

## **Presbyterate Formation Team (PFT) General Formation Expectations**

What follows is a list of expectations for postulants to the priesthood in The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. Each postulant is expected to meet these basic expectations, along with any others recommended by the Bishop, Commission on Ministry (COM), and/or the postulant. A member of the PFT will be assigned to a postulant to help shape the formation with the postulant so that the formation is thorough, deep, and meets the needs of the church and respects and addresses the history, needs, and context of the postulant. While these expectations are normative, the PFT recognizes that some postulants will meet expectations in particularized ways.

### **PFT Basic Expectations of Postulants to the Priesthood**

- **M.Div. from accredited seminary.** Because seminary is about formation of the whole person for the priesthood and not just a series of classes, residential seminary is the most desirable educational option for postulants. If residential seminary is not possible, the postulant may consult with the Bishop, COM, and PFT about attending an on-line or hybrid Episcopal seminary. Other sites and degrees negotiated with the Bishop, COM and PFT.
- **Anglican Preparation:** Anglican History, Anglican Liturgy and Worship, Anglican Theology and Ethics, Constitutions and Canons (this competency may be shown in a variety of ways).
- **Field Education:** If not completing field education as part of seminary, a postulant should consult with the PFT to be placed in an approved parish or alternative site that differs from their sending parish. Postulants should participate in their field education for at least 10 hours a week for a total of 400 hours. The field education supervisor must participate in the Diocesan cohort.
- **CPE:** A site with a CPE supervisor or an internship at a church or non-profit with CPE supervision through Bishop Anderson House. If neither of these are appropriate, the postulant should work with the PFT to identify an appropriate alternative.
- **Spiritual Director:** Postulants should meet regularly with a spiritual director, no less than every other month.
- **Worship:** Postulants participate regularly in the Daily Office, in person or online.
- **Diocesan Cohort:** Postulants meet quarterly with the current cohort of diocesan postulants at or near the Ember Days. Three of the meetings are on Zoom for two hours; one meeting is in person for an in-person Retreat near the Ember Days following the Feast of Pentecost.
- **Other recommendations:** The Bishop, COM, and / or PFT may have additional recommendations depending on a postulant's life experience, such as conflict mediation training, community organizing training, coursework specific to interests, and so on. Therapy may be recommended based on one's psychological evaluations and / or conversations with the Bishop.

**Diocesan Requirements: Contact Louisa McKellaston at the Diocese.**

- Anti-Racism Training
- Safeguarding Training
- Ember Day Letters to Bishop
- Others as noted