

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 indepth picture of the aspirant to help inform the discernment process. A draft should be completed by the mid-point of the discernment process and shared with the committee. A final version will also be sent to the address below to be put in the aspirant's file for the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Ordained Ministry to read in preparation for the BACOM weekend the nominee attends. The CDC is not to share this document with the Vestry or the Member or the Clergy or Leader Exercising Oversight. This is a confidential document. Honest and candid information (6 to 8 pages double spaced) will be a great benefit in the discernment process. If the following points leave out any important elements in the aspirant's journey, the aspirant is asked to provide them.

1. Describe the 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 are called to the diaconate or the priesthood and why that rather than 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 would bring to this church. How have you demonstrated them in your congregation and in the community beyond. Be specific. What do you see as your strengths and your 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 P4a 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) 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?

12. Elaborations from Form P4a:

Former ordinations

Previous participation in the Holy Orders process in this or any other Anglican Communion

Disabilities

Psychotherapy or other similar counseling

Send this form to:

Executive Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary
The Diocese of Colorado
1300 Washington Street
Denver CO 80203-2008