



The Episcopal
Church in
Alabama

Characteristics of Effective Clergy

Throughout the discernment process and continuing into formation, we hope that we might see the seeds of and help cultivate the following characteristics in those seeking ordination.

Emotional and Spiritual Maturity

- Self-awareness
- Dependability
- Humble self-confidence
- Sense of joy, kindness, and a pastor's heart
- Vulnerability without compromising themselves
- Appropriate assertiveness

Living, Infectious Faith

- An eagerness for personal and spiritual growth, and the desire to foster it in others
- A curiosity and a love of learning
- A prayerful and discerning posture in life
- An awareness of how God usually speaks to and moves in their lives
- A focus on living a resurrected life

Loves Jesus and the Trinity

- Evidence of a relationship with Jesus as he is known to us in scripture
- Affirmation of the Apostles and Nicene Creeds

Love of the Sacraments, Worship, Tradition, and the Ability to Tell Our Story

- The ability to write, speak, and tell stories which invite people into deeper relationship with Christ
- A sense that worship is central to all we do, but not *all* we do
- A faithful attender of worship, even when not in a leadership role

Demonstrated Leadership, Especially as a Reconciler

- The ability to create and facilitate spiritual community, reconciling people and communities to God
- The ability to recognize gifts in others and give them tools and space to claim those gifts
- The ability to administer systems and delegate tasks

Openness to the Holy Spirit, Flexibility

- A willingness to go where God sends them
- A willingness to take risks for the sake of the Gospel
- A love of and ability to connect with "all sorts and conditions" (e.g., rich and poor, black and white, liberal and conservative)

Generosity of Spirit

- A commitment to share what God gives them
- A dedication to giving money, time, and talent to the Church; a commitment to proportional/percentage giving

Obedient to the Episcopal Church while Constructively Critical

- A person who sees wisdom and value in our polity as well as room for improvement

Adapted with permission from The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.