**Postulancy Application**

*Please note the word limits in each section. If there is no word limit, the expectation is that there is a brief, straight-forward answer. Limits/ranges are not meant to stifle you, but to be sure readers can give their full attention to what you’ve shared.*

**Part I: Personal History**

**General Information**

* Name:
* Address:
* Telephone numbers:
* Email address:
* Date and place of birth:

**Church Affiliation**

* Congregation in the Diocese of North Carolina:
	+ How long have you been a member of this congregation?
	+ Presenting priest:
* Baptism (date, church and denomination):
* Confirmation (date, church and denomination):
* If applicable, reception into the Episcopal Church (date and church):
* Have you applied for Postulancy in this diocese or another diocese of the Episcopal Church? If so, please provide full details.

**Education**

* Undergraduate (name, location):
	+ Degree received, major/field and graduation date:
* Graduate/professional school (name, location):
	+ Degree received, major/field and graduation date:
* Does your transcript reflect your capacity for learning? (up to 250 words)

**Resume**

Please attach your resume. (2 page limit)

**Family**

The questions in this section are intended to provide an understanding of your family of origin and the people with whom you currently share your life. Not all questions will apply to every nominee.

**Spouse, if applicable**

* Full name of spouse, partner, or fiancé:
* Date/place of spouse’s birth:
* Date/place of marriage:
* What is his/her religious background?

Please describe your relationship with him or her. (125-250 words)

Please describe the conversations the two of you have had regarding your sense of call to ordained ministry. What are you looking forward to? What worries you? (125-250 words)

Please attach a letter of support from your spouse (one page, double spaced).

**[Previous Marriage, if applicable]**

If you have been married previously:

Please describe your separation as well as your current relationship with him/her.(125-500 words)

How did you seek help/support through and after the separation? (125-250 words)

What have you learned about yourself as a result? (125-250 words)

**Children, if applicable**

Name: Date of Birth (for each):

Please describe your relationship with each of your children. (125-250 words per child)

**Parents**

* Father’s name, age, occupation and religious affiliation:
* Mother’s name, age, occupation and religious affiliation:
* Parents’ marital status:

Please describe your relationships with your parents. (250-500 words)

Please describe your parents’ responses to your desire to enter ordained ministry. (125-250 words)

**Siblings, if applicable**

* Name, age and religious affiliation (for each):

Please describe your relationships with your siblings. (up to 125 words per sibling)

**Financial** (up to 150 words)

Please describe your current financial situation. Do you anticipate ordination impacting your household budget in a significant manner? Do you have any debts or financial concerns about pursuing ordination?

Regardless of prior education, further study may be required through this process. If you are asked to enroll in seminary as part of your formation process, how much do you expect it to cost? How do you plan to finance it?

**Medical History**

Please describe any medical health, mental health or cognitive/developmental issues that may have a bearing on your ministry. (up to 250 words)

**Social and Recreational**

What hobbies, interests, social and recreational outlets do you have? Why are they important to you? (75-125 word limit)

**Part II: Reflections (Personal Essays)**

1. Describe your relationship with Jesus Christ. How has your sense of who Jesus is changed through your lifetime (from childhood to the present)? What do you want the world to know about your faith in Christ? What informs your faith? (1000-1500 words)
2. When you hear the word “church” what associations, images, metaphors and models come to mind? How does your sense of call to ordination fit into your understanding of “church?” (250-500 words)
3. How would you approach bi-vocational or part-time work in living out your sense of call to ordination? What skills/resources do you have that would make this possible? (250-500 words)
4. One of the priorities of the Diocese of North Carolina is racial reconciliation. How have you engaged with this work? What is the church’s role in this work? (250-500 words)
5. Describe your prayer life. Has it changed over time? And in what ways does your prayer life shape your vocation and call to ordination? (250-500 words)
6. Reflecting on 1 Cor 12: 12-31 and the Body of Christ, describe a time when your role in the body was difficult? How did you handle it? What did you and others learn? (250-500 words)
7. Tell the story of your experience of a call to ordination, including the call you’ve heard from your community as well as God’s call within you.(750-1250 words)

Your response should address:

a.       Significant life events that influence your personal and spiritual development.

b.       Your first ‘inkling’ and consideration of ordained ministry.

c.       Individuals who may have influenced your decision to pursue this journey.

d.       How your sense of call has been tested.

e.       The gifts, skills and unique witness you feel you bring to the Church and your practice of ministry.

f.        What you expect to receive from your ministry, if anything, in return.

g.       Your ‘fallback’ plan if your sense of call is not affirmed by the Church at this time?

Please reflect on the following questions. These are asked of ordinands at many stages of the process. If you answer “yes” to any of the following, please indicate which question, and reflect on this in a short essay. Note: A “yes” answer does not necessarily stop your process, but it provides opportunity for important conversation.

1. Since becoming an adult, have you ever violated any of the Ten Commandments in any substantial way? Have you ever violated a sacred trust or vow, or committed infidelity?
2. Has your use of alcohol or drugs ever met the diagnostic criteria for alcohol or drug use disorder, according to the DSM? (add link) Have you ever been charged with a crime related to alcohol or drug use?
3. Have you ever had sexual contact or attempted sexual contact (sexual intercourse of any kind, intentional touching, or conversation for the purpose of sexual arousal) with someone when you were in a position of authority over that person?
4. Since reaching adulthood (18 years of age), have you ever had or attempted sexual contact with someone who was under 18 years of age at the time?
5. Have you ever been involved in the production, sale or distribution of pornographic materials?
6. Have you ever engaged in physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of another person?
7. Have you ever used social media or other digital platforms, including under an alias name, for the purpose of engaging in covert romantic relationships or extra-marital affairs, or in which you expressed thoughts or opinions that you would not want attributed to you as a member of the clergy of the Church?
8. Since reaching adulthood, has disciplinary action been taken or a complaint lodged against you by an educational institution, employer, or any other organization with which you were affiliated? Have you ever been fired from a job for reasons related to your actions or behavior?
9. Have you ever had a civil suit brought against you relative to your professional work? Have you ever had professional malpractice insurance suspended or revoked for any reason?
10. Have you ever been charged with any ethics violations or been formally accused of ethical or professional misconduct?
11. Have you ever been charged, arrested, and/or convicted for any felony or misdemeanor? Has your driver license ever been suspended or revoked?
12. Have you ever had a court order issued against you because of domestic violence, or had your parental rights restricted or terminated?
13. Have you ever been accused of or charged with embezzlement or any other breach of fiduciary duty?
14. Is there anything in your present or past that, if it became generally known, would embarrass you, your family, or the Church?
15. Have you ever held or taught anything contrary to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of TEC?
16. Could there be any reasonable objection to your ordination on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds?