

**OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS TO POSTULANCY  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FT. WORTH  
4301 Meadowbrook Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76103**

**Revised: January 2013**

- | Check when<br>completed |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. _____                | 1. The aspirant will be an active, confirmed or received member of a congregation in the Diocese of Ft. Worth for at least one year <i>after which</i> they are to be in conversation with the priest in charge of that congregation for one year.                                                                          |
| 2. _____                | 2. The aspirant will attend the diocesan <i>Discernment Conference</i> --an overnight program held at a local retreat center. Through this process the aspirant will explore along with members of the Commission on Ministry the ministries of the Church: laity, diaconate, and priesthood.                               |
| 3. _____                | 3. The aspirant discusses discernment with the priest in charge of the congregation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 4. _____                | 4. Aspirants who discern a call to ordained ministry complete the application for Postulancy, including a spiritual autobiography and a vision statement. Forms may be obtained from the diocesan office. The aspirant keeps one copy, gives one copy to the Parish Discernment Group and sends one to the diocesan office. |
| 5. _____                | 5. The priest in charge names a Parish Discernment Group (PDG) to be trained and commissioned by members of the Commission on Ministry.                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6. _____                | 6. PDG and aspirant meet.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7. _____                | 7. PDG and priest in charge complete their reports and send them to the diocesan office—whether the recommendation is positive or negative.                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 8. _____                | 8. If recommendation of PDG is positive, the priest in charge sends the signed <b>Congregational Nomination</b> form to the bishop.                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 9. _____                | 9. Aspirant meets with the bishop.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 10. _____               | 10. Aspirants recommended by the bishop to continue in the ordination process, complete the following documents required by the Church Pension Group, cost shared equally among the aspirant, the sponsoring parish, and the COM.                                                                                           |
| a. _____                | a. Background check                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| b. _____                | b. Initial psychological review                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| c. _____                | c. Physical examination                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 11. _____               | 11. Aspirant completes Church Pension Group's "Plan Ahead" on-line worksheets.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 12. _____               | 12. Aspirant meets with Commission on Ministry to review postulancy application. The Commission may feel that more than one meeting is necessary.                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 13. _____               | 13. Commission on Ministry sends recommendations to the bishop, who notifies aspirants of his/her canonical status.                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 14. _____               | 14. Aspirants accepted as postulants prepare for education and formation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |