



# DISCERNMENT PROGRAM FOR HOLY ORDERS

## INFORMATION FOR SPONSORING PRIESTS

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### The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

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As the sponsoring priest of a person entering into vocational discernment, you will be the first official contact the inquirer will have. It is, therefore, incumbent upon you to be intimately familiar with the manner in which the Diocese of Upper South Carolina expects this process to be handled and with the specific steps that are outlined in these documents. Because your primary relationship with the inquirer will always be pastoral, failure to understand the process can result in confusion, hurt feelings and potential problems within the parish. In addition, uniformity of process across all churches in the diocese will ensure that expectations are clear and individuals are all treated equally.

It is important that the inquirer understand that what we have traditionally referred to as “the process,” is actually two distinct and very different periods of time. The first is the inquiry period, in which the person, in concert with the Church, discerns his or her call. The second is the ordination process that begins with the granting of postulancy to the individual.

As both sponsoring priest and pastor, remember that it is often a kindness to stop a person before they become too invested in the journey if you believe strongly that they are not suited for ordained ministry. If you have questions or doubts, please call the Canon for Christian Formation and Congregational Vitality to discuss the situation. Again, this is a kindness that you, as pastor, are called to perform.

As the sponsoring priest, you will need to meet with the inquirer to explore and discern a vocational call. Areas to be included in this discernment discussion are:

- Vocation and spirituality
- Leadership skills and ability
- Personal background information
- Physical and mental health
- Financial health
- Family
- Biblical competency assessment provided by the Commission on Ministry

The included section, “Clergy: Core Values, Fundamental Competencies and Norms,” should serve as the metric against which all your conversations with the inquirer are based. As it says in the introduction, “While it is not expected that individuals possess all of the qualities that are listed in this document, it is important for those in discernment to exemplify a majority of the traits listed below.”

The following is a list of resources to be used in guiding the conversation with the inquirer and for ensuring that the individual meets the baseline requirements for application to the diocesan process for Vocational

and Ministry Discernment. All reports should be carefully reviewed and any irregularities thoroughly discussed.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please remind the inquirer that, if they move forward in the process, there will be more thorough checks performed in the areas of Personal Background Information, Physical and Mental Health, and Financial Health. If they know of anything that has not been disclosed and may show up as a result of more extensive checking, they should disclose it now.

## **Vocation and Spirituality**

In addition to "Clergy: Core Values, Competencies and Norms," a guided reading of a particular book on vocation and spirituality can be helpful to the inquirer. Recommendations of such books include:

Parker Palmer's "Let Your Life Speak"

Joan Chittister's "The Rule of Benedict: A Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"

Urban T. Holmes' "Spirituality for Ministry"

Urban T. Holmes' "Ministry and Imagination" (specifically for the priest to read in preparation to serve as a sponsor)

## **Personal Background Information**

The inquirer should prepare for the sponsoring priest a brief biography concentrating especially on individual spiritual development and ministries of the church in which the person has been engaged.

The inquirer must perform a baseline South Carolina background check using the following website tool and discuss the results with the sponsoring priest:

[http://www.sled.state.sc.us/sled/default.asp?Category=CATCH\\_SSN&Service=crc](http://www.sled.state.sc.us/sled/default.asp?Category=CATCH_SSN&Service=crc)

If an individual has resided in more than one state during the past decade he or she will need to use the following website for a baseline criminal check:

<https://www.criminalcbs.com/>

If the individual has lived in another state within the past decade a baseline background check will need to be conducted from that state as well. Please contact The Canon for Christian Formation and Congregational Vitality for assistance if needed.

The sponsoring priest must check the individual's ministry experience against the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina Safe Church Network: Standards and Expectations, found on the diocesan website at:

[http://www.edusc.org/images/ministries/Safe\\_Church\\_Chart.jpg](http://www.edusc.org/images/ministries/Safe_Church_Chart.jpg)

## **Physical and Mental Health**

Before moving on to the next steps in this program, the inquirer must discuss with the sponsoring priest the results of a medical physical. The medical form may be found on the diocesan website at:

[http://www.edusc.org/doc\\_download/175-required-medical-exam](http://www.edusc.org/doc_download/175-required-medical-exam)

While we do not expect sponsoring priests to function as clinical psychologists, if the inquirer exhibits behaviors consistent with depression, anxiety, other mental illness or concomitant issues, we expect the sponsoring priest to fulfill the pastoral role of referring them to an appropriate professional for guidance. Once the sponsoring priest and inquirer have discussed this information, a copy should be sent in with the application.

## **Financial Health**

Successful completion of the inquiry period and ordination process will result in financial burdens associated with seminary or other formation, possible relocation and change in income. It is vitally important and pastorally crucial that we do not put the inquirer in an untenable financial position. Therefore, the inquirer is expected to obtain a baseline financial snapshot and discuss it with the sponsoring priest. This can be done at the following website:

[www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com)

## **Family**

The impact on the family of an inquirer can be profound. The sponsoring priest must, therefore, ensure that the inquirer has the full support of family and loved ones. It is strongly suggested that in the case of partnered inquirers, at least one session with the sponsoring priest include both the inquirer and partner. If the sponsoring priest deems it necessary, a private meeting with the inquirer's partner is not an unreasonable request and should be done. This, too, goes directly to the pastoral role of the sponsoring priest, as the care for not only the inquirer but the inquirer's family and loved ones is the priest's charge.

Included in the biography noted above, the inquirer should outline both family of origin and current family dynamics.

## **Administration of the Biblical Competency Assessment**

Provided that the sponsoring priest is satisfied with the results of all the items noted above, the inquirer will take the Biblical Competency Assessment (BCA) provided by the Commission on Ministry.

This should not be understood to be an entrance examination. Rather, it will give the inquirer, the sponsoring priest and committees involved in continuing discernment a base-line understanding of the inquirer's familiarity with Holy Scripture. As such, it provides an opportunity for further guided readings of Holy Scripture and related books and commentaries.

## **Final Steps**

At the end of this portion of the inquiry period, the sponsoring priest will need to make a determination as to whether they can in good conscience write a letter of recommendation indicating that the inquirer should continue discernment. If so, the inquirer will complete the application process for Vocational and Ministry Discernment. If not, the sponsoring priest should be prepared to assist the inquirer in discerning to which other ministries in the church the inquirer might be called. This is not a binary process of "yes/no." Rather, the inquiry period is one in which we can lift up leaders of other ministries beyond that of the ordained.

Additionally, this is a conversation the sponsoring priest must be prepared to have with the inquirer should they continue into the next step but not be recommended to move into the ordination process.

If any part of the role of sponsoring priest, or any potentially difficult conversations with the inquirer seem daunting, please remember that both diocesan staff and members of the Commission on Ministry are available to advise, guide, and, if necessary, take part in such conversations.



# CLERGY: CORE VALUES, COMPETENCIES AND NORMS

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## The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

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*In the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina we are seeking individuals for ordained leadership who are pastorally gifted, strong teachers, leadership trainers, developers of ministry, and savvy administrators.*

*When identifying, discerning, forming, and certifying those who are called by Christ and his church for holy orders the following core values, competencies and norms are to be considered. While it is not expected that individuals possess all of the qualities that are listed in this document, it is important for those in discernment to exemplify a majority of the traits listed below.*

### Core Values and Fundamental Competencies

#### Deep Faith in God

- individual has a passion for God,
- is rooted and confident in his or her relationship with God, as revealed through Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
- is able to articulate an understanding of the world in terms of a relationship between a Creator God and responsive creatures,
- has a grasp of scripture, history, tradition, and theology, and can apply theological concepts to personal and contemporary issues,
- demonstrates spiritual vitality and attends to the need for spiritual disciplines to nourish this vitality, e.g. regular prayer, worship and scripture reading, and
- reflects the hope, joy, strength, and peace of the gospel message.

#### Capacity for Leadership

- individual is able to articulate the nature of the priestly or diaconal vocation and identity as it has been received within the Anglican tradition,
- can give an account of how her or his own vocation to ministry relates to this understanding,
- demonstrates a readiness to receive and exercise this ministry as a deacon/priest within the Church of God,
- engages in pastoral leadership,
- demonstrates the basic skills necessary to preach effectively in public contexts,
- demonstrates the gifts and capacity to offer pastoral care,
- demonstrates the capacity for effective collaborative leadership and an ability to work in teams in a range of settings,
- demonstrates having reflected on the different types of ministry and understands the particular ministries to which he or she is called,

- is aware of a variety of ministry settings, e.g., urban, small town, rural ministries, and has been exposed to at least one context other than their present one,
- is aware of the public character of theology and able to communicate theologically in the contexts of worship, personal interaction, group-study, and the media,
- discerns God's presence and activity in the lives of others,
- discerns the gifts of others and equips them to lead and to serve,
- demonstrates an awareness of the church's role and opportunities in public life, and a capacity to collaborate in a well-informed way with ecumenical partners, other faith communities and secular agencies,
- understands basic administration including stewardship of resources, prioritization, collaborative working, finance and accountability,
- demonstrates a growing capacity to assist a congregation in the process of visioning,
- demonstrates a growing understanding of the theory and practice of mission and evangelism, changing expressions of church life, and their relation to the local context.

### **Skills for Teaching and Learning**

- demonstrates a growing ability to nurture the faith of others and to draw out their capacities for baptismal ministry and leadership,
- demonstrates a growing ability to teach the Christian tradition,
- shows the capacity to gather, critically assess, integrate, and use insights, information, and ideas in support of the teaching ministry,
- shows a growing awareness of the resources that are available to support ongoing lifelong learning in support of the teaching ministry,
- possesses communication skills, both oral and written, and the ability to communicate with a wide variety of people using various media formats (email, Facebook, phone, written letter) that are clear, engaging and effective,
- shows a developing understanding of how children and adults learn in order to nurture others in faith development,
- demonstrates faith by word and deed and teaches others to proclaim their faith by word and deed.

### **Sense of Call to Ordained Ministry**

- displays a maturing understanding of her or his call to ministry, service and study,
- demonstrates a commitment to loving service in the church rooted in a sustained and growing love of God in Christ,
- shows evidence of personal and spiritual growth and self-awareness,
- expresses the need and desire to serve God as a disciple of Jesus Christ, already reflected in his or her exercise of baptismal ministry,
- appreciates that the power inherent in the ministry of Word and Sacrament is a sacred trust,
- demonstrates humility in the exercise of leadership, and understands the differences, as well as the relationship, between lay and ordained ministries, and
- recognizes and accepts that vocation is affirmed and authenticated by members of the Body of Christ.

### **Love of Church**

- is committed to the church as the Body of Christ in the world,
- loves the church in its Anglican/Episcopal expression, yet recognizes its constant need for renewal,
- desires to use his or her particular gifts to enable the church to be all the more faithful,
- understands, affirms, and is willing to minister within the diversity encompassed by the Anglican Church,

- is open to, and aware of, other faith and denominational expressions, while maintaining a confident and unapologetic commitment to the Anglican tradition, and
- appreciates that the priest/deacon is a public figure, who is seen to represent the church to the local and broader community.

### **Vision**

- shows leadership potential, and understands this gift as a response to the guidance and will of God,
- can articulate a sense of prophetic vision and direction for the church,
- generates enthusiasm, motivates and inspires others to think strategically and to plan for the future,
- appreciates the challenges facing the church, and takes initiative to share the Good News effectively,
- can diagnose and develop strategies for church growth, especially for congregations that are in decline,
- has the courage to face and name evil and darkness, without losing the abiding sense of God's presence, and
- can analyze and synthesize disparate elements so that, enabled by the Holy Spirit, something new and productive can happen.

### **Mission**

- recognizes and exhibits concern for the scope of human need both within and beyond the congregation and sees the related possibilities for ministry,
- desires, and takes initiative, to proclaim the Good News through social justice and evangelism,
- is willing to take the risks associated with making a difference in the church and the world,
- is sensitive to the cultural diversity of ethnic groups to which the congregation will attempt to minister, and
- deals with all people equitably regardless of race, class, culture, handicap, age, sex, or sexual orientation.

### **Life-long Learner**

- is curious, interested and engaged in life, and is open to personal growth and new ideas,
- is educationally prepared and intellectually capable of ministry,
- is well-read, culturally alert and participates in workshops, conferences and courses for continuing growth and skill development, and
- has a broad range of interests and is involved in activities outside the church.

### **Steward of Resources**

- understands the priest/deacon as the steward of a sacred trust which carries obligations to God and the People of God,
- attends to own emotional, physical, and spiritual well-being; self-care is theologically grounded in view of self as a child of God,
- is an effective steward of time and gifts so as to maintain a healthy balance between concern for self, family, vocation and avocation,
- is attentive to administrative issues so that programs and policies are carried out,
- understands that congregational ministry requires supervision and oversight of staff, volunteers and financial resources, and
- is aware of technological advances which could assist the church to accomplish its mission.

# Norms

## Integrated Personality

- individual's private and public life are compatible with a maturing Christian faith within the context of The Episcopal Church,
- demonstrates a healthy and loyal but not uncritical relationship to their diocese, province and national church,
- demonstrates integrity between faith, action, theological reflection, and personal life choices,
- individually lives out the baptismal covenant so that people see the congruence between what is professed, and his or her actions,
- acts prudently in relationships and maintains confidentiality,
- demonstrates maturity, stability, and appropriate boundaries; uses humor appropriately,
- is widely trusted and seen as direct and truthful,
- accepts responsibility for his or her own mistakes, and does not misrepresent facts for personal protection, and
- recognizes personal need for forgiveness, and is a forgiving person.

## Self-awareness

- reflects with insight on her or his personal strengths and weaknesses, gifts and vulnerabilities,
- discerns God's presence and activity in her or his own life,
- individual's self-esteem is sufficiently healthy to ensure independence and differentiation from those with whom he/she works, ministers and lives,
- lives with ambiguity or paradox, including such creative tension as brings about healthy change,
- distinguishes between what can and cannot be changed in personal or congregational life,
- deals with conflict honestly and creatively,
- deals with problems firmly and in a timely manner, and is able to confront or mediate when appropriate,
- is able to acknowledge and accept mistakes and failures as part of life, learns from each set-back, and when appropriate, can laugh at own mistakes, and
- willingly shares own thoughts about personal strengths and limitations.

## Discerner of Gifts

- is committed to empowering and preparing the People of God for their ministries in the church and the world,
- has good judgment about the creativity and talents of others and is able to discern, call forth, and nurture their gifts,
- understands how people of all ages learn and develop in faith, and
- appreciates the need for training and support of volunteers.

## Communicator

- exhibits a developing ability to express thoughts and feelings clearly in order to inform, motivate and/or challenge and persuade,
- can tell the Story; desires to transmit the traditions and teachings of the church,
- is effective in a variety of settings: one-to-one, small and large groups, peers, and
- can manage group process during a presentation and can change tactics midstream when something isn't working.

## Team Player

- uses a leadership style appropriate to the situation,
- delegates, plans, coordinates and leads as appropriate,
- is able to work in groups, share leadership and respect the opinion of others,
- builds a sense of community in groups, allowing other's gifts to come forward,
- works collaboratively and consults with others,
- is able to discern when to function collegially and when a decision is required, and
- is flexible and able to adapt.

## Compassionate

- genuinely loves people, showing compassion and concern for all aspects of their lives; is able to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep,
- is approachable and puts people at ease,
- listens attentively and sensitively to people's spiritual and emotional needs and is aware of what is being communicated, even covertly,
- is sensitive and patient with the interpersonal anxieties of others, and
- helps to promote healing, wholeness and reconciliation.

## Acquired Competencies

*It is critical when identifying and discerning an individual called to holy orders that the individual demonstrate the intellectual, emotional, and physical capacity to acquire the following competencies that he or she will be expected to demonstrate following a period of formation.*

### Holy Scripture

- has read and studied the Bible in depth,
- is able to interpret select texts from the Bible using appropriate theological, historical, critical, and literary tools,
- understands the significance of the different genres of the materials within the Bible,
- is aware of how the Bible is interpreted through the lenses of gender, socioeconomic, and cultural location,
- engages with the Scriptures and the traditions of Christian thought in faithful obedience and with openness to new insights,
- develops a practice of study and reflection, and a working knowledge of how to interpret and use Scripture in a range of different contexts,
- interprets the Bible in a way that makes it accessible to the community,
- is able to assist the community to read the Bible in the light of Christian tradition and God-given reason,
- understands a wide range of theological themes within the canon of Scripture, and is familiar with how these themes relate to the basic creedal doctrine and the teaching of major figures in church history.

### Theology

- understands the development of the Christian tradition and how that has been received and interpreted in Anglican thought,
- articulates core Christian doctrines, including their defenses and their critiques, and the particularities of how they have been received within Anglicanism,
- understands the significance of philosophy in the development and apology of the Christian faith,
- is familiar with the writings of several major theologians, including key shapers of the Anglican tradition,

- is able to articulate creedal doctrines and how they have been understood within the Anglican tradition.

### **Church History**

- understands the diversity of the Christian tradition, historically and globally,
- understands the significance of the relationship between the Christian faith and its Jewish origins,
- is familiar with Anglican history in colonial America and how it shaped the Episcopal Church,
- is familiar with the history of missions of the Anglican Church globally,
- has an understanding of the Anglican Communion worldwide, its character, history, diversity, challenges, and polity,
- is familiar with the history of the English Reformation and critical areas of English church history post-Reformation.

### **Contextual Ministry**

- is aware of the challenges and promises facing Christian theology and evangelism in a pluralistic and secular society,
- is familiar with the teachings and practices of partner Christian Churches, particularly those that are encountered in the context of the United States,
- is aware of the teachings and the practices of other faiths, particularly those that are encountered in the United States,
- considers the place of the Christian faith in this new context and its implications for building of relationships with those of other faiths and, for effective proclamation of the Gospel,
- demonstrates a capacity to understand how the ministry of a congregation is shaped by and shapes its local context.

### **Liturgy**

- displays an understanding of Anglican spirituality and of the centrality of liturgy in Anglican identity and self-understanding in both modern and historical contexts,
- demonstrates a thorough grounding in the authorized worship texts and resources of the Episcopal Church,
- understands the role of liturgy in expressing and forming doctrine and ethics,
- presides or serves effectively and gracefully within worship, as appropriate for the role (priest/deacon),
- preaches the gospel with faith and passion in a way that reflects an understanding of the role of proclamation within the liturgy,
- understands and participates in worship with a clear sense of the role of the whole people of God in worship, including the particular roles of deacon, priest and bishop,
- understands the contextual and missional implications of liturgical practice and is familiar with a range of recent developments in the life of the church, e.g. emerging church / missional church,
- displays an understanding of traditional worship within the Anglican tradition.



# DISCERNMENT FOR HOLY ORDERS

## QUESTIONS FOR SPONSORING PRIESTS

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### The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

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#### ***SPIRITUAL:***

- What are the inquirer's current ministries?
- What other ministries are suggested by the inquirer's gifts?
- How does the inquirer display growth in his/her Christian faith?
- How clearly does the inquirer articulate his/her faith?
- How does the inquirer's spirituality manifest itself to you?
- How does the inquirer differentiate between the ministries of the laity and of the ordained?
- How well does the inquirer articulate his/her call to ministry?
- Could the inquirer serve the Church more effectively as a layperson or as an ordained person?

#### ***INTELLECTUAL:***

- What is this person's academic background?
- Does the inquirer have the skills and ability to do the canonically required study and preparation?
- Does the inquirer demonstrate the ability to reflect upon his/her personal experiences and to grow from them?
- Does the inquirer exhibit curiosity?
- Does the inquirer demonstrate a desire to learn?
- Is there an ability to integrate theological concepts and to transfer them into practical use?

#### ***EMOTIONAL:***

- How does the inquirer cope with stress?
- How aware is the inquirer of his/her feelings?
- How does the inquirer deal with conflict?
- How does the inquirer deal with anger?
- How does the inquirer deal with guilt?
- Is the inquirer's emotional maturity commensurate with his/her chronological age?
- How does this person understand his/her sexuality? Is he/she comfortable with his/her own sexual identity?
- Are there traumas in his/her history? Do they continue to affect the person?
- If the discernment process does not lead to ordination, is the person mature enough to accept this outcome?

