

Commission on Ministry What we Seek in a Priest

The Church is the family of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. All baptized people are called to make Christ known as Savior and Lord, and to share in the renewing of the world. The Church calls a priest to work as a pastor, priest, and teacher, together with bishops and fellow presbyters, and to take a share in the councils of the Church.

A priest's task is to proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ, fashioning his or her life in accordance with its precepts. A priest is called to love and serve the community in which he or she is called, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor. The priest is to preach, to declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners, to pronounce God's blessing, to share in the administration of Holy Baptism and in the celebration of the mysteries of Christ's Body and Blood, and to perform the other entrusted ministrations.

In all things, a priest is to nourish Christ's people from the riches of his grace, strengthening them to glorify God in this life and in the life to come.

-adapted from the Book of Common Prayer, Ordination of a Priest

Personal Qualities

- Deep grounding in, and commitment to, the Christian faith
- Healthy patterns of life in study, prayer, self-care, and self-awareness and discipline
- Proven strength to establish, develop, and maintain relationships
- Openness and courage
- Ability and willingness to engage conflict and seek reconciliation
- Demonstrated gifts in leading people to identify and achieve goals
- Curiosity coupled with a desire to learn and grow
- Effectiveness in communication

Pastor

- Gifts of discernment and spiritual care
- Compassion for the sick, the dying, and those in crisis
- Gifts to form a group of people who care for one another

Priest

- Deep grounding in, and love of, the sacraments
- Commitment and ability to prepare the congregation for worship

Excellence in leading the assembly at prayer
Gifts to preach the Good News in ways that encourage, inspire, challenge
Demonstrated familiarity with resources of the Episcopal Church:
Bible, Book of Common Prayer, EOW, Hymnal 1982, supplemental hymnals, supplemental texts and resources

Teacher

Confident familiarity with Scripture and the faith of the Church
Commitment to help the community and individuals grow in faith
Depth and clarity of theological perspective
Ability to relate an accessible message

Colleague in Councils

Awareness of Church structures and the roles people play within those
Commitment to connect within the parish and in the wider Church

Leader and Organizer

Capacity to read and respond to organizational needs
Ability to effectively convene gatherings, meetings
Gifts and willingness to recruit and develop leaders in ministry
Commitment and capacity to supervise staff and volunteers
Awareness of administrative skills and necessities
Commitment to continued reflection and evaluation