



*The Episcopal
Church in
Alabama*

Qualifications & Expectations of Applicants

- € An applicant must be an active, involved, and confirmed Episcopalian and a member of a parish or mission for at least two years
- € Individuals discerning for the priesthood should have a bachelor's degree. This is an assumption of all accredited seminaries. However, this does not apply for this discerning for the diaconate.
- € An applicant should be viewed as a leader by the broad congregation and not a small group within the congregation or only the clergy person sponsoring the applicant.
- € The applicant must be involved in service, practice proportional giving and respect the authority of the Bishop, the Diocese of Alabama and the Episcopal Church.
- € The applicant should prepare to incur costs of approximately \$500 - \$1,000 as the process is undertaken. These funds are non-refundable and are used for costs associated with the process.
- € Psychological testing and a medical exam are typical tests administered at the direction of the Diocesan Bishop. When possible, a parish may provide a portion of these expenses, but this is not an expectation.
- € A background check will also be required at the expense of the diocese.
- € It is highly unlikely a person will serve in a parish where a vocation is tested or discerned. Relocating is a fact for those discerning a call to ordained ministry and for some lay leaders. An applicant should not resign a job until vocational direction is clear, and with the support of the Bishop of Alabama.
- € Persons entering this process should be proactive in their discernment and be their own advocate, following up on paperwork and assignments as prescribed by this document and the Canons of the church. Furthermore, the applicant is expected to ask questions to clarify the complexities of the process.