



To be called and chosen for ordained ministry in the Church of God at any time is a privilege and joy.

To be called and chosen in a time as exciting as this is a creative and Godly labour.

If you believe you are being called to join God's mission in the Diocese of Niagara, we would love to meet you.

Every blessing during this time of discernment. May God give you the ears to hear and the eyes to see the ministry to which you are called.

+ Susan Niagara

The Right Reverend Susan J. A. Bell
Bishop of Niagara



Application Process

Inquirers are to meet with the Bishop prior to making an application. This meeting should take place no later than the fall for the following application year, if possible. To book this meeting, email bishop@niagaraanglican.ca.

Those invited to apply will be encouraged to meet with the Executive Assistant to review the candidacy process and request the application and parish commendation forms.

Application Deadline: March 1st

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**ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA**

Discernment and Formation for Priestly Ministry

**CALLED TO LIFE
COMPELLED TO LOVE**

Inquiry

Individuals who believe themselves called to priestly ministry should contact the Bishop's office to set up introductory meeting. This meeting should take place no later than the fall for the following application year, if possible. Inquirers may then be invited to meet with the Executive Assistant.

Application

Inquirers who have met with the Bishop and Executive Assistant are welcome to apply. Each spring a number of applicants are selected for an interview.

Applicants are assessed for their authenticity, sense of call, exemplary moral character, vibrant and maturing faith, adaptive leadership skills, deep listening practices, empathy and compassion, and a heart for empowering others. They must also demonstrate a passion for mission and evangelism reflected in thought, prayer, and action. Niagara is seeking applicants who will help the diocese to meet the challenging needs of the Church.

The application includes:

- Completion of an application form;
- Submission of a vulnerable sector check; and
- Submission of a parish commendation.

Applicants are selected to be interviewed based on the information provided. Following the late spring Applicant Interview Day, applicants are informed if they have been recommended or not.

Candidacy

Candidacy normally lasts about two years and is devoted to conscientious formation for ministry. During this period, the candidate establishes several mentoring relationships, and their progress is monitored by the Executive Assistant. Each candidate is asked to establish a relationship with a mentor, chaplain, and spiritual director.

Most candidates will complete an M.Div. or equivalent degree at an accredited theological institution. Arrangements will also be made for candidates to attend an ACPO (Advisory Committee on Postulants for Ordination)

screening weekend. Candidates are also required to participate in a vocational/psychological assessment; the cost of which is borne by the diocese.

The costs of theological education are borne by the individual. Applicants are strongly encouraged to ensure the affordability of any debt they expect to owe beyond ordination.

The diocese may exercise discretion in shortening the period of candidacy (i.e. if a candidate has been approved by another diocese), however, this time will not be less than one year.

Ordination

A candidate becomes an ordinand when the Bishop decides, in consultation with the Candidates Committee, to invite the candidate to present themselves for ordination. Status as an ordinand is conditional upon the availability of a placement deemed appropriate by the Bishop and the mobility of the candidate. At no time during the candidacy process, can the diocese guarantee ordination to an applicant.



Role Descriptions & Definition of Terms

Inquirer/Applicant

- An inquirer is anyone who inquires about the possibility of being ordained in the Diocese of Niagara.
- Inquirers initially meet with the Bishop. They may be referred to meet the Executive Assistant who will explain the process and offers an application form, if appropriate.
- An inquirer becomes an applicant when they complete all aspects of a formal application.

Candidate

- Candidates are applicants who are chosen by the Bishop, in consultation with the Candidates Committee, for further preparation for ministry.
- One is normally a candidate for two years.

Ordinand

- A candidate becomes an ordinand when the Bishop decides to ordain them.
- Ordination is contingent on the availability of an appropriate placement and the mobility of the candidate.

Chaplain

- A chaplain is assigned to each candidate as the person to whom they will turn for pastoral care and conversation throughout the process; meeting a minimum of two times a year.
- The chaplain is a member of the Candidates Committee but is not asked to report to it.
- The chaplain will be informed by the diocese at major decision points in the process, so as to be in a position to support the candidate.

Mentor

- The mentor, assigned to each candidate, acts as an interpreter of the process, and "coach" throughout the process, meeting every other month.
- The mentor is a member of the Candidates Committee and is asked to report to it.
- The mentor will be informed by the diocese at major decision points in the process, so as to support the candidate.

Spiritual Director

- Every candidate must have a spiritual director.
- The spiritual director is chosen by the candidate, who provides the name of the selected person to the diocese.
- The spiritual director is independent from the Diocese of Niagara's process and does not report to the diocese.

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Learn more here:

<https://niagaraanglican.ca/ministry/vocations/priesthood>