**PHYSICAL:**

- Can the inquirer handle the physical demands of the ministry to which he/she is or may be called?
- Does the inquirer take good care of his/her physical needs?

**PERSONAL/FINANCIAL:**

- What are the inquirer's family responsibilities?
- Is the inquirer's family supportive of his/her ministry?
- How many times has the inquirer been married? If divorced, what were the circumstances? Has the relationship with the previous spouse been reconciled?
- Is the inquirer able to relocate in order to serve wherever the church may need him/her to serve?
- How will the inquirer finance his/her seminary/diaconate education?
- Does the inquirer have any significant financial obligations which would interfere with his/her ministry?

**LEADERSHIP:**

- Evaluated against the Core Values and Competencies of "Capacity for Leadership," what are the inquirer's leadership strengths? Weaknesses?
- Evaluated against the Core Values and Competencies of "Skills for Teaching and Learning," what are the inquirer's leadership strengths? Weaknesses?
- How does the inquirer function in interpersonal relationships?
- How has the inquirer demonstrated the ability to motivate others?
- How effectively does the inquirer communicate orally? In writing?
- In what ways has the inquirer demonstrated effective leadership?
- How does the inquirer deal with authority?
- How does the inquirer interact in a team/leadership situation?



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# APPLICATION FOR DISCERNMENT PROGRAM FOR HOLY ORDERS

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## The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (Middle/Maiden)

Discerning (circle one) Priesthood Diaconate

### Section I: Personal Data

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Home Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, Apt #)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City, State, Zip)

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employment/Retirement: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name of business)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, suite #) (City, State, Zip)

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(If applicable)

Spouse's date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Names and Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Marriage(s): If applicable, list name of spouse, wedding date, divorce date

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation Address \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Priest \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Time \_\_\_\_\_  
*At above congregation*      *In the Diocese of Upper South Carolina*      *In the Episcopal Church*

**Section II: Canonical Status**

Date of Baptism \_\_\_\_\_ Denomination \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Date confirmed/received into the Episcopal Church \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Religious Background (if not Episcopal/Anglican) \_\_\_\_\_

**Section III: Education**

High School Diploma - City/State/School Year

\_\_\_\_\_

Technical/Vocational/Special Education – School/Type of Training or Degree/Certification Year

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Undergraduate/Graduate (start with most recent)-School/ Major/ Degree Year

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current and Previous Theological Education)-School/ Major/ Degree Year

Please describe any previous seminary study, or diocesan, parish, or extension programs. If you wish to submit previous study for consideration of transfer credit, an official transcript must be submitted.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Section IV: Previous Ordination History (If applicable)**

Previous applicant for holy orders? If yes, please give details including dates and diocese

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ordination in another denomination?      Yes      No

If yes, have orders been resigned?            Yes    No    (If yes, include copy of official resignation.)

If yes, please give details including years of service: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Section V: Work History (Attach resume with name, addresses, and dates)**

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**Section VI: Vocational and Personal Understanding of Ministry**

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Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Briefly describe the nature of your vocation as you now perceive it.
2. What expectations do you have for your ministry?
3. If applicable, how do you feel that ordination would help you live out your ministry more fully?

**Section VII: Reference Letters**

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Please include letters from your sponsoring priest and current senior warden, which answer the following questions. These letters should be sealed and returned with the application or separately.

1. How does this person's life show a commitment to following Jesus Christ?
2. How does this person's life reflect the Christian disciplines of prayer and worship, and the particular practices of the Episcopal Church?
3. How would you describe this person's style of leadership? How does this person empower others to serve?

**Section VIII: Financial**

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Check Applicable Items:

1. I have adequate financial resources. \_\_\_\_\_
2. My parish will be helping with expenses. \_\_\_\_\_
3. May need financial assistance. \_\_\_\_\_

**Section IX: Applicant's Signature**

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I have discussed the information contained in following documents with my sponsoring priest, as well as any relevant information that might be disclosed by more thorough checks in the areas of Personal Background Information, Physical and Mental Health, and Financial Health:

- Baseline Criminal Check
- Credit Report
- Medical Evaluation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Section VII: What to do to complete your application**

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Return completed form to: The Rev. Canon Jimmy Hartley  
The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina  
Discernment Program for Holy Orders  
1115 Marion Street  
Columbia, SC 29201-3706  
Phone: (803) 771-7800

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## COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

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The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

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### Commission on Ministry Membership

- THE REV. BOB CHILDS
- THE REV. DEACON ROCKY DWORAK
- MR. LANGSTON DUNKLE
- MR. RUSSELL FRANKLIN
- THE REV. DANIEL HANK
- THE REV. JACK HARDAWAY
- MR. GIBERT KENNEDY-CHAIR
- THE REV. CHARLES SMITH



## BIBLICAL COMPETENCY – STUDY GUIDE

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### The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

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**Note:** This is a study guide for the Biblical Competency Exam. The exam will contain short answer questions which will be closed book and several essay questions which will be open book. This exam is **not** an entrance exam, but is to give the applicant and commission a baseline of the applicant's knowledge. However, if certain core questions are missed completely, the recommendation may be made that the person engage in additional study to reach a baseline of scripture competency prior to participating in a formal vocational discernment program.

This study guide was adapted from the Biblical Competency exam that had been used at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC.

#### **The Old Testament**

##### **Torah (Pentateuch)**

1. How does God create in Genesis 1?
2. In whose image is humankind, male and female, created?
3. What adjective describes God's creations in Genesis 1?
4. How does God create man and woman in Genesis 2?
5. What two special trees were in the Garden of Eden?
6. Who/what tempted the woman and man to become like God?
7. In what book of Torah does one read, "Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh"?
8. How were Adam and Eve punished for eating from the forbidden tree?
9. How were Adam and Eve protected by God after they were sent from the Garden of Eden?
10. How did God punish Cain for killing Abel?
11. How did God protect Cain?
12. Who boasted that if Cain is avenged sevenfold, he is avenged seventy- sevenfold?
13. According to Genesis 4, when did people begin to call God "the Lord"?
14. What is the name of Eve's and Adam's son who was born after Abel was murdered?
15. Of whom is it said, he "walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him"?
16. Who builds the ark to escape the flood?
17. Whom does Noah bless and whom does he curse?
18. Name the three sons of Noah.
19. After the "sons of God" married human daughters and produced Nephilim, how did God show judgment and grace?
20. After the tower of Babel incident, God confuses human language and scatters humanity over the whole earth in judgment. What is God's corresponding act of grace?
21. What is the threefold promise that God makes with Abram (Abraham)?
22. Underline the best answer: God's covenant with Noah includes [only Noah's descendants, all-creation, only the Israelites].

