



# THE DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

### **Aspirant's Spiritual and Personal Autobiography**

#### **Form 4b**

The aspirant is to write a spiritual and personal history addressing the points below. The purpose is to provide an in-depth picture of you, the aspirant, to help inform the discernment process. Copies can be made available to Discernment Committee members after the committee agrees to confidentiality. A copy needs to be sent to the Canon to the Ordinary by the aspirant to be shared with the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Ordained Ministry (BACOM).

This document should not be shared with the Vestry or the Clergy or Leader Exercising Oversight. This is a confidential document.

Honest and candid information (5 to 8 pages double spaced) will be beneficial to the discernment process.

If the following points leave out any important elements in your journey, please provide them.

1. Describe significant aspects of your early life. Your past and current relationships with your parents and siblings should be explored. Who are the individuals who have been most influential in your journey and why?
2. Describe your spiritual journey.
3. Describe your call to ordination. When did you first consider ordination? Please explain whether you feel called to the diaconate or the priesthood and why, as opposed to any other ministry? How was this call tested and explored by you personally, by you and your priest, and by you and your Congregational Discernment Committee? Name your ministry as you see it at this stage. What alternative callings have you considered?
4. Describe the gifts and talents that you bring to the church. How have you demonstrated them in your congregation and in the community beyond? Be specific. What do you see as your strengths and weaknesses? What are you passionate about?

5. What other congregations of The Episcopal Church have you experienced? If you have been a member of any other congregation, Episcopal or otherwise, for more than 6 months, please give the complete name, address, and phone number of each church, and your reasons for leaving.
6. Describe your close personal relationships, the relationships on which your call to ordination will have the most significant impact. This can include family members and business relationships.
7. Please discuss any former significant relationships listed on Form 4a and describe the work you have done to reconcile the dissolution of these relationships and the impact of the dissolution on yourself, others, (particularly children if applicable), and your relationship with God.
8. If you have been married more than once, please describe any counseling you participated in and the internal work you did prior to taking on this covenant.
9. Describe how you live out your Baptismal Covenant.
10. In what way has stewardship theology been a part of your life? Describe your personal practice of stewardship.
11. How do you understand the authority of and your personal relationship with the Bishop?

Please feel free to add other pertinent and important information.

**Send your Spiritual and Personal Autobiography to:**

The Rev. Philip C. Linder, Canon to the Ordinary, at [plinder@episcopalchurchsc.org](mailto:plinder@episcopalchurchsc.org)