations Advisers, Assistant DDOs, the PDO, the Advisory Selection Panel and the Bishop to discern what God may be calling them to, and you do not need to anticipate this work. You are being asked to make observations in the light of the Criteria, not to guide the candidate through these Criteria. However, your observations are very valuable, because you will have known them the longest.

**COLLEGE OF BISHOPS:   
Guidance regarding the Domestic Circumstances of Candidates for Ordination**

During the process of exploring the possibility of ordination, it is important that candidates reflect on the promises set out in the Scottish Ordinal 1984. These include a declaration made in response to the question:  
 *“Will you, in all your dealings with others, in the life of the Church and in your home, seek to show an example of obedience to the way of Christ?”*

This is an expression of the teaching of the Church that faithful, committed relationships are a reflection of the generous, covenanted love of God.

In the light of this, the Diocesan Bishop has to be satisfied that, at the point in the process of discernment at which they are sponsoring a candidate to a Bishops’ Advisory Panel, the candidate’s chosen lifestyle reflects this teaching, as expressed in the Ordinal. In practice this means that if a candidate is living in a committed relationship they should, by that point in the process of discernment, be either married or in a civil partnership.

College of Bishops September 2018