23. Underline the best answer: God's covenant with Abraham includes [all creation, only Abraham's descendants, only Hagar's descendants].
24. Underline the best answer: God's covenant with Moses includes [only the Israelites, all of Noah's descendants, all creation].
25. Abraham's son by Hagar was named \_\_\_\_\_ and his son by Sarah was named \_\_\_\_\_.
26. Rebekah was married to \_\_\_\_\_.
27. The wives of Jacob were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
28. Who wrestled with God? At that time his name was changed to \_\_\_\_\_.
29. The sons of Isaac were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
30. How many sons did Isaac have?
31. Who is taken to Egypt as a slave but rises to become chief minister in Pharaoh's court?
32. What does God give as his name to Moses?
33. According to Exodus 6, when did people begin to call God "the Lord"?
34. What woman (prophetess) sings the victory song after the exodus through the Sea of Reeds ("Red Sea")
35. How does Moses' and the peoples' Song at the Sea (Exodus 15) end?
36. The Ten Commandments are found in what two places in the Torah (book and chapter)?
37. Using the annotations, locate the Covenant Code in Torah (book and chapters).
38. Using the annotations, locate the Holiness Code in Torah (book and chapters).
39. In which chapter in Exodus is it stated that Moses, Nadab, Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went to Mt. Sinai and "saw the God of Israel ...they beheld God, and they ate and drank"?
40. What served as God's throne during the years Israel wandered in the wilderness?
41. What is the name of Moses' brother from whom the Israelite priesthood descended?
42. In what chapter of Exodus do we find Torah's description of God's nature, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...."?
43. With whom only does Torah say God spoke "face to face," "mouth to mouth"?
44. In which chapter in Leviticus is it stated, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself"?
45. Why were the Hebrews told not to glean or harvest the corners of the fields, and to let part of their farmland lie fallow regularly?
46. Why were the Hebrews told to care for strangers (resident aliens)?
47. In which chapter of Numbers will you find the Aaronic (or Threefold) benediction, which begins, "The LORD bless you and keep you"?
48. Who talked to his donkey, tried to curse Israel, but blessed them several times instead?
49. What story in Numbers emphasizes the importance of keeping Shabbat (Sabbath)?
50. From what mountain does Moses deliver his "last will and testament" in the book of Deuteronomy?
51. What book of the Torah keeps emphasizing, "Not with our ancestors did the LORD make this covenant, but with us, who are all of us here alive today"?
52. Which book of the Torah presents the law that sacrifice can be made "only in the place which the LORD shall choose"? (Mt. Zion in Jerusalem)
53. In which chapter of Deuteronomy do you find the Shema, "Here, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone" (or "The LORD, our God, the LORD is one")?
54. In which book of the Torah are the paths of life and death set forth with the injunction, "Choose life"?
55. What are the three great pilgrim festivals at which Hebrews are enjoined to ascend to Jerusalem for their celebration?

#### Former Prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings)

56. The conquest of Canaan is led by Moses' successor, \_\_\_\_\_.
57. What miraculous event is narrated as the people cross the Jordan River that would cause the hearer of the story to connect the entry into Canaan with the Exodus from Egypt?
58. The first Canaanite town the Israelites took was \_\_\_\_\_.
59. What is the sin of Achan?
60. Contrast the accounts of the conquest of Canaan given by the books of Joshua and Judges.
61. In which book and chapter do you read an ancient Hebrew creed rehearsing God's saving acts on behalf of his people, to which Joshua responds, "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD"?

62. Who are the two female heroes in Judges 4-5?
63. Who was the scoundrel Nazirite judge with a penchant for riddles?
64. In which book and chapter will you read Hannah's Song, sometimes called the "Magnificat of the Old Testament"?
65. Who goes looking for lost donkeys and finds a kingdom instead?
66. Who anoints the first two kings of Israel?
67. Who is David's father?
68. Who sought to kill David?
69. Of whom did David sing, "Your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women"?
70. Where was David's capitol the first seven years of his reign?
71. After ruling Israel for seven years, David moved his capitol and the Ark of the Covenant to what city?
72. What prophet called David to account for his sin with Bathsheba?
73. Which of the following is not fulfillment of the words to David by the prophet, "Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house" (2 Sam 12:10)?
  - A. Absalom has Amnon killed.
  - B. Absalom commits adultery with his father's concubines.
  - C. Amnon rapes Tamar.
  - D. Absalom dies.
  - E. Solomon has himself anointed king before his father's death.
74. David's son who became king after him and built the Temple in Jerusalem was named \_\_\_\_\_?
75. In what book and chapter does David want to build God a house but the prophet responds with the theology of kingship (messianic theology) in ancient Israel: "Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you and I establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me."
76. What is the name of the Philistine whom David slays as a young lad?
77. Compare 2 Samuel 24 with I Chronicles 21. Who incited David to take a census?
78. After the schism between Judah and Israel, who was king of each respectively?
79. Who was the prophet who interacted most with Ahab and Jezebel?
80. How does God manifest himself to Elijah at Horeb (I Kings 19)?
81. What was Ahab's sin re: the Naboth's vineyard affair?
82. Why is the prophet Micaiah, son of Imiah unpopular with Ahab (I Kings 22)?
83. What prophet ascends to heaven in a chariot of fire?
84. Who is the prophetic successor of Elijah?
85. On what basis does the book of Kings judge a monarch of Judah or Israel?
86. Of all the kings of Judah, which two alone receive the approval of the author(s) of the book of Kings?
87. Under whose reign is the book of the law found in the Temple?

### **Latter Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, The Twelve)**

88. Which two prophets share the oracle, "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks"?
89. Which prophet (and what chapter of his book) had a vision of the Holy One in the Temple and heard the seraphim singing: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory"?
90. Identify book, chapter, and verse: "Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel"?
91. Identify book and chapter: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"?
92. Identify book and chapter: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots"?
93. Which prophet streaks naked through Jerusalem?
94. In which book and chapter would you find the Song of the Vineyard, "My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill"?
95. Who was king when Sennacherib of Assyria surrounded Jerusalem and held her hostage?

