



## Memo to Aspirants Preparing for a Postulancy Interview with the Committee on Diaconate

Friends,

I'm glad that you will soon be interviewed by the Committee on Diaconate for postulancy.

With your postulancy interview, the community of those involved in your discernment widens. Typically, you won't know many of the committee members. You will not spend the hours in prayer and discernment with them that you have spent with others to this point.

The committee's role in the process, according to the Canons of The Episcopal Church, is to "review [your] application and prepare an evaluation of [your] qualifications to pursue a program of preparation for ordination...the [committee] shall present its evaluation and recommendations to the bishop." Part of the committee's work is, by nature, evaluative. But the committee's first question is always "What does success look like for this person?" The committee hopes to be partners in your formation, not gatekeepers.

Here are my suggestions:

1. Prepare to articulate as clearly as possible the nature of your call and how ordination would enhance your ministry—possibly in a mock interview with someone who has read your application.
2. It's OK to repeat in your interview what you wrote in your application.
3. Come dressed as you would for a business interview.
4. Bring with you people you trust. You will do most of the speaking, but they may be asked a question or two. They are there to support you.
  - a. Supporters typically include your presenting priest; your spouse, partner or fiancé (if applicable); a member of the vestry; and member of your parish discernment committee.
  - b. You shouldn't bring more than four people, and we don't recommend bringing family members other than your spouse, partner, or fiancé.
5. In the interview, be authentic. Answer questions faithfully (don't try to anticipate what the committee "wants to hear"). You're welcome to pause before responding, or to ask for clarification.
6. Spend time in prayer alone and with your supporters.

Blessings as you prepare for this next step in your journey.

Faithfully,

Edward G. Keithly  
Vocational Development Minister

110 West Franklin St.  
Richmond, VA 23220

(800) DIOCESE  
(804) 643.8451  
(804) 644.6928 Fax

[www.thediocese.net](http://www.thediocese.net)

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