

# The Church of the Southern Cross

## Receiving Ordained Ministers from Christian Bodies in Apostolic Succession

1. A person ordained in Apostolic Succession interested in joining the ministry of the Church of the Southern Cross should apply to the Diocesan office. The following documents should be provided in support of the application:
  - A written letter of request for reception.
  - A signed CEEC certificate of Affirmations and Declarations.
  - Copies of the applicant's ordination certificates in the Apostolic Succession.
  - Copies of the applicant's educational qualifications and transcripts.
  - An overview of the applicant's ministerial and life experiences and a list of places at which they have served.
  - The applicant must provide a minimum of two references from past ministerial experience - one from clergy, one from laity.
  - The applicant must have a current ministry at this time, or submit a suggested plan for future ministry. Exception to this requirement would be for retired clergy who are seeking to stay in communion with a bishop so that their orders will remain active.
2. The applicant will meet in person with the Bishop or his representative to discuss the application, at which time (if not previously done) the above documentation should be provided.
3. The applicant, once accepted, should be received in a setting of public worship, if possible, as a matter of public record. This service would include the affirmation of the clergy and laity in the service, the blessing of the clergy received, and the right hand of fellowship extended. Official documents (Certificate of Reception, License to Preach, etc.) should be presented at this time.
4. Each ordained minister in the Church of the Southern Cross will re-affirm his/her vows annually in writing. He/She shall annually submit an update of their ministry to the Bishop; this may take the form of the Rector's Report to the Annual Congregational Meeting. These will form part of the ongoing file of the clergy person.

## Receiving Ordained Ministers from Churches not in Apostolic Succession

1. A person ordained or licensed by another Christian body which is not in historic Apostolic Succession should apply for Holy Orders to the office of the Church of the Southern Cross.
2. The applicant will meet in person with the Bishop or his representative, at which time (if not previously done) the following should be provided:
  - A written letter of request for reception.
  - A signed CEEC certificate of Affirmations and Declarations.
  - Copies of the applicant's ordination certificates in the Apostolic Succession.
  - Copies of the applicant's educational qualifications and transcripts.
  - An overview of the applicant's ministerial and life experiences and a list of places at which they have served.
  - The applicant must provide a minimum of two references from past ministerial experience - one from clergy, one from laity.
  - The applicant must have a current ministry at this time, or submit a suggested plan for future ministry. Exception to this requirement would be for retired clergy who are seeking to stay in communion with a bishop so that their orders will remain active.

2. The applicant will meet in person with the Bishop or his representative to discuss the application, at which time (if not previously done) the above documentation should be provided.
3. The petitioner should demonstrate that they are proficient in their knowledge of:
  - The Holy Scriptures
  - Church History
  - Dogmatic Theology
  - Sacramental Theology
  - Practical Theology
  - Christian Ethics/Moral Theology
  - Liturgics
  - Pastoral Care
  - Parish Administration
  - Missions
  - Homiletics
  - The Canons of the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches
3. Because the Church of the Southern Cross honours the ordinations and licenses of ministers in the non-apostolic succession churches, the minister may be ordained into the Apostolic Succession, after agreeing upon a course of continued studies or further reading, as set forth by the Bishop. This agreement will be in writing and signed by both parties prior to ordination.
4. The applicant must be ordained and received into the Apostolic Succession in a setting of public worship, preferably in their home church. The ordination liturgy must be approved by the Diocesan Bishop. Certificates of Appointment, License to Preach, and Ordination Certificates should be presented at this time.
5. Each ordained minister in the Church of the Southern Cross will re-affirm his/her vows annually in writing. He/She shall annually submit an update of their ministry to the Bishop; this may take the form of the Rector's Report to the Annual Congregational Meeting. These will form part of the ongoing file of the clergy person.

## **Ordination of Students or other non-Ordained Candidates**

The norm for consideration for ordination is the completion of a B.Th or B.Min Degree from an accredited theological college. Consideration for the diaconate would hopefully follow the completion of the first year of ministry or theology studies.

Because the Church of the Southern Cross is a member diocese of the international CEEC, we recognize varying needs and opportunities for ministry in many countries, requiring adjustments for local circumstances made under the oversight of the local bishop. While affirming the value and necessity of formal studies, we recognize God calls His servants from many backgrounds and varying educational experiences. We affirm the validity of ministry arising from all of these levels. In this respect provision is also made for reading for Holy Orders at the bishop's discretion. Normally this would apply to such persons who are of age and circumstance that precludes seminary training

1. A person desiring to be received as a candidate for Holy Orders should apply to the office of the Church of the Southern Cross.
2. The candidate must be a committed Christian and should be at least 22 years of age.
3. The candidate will meet in person with the Bishop or his representative, at which time (if not previously done) the following should be provided:
  - A written letter of request for reception as a candidate for Holy Orders.
  - A signed CEEC certificate of Affirmations and Declarations.

- A Letter of Affirmation from the candidate's Rector/Pastor.
- A Letter of Affirmation from the governing body of the candidate's home church.
- Copies of the candidate's educational qualifications and transcripts.
- An overview of the candidate's ministerial and life experiences and a list of places at which they have served.
- A letter of reference from the candidate's current or former employer, supervisor, etc.
- A willingness to, if asked, take a psychological evaluation.
- Proof of current employment, with an ability to provide for oneself.
- Any information that the prospective candidate feels would be helpful to their being accepted.

4. The candidate should demonstrate that they are proficient in their knowledge of:

- The Holy Scriptures
- Church History
- Dogmatic Theology
- Sacramental Theology
- Practical Theology
- Christian Ethics/Moral Theology
- Liturgics
- Pastoral Care
- Parish Administration
- Missions
- Homiletics
- The Canons of the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches

5. Depending on the suitability and knowledge demonstrated by the candidate the Bishop may request that the candidate undertake a course of study and/or reading as needed in preparation for ordination.
6. The candidate must be ordained and received into the Apostolic Succession in a setting of public worship, preferably in their home church. The ordination liturgy must be approved by the Diocesan Bishop. Certificates of Appointment, License to Preach, and Ordination Certificates should be presented at this time.
7. Each minister ordained in the Church of the Southern Cross will re-affirm his/her vows annually in writing. He/She shall annually submit an update of their ministry to the Bishop; this may take the form of their report to the Annual Congregational Meeting. These will form part of the ongoing file of the clergy person.