96. How does Isaiah 40-55 differ in tone from Isaiah 1-39?
97. Identify book and chapter: "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term"?
98. In which part of Isaiah, chapters 1-39, 40-55, or 56-66, do you find many oracles (prophecies) of judgment and hope directed to Israel and Judah in the eighteenth century?
99. In which part of the book of Isaiah, chapters 1-39, 40-55, or 56-66, do you find exclusively a hopeful message of salvation for the Babylonian exiles?
100. In which part of the book of Isaiah, chapters 1-39, 40-55, or 56-66, do you read of concerns prominent in the post-exilic period, such as keeping Sabbath and the admittance of gentiles (foreigners) to the Temple?
101. Which part of the book of Isaiah, chapters 1-39, 40-55, or 56-66, contains "Servant Songs"?
102. Identify book and chapter: "I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all of these things."
103. Identify book and chapter: "Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases but he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities: upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed..."
104. In which book is this doctrine of the resurrection found: "Your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise. O dwellers in the dust, awake and sing for joy! For your dew is a radiant dew, and the earth will give birth to those long dead"?
105. In which book is this doctrine of the of the resurrection found: "On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines and he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all people, he will swallow up death forever"?
106. Identify book and chapter: "For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."
107. In which part of the book of Isaiah, chapters 1-39, 40-55, or 56-66, would we read, "The spirit of the LORD"?
108. Which prophet, when called, protested that he was unclean?
109. Which prophet, when called, protested that he was too young?
110. Which prophet, when called, saw an almond tree and boiling pot tilted from the north?
111. Which prophet is famous for his Temple Sermon: "Do not trust in these deceptive words: this is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD"?
112. Which prophet, often called the wailing prophet, is known for his six "personal laments"?
113. Which prophet yoked himself in wooden and iron yokes successively and walked through Jerusalem?
114. Which prophet was a priest who, at his call, saw the presence of the deity as a sort of hovercraft arising from the Temple, able to travel in any direction?
115. Which prophet appears to be transported back and forth between Jerusalem and Babylon?
116. Which prophet is constantly addressed by God as "O mortal" ("son of man")?
117. Which prophet makes extensive use of the genre allegory?
118. Identify book and chapter: "A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you: and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinance."
119. Identify book and chapter: "The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with house of Israel and the house of Judah, I will put my law within them, and will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."
120. In what book and chapter would you read the vision of the valley of dry bones?
121. With what vision does the book of Ezekiel conclude in chapters 40-48?
122. Which two prophets discuss the proverb, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"?
123. Which two prophets gave children symbolic names?
124. Which prophet's marriage served as a metaphor for God's relationship with Israel?
125. Which prophetic book deals chiefly with Israel's harlotry in going after the Baals?
126. Which prophet, who often uses the term "know the LORD" or "knowledge of the LORD," comes closest to a theology of "God is love"?
127. Which chapter of Hosea presents "God as Father"?
128. For which prophetic book is the background a terrible locust plague?
129. Identify the book in which the following is found: "Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning hooks into spears."

130. Identify the book in which the following is found: "Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love."
131. Identify the book in which the following is found: "Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh: your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions."
132. Identify the book in which the following is found: "Come to Bethel-and transgress: to Gilgal-and multiply transgression."
133. Identify the book in which the following is found: "I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. But let justice roll down like water, and righteousness like an overflowing stream".
134. Identify the book in which the following is found: "Seek good and not evil, that you may live, and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you...Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate: it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph."
135. Which prophet objected, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, - Go, prophesy to my people Israel"?
136. The first prophet to announce the end of Israel came to this conclusion by staring at a basket of summer fruit. Who was he?
137. In what book is the condemnation of the sin of Edom?
138. Which book contains the shortest sermon on record and what is it (8 words in English)?
139. Which prophet needs a fish to complete God's mission?
140. What book comprises a story to illustrate what Torah and the Prophets say of God, "that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing"?
141. The first prophet to announce the fall of Jerusalem did so with these words, "Therefore because of you [leaders of society] Zion shall be plowed as a field: Jerusalem shall become a heap of ruins, and the mountain of the house [of God] a wooded height." Who was he?
142. Identify the book in which the following is found: "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days, and she shall be the one of peace."
143. Identify the book in which the following is found: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
144. Which book extols the destruction of the arrogant and wicked Nineveh (Assyria)?
145. Which brief book begins with a discussion about the problem of theodicy (why wicked prosper and the righteous suffer) and ends with a hymn?
146. From which book does Paul get his famous quote, "The righteous live by their faith"?
147. When Zephaniah writes that "The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast.... That day will be a wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness=(1:4-15, the text employed in the Requiem Mass), he was employing an exhortation first used by which eighth-century prophet? (HINT: see Amos 5:18)
148. Which two post-exilic prophets have as their agenda the rebuilding of the Temple of Jerusalem?
149. Which prophet eats a scroll inscribed with "words of lamentation and mourning and woe" and it tastes to him as sweet as honey?
150. In which post-exilic book do we read this negative assessment of prophecy, "On that day, says the Lord of hosts I will remove from the land the prophets and the unclean spirit. And if any prophets appear again, their fathers and mothers who bore them will say to them, "You shall not live, for you speak lies in the name of the LORD."
151. Which book contains all three quotations which have relevance to the New Testament: "Lo, your donkey," "So they weighed out as my wages thirty shekels of silver" and "when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn him"?
152. The title of which book means "my messenger"?
153. Identify the book in which the following is found: "Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us?"
154. Identify the book in which the following is found: "See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant

in whom you delight...But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap and he will purify the descendants of Levi."

155. Identify the book in which the following is found: "Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes."

## Writings

156. Identify the Psalm: "Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the set of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night."
157. Identify the Psalm: "I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have begotten you."
158. Identify the Psalm: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
159. Identify the Psalm: "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want."
160. Identify the Psalm: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."
161. Identify the Psalm: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me...O LORD open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise."
162. Identify the Psalm: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits."
163. Identify the Psalm: "I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."
164. Identify the book: "For learning about wisdom and instruction, for understanding words of insight, for gaining instruction in wise dealing, righteousness, justice, and equality."
165. Identify the book: "Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice."
166. Identify the book: "Go to the ant, you lazybones; consider its ways, and be wise."
167. Of whom does the book of Proverbs say, "The LORD created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago; then I was beside him, like a master worker rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race."
168. Identify the book: "The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom and whatever else you get, get insight."
169. Identify the book: "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity."
170. Identify the book: "There is nothing new under the sun."
171. Identify the book: "There is nothing better for mortals that to eat and drink, and find employment in their toil. This also, I saw is from the hand of God; for apart from him who can eat or who can have enjoyment?"
172. Identify the book: "Who knows whether the human spirit goes upward and the spirit of animals goes downward to the earth"?
173. Identify the book: "Do not be too righteous, and do not act too wise; why should you destroy yourself? Do not be too wicked, and do not be a fool; why should you die before your time"?
174. Identify the book: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."
175. Identify the book: "My beloved is all radiant and ruddy, distinguished among ten thousand...His legs are alabaster columns, set upon bases of gold."
176. Identify the book: "How graceful are your feet in sandals. O queenly maiden! Your rounded thighs are like jewels, the work of a master hand."
177. Identify the book: "Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion as fierce as grave."
178. Identify the book: "I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, do not stir up awaken love until it is ready!"
179. Who said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there, the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD"?
180. Who said, "Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad"?
181. Who said, "Let the day perish in which I was born, and the night that said, 'A man-child is conceived'"?
182. Identify the book: "For there is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease...But mortals die, and are laid low; humans expire, and where are they? So mortals lie down and do not rise again."
183. Who said, "I know that my Redeemer lives"?

184. Identify the book: "Where then does wisdom come from? It is hidden from the eyes of all living... God understands the way to it, and he knows its place."
185. Who said, "I had heard of you by hearing of the ear, but now my eyes see you"?
186. Who said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you? Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God"?
187. The name of Ruth's mother in law was \_\_\_\_\_?
188. The name of Ruth's second husband was \_\_\_\_\_?
189. The great-grandmother of David was \_\_\_\_\_?
190. Identify the book: "How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become!"
191. To whom is it said, "Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this"?
192. What is the name of Esther's cousin and guardian?
193. Who spent a night successfully in the lion's den?
194. In which book does a gentile king read the writing on the wall?
195. In which book do we read, "I saw one like a human being [Aramaic: one like a son of man] coming with the clouds of heaven"?
196. In which book is this doctrine of the resurrection found: "At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people shall arise... Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt"?
197. Who is the lay governor who rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem after the Exile?
198. Who is the priest who establishes the post-exilic state of Judah based on Torah?
199. In comparing the histories of Kings and Chronicles, which portrays Judah as a worshiping community led by a high priest?
200. What was the attitude of Ezra and Nehemiah regarding Jewish marriages to gentile spouses?

## New Testament

### The First Three Gospels (Synoptics)

201. In these gospels, there are two genealogies of Jesus, one in Matthew, chapter one, the other in \_\_\_\_\_.
202. Which two gospels begin with the infancy narrative?
203. In Matthew and Mark, who is the first person whom the adult Jesus meets?
204. In what gospel and which chapters does the Sermon on the Mount occur?
205. All three gospels report Jesus' temptation. Which one of the three is shorter than the others?
206. In which gospel does Jesus say, "COME TO ME, ALL WHO ARE WEARY"?
207. Which gospel includes several "hymns" as part of the Infancy Narrative?
208. In what gospel do we find the parables of the Lost Sheep and Coin and Sons?
209. Only one gospel contains the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Which gospel is it?
210. Which gospel depicts Jesus as the Great Teacher who begins his ministry teaching the Sermon on the Mount?
211. Shepherds, angels, and stable make up the "birth of Jesus" in which gospel?
212. A king, "wise men," and a star comprise the birth of Jesus story in which gospel and what chapter?
213. What are the names of the first four disciples whom Jesus calls?
214. One gospel has the Sermon on the Mount. Which gospel has a similar Sermon on the Plain?
215. In which gospel do we find the parables of the Ten Virgins (Maids) and the Sheep and the Goats?
216. In which gospel and in what chapter do we find the Great Commission and Baptism in the Triune Name?
217. Which gospel always seems to portray Jesus in a hurry ("and immediately")?
218. In Mark 8, when Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ, he is told not to tell anyone. In Matthew, when Peter confesses Jesus, Peter is: a) scolded? b) commended (blessed?); c) told to keep quiet?
219. In Mark's gospel, how many times does Jesus foretell his death and resurrection?
220. Which gospel ends with the women leaving Jesus' empty tomb and saying nothing because they are afraid?
221. All three gospels have Jesus sending out the twelve on a mission. Only one gospel has Jesus sending out seventy (two). Which is it?

222. Which gospel emphasizes Jesus, the friend of sinners, harlots, tax collectors, Samaritans, women and lepers?
223. The last chapters in each of the gospels tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. In which of the gospels do the following incidents occur: a) Judas' death, the dream of Pilate's wife, Pilate's washing his hands; b) Jesus being sent to Herod Jesus praying for forgiveness for his tormentors, Jesus offering salvation to a thief on the cross?
224. All three gospels have "Easter morning" stories. Resurrection appearances occur in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. In \_\_\_\_\_, there are no resurrection appearances of Jesus.

### The Fourth Gospel

225. Matthew and Luke begin with Jesus' birth. Mark begins with John's baptizing Jesus. How does the Fourth Gospel begin?
226. In John 1, what is it that the author says "became flesh"?
227. In John 3, to whom does Jesus say "You must be born from above" (or "again")?
228. In John 1, what does John "the Baptist" call Jesus?
229. In John 4, where does Jesus meet the Samaritan woman?
230. After Jesus has fed the multitude in John 6, Jesus says of himself, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ that came down from Heaven."
231. In John 9, what happens to the blind man after Jesus heals him?
232. In John 11, whom does Jesus raise from the dead?
233. Chapter 13 describes Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Rather than offering communion, Jesus does what?
234. How does Jesus' prayer in John 17 differ from Jesus' Gethsemane prayer in Matthew, Mark and Luke?
235. In John 20 (the resurrection account), who is the first person to see Jesus alive?
236. In John's gospel, on the night of his arrest what commandment does Jesus give to the disciples?
237. In John's gospel, what are Jesus' last words from the cross?
238. Who says to the risen Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"?

### The Acts of the Apostles

239. In what chapter does Jesus say, "YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU"?
240. The Pentecost account is located in chapter \_\_\_\_\_.
241. According to Acts, who is the first Christian martyr?
242. Saul's (Paul's) conversion experience is told three times in Acts. In what chapter is the story first told?
243. Chapter 10 describes the conversion of \_\_\_\_\_ by the apostle.
244. Chapters 1-12 of Acts focus on Peter. Who becomes the important missionary from chapters 13-28?
245. In chapter 15, Paul goes to Jerusalem to discuss what issue? What is the decision?
246. Chapters 16-18 describe Paul moving from Philippi to A to C.
247. In what city is Paul's message countered by "GREAT IS ARTEMIS"?

### Pauline Letters, Romans, and Galatians

248. In both Romans and Galatians Paul quotes Habakkuk 2:4: "The one who is righteous will live by faith" (or: "The one who is righteous through faith will live"). In which of the two letters does the quote announce the theme ("righteousness/justification") for a major part of that letter?
249. Abraham is an important model figure in both of these letters. Which letter emphasizes that Abraham was reckoned righteous before he was circumcised?
250. In which letter is Abraham presented in relation to two covenants: Sinai/Hagar and Jerusalem/the free woman?
251. In which letter do we find the hard truth expressed, "For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate"?
252. In what letter does Paul agonize over the fate of Israel?
253. Which letter includes the declaration, "no longer Jew or Greek, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female"?
254. In which of these letters does Paul tell the story of how he was called to be an apostle and how he formerly had persecuted the church?

