



Discernment Question Suggestions Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon

Suggested questions for exploration with an aspirant for ordained ministry:

- What spiritual gifts have been manifested in your ministry?
- What ministry gives you life? Drains you?
- What do you believe God is calling you to do? To be?
- How do you experience that call?
- How have you gathered people together in your daily life as well as in the church?
- How have you empowered people for ministry?
- Which of the ordination vows would be the most challenging? Which would be most exciting?
- How would you plan to prepare for ordination? (academic, practical, spiritual, clinical?)
- In what way(s) has the Church been important in your life?
- How has your life changed recently so that it seems to be pointing towards ordination?
- What is a deacon for you? A priest?
- Why does the church need priests and deacons? Does it?
- Is your family supportive of your vocational goals?
- How do you relate to people in a community?
- Describe your activities and participation in the life of this congregation.
- How do you define the ministry of the laity?
- Tell us about your prayer life.
- Have you ever considered spiritual direction?
- Who is Jesus Christ for you?
- Why do you believe ordination is necessary for the ministry to which you feel called?
What difference will ordination make?
- What are you most afraid of in the vocations process? In the ordained ministry?
- What are you most excited about?
- Do you plan to seek full time employment in the Church after ordination?
- Are you aware of the possibilities of employment?
- What do you consider to be your responsibilities to the parish and its to you if the Vestry agrees to sponsor your postulancy?
- What will you do if you are refused postulancy?