



Qualities of Future Priests

1. Firm Spiritual Foundation Rooted in Jesus: Spiritual leadership requires openness to God cultivated by a disciplined spiritual life of prayer, worship, spiritual attentiveness, and actions of caring and justice. Future clergy are expected to model their spiritual journey of engaging Scripture daily, lifelong learning, personal prayer and reflection, and spiritual depth throughout their entire lives.

2. Integrity/Character: In all relationships, future clergy should possess authenticity, transparency, creativity, and honesty in all relationships. All clergy are expected to embody the love of God through qualities of genuineness, empathy, compassion, and presence.

3. Proclaim the Good News: Future priests, through preaching, teaching, liturgy, sacrament and service and/or other forms of proclamation, demonstrate the ability to communicate and apply the gospel of Jesus Christ to the needs and realities of the present day, including prophetic witness. Effective proclamation includes the ability to invite others to follow Jesus more faithfully and witness to the world in love. Clergy are specifically called to be a public witness of our faith and stand against systems of oppression and injustice. Like all followers of Jesus, clergy will strive to empower others to grow in grace and in the likeness of Christ, claiming their call to discipleship and to the work of service, reconciliation and social justice.

4. Self-Care: The ordained leader possesses the time management skills that allow for a healthy balance among work, family and self-care responsibilities. Self-care includes the ability to define and establish appropriate boundaries, to keep personal perspective when working through conflict and the ability to integrate life-long learning goals and regular continuing education into the fabric of work and life. They will model rest and time of sabbath to reflect and renew one's spirit.

5. Missional Mindset: Prospective priests will engage with the wider community outside the walls of their churches. They will have demonstrated the ability to gather and empower people inside and outside the Church. They will have a collaborative mindset. Future clergy should have demonstrated community involvement. This new generation of clergy is called to be innovative and take risks. Future priests will be called to help all people see the constantly changing church and society. The Church needs leaders who will seek new models of church leadership and ways of being the Church in the world.



6. Cross-cultural Competence: Our country is becoming increasingly diverse and the Episcopal Church is learning how to interact with this reality. Prospective clergy should have experience(s) in a culture that is vastly different than their own. They should be able to serve in communities with people of different ethnicities, sexual orientations, differing abilities, gender expressions, generations, and socioeconomic classes. The ability to speak one or more languages, other than English, is strongly desired.

7. Leadership Skills - Prospective clergy should be able to identify their own strengths and deficiencies. Leadership in the church of the future includes demonstrating the ability to equip and train others for various ministries and to assist others in identifying their gifts for ministry. They should possess a high emotional intelligence and the ability to help congregations adapt to a changing reality. The clergy person possesses the necessary skills to engage all persons with respect: to listen, to manage conflict in ways that lead to healthy resolution and to equip and partner with the laity for ministry.