

Essay of Personal Life, Call, and Ministry

Submit an essay (10-12 pages) which covers three areas: 1. *Your Life, Family and Faith Journey*, 2. *Your Personal and Spiritual Gifting and Call to Ordained Ministry*, and 3. *Your Understanding of the Church, the Bible and Ministry*.

This essay must be signed and dated and should include the following information for each area covered:

Your Life, Family and Faith Journey

- Describe your life and background, including your relationship with your parents, siblings, spouse and children (if applicable).
- Describe the family pattern of religious affiliation during your growing-up years.
- Describe how you first came to living faith in Jesus Christ and how have you grown in following Him.
- What obstacles, trials or failures have you faced which have challenged your faith? How did you respond in these situations?
- Describe where you see the Lord working in your life right now, especially in your spiritual life and disciplines.
- Describe a time when you struggled with your faith and/or felt far from God. How did you respond to this?
- Describe any mission trips (foreign or domestic) you have taken.
- What social and recreational organizations are you a member of and briefly describe your participation? (If a member of a masonic organization, please list.)

Your Personal and Spiritual Gifting and Call to Ordained Ministry

- Describe your strengths and growth areas and how they have been affirmed by others.
- How does your present ministry and/or work context draw on your God-given personality and strengths?
- Describe a circumstance where you faced conflict, how you reacted, what you might have done differently, and what you learned about how you react to conflict.
- Describe your usual reaction to stress.
- Describe your Spiritual gifts and how you have used your gifts in ministry.
- Describe your sense of call to ordained ministry as a vocation and the events and people who influenced and affirmed your call.

Your Understanding of the Church, the Bible and Ministry.

- What is your biblical and theological understanding of the nature and mission of the Church, and ministry within the Church?
- What is the role of Holy Scripture in the Church?
- What Scripture verse(s) are important to you and have they influenced your life?