The Process of Discernment for Ordained Ministry

Initial discussions may take place with the incumbent

- The enquirer may enrol for Pathways course with support of the parish church.
- The enquirer may contact the Vocations Department for information.
- The enquirer may request to see a Vocations Adviser.

- The candidate will have a series of meetings with a VA.
  - The meetings normally take place at the VA’s workplace or residence.
  - There is no time frame for the meetings with the VA.
  - The pace or frequency of the meetings is set both by the VA and the candidate.
  - This may include some or all of: interviews, reading, written work and visiting other churches etc.
  - The VA’s role is to discern the candidate’s calling to different types of ministries which will include licensed ministry, lay ministry as well as vocations beyond traditional Church ministries. This will be further discerned by the relevant member of the Vocations Team.

If calling to Lay ministry is discerned then the candidate is directed to the Director of Lay Ministry.

If calling to Reader ministry is discerned then the candidate is directed to the Director of Reader Ministry.

Candidate may be encouraged to look beyond Church ministries.

If calling to Ordained Pioneer Ministry, Distinctive Diaconate or Ordained Priesthood is discerned then the candidate is directed to the Bishops’ Director of Ordinands (BDO) or Assistant Director of Ordinands (ADDO).

- The BDO/ADDO will further discern the candidate’s calling which will involve a series of meetings. Support of the incumbent or equivalent is mandatory.
- The assessments with the BDO/ADDO is anywhere between 10 – 18 months.
- This may include some or all of: interviews, reading, written work, reading groups, workshops, placements etc. The process is unique to every candidate depending upon their previous Church experience.
- If the BDO/AADO discerns at any point that the candidate’s vocation lies elsewhere, he/she may encourage the candidate to explore other options.
- If the candidate is considered suitable for ordained ministry then...

Prepare the candidate for BAP which will involve BAP paperwork, references, further work with the candidate. etc.

Meeting the Area Bishop

Attend BAP

If recommended for training then conversation and planning with the BDO/ADDO about training.

If non-recommended then support and ongoing discernment work will be offered.