

# **Diocese of Georgia Training of Bivocational Priests & Vocational Deacons** (updated January 2017)

## **Training Required**

### **1. Non-Degree Certificate through the School of Theology at Sewanee**

(Each module couplet requires a twelve-day residence at Sewanee)

Module 1: Ethics and Anglican Moral Theology<sup>[1][1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Module 2: Contemporary Society and Christian Witness

Module 1: Church History, including Episcopal Church history and polity<sup>[1][1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Module 2: Theology, including sacramental theology

Module 1: Pastoral Theology<sup>[1][1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Module 2: Prayer Book and Liturgy

Module 1: Old Testament and Preaching<sup>[1][1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Module 2: New Testament and Preaching<sup>[1][1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Students may enter the program at any point, taking the modules in any order. The total cost/year (tuition, room, board, books, travel, etc.) is about \$9000. The Diocese, the student, and the student's congregation normally each contribute 1/3 of the cost.

**Note: Vocational Deacon Candidates may substitute the first two years of EfM training for the Sewanee Program described above.**

### **2. Local Diocesan Formation**

#### **A. The School for Ministry**

Weekends over two years (may be completed while enrolled in the Sewanee program for priesthood or EFM for the diaconate)

1. The Diaconate & The Priesthood (Faculty: Scott Benhase & Sandy Turner)
2. Liturgics Practicum (Faculty: Ri Lamb & Lonnie Lacy)
3. Homiletics Practicum (Faculty: Frank Logue, Helen White, & Patti Davis)

#### **B. Church Development Institute (CDI) \***

Held at Honey Creek and elsewhere in the Diocese, CDI is an eight-weekend training program (over two years) in church leadership development. In between weekends, participants work on projects and engage in other learning.

#### **C. EQHR Training \***

Held at Honey Creek, this five-day laboratory workshop helps participants to greater self-awareness and understand how they are received by others.

#### **D. Conflict Management Workshop \***

Held at Honey Creek, this four-day laboratory workshop helps participants learn their conflict style, conflict theory, and best practices in dealing with conflict.

\* This training is required for all candidates for the Priesthood. Candidates for the Diaconate are invited to take this training.

*Successful completion of Safe Guarding God's Children and Anti-Racism Training is required for all candidates for ordination.*

### **3. Internship**

While completing all the above (or after), the Diocese requires a four to six-month internship where the candidate serves in a ministry context with an assigned supervisor. The candidate will be assigned a coach from the diocesan coaching pool at this time. The candidate is also expected to be in active spiritual direction. The Letter of Agreement to be used for all internships follows:

#### **Internship Agreement**

##### **Introduction**

This agreement was executed on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, between a Mentor, \_\_\_\_\_, and an Intern, \_\_\_\_\_.

This internship shall be primarily related to ministry undertaken at the (congregation) named \_\_\_\_\_ and located in \_\_\_\_\_, Georgia. The internship shall begin on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_, and end \_\_\_\_\_ months later, unless otherwise extended or terminated on another date by the Bishop of Georgia.

##### **Expectations of the Intern**

In the course of this internship, the Intern shall:

- (1) Demonstrate an appropriate commitment and competency in all work undertaken at the direction of the Mentor.
- (2) Assist the Mentor and other lay and ordained leaders in nurturing the church's life and ministry through an orthodox theology and a commitment to the core mission of the church, which is renewing people in their primary missional task and equipping them for their apostolate in the world.
- (3) Engage in a regular discipline of theological reflection with the Mentor, using experiences from this internship as a basis for exploring the intersection of God, self, ministry, and meaning.
- (4) Demonstrate congruence between belief and behavior, and between the public and private dimensions of life, while coping with the challenges that are typical for the Intern's present position in life.
- (5) Be committed to the maintenance of a disciplined spiritual life by undertaking daily prayer and study of the Scriptures, the stewardship of personal health, regular meetings with her or his spiritual director, and such other practices as her or his spiritual director recommends.

##### **Expectations of the Mentor**

In the course of this internship, the Mentor shall:

- (1) Provide the Intern with those specific tasks that further the Intern's experiential, intellectual and spiritual growth, and support the life and mission of the church community.

- (2) Provide the Intern specifically with training in the fields of pastoral care (including visiting with the sick and shut-in; providing support to the emotionally or spiritually embattled; and undertaking holy listening) and parish administration (including leading vestry meetings, managing budgetary matters and creating parochial reports).
- (3) Provide and engage in a reliable framework for regular theological reflection with the Intern upon those work experiences that best lend themselves to this form of analysis.
- (4) Provide the Intern with leadership and guidance with is appropriate to the setting in which the work is done, and the strengths and challenges which the Intern demonstrates.
- (5) Provide the Intern with timely, reliable, honest, practical, and kind feedback concerning the work that the Intern undertakes at the Mentor's direction, and other tangential matters that would be enhanced by gentle, forthright guidance.

**Other Agreements**

- (1) This Letter of Agreement, signed by the Mentor, the Intern, and the Bishop, shall be kept on file in the church office, with copies provided to all signees.
- (2) This letter, along with any attachments, contains the entire agreement among the parties, and it may be revised only by mutual agreement reduced to writing and signed by all parties.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mentor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Intern

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop of Georgia

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date