

Policies for Admission as Applicant to Holy Orders in the Diocese of Southwest Florida

We want to bring the following policies to your attention if you are considering presenting yourself for ordination to Holy Orders in the Diocese and the Church:

1. A person must be a member of the Episcopal Church for a minimum of five years; the most recent last two years are to be spent as a communicant member in good standing of the same congregation or community of faith within the Diocese of Southwest Florida. (Commission on Ministry Policy Manual, Page 15).
2. A person must have consulted with the minister in charge of the congregation or community of faith and not have made a previous application in this or any other diocese in the last five years. (Commission on Ministry Policy Manual, Page 15).
3. The standard of personal relationships shall be consistent with the norms of marriage found in the Book of Common Prayer. (Book of Common Prayer, Page 422).
4. A person shall have no more than one living former spouse. (Bishop's standard, Diocese of Southwest Florida)
5. A person interested in the Vocational Diaconate must be able to serve the ministry needs of the Diocese with a minimum of five years of ordained ministry before the mandatory resignation age of 72. (Bishop's standard, Title III, Canon 7, Section 7)
6. A person interested in the Priesthood must be able to serve the ministry needs of the Diocese with a minimum of ten years of ordained ministry before their planned retirement or the mandatory resignation age of 72. (Bishop's standard, Title III, Canon 9, Section 7)
7. A person interested in the Priesthood must be able to demonstrate the completion of an earned undergraduate bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. An on-line degree will not normally be considered as fulfilling this requirement. (Commission on Ministry, Title III, Canon 8, Section 3)

Additional:

1. A Master of Divinity Degree (M.Div) from an accredited Episcopal seminary is considered the standard for ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese of Southwest Florida.
2. The standard length of preparation for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Southwest Florida is from four to five years.
3. A person seeking recognition in the Episcopal church of their ordination in another denomination is subject to Title III, Canons 10 – 12. Standards one through seven (1-

- 7) mentioned previously as Policies for Admission as an Applicant for Holy Orders in the Diocese of Southwest Florida will apply as determined by the Bishop.
4. After first meeting Standards One through Seven, applications will be considered on a Case by case basis by the Bishop in conjunction with the Commission on Ministry.
 5. Where seminarians have a Pass/Fail or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading system as well as a Letter grading system in seminary, the Commission on Ministry requires Letter grades.

Adopted: August 18, 2006