

Deacon School for Ministry

Traditions of the Church Competencies

Goal: This area of study will equip the postulant/candidate with the skills and reference materials necessary to articulate the rich history of the Christian Church (with emphasis on the Episcopal Church) to inquirers and those interested in learning more about the relevance of the church in today's world. Successful postulant/candidate will be able to articulate how the traditions of the Church inform and enhance the theology and doctrine of the Episcopal Church.

Methodology: The material needed for the successful completion of this requirement will be acquired through a combination of individual/group discussion, exercises, and assigned readings. It is highly recommended that the 3rd year of EfM, Church History, be completed in addition to the assigned readings.

Requirements: For successful completion of this competency, the postulant/candidate will attend the weekend retreat, fulfill the reading requirements and complete the written assignments.

Postulants/candidates will demonstrate basic competency in the following areas:

- History of church: major eras of change and doctrinal development
- The Book of Common Prayer: history, structure
- Structure of the Episcopal Church
- Seasons of the Church
- The Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral

Written requirements:

1. Coffee hour questions: deacons are frequently stopped and asked a quick question regarding the Episcopal Church or we are asked to write a short bulletin article. It is important that you learn to clearly and concisely respond to such questions. Please write a paragraph response to each of the following questions, each response being approximately 400-500 words. The response should be what we would say today. The paper should be submitted prior to the designated Deacon School weekend. Bring the completed papers to the weekend as we will discuss our responses as a group.
 - What was the difference between the English Reformation and Protestant Reformation?
 - Why do we have creeds; isn't the Bible enough?
 - What is the background behind the origin of the Episcopal flag/shield?
 - Is the Episcopal church Protestant or Catholic?

- Does the Episcopal Church report to the Archbishop of Canterbury?
- Why is the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral important?
- Why do Episcopalians celebrate the liturgical year?

Final Assignment: A study of one of the men or women celebrated by the Episcopal Church and included within Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018 (<https://extranet.generalconvention.org/staff/files/download/21034>). Please limit your selection to Anglicans, which include Episcopalians. The paper should limit biographical information to data that bears directly on the diaconal character of the person's spirituality and the impact that the individual has for the contemporary world. The paper should be from 1200 to 1500 words. Please include a citation page at the end of your paper listing your sources.

Required readings:

Walker, Williston, et al., A History of the Christian Church, 4th edition. New York: Scribner, 1985, ISBN: 0-684-18417-6,

Or

MacCulloch, Diarmaid, A History of Christianity: The First Three Thousand Years, Penguin Publishing Group, 2009, ISBN: 9780143118695, and,

Holmes, David L., Brief History of the Episcopal Church, Harrisburg: Trinity Press International, 1993. ISBN: 1-5338-060-9, and,

Lee, Jeffrey, Opening the Prayer Book (The New Church's Teaching Series), Boston: Cowley Publications, 1999. ISBN: 1-56101-166-5.

Supplemental Texts, not required to read but useful for any deacon's library:

Prichard, Robert, A History of the Episcopal Church, Wilton: Morehouse Publishing, 1991. ISBN: 0-8192-1828-6.

Ehrman, Bart D. The Triumph of Christianity: How a Forbidden Religion Swept the World, Simon & Schuster, 2018. ISBN: 978-1501136702.

Thompsett, Frederica Harris, Living with History (The New Church's Teaching Series), Boston: Cowley Publications, 1999. ISBN: 1-56101-160-6.

Schmidt, Richard H. Glorious Companions: Five Centuries of Anglican Spirituality, Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2002, ISBN: 978-0-8028-2222-2.

Sykes, Stephen, et al. The Study of Anglicanism, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998, ISBN: 0-8006-3151-X.

Talley, Thomas J. The Origins of the Liturgical Year, Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1991. ISBN: 0-8146-6075-4.