

## Requirements for Reception of Clergy in Full Communion with the Episcopal Church

January 23, 2023

Clergy from the following denominations are in full communion with Episcopal Church and do not need to enter formal discernment to serve Episcopal congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts:

- Anglican Churches in communion with the See of Canterbury and the Episcopal Church
- The Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht
- The Philippine Independent Church
- The Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar
- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Clergy from these denominations and should contact Laura Simons ([lsimons@diomass.org](mailto:lsimons@diomass.org)) in the Bishop's Office to receive permission to officiate in the Diocese of Massachusetts.

Should a deacon or priest wish to be received formally into the Episcopal Church, the requirements, governed by the provisions of Canon III.10, Of Reception of Clergy from Other Churches, are as follows:

- a background check
- medical and psychological evaluations
- training on preventing sexual misconduct, reporting requirements concerning abuse, Title IV (clergy disciplinary canons) and racial reconciliation
- examination in the history, worship and government of the Episcopal Church
- Letters Dimissory, or their equivalent, under the seal of the Bishop with whose diocese the person has been last connected
- a certificate regarding moral and godly character and theological qualifications
- the signing of the oath of ordination (Article VIII of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church) in the presence of the Bishop and two Presbyters
- the assignment of a member of the clergy to serve as a mentor

## **Application Checklist**

### **Canonical Requirements**

- Background Check
- Medical Examination
- Psychological Evaluation
- Safe Church Training
- Title IV Training
- Training regarding the Church's teaching on racism
- Examination in the history, worship and government of the Episcopal Church, including an essay discussing the points of Doctrine, Discipline, Polity, and Worship in which the Church from which the applicant has come differs from this Church

### **Application Checklist**

- Autobiography
- Resume
- Essay discussing the points of Doctrine, Discipline, Polity, and Worship in which the Church from which the applicant has come differs from this Church

### **Reception Requirements**

- Consent the Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee
- Letters Dimissory, or their equivalent, under the seal of the Bishop with whose diocese the person has been last connected, assuring that the person's "letters of Holy Orders and other credentials are valid and authentic"
- Certificate regarding moral and godly character and theological qualifications
- Letter to the Bishop promising "to submit in all things to the Discipline of this Church, without recourse to any foreign jurisdiction, civil or ecclesiastical"
- Bishop approves first pastoral cure
- Priest signs of the oath of ordination (Article VIII of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church) in the presence of the Bishop and two Presbyters
- Bishop assigns a member of the clergy to serve as a mentor