



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ALASKA
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
FORMATION PLAN TEMPLATE
Introduction and Instructions

This template is intended to help postulants, their mentors, and the COM to create formation plans that are thorough, individualized, and appropriate for the context and life situation of each postulant.

The categories listed here are based upon those found in The Episcopal Church Canons (2018), particularly Canon III.8. (Attention should be given to the *Errata Sheet*, available at TEC website.) These are not, of course, the *only* important areas of competence. Each community may have other areas that are important to them, and these categories may be added. In each area, please indicate what training or experience the postulant has completed or is currently doing, and an assessment of their current readiness, growth potential, and any recommendations of paths toward growth.

Each formation plan should seriously consider the advice of Canon III.8.5(e): “*Whenever possible, formation...shall take place in community, including other persons in preparation for the Priesthood, or others preparing for ministry.*” To that end, please include specific areas that could be accomplished in reflection and conversation with others who are preparing for ordained ministry, clergy, or other community members. Where possible, please suggest individuals who might be a part of such a group; the Commission on Ministry can also help identify potential conversation partners.

It is also useful to notice Canon III.8.5(f): “*Formation shall include theological training, practical experience, emotional development and spiritual formation.*” While nearly every postulant will have some areas that will require formal study of some sort, every postulant also brings a wealth of lived experience. This lived experience can be thought of as formation that began before a call was even felt. There may also be areas of emotional or spiritual development that should be addressed in the formation process. Any notes or suggestions from the mentor in these areas may be added.

Again - please understand that this template (and all of the formation process) is intended as a help along the way, rather than as a barrier. If filling out the form creates a barrier, the COM member assigned as liaison to the postulant and their mentor can initiate a conversation with the mentor and postulant to “fill out the form” orally, rather than in written form. The COM member will then submit a written form to COM which will, upon acceptance by COM, be returned to the postulant and their mentor.



FORMATION PLAN TEMPLATE

Name of Postulant _____ Best Contact _____

Name of Mentor _____ Best Contact _____

Name of COM Liaison _____ Best Contact _____

Date Plan Presented to COM _____ Date Plan Accepted by COM _____

- **Holy Scriptures**

- Activities/Methods

- Assessment
 - Current

 - Growth potential

 - Path toward growth

- **History of the Christian Church**

- Activities/Methods

- Assessment
 - Current

 - Growth potential

 - Path toward growth

- **Christian Theology**
 - Activities/Methods

 - Assessment
 - Current

 - Growth potential

 - Path toward growth

- **Christian Ethics and Moral Theology**
 - Activities/Methods

 - Assessment
 - Current

 - Growth potential

 - Path toward growth

- **Christian Worship** according to the use of the Book of Common Prayer, the Hymnal, and authorized supplemental texts.
 - Activities/Methods

 - Assessment
 - Current

 - Growth potential

 - Path toward growth

- **The Practice of Ministry** in contemporary society, including leadership, evangelism, stewardship, ecumenism, interfaith relations, mission theology, and the historical and contemporary experience of racial and minority groups.
 - Activities/Methods

 - Assessment
 - Current

 - Growth potential

 - Path toward growth

- **Other Category:** _____
 - Activities/Methods

 - Assessment
 - Current

 - Growth potential

 - Path toward growth

- **Any additional notes:**