255. In what city did the controversy between Paul and Peter regarding "eating with gentiles" take place?
256. In which letter do we find an account of a meeting in Jerusalem at which Paul's mission among the gentiles was approved?
257. In which letter does Paul develop an understanding of baptism into the death of Christ so that "just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life"?
258. Which letter includes the following cosmic perspective: "the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now"?
259. What letter includes: "Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came"?
260. What letter lists the fruits of the Spirit ("love, joy, peace" etc.)?
261. In chapter 16 of Romans, Paul mentions a deacon ministering in Cenchræe (close to Corinth). What was her name?
262. In chapter 16 of Romans, Paul gives thanks to a famous missionary couple who is mentioned also in Acts and in other letters. What were their names?
263. In Galatians 4:6, Paul says: "because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our (or your) hearts, crying, \_\_\_\_\_." What is it that the Spirit cries? Supply the missing two words.

### 1 and 2 Corinthians

264. In which of the two letters does Paul have a hard time with "super-apostles"?
265. In which of the two letters does Paul give a catalog of his sufferings?
266. In which of the two letters does Paul talk about himself as a person who "was caught up to the third heaven"?
267. What letter and chapter deals with division in the community? Parties of allegiance are using catchwords like "I belong to Apollos."
268. From what letter and chapter is the following quote taken: "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant"?
269. In 2 Corinthians, Paul quotes the following word from God: "My grace is sufficient for you, for (my) power is made perfect in \_\_\_\_\_." Supply the missing word.
270. What letter and chapter discusses marriage and divorce?
271. In which letter and chapter does Paul quote the words of institution of the Lord's Supper?
272. In what letter and chapter does Paul deal extensively with the theme of resurrection?
273. In what letter and chapter does Paul develop the image of the church as the body of Christ?
274. In what letter and chapter does Paul discuss the role of speaking in tongues?

### Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon

275. In which letter do we find the hymn that ends on the note, "and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"?
276. In which letter do we find a hymn that includes, "He is the head of the body, the church"?
277. Which letter begins with a long passage in liturgical language that starts: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"?
278. Which of these letters contains this statement of belief regarding Christ: "For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is the hostility between us"?
279. Which of the letters is often called "the letter of joy"?
280. From which letter is the following quote taken: "I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment"?
281. What chapter in what letter includes the exhortation, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her"?
282. The last chapter of Ephesians uses the metaphor "the whole armor of God," i.e., "belt of truth," "shield of \_\_\_\_." Supply the missing word.
283. Epaphras, a co-worker of Paul's, is mentioned in two of the letters listed above. Which two?

## 1 Thessalonians and 2 Thessalonians

284. What letter predicts the coming of "the lawless one" who "opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God"?
285. What letter includes the imagery of "the archangel's call," sound of a trumpet, sight of clouds and the promise of meeting "the Lord in the air"?
286. 1 Thessalonians employs "armor" in a figurative way. Supply what is missing in the quote, "and for a helmet the \_\_\_\_\_ of salvation."
287. 1 Thessalonians is rich in pastoral language. Paul reports, "We dealt with each one of you like a father with his children, urging and encouraging you and pleading that you lead a life worthy of God." In the same chapter he also reports, "we were gentle among you, like a nurse \_\_\_\_\_ tenderly caring for her own children."
288. In what letter does Paul censure idleness, making the proverbial statement, "Anyone unwilling to work should not eat"?

## Pastoral Epistles: 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus

289. In what letter does one find the assurance: "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"?
290. What letter mentions intercession for "kings and all who are in high positions"?
291. Which of the letters mentioned above includes a hymn that begins, "He was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels"?
292. In which of these letters does Paul, foreseeing his death, say: "the time of my departure has come. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"?
293. What letter includes: "All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"?
294. Three categories of office-bearers are grouped together on more than one occasion in these letters. They all have to possess certain moral qualities. What are the offices?
295. In what letter do we encounter the prohibition of women to teach?
296. What letter quotes the maxim, "the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil"?
297. Which letter includes the statement, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit"?

## The Catholic Epistles:

### 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Jude

298. In which letter do we read, "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people"?
299. Which of these letters expresses the opinion that Paul's letters are sometimes "hard to understand"?
300. 1 Peter includes the admonition to account for "the \_\_\_\_\_ that is in you." What word is missing?
301. In which Petrine epistle is there a reference to the Transfiguration?
302. Is it 1 Peter, 2 Peter, or Jude that quotes the non-canonical book of Enoch?
303. Is it 1 Peter, 2 Peter, or Jude that addresses the recipients of the letters as "aliens and exiles"?

## The Johannine Epistles

304. Is it first, second, or third John that begins, "We declare to you what was from the beginning"?
305. What epistle contains, "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"?
306. Which Johannine epistle is addressed to "the elect lady"?
307. Which Johannine epistle deals with a problem of authority caused by a man called Diotrefes?

308. 1 John 5 includes an affirmation about the "victory that conquers the world." What is it that conquers the world?

### The Epistle to the Hebrews

309. What chapter in Hebrews gives a list of witnesses from Abel through Rahab, praising them for their faith?
310. In Hebrews, Jesus is represented as the High Priest. Is it as one of the order of Aaron or as one of the order of Melchizedek?
311. Hebrews says about Jesus: "Because he himself was \_\_\_\_\_ by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested." What word is missing?
312. What chapter of Hebrews begins, "Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets"?
313. What word is missing in the following assurance quoted from Hebrews: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and \_\_\_\_\_"?

### The Epistle of James

314. What issue predominates James: a) rich and poor, b) faithfulness and unfaithfulness, c) true and false teaching?
315. The Epistle of James includes a simile where a ship is "guided by a very small rudder" is compared to \_\_\_\_\_.

### The Book of Revelation

316. The Book of Revelation is structured around what number (letters, seals, trumpets, etc.)?
317. Two of the chief characters in the book are the One who sits on the throne and the \_\_\_\_\_.
318. In this book we find the hymn 'Worthy is the Lamb who was \_\_\_\_\_.'
319. Where is John when he receives his Revelation?
320. In Revelation we hear the words, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_."
321. In Revelation 12 a woman clothed in the sun has a child that is threatened by a \_\_\_\_\_.
322. In Revelation 13 two beasts are described, the first rising from the \_\_\_\_\_ and the second from the \_\_\_\_\_.
323. In chapter 5, why is the lamb considered worthy to take the scroll and break its seals?
324. The book of Revelation begins, "The Revelation of \_\_\_\_\_."
325. In Revelation 10, what is John told to eat?
326. In the picture of the new heaven and earth, where is the New Jerusalem located?
327. In this city, there is no \_\_\_\_\_ because God is in its midst.
328. The last prayer in the Bible is located at Revelation 22:20. What is it?
329. What is the first thing that John sees after he is taken into heaven?
330. What appears when the first four seals are broken?

### Essay Questions (Open Book)

You will be given open book essay questions.