



DEACON FORMATION PROGRAM

The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to identify the formation requirements for deacons in the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina (EDUSC).

Scope

This procedure applies to all persons granted postulancy to the diaconate after January 1, 2020.

Program

Academic Formation

Academic formation will be obtained by attending the Church Divinity School of the Pacific Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership (CALL). This two-year training program is conducted through online courses offered throughout the year. These courses are designed so that participation is at the postulant's on pace and schedule. (Please note that the class are subject to change.)

The required courses are:

Year One

Fall

- Anglican Bible
- The Gospels
- The Way of Jesus

Winter

- Introduction to the New Testament
- Church History: Wisdom for Mission Today
- The Old Testament: Pentateuch

Spring



- What We Believe: Theology in the Anglican Tradition
- The Old Testament: Prophets
- Church History: Reformation Roots to Episcopal Church

Year Two

Fall

- The Diaconate
- Social Ministry

Winter

- Ethics
- Social Ministry II
- The Epistles

Spring

- The Diaconal Hermeneutic
- Diaconal Theology
- Homiletics

Experiential Formation

Parish Contextual Formation

For a minimum of six months, the postulant will participate in a contextual ministry formation program. Contextual ministry training is designed to help persons integrate theology, the Christian tradition, and ministry skills in a practical ministry setting. This may be accomplished in one of two ways.

The postulant may participate in a contextual ministry training program offered by a seminary school. Virginia Theological Seminary, as do other theological training institutions, offer a contextual ministry program.

A local program may be established with the approval of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper S.C. Canon for Christian Formation, Congregational Vitality, and Missional Communities. This learning shall include an advisory lay committee and a Deacon (or priest) Supervisor. Periodic reflection events with the lay committee and the supervisor shall be held and documented at least every two months. The supervisor shall provide mid-program and final assessments.

Social Ministry Internship

The postulant shall participate in a social ministry internship for a minimum of six months. The selected internship shall be approved by the Commission on Ministry.



The postulant shall provide a reflection report every two months. The internship supervisor shall provide mid-program and final assessments.

Asset Based Community Development Training (ABCD), is an approach to sustainable community-driven development. ABCD training is required and should be completed during the Social Ministry Internship.

Seminarian Retreat and Portfolio Process

The postulant shall participate in the annual seminarian retreats sponsored by the Commission on Ministry.

The postulant shall participate in the portfolio evaluation process by submitting written work relevant to the canonical areas to the Examining Chaplains for evaluation prior to ordination. The canonical areas are the (1) Holy Scriptures, theology, and the tradition of the Church, (2) Diakonia and the diaconate (3) Human awareness and understanding (4) Spiritual development and discipline (4) Practical training and experience.

Spiritual Direction

The postulant shall obtain a trained spiritual director and regularly engage with that person through the formation process. The EDUSC Canon for Christian Formation, Congregational Vitality, and Missional Communities will assist the postulant in finding a spiritual director.

Diaconate Mentor

The postulant, working with the Canon for Christian Formation, Congregational Vitality, and Missional Communities shall identify a diaconate mentor to provide guidance through the formation process.

Canonically Mandated Training

The following canonical mandated training shall be completed:

- Becoming Beloved Community Training (anti-racism training)
- Title IV Training (standards of conduct and accountability)
- Safeguarding God's People Training
- Civil Requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.



Formation completion shall be documented on a Deacon Formation Record. Documentation of completion shall be attached to the Deacon Formation Record. Acceptable documentation will typically include transcripts, completion certificates, reflection reports and assessment reports.

Exceptions to Training

Exceptions to Training are requested by the postulant, recommended by the Canon for Christian Formation, Congregational Vitality, and Missional Communities, and approved by the Bishop of the Diocese of Upper South Carolina or his/her delegate. Justification may include experience, previous training, and professional training. Exceptions shall be documented on the Deacon Formation Exception Form.

Training Exception forms shall be attached to the Deacon Formation Record.



DEACON FORMATION RECORD

The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

Name: _____

Formation Item	Date Completed	Initials
Academic Formation		
Anglican Bible		
The Gospels		
The Way of Jesus		
Introduction to the New Testament		
Church History: Wisdom for Mission Today		
The Old Testament: Pentateuch		
What We Believe: Theology in the Anglican Tradition		
The Old Testament: Prophets		
Church History: Reformation Roots to Episcopal Church		
The Diaconate		
Social Ministry		
Mentoring Diaconate		
Ethics		
Social Ministry II		
The Epistles		
The Diaconal Hermeneutic		
Diaconal Theology		
Homiletics		
Experiential Formation		
Parish Contextual Formation		
Social Ministry Internship		
Seminarian Retreat and Portfolio Process		
Asset Based Community Development Training		
Spiritual Direction		
Diaconate Mentor		
Canonical Mandated Training		
Becoming Beloved Community Training (anti-racism training)		
Title IV Training (standards of conduct and accountability)		
Safeguarding God's People Training		

Civil Requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse		
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DEACON FORMATION EXCEPTION FORM

The Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

Formation requirement to be excepted:

Justification (attach supporting documents):

Requested by: _____
Printed Name Signature Date
Postulant

Recommended by: _____
Printed Name Signature Date
Canon for Christian
Formation, Congregational
Vitality, and Missional
Communities

Approved by: _____
Bishop or delegate, Signature Date

Episcopal Diocese of Upper
South Carolina