

## **Steps in Parish Discernment for Ordination or Lay Ministry**

### **March 2022**

1. Aspirant desires to spiritually explore a call within their community of faith.
2. Aspirant requests a meeting with the person canonically in charge of their parish to obtain recommendation to begin discernment process.
3. If the aspirant may be seeking ordination, the person canonically in charge ensures that the aspirant submits the completed Ordination Information Form (Appendix, Form 3) to the Commission on Ministry (COM). The COM will assign a liaison to serve as a resource for the aspirant and the Local Discernment Committee (LDC).
4. Members of the LDC shall be selected by the person canonically in charge and the aspirant with the assistance of the COM liaison.
5. The person canonically in charge names a convener who in turn outlines the process, appoints a recorder, and in coordination with the committee, sets the meeting schedule.
6. Local discernment: This initial phase of discernment should not be rushed (usually 6–12 months). The aspirant, with the assistance of the LDC, looks closely at their life calling, reflecting thoughtfully and prayerfully while experiencing the input and support of the LDC.
7. At the end of the discernment process, the LDC makes a determination on the aspirant's call, completing a "Statement of Recommendation" (Appendix, Form 1) and a discernment narrative detailing the LDC's findings.
8. In the case of a recommendation for ordination the following shall be sent to the Bishop:
  - a. Statement of Recommendation (Appendix, Form 1)
  - b. A discernment narrative detailing the LDC's findings.
  - c. Certificate of Vestry Support, signed by two thirds of the vestry (Appendix, Form 2)
  - d. A letter of recommendation from the person canonically in charge.
9. Copies of all documents should be dated and be kept on file at the church and by the aspirant.