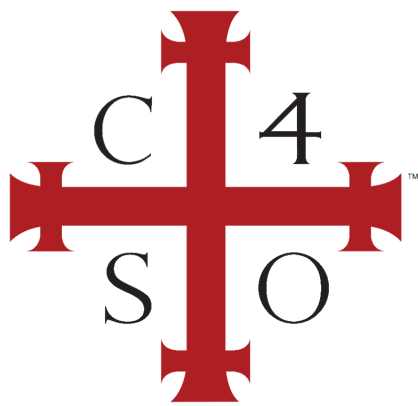




THE DIOCESE OF
CHURCHES
FOR THE SAKE
OF OTHERS

ORDINATION PREPARATION TEAM GUIDE

*Last Updated August 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	C4SO Ordination Preparation Team Guide
3	Our mission
4	Where the OPT fits in the discernment process
4	Roles in the Deanery Process: OPT Lead
5	OPT Member
5	Dean
6	The Deanery Discernment Process
7	The OPT interview
8	What the OPT is listening for
9	Following the interview

C4SO ORDINATION PREPARATION TEAM GUIDE

Thank you for serving on a C4SO Ordination Preparation Team (OPT)!

Your ministry is a vital part of C4SO's work of discernment. By serving on an OPT, you join the postulant during an important stage of their journey toward Holy Orders. Your presence, questions, prayer and wisdom help the diocese discern whether God is calling this person into ordained ministry within the Anglican Church in North America and the Diocese of Churches for the Sake of Others (C4SO).

Discernment is always a community process. While God's call is deeply personal, it is never private. Thank you for helping the Church faithfully recognize and affirm God's work.

OUR MISSION

C4SO exists to spread the gospel through church planting.

We ordain women and men who are serving in paid or stipendiary ministry positions in growing C4SO churches that require additional clergy, or who are preparing to lead healthy core congregations into new church plants.

Every step of discernment serves this mission.

WHERE THE OPT FITS IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS

The postulant you will interview has already completed a significant Local Process of discernment.

Before arriving at the Deanery Process, they have received affirmation from:

- Their Rector
- Their Parish Discernment Committee
- Their spouse (when applicable)
- Their local congregation

Your role is not to repeat the Local Process.

Instead, the Ordination Preparation Team helps discern whether the postulant is prepared to serve the wider diocese and the Anglican Communion as an ordained minister.

ROLES IN THE DEANERY PROCESS: OPT LEAD

The OPT Lead is responsible for:

- Scheduling and facilitating the interview
- Providing all interview materials and documentation
- Guiding the conversation
- Compiling the team's recommendations
- Preparing the final OPT report

The completed report is shared with the postulant, rector, dean, **Bishop** and the diocesan office.

If you have questions about the interview, documentation or technology, please contact your OPT Lead.

OPT MEMBER

As an OPT member, your responsibility is one of prayerful discernment.

Together, the team explores the postulant's:

- Understanding of ordained ministry within the Anglican tradition
- Commitment to the mission and values of C4SO
- Readiness to serve within the wider Church
- Evidence of spiritual maturity and pastoral leadership
- Ongoing call to Holy Orders

Most interviews are conducted by Zoom or Google Meet.

Following the interview, the team submits a written recommendation to the rector, dean, **Bishop** and diocesan office.

DEAN

After receiving the OPT report and all supporting documentation, the dean meets with the postulant to:

- Review the team's recommendations
 - Discuss ongoing formation and discernment
 - Explore areas for continued growth or study
 - Prepare a final recommendation for the diocesan office
-

THE DEANERY DISCERNMENT PROCESS

The postulant's journey through the Deanery Process includes:

□ **1. Complete the Holy Orders Application.**

Submit the Holy Orders Application and all requested documentation.

□ **2. Begin Theological Education.**

Begin the required theological education as directed by the Canon for Ordinations.

□ **3. Meet With the Ordination Preparation Team.**

Participate in the OPT interview.

□ **4. Meet with the Dean.**

Participate in the Dean's interview.

□ **5. Receive Candidate Status.**

After all materials and recommendations have been received and reviewed, approved postulants become **candidates** and move into the Diocesan Process of discernment.

THE OPT INTERVIEW

The interview is intended to be conversational.

Your goal is to understand how the postulant has discerned God's call and whether that call aligns with the mission and ministry of C4SO.

The following questions are representative rather than exhaustive.

Calling and Identity

- What led you to seek Holy Orders in the Anglican Church?
- How do you understand the ministry of ordained clergy within the ACNA and the wider Anglican Communion?
- Can you clearly articulate your call to a particular people, place and purpose?
- Does your ministry require ordination, or could it continue faithfully as a lay ministry?

C4SO and the Church

- What is your understanding of your role within diocesan life?
- How do C4SO's values shape your ministry?

Anglican Formation

- After reading the Examination for Deacons (Book of Common Prayer, pp. 543–544) or the Examination for Priests, is there anything in these vows that you could not make with integrity before the Lord?

Ministry and Leadership

- What are your hopes for the next five years of ministry?
- How do you plan to continue growing personally and professionally?
- What practices will sustain your spiritual, emotional and physical health over the coming years?

Readiness

- Is there anything that would disqualify you from Holy Orders?
- Are there current life circumstances—financial, educational, vocational or familial—that may present challenges during this season?

Pastoral Wisdom

Invite the postulant to respond pastorally to a topic commonly encountered in C4SO—for example:

- Women's ordination
- Infant baptism
- Biblical marriage
- Christian sexual ethics

Postulants should imagine they are speaking with a first-time visitor after Sunday worship and have only a few minutes to respond.

WHAT THE OPT IS LISTENING FOR

Throughout the conversation, the OPT is prayerfully discerning whether the postulant demonstrates:

- Theological alignment with C4SO
- Pastoral wisdom
- Humility
- Spiritual maturity
- Healthy leadership
- Teachability

The team also looks for evidence that the postulant embodies C4SO's core values:

- Kindness: Can they respond genuinely?
- Unflappable Confidence in Jesus: Can they respond confidently?
- Hospitality: Can they respond invitationally?
- Transparency: Can they respond openly?

FOLLOWING THE INTERVIEW

At the conclusion of the interview, your OPT Lead will explain how to submit your observations, questions, concerns and recommendations.

The final report is completed using the diocesan OPT report form.

The team may schedule additional conversations whenever they believe it would serve the discernment process.

Likewise, the team is not restricted to the sample questions provided in this guide. Follow-up questions are often necessary.

Remember, however, that your role is not to function as a therapist, mentor or advisory board.

Your role is discernment.

THANK YOU!

Serving on an Ordination Preparation Team is a sacred responsibility.

Through your prayer, careful listening and thoughtful questions, you help the Church recognize those whom God is calling to ordained ministry.

Thank you for giving your time, wisdom and faithfulness to this important work.