

Brief Summary of Candidacy Process

Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA

Discernment

At some point, the future candidate senses a call or nudge to serve Christ through the church in a way that is beyond what one can do as a volunteer. This usually leads to a conversation with the person's pastor.

That conversation generally leads to a conversation with the Assistant to the Bishop of Leadership in the synod office.

Following that, the candidacy process begins. There are three steps along the way to either ordination into *Word and Sacrament* or consecration into *Word and Service*:

Entrance

- Complete an application and entrance essay
- Give permission for a background check
- Make arrangements for a psychological assessment with the person selected by the synod
- Have an initial interview with someone from the Candidacy Committee
- Get a recommendation from the candidate's current congregation
- Participate in an entrance panel with several members of the Candidacy Committee
- Candidates are encouraged, but not required, to attend an ELCA Seminary. Those who do not are considered affiliate students and must affiliate with one of the ELCA Seminaries.

Endorsement

- An endorsement panel is held for the purpose of assessing the candidate's progress and likelihood of successfully completing the requirements for ordination or consecration.
- This panel generally includes a seminary faculty advisor in addition to two Candidacy Committee members
- Candidate writes and submits an endorsement essay
- This generally takes place after a year of study and completion of a CPE experience, before an internship

Approval

- A final panel is held with members of the Candidacy Committee following a positive report from faculty and an internship supervisor
- This typically occurs in the last semester of seminary studies
- The candidate prepares a final essay
- The panel is looking for indications the person is ready for consecrated or ordained service
- Assuming all goes well the candidate is now ready to accept a call