

New National Discernment Process for Vocations to Ordained Ministry Fact Sheet

Summary

Following a long period of review, the national approach to discerning vocations to ordained ministry in the Church of England is being transformed from September 2020. The current nine criteria are being replaced with a discernment grid focused on six qualities and BAPs are being replaced with a new two stage national discernment process.

New Process Overview

Parish Discernment	Parish clergy identify and support people being open to God's call on their lives and then refer those called to commissioned, licensed or ordained ministry to the Director of Vocations
Diocesan Discernment Phase 1	<p>All candidates regardless of potential vocation will see both the Director of Vocations and the Sponsoring Bishop for an initial assessment.</p> <p>They will then normally work with a Vocations Advisor to help clarify their potential vocation before returning to the Director of Vocations for a progress meeting.</p> <p>Candidates for ordained ministry will then be sent on placement to a different parish for about one month.</p> <p>Candidates will also work with an ADDO to complete their preparation for the National Stage 1 assessment.</p>
National Stage 1	<p>This is a non-residential interview day with six short 15 minute interviews using supportive creative interview techniques. It is focused on the foundations for all ministry: Love for God, Love for People and Call.</p> <p>The output is a short report highlighting the candidate's strengths and areas to work on. No determinative recommendations are made at this time.</p>
Diocesan Discernment Phase 2	<p>Candidates work with the ADDO to build on the report from the National Stage 1.</p> <p>They also work on the remaining areas of the discernment grid.</p> <p>When ready, candidates are referred for two interviews with the Examining Chaplains, who will interview in pairs.</p> <p>The Examining Chaplains provide the Sponsoring Bishop with a concise report from each interview.</p> <p>The Sponsoring Bishop interviews each candidate to decide whether to send them to the National Stage 2 discernment process.</p>
National Stage 2	<p>Candidates will have two interviews and one team exercise.</p> <p>The output is a short report with 5 possible outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended for training • Recommended for training with advice • Recommended for training with conditions • Not yet recommended for training • Not recommended