



Called to Ministry

Section 3: Holy Orders

Doc 3F: Personal Reflection

**Guidelines for Ministry of all the Baptized,
Lay Licensed Ministries, and Holy Orders**

for the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

Commission on the Ministry of the Baptized

The Commission on the Ministry of the Baptized serves to guide and empower all baptized people in discerning their ministries.

European Institute for Christian studies

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Holy Orders: Personal Reflection

Self-assessment, Check-list and Reflection

A significant part of the process of discernment is an honest and realistic assessment of one's own gifts and talents balanced against one's life experience.

All licensed lay and ordained ministries require training of some kind, and some also depend on previous education, abilities, background, previous work experience and even languages spoken.

The more formal application documents that will be needed to advance you to the stage of licensing or ordination will help your priest, the Bishop and the various committees and persons who will be closely involved with you along the way.

This document will alert you to some of the kinds of questions you will be asked, some of the assessments that will be made and some of the personal insights you will be asked to comment upon. It may also help you to focus on the kinds of ministry to which you are best suited.

Basic information

- Full name, previous or changed names
- Home and work postal addresses
- Personal and work E-Mail addresses
- Personal and work Telephone numbers
- Fax numbers if available
- Present occupation
- Date of birth
- Place of birth
- Citizenship or legal resident status
- Marital status – single, engaged, married, widowed, divorced, remarried.
- If engaged, date of engagement
- If married, date of marriage
- Spouse's name
- If divorced, have documents of decree available.
- Family statistics, including children from a previous marriage – include names and ages.

- Date and place of your baptism, officiant's name, certificate or proof.
- If baptized in another denomination, which one?
- Date and place of your Confirmation. Bishop's name, certificate or proof.
- If confirmed in another denomination, which one?
- Present church membership, date of affiliation and activities.
- Have you ever applied for lay or ordained ministry in the past? What is the history and outcome of your application(s).
- Are you ordained in another denomination? To what order? What is your history of ministry as an ordained person? Are your certificates and proof of credentials available? What is your present status in that denomination?
- What is the history of your education? Areas of study, certifications or degrees you hold, including graduate and post graduate degrees.
- Names of the colleges and institutions you have attended. Are transcripts available?
- What is your Employment History? Employers, positions, dates and locations. Start with the most recent.
- Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanour?
- Has any formal or informal charge, claim or complaint ever been made that you engaged in inappropriate sexual behaviour? Be prepared to provide a statement indicating the nature of any offenses and the judgments rendered.
- Is English your mother tongue?
- What are your language abilities? Do you speak, write/read any languages other than English, and to what degree of fluency?

Personal reflection

Here is a suggested format for writing a personal reflection about your perception of your call to ministry and your motivations:

- a) your personal circumstances, education and life-experience to this point, including an account of your spiritual development and faith commitment,
- b) the particular ministry to which you feel called, the reason for that sense, and personal qualifications for such a ministry, and
- c) the possible ways and settings in which that ministry could be exercised and how it would help the Convocation to carry forward its mission.