

Psychological & Marital Evaluation

I. Purpose

The purpose of the Pre-Ordination Psychological & Marital Evaluation process is to assess the psychological and marital health (if married) of ordination applicants.

II. Process

1. The candidate for ordination identifies a licensed Christian counselor approved by his Rector and makes an appointment with this counselor.
2. Prior to the appointment, the candidate for ordination provides the counselor with DCH Guidelines for Assessment (below).
3. Prior to the appointment, the candidate for ordination (and spouse, if applicable) signs a release (attached) to allow the counselor to share his or her evaluation with the DCH Leadership Development Team.
4. The candidate (and spouse, if applicable) meets with the counselor.
5. The counselor provides a written evaluation to DCH.
6. The candidate or the sponsoring church compensates the counselor for services.

Dear Counselor,

N. is a candidate for ordination in the Diocese of Christ our Hope, a diocese of the Anglican Church of North America. You are being asked to provide a basic psychological evaluation for *N.*, and, if married, a marital health assessment for *N.* and spouse. The candidate will arrange payment for services with you or your office directly in advance of the counseling session.

As a part of the ordination process, each candidate undergoes an evaluation by a licensed Christian counselor or other qualified mental health professional who can provide an assessment of the candidate's mental, emotional, and marital health as it relates to the vocational demands of ordained pastoral ministry. Your work in assessing the candidate is part of the overall process of discerning the candidate's preparedness for ordination.

Please provide a basic evaluation based on the following areas:

- Mental health history
- Family mental health history
- Emotional maturity
- Interpersonal functioning
- Level of self-awareness
- Adaptability
- Sexual behavior
- Marital health

In addition to a comprehensive interview with the candidate and spouse, you may wish to administer a personality inventory (e.g., MBTI), marriage inventory (e.g., Prepare/Enrich) or other instrument ahead of the counseling session. At your discretion, some candidates may require more than one session. If you do administer an assessment instrument, please take time to review the results with the candidate; the wellness assessments (marital, psychological, medical) are not just measures of health but an important part of their ongoing formation.

Prior to your first meeting, please provide the candidate for ordination (and spouse, if applicable) with a release waiver to sign so that you might share your written, confidential evaluation with the candidate's bishop and the Diocese of Christ our Hope Office of Leadership Development (a recommended waiver template accompanies this letter). Upon conclusion of the interview process, please provide a brief written evaluation to the email address below based on the areas mentioned above along with answers to the following questions:

1. Do you have any concerns or do you foresee any issues that would potentially disqualify this person from ordained pastoral ministry?
2. In your estimation, what do you believe is the candidate's ability to respond to the emotional challenges inherent in the work of ordained ministry?
3. If the candidate is married, how would you describe the couple's marital health?
4. Do you recommend that this candidate pursue further counseling or see another mental health professional related to any issue uncovered through the evaluation? If so, please explain.

Thank you in advance for your ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Ben Bowman

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Authorization to Release Information

1. I am voluntarily seeking ordination in the Diocese of Christ our Hope and I understand that part of the ordination process requires me and my spouse to undergo an assessment (hereafter, "Assessment") by a licensed professional approved by my pastor to evaluate my psychological and marital health.

2. I (and my spouse, if applicable) consent to participate in the Assessment and understand that such an Assessment may include questionnaires, inventories, other tests or interviews. I understand that I (and my spouse) may be asked questions related to, but not limited to, family history, medical history, criminal history, marital history, sexual behavior, education and employment. I (and my spouse) agree that all the information we provide will be truthful and not misleading.

3. I (and my spouse) authorize the counselor or other mental health professional to release a confidential written report to the Office of Leadership Development and to my supervising bishop.

4. I (and my spouse) authorize the counselor to discuss, either in written form or orally, the written report with either the Bishop or a member of the Office of Leadership Development.

Applicant's signature

Date

Spouse's signature

Applicant's name (Please Print)