

Reception or Ordination

Receiving Clergy from Other Christian Bodies in Apostolic Succession

A person ordained in the apostolic succession should apply to the office of one of the Diocesan Bishops of the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches.

The person applying must meet in person with the Bishop, at which time (if not previously done) the following should be provided:

- A written letter of request for reception.
- The said person must sign the **Doctrinal Essentials**.
- A Letter of Affirmation from the petitioner's spouse (if married).
- Copies of the petitioner's ordination certificates in the Apostolic Succession.
- Copies of the petitioner's educational certificates - diplomas, transcripts, or related life experiences.
- An overview of the petitioner's ministerial experience and a list of places they have served at.
- The petitioner must provide a minimum of two references from past ministerial experience - one from clergy, one from laity.
- The petitioner 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.
- A written affirmation from a business person in the petitioner's community.
- The clergy candidate (petitioner) shall be interviewed by at least two clergy and two lay persons from the Diocese. Their recommendations must be submitted in writing.
- Petitioner's must affirm, in writing, their belief and commitment to a historical, traditional view of purity. Whether single or married, each clergy person must express their commitment to a life of purity. Those who are single must remain chaste throughout their lives, until such a time as they are joined in Holy Matrimony. Those who are married are to practice faithfulness and fidelity in their marriage.
- The clergy person should be received in a setting of public worship 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.
- The Diocesan Bishop will submit a quarterly written report to each member of the Council of Bishops and the Board of Directors as the

clergy received in their diocese, with the understanding that the above process has been followed.

The above said documents will be kept in the Diocesan Office with the understanding that the Council of Bishops and the Board of Directors have free access to said files upon request.

Each clergy person received into the diocese will submit an update of their ministry each Ember Day throughout the Church year. These letters will be a part of the ongoing file of the clergy person.

Receiving Clergy from Those Churches in the Apostolic Tradition Not Yet in the Apostolic Succession

A person ordained or licensed by another Christian body who is not in historic Apostolic Succession should apply for Holy Orders through the office of one of the Diocesan Bishops of the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches.

The person applying must meet in person with the Bishop, at which time (if not previously done) the following should be provided:

- A written letter of request for reception.
- The said person must sign the **Doctrinal Essentials**.
- A Letter of Affirmation from the petitioner's spouse (if married).
- Copies of the petitioner's ordination certificates.
- Copies of the petitioner's educational certificates - diplomas, transcripts, or related life experiences.
- An overview of the petitioner's ministerial experience, and a list of places they have served at.
- The petitioner must provide a minimum of two references from past ministerial experience - one from clergy, one from laity. These are to be letters sent by the individual providing the referral to the Bishop you are in relationship with.
- The petitioner 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.
- A written affirmation from a business person in the petitioner's community.
- The clergy candidate (petitioner) with an ordination in a non-apostolic body shall be interviewed by at least two clergy and two lay persons from the Diocese. Their recommendations must be submitted in writing.
- Petitioners must affirm, in writing, their belief and commitment to a historical, traditional view of purity. Whether single or married, each clergy person must express their commitment to a life of purity. Those who are single must remain chaste throughout their lives, until such a time as they are joined in Holy Matrimony. Those who are married are to practice faithfulness and fidelity in their marriage.

- The clergy petitioner who is being received with an ordination or license from a non-apostolic body should be 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
 - Ecclesiastical Polity of the Evangelical Episcopal Church
- Because the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches honours the ordinations and licenses of ministers in the non-apostolic succession churches, the clergy may be ordained into the Apostolic Succession, after agreeing upon a course of continued studies, as needed and set forth by the Bishop. This agreement will be in writing and signed by both parties prior to ordination.
- The ordination of the clergy person being received into the Apostolic Succession should be received in a setting of public worship, preferably in their home church or parish, or in the Cathedral church of the Bishop. The ordination liturgy should be one that is currently being used in the world wide Anglican family. Certificates of Appointment, License to Preach, and Ordination Certificates should be presented at this time.
- The Diocesan Bishop will submit a quarterly written report to each member of the Council of Bishops and the Board of Directors as the clergy received in their diocese, with the understanding that the above process has been followed.

The above said documents will be kept in the Diocesan Office with the understanding that the Council of Bishops and the Board of Directors have free access to said files upon request.

Each clergy person being ordained into the Apostolic Succession will submit an update of their ministry each Ember Day throughout the Church year. These letters will be a part of the ongoing file of the clergy person.

Ordination in the CEEC

A person desiring to be received as a candidate for Holy Orders should apply to the office of one of the Diocesan Bishops of the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches.

The candidate should be a communicant in good standing with the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches, and must be at least 22 years of age.

The prospective candidate must meet in person with the Bishop, two clergy, and two members of laity, 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.
- The said person must sign the **Doctrinal Essentials**.
- A Letter of Affirmation from the petitioner's spouse (if married).
- A Letter of Affirmation from the petitioner's Rector/Pastor.
- A Letter of Affirmation from the governing body of the petitioner's home church.
- Copies of the petitioner's educational certificates - diplomas, transcripts, or related life experiences.
- A letter of reference from the petitioner's current or former employer, supervisor, etc.
- A letter from a doctor attesting to the physical well-being of the petitioner.
- 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.
- The clergy petitioner who is being received with an ordination or license from a non-apostolic body should be 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
 - Ecclesiastical Polity of the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches
- Because the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches honours the ordinations and licenses of ministers in the non-apostolic succession churches, the clergy may be ordained into the Apostolic Succession, after agreeing upon a course of continued studies, as needed and set forth by the Bishop. This agreement will be in writing and signed by both parties prior to ordination.
- The ordination of the clergy person being received into the Apostolic Succession should be received in a setting of public worship, preferably

in their home church or parish, or in the Cathedral church of the Bishop. The ordination liturgy should be one that is currently being used in the world wide Anglican family. Certificates of Appointment, License to Preach, and Ordination Certificates should be presented at this time.

- The Diocesan Bishop will submit a quarterly written report to each member of the Council of Bishops and the Board of Directors as the clergy received in their diocese, with the understanding that the above process has been followed.

The above said documents will be kept in the Diocesan Office with the understanding that the Council of Bishops and the Board of Directors have free access to said files upon request.

Each clergy person being ordained into the Apostolic Succession will submit an update of their ministry each Ember Day throughout the Church year. These letters will be a part of the ongoing file of the clergy person.

Non-Ordained Ministries

Non-ordained ministries may be licensed by the Bishop with the Rector's consensus, with guidelines established by the Rector.

The ordained ministry is called chiefly to equip and lead the Church which is a royal and priestly company who offer to God the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving through the stewardship of their time, energy, money, and spiritual gifts. In all its life and work, the Communion of Evangelical Episcopal Churches shall encourage the ministry of the whole Church to God.