



The Episcopal Diocese of Dallas
The Rt. Rev. James M. Stanton



The Titus Project

for the
Development of Late Vocation Ordination to Rural Church Ministry

Introduction, Instructions for Application

and

Application



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Introduction

(Note: "Rural" is defined by the Titus Project to be towns or villages in an area of low population density, located away from the influence of large cities.)

Purpose

The purpose of the Titus Project is to encourage late vocation ordination to the priesthood for those who feel called, and are financially able to afford to accept a call, to ordained ministry in a rural church. This is an expedited process for the ordination of qualified persons with a mature skillset who are called to rural church ministry. You will complete this form as a statement of intent and desire to work towards ordained ministry in rural churches. You must feel passionately called to ministry and desire an opportunity to build up the Kingdom of God in rural churches. Most likely your faith has matured through active lay ministry in your own Episcopal church and you are at a point in your life when you are ready to take the next step in your personal ministry. You must be able to adjust your career of livelihood, as it is expected that clergy compensation in rural churches will not provide a full means of livelihood, enabling the church to hire clergy within the means of the church budget.

You are entering this process as a call to ministry, not as a means to financial livelihood.

Eligibility

Candidates eligible to enter the Titus Project are:

- 50 years of age or older;
- Members of the Episcopal Church for a minimum of five years;
- College Graduates (or have equivalent education);
- Indigenous to the rural community, with an understanding of rural church dynamics;
- Longtime active lay leaders in the church; and,
- Committed to the rural community.

The process, from Discernment through Formation and Ordination, will occur within a three-year period. If the formation process is not complete within two years, the candidate must petition the Bishop to continue.

E-mail Titus@edod.org

For questions regarding the completion of this application, or to submit a completed application, contact titus@edod.org for directions for submission.



Overview of the Process

Step One: Initial Discernment

The discernment process for Aspirants to the Titus Project will be overseen by the Titus task force of the Commission on Ministry (TCOM), including rural resource clergy (who will act as mentor clergy to the candidate).

Before completing this application packet, you should have had a time of preparation and discussion with your "Sponsor", defined to be your Rector or Vicar, or a mentor priest, or your vestry. The information you provide in this application packet will begin your discernment process, serve as your written statement of desire to be considered for ordination, and assist the TCOM in making their recommendation for you to continue. The Sponsor will be asked to provide a written report describing why the applicant is suitable for this ministry program.

Aspirants in discernment must provide the following list of people (including home and e-mail addresses and telephone numbers) who will become a part of their ordination process:

- The Aspirant's Sponsor;
- The Aspirant's current Rector/Vicar and Vestry; and,
- Six lay members of the Aspirant's current church.

Additionally, aspirants in discernment must:

- Complete a discernment process specific to late vocation rural ministry;
 - Have a psychological examination (the means/method will be approved by the Bishop);
 - Be evaluated by Mentor clergy assigned to you by the Bishop;
 - Have wisdom that has grown out of life experience in rural communities;
 - Be recommended by the TCOM to enter the formation process; and,
 - Meet with the Bishop or his designate for approval to move forward.
- Discernment is expected to be complete in three to six months.*

Step Two: Formation

Once your discernment process is complete, you will begin the formation process as a postulant. The process will be designed by the Bishop's representative, working with the RCMC. Within two years the candidates will:

- communicate with the Bishop by letter or in person four times yearly in the Ember weeks relating your academic, human, spiritual and practical development (Title III, Canon 6, Section 3 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church);
- have completed a course of theological education specific to the needs of the candidate (see below);
- read for Holy Orders, under tutors approved by the Bishop;
- take the Ordination Exam (Separate or General, to be determined by the Bishop);
- meet monthly with the RCMC and other Titus Project participants;
- meet regularly with a rural clergy mentor for tutoring and counseling; and,
- pursue recommended relevant alternative continuing education approved by the Bishop.

Required Curriculae

The following curriculae must be completed by the applicant within the prescribed time line. It is expected that many Titus candidates may have completed some of these courses prior to application to the program. This course work is available through the Stanton Center for Ministry Formation or on-line through other institutions. Course work must be approved by the Bishop.

Old Testament	New Testament	Homiletics	Liturgics	Ethics
Anglican Theology	Pastoral Theology	Systematic Theology	Anglican Church History	
Supervised Chaplaincy	Parish Ministry Colloquium			

If the formation process is not complete within two years, the candidate must petition the Bishop to continue.



Step Three: Ordination

Ordination is dependent upon approvals of the Titus COM and the Standing Committee, as well as the candidate's placement into a rural church. During Deaconal ministry you will:

- be assigned an "internship" with a rural church;
- continue to fulfill your financial pledge to your sending church; and
- resign from all offices you may hold at your sending church, and become fully involved in your assigned church.

Deaconal Ministry will last from six to twelve months, at the Bishop's discretion.

Step Four: Ordination as Priest

Prior to ordination as a priest, you must

- continue meeting with your Titus COM liaison;
- fulfill your deaconal training;
- interview with the Titus COM and Standing Committee for approval for ordination.

Post-Ordination Oversight

After ordination, and having accepted a call, the rural church clergy will be overseen by clergy mentors, the Canon to the Ordinary and the Bishop. They will:

- Meet quarterly with the Canon to the Ordinary or the Bishop;
- Submit quarterly reports on attendance, visits, finances, etc. no later than two weeks prior to the quarterly meeting with the Canon to the Ordinary or Bishop;
- Meet monthly with clergy mentor;
- Pursue continuing education;
- Pursue monthly pastoral enrichment; and,
- Study "How to Hit the Ground Running" (Canon Neal O. Michell) for the first 2 years after ordination.

Overview Steps Three and Four: Ordinations

1. Deaconal Ordination
2. Assignment to Rural Church
3. No less than six months after Deaconal Ordination, interview with Titus Com for approval for ordination to priesthood;
4. Interview with Standing Committee for approval for ordination to priesthood;
5. Ordination and call to rural church; and,
6. Continue with Post-ordination oversight.



Instructions for Application

You will prepare your application based on the information outlined below. A thorough explanation of the information requested follows on pages 6 and 7. It is not necessary to write a full page on each section, but we request that you prepare separate pages, with titles to match the outline. The quantity of pages shown is the suggested maximum number of pages to submit for each section. If you must write more you may do so on the back of the pages provided, but make sure to keep your answers both thorough AND concise.

Checklist of Information to Submit for Application

Part 1: Sponsor/Nominators/Referral Information

The aspirant must provide a list of the following people (including home and e-mail addresses and telephone numbers): Sponsor, current Rector/Vicar, members of the current Vestry of their church, and six lay members of the their current church. The TCOM will contact these people directly.

Part 2: Personal Information

Part 3: The Course of Life

Biographical statement

Family history and current living situation

if married, on marriage

if married, from your spouse on marriage

if divorced, on the circumstances and learnings

if divorced, attach divorce decree

if remarried after divorce, has a Godly Judgement for remarriage been rendered?

Part 4: Career & Livelihood

Present career & financial base; Career history

Personal Financial Statement (included)

Part 5: Education,

Secondary, College Equivalency Study (with justification), College, Post-College

Graduate Study (if applicable)

Part 6: Church Membership

Part 7: Spiritual Journey

Part 8: Vocational Identity

Part 9: Theological Education

Part 10: Psychological Growth

Part 11: Signed Agreements

Application Pages

Use the forms provided in this packet only. There is a total of 20 form pages provided for your use. You may photocopy them if you need more space. Please number your submitted pages with the page number and total number of pages you are submitting.

Please Note: Return ALL pages, even if the questions do not apply to your personal situation.



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

Home Telephone _____ Page _____ of _____ Total Pages

Email (Primary) _____ Number of Names Provided _____

Provide a list of people who will participate in your discernment as either your Sponsor, current Rector or Vicar, members of the current Vestry of your church, referring lay members of your current church or as a professional reference from your work history. Be sure to designate which type of reference they serve and include their personal e-mail addresses, home addresses and telephone numbers. (14-20 names required, depending on size of vestry)

Sponsor Rector/Vicar Vestry

1. Lay Reference Work Reference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar

2. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar

3. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar

4. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar

5. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar

6. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar

7. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____



Applicant Name _____ Date _____
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Sponsor Rector/Vicar
8. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Email _____
 Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
9. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Email _____
 Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
10. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Email _____
 Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
11. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Email _____
 Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
12. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Email _____
 Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
13. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Email _____
 Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
14. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Email _____
 Other Phone _____ Other Email _____



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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Email (Primary) _____ Number of Names Provided _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
15. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
16. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
17. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
18. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
19. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
20. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____

Sponsor Rector/Vicar
21. Vestry LayReference **Name** _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Other Phone _____ Other Email _____



Applicant Name _____ Date _____
Home Telephone _____ Page _____ of _____ Total Pages
Email (Primary) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Other Phone _____

Social Security Number _____ Birth Date _____

Drivers License Number _____ State _____ Marital Status _____ Number of marriages _____

Spouse's name _____ Date of current marriage _____

Names and ages of all children , either adult or living with you: _____

List any previous applications for admission as a Candidate for Holy Orders (when, where, to whom)

Have you ever been rejected as a Candidate for Holy Orders? _____

If so, please explain, making sure to include Diocese: _____

Length of time in this Diocese _____

Current church affiliation _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Name, location and time spent in rural church(es) _____



Applicant Name _____ Date _____
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Email (Primary) _____

Please think about the biographical statements carefully, so that you include all the important turning points in your life, without writing more than a page or two. Photocopy this page if you need more space. The point of the suggested space limitation is to focus your self-description on the events you find most significant.

Brief Biography, 1-2 pages

1. Include information on the various “chapters” of your life such as education, military or work experience, marriage or significant personal relationships.
2. In your opinion, is there anything in your background that would preclude you being accepted to this program, or would be embarrassing to this Diocese?



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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Email (Primary) _____

Please think about the biographical statements carefully, so that you include all the important turning points in your life, without writing more than a page or two. Photocopy this page if you need more space. The point of the suggested space limitation is to focus your self-description on the events you find most significant.

Family history, 1 page

Describe the family background that you feel is relevant to your sense of vocation.

How did your upbringing affect the way you have lived your adult life?

What is your current living situation? (Who is in your household?)



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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Email (Primary) _____

Please think about the biographical statements carefully, so that you include all the important turning points in your life, without writing more than a page or two. Photocopy this page if you need more space. The point of the suggested space limitation is to focus your self-description on the events you find most significant.

Marriage, 1 of 2 pages

State your idea of marriage, making sure to include a frank evaluation of the anticipated impact of ordained ministry on your relationship.



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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Email (Primary) _____

Please think about the biographical statements carefully, so that you include all the important turning points in your life, without writing more than a page or two. Photocopy this page if you need more space. The point of the suggested space limitation is to focus your self-description on the events you find most significant.

Marriage, 2 of 2 pages

Page 2, your spouse states his/her idea of marriage, making sure to include a frank evaluation of the anticipated impact of ordained ministry on your relationship.



Applicant Name _____ Date _____
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Email (Primary) _____ Divorce Decree Attached

Please think about the biographical statements carefully, so that you include all the important turning points in your life, without writing more than a page or two. Photocopy this page if you need more space. The point of the suggested space limitation is to focus your self-description on the events you find most significant.

Divorce, 1 page + Attach divorce decree

If you are divorced, describe the circumstances of your marriage, divorce, and remarriage (if any). If remarried, has a Godly Judgement for Remarriage been rendered? You should mention what you have learned from these experiences.



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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Please think about the biographical statements carefully, so that you include all the important turning points in your life, limiting yourself to 1 or 2 pages. The point of this suggested space limitation is to focus your self-description on the events you find most significant. Photocopy this page if you need more space.

Part Three, 1 - 2 Pages

Describe your life's career or other working situation, your economic base, job titles and description. Explain how you will be supported in your ministry. The purpose of this section is to determine if you are financially able to accept a call the rural ministry.

Describe your present job and list in reverse chronological order all the jobs you have held in the last ten years, your duties on these jobs, and your reasons for taking and leaving them.



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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Financial Statement

It is important to be realistic about your personal financial responsibility when you become ordained to rural church ministry. The Diocese has limited funds to support individual congregations, so you must be able to financially afford to accept a call to a church that may not be able to pay a "living wage" stipend.

Anticipated Expenses, Per Annum _____

When estimating your total expense, be sure to include anticipated living expenses (*food, housing, transportation, medical, dental, etc.*), monthly obligations (*loan and credit card payments, for example*), and dependent care (*either for children, grandchildren or parents*)

Anticipated Income, Per Annum _____

When estimating your totage income, be sure to include your earnings (*without a clergy stipend*), including retirement benefits, (*pension, Social Security, IRA, SEP, etc.*), investment income, and Spouse's income.

If you anticipate having a secondary or part-time income, please explain: _____

Have you ever been adjudged bankruptcy in your life? _____ If so, when? _____

Do you have medical insurance that you can maintain? _____

Do you own your own home? _____



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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(If you need more room, use the back side of this sheet)

Secondary Education Name & Address of School from which you graduated

Secondary Special Education Discuss any special course studies such as overseas study or specialized curriculae.

College Education *(if applicable)*

Name & Location of College _____

Years Enrolled _____ Major/Minor _____ Degree _____ GPA _____

Name & Location of College _____

Years Enrolled _____ Major/Minor _____ Degree _____ GPA _____

College Degree Equivalency *(if applicable)*

Discuss your overall undergraduate educational status and offer justification for why it should be deemed equivalent to a college degree. _____

Post College Education

Discuss any Continuing Education or other organized study after college _____

Graduate Study *(if applicable)*

Describe any graduate work you have had. _____



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Describe your spiritual journey. Describe events in your life that led you to this point.
(Use the back of this page for more space.)



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On this page (*using the back if you need more space*):

1. Summarize your understanding of the diaconate and priesthood, the difference between them, and your own reasons for feeling called at this time in your life.
2. Explain how you've come to this point of pursuing ordained ministry in rural churches. Be specific about your experience with and feelings about rural churches and their ministry.



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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Please submit a transcript for all formal theological education completed; and,
on this page (*using the back if you need more space*):

1. Describe any theological education you may have had. (Include course titles and descriptions, instructors, learning institution, dates and GPA, if applicable.)
2. If you have not had any theological education or graduate study, describe your assessment of your own capacity for serious, graduate study, including an evaluation of the time you can allot to study.
3. Describe what you believe to be the area in which you need the most education and why.



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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On this page (*using the back if you need more space*):

1. Describe your areas of psychological strength and areas where you need to grow and give examples.
2. Describe, in general terms, any professional counseling you have experienced.



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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Email (Primary) _____

Agreement to Background Check (with credit history), Medical Examinations; and, Permanent Record File Agreement

I, the undersigned, do hereby agree to undergo a physical examination and psychiatric/psychological evaluation and a background check in order to pursue the possibility of ordination to the priesthood for the Titus Project in the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas.

I understand that all materials pertaining to the Screening Process, including my physical examination, pastoral counselor, and psychiatric/psychological evaluations, will be read and utilized by the Bishop, his representative, the Canon to the Ordinary, the Rural Church Ministry Commission, the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee for the determination of my applicancy for Postulancy and Holy Orders.

If I wish others to review this file, e.g., my parish or fieldwork supervisor, a personal written release must be sent in by me to the Office of the Canon to the Ordinary.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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Aspirant Agreement

Specific to The Titus Project

I, the undersigned, having received and read the Titus Project "Overview of the Process" (page 2 of the Titus Project Introduction and Application packet) and do hereby agree to the following:

1. That I understand that permission to enter the Ordination Process of the Titus Project in the Diocese of Dallas does not carry with it any assurance that I will in fact be ordained, or that I have any claim to be appointed to serve in a rural ministry.

2. That, as a condition of being admitted to the Ordination Process, should I be ordained by the Bishop of Dallas, I agree to serve in any position to which the Bishop of Dallas appoints and/or authorizes me to serve; and that in any case, I shall be bound to serve in a rural ministry within the Diocese of Dallas unless given a written waiver of this pledge by the Bishop of Dallas.

3. That I acknowledge and understand that my ordination is dependent on my placement into a rural church. Any "internship" or probationary period will be approved by the Bishop.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____



Applicant Name _____ Date _____

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Agreement on Sexual Standards

Definitions:

Sexual Misconduct Policy: "It is the policy of the Diocese of Dallas that sexual misconduct of any kind by any ordained person will not be tolerated." (Customary of the Diocese of Dallas, p. 5)

Marriage: "Holy Matrimony is Christian Marriage, in which the woman and man enter into a life-long union, make their vows before God and the Church, and receive the grace and blessing of God to help them fulfill their vows." (BCP, p. 861) Marriage as understood in the Christian tradition involves a union that is exclusive as well as life-long.

Chaste: "Abstaining from illicit sexual acts." (American Heritage Dictionary)

I, the undersigned, in applying for admission to the Ordination Process of the Diocese of Dallas, do hereby acknowledge and agree to the following:

1. I have read, understood, and acceded to the policy of the Diocese of Dallas with respect to sexual misconduct.
2. I pledge that, if married I will live within the bonds of marriage, and if unmarried I will live chastely as a single person.
3. I understand that failure to live by these standards will result in my removal from the Ordination Process.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____