

# The Journey to Ordained Ministry in the Church

## Phase 1

### Enquiry stage

A person who feels called to serve God in ordained ministry needs to talk with their parish priest or chaplain. If they support the person's sense of call the clergy person will contact the Chair of the Archbishop's Examining Chaplains' Committee.\*

*\*Note: Examining Chaplains are lay people and Clergy appointed by the Archbishop to discern vocations and make recommendations to the archbishop.*

### Interviews

The Chair of the Archbishops' Examining Chaplains' Committee (Examining Chaplains) will meet with the person to determine if their "call" should proceed further. If the Chair believes that matters should be considered further they will arrange for a panel of Examining Chaplains to conduct an interview. Following the interview, they make a report with recommendations to the Examining Chaplains. A decision will then be conveyed to the both the person and their parish priest or chaplain. A person who joins the Enquirer's Program is referred to as an **Enquirer**.

### Enquirer's Program

During the time of discernment the **Enquirer** attends a series of meetings.

The meetings include the Eucharist or Holy Communion, a meal, a Bible Studies and input on various aspects of preparedness for ordained ministry. Several of the Examining Chaplains attends each session.

### Advisory Conference

Following the Enquirer's Program and the required medical, psychological and financial examinations, the **Enquirer** attends an Advisory Conference where they are interviewed by the Archbishop and the Examining Chaplains. If the **Enquirer** is married, the spouse attends one interview with them. Subsequent to the Conference, the candidate will be advised by the Archbishop if a possible vocation to the ordained ministry is discerned.

## Phase 2

### Study and Formation

The **Candidate** undertakes a Degree in Theology. Degree studies are taken normally at Murdoch University. Studies from other institutions may in some cases be recognized by the Archbishop; however it may be necessary for such study to be supplemented by undertaking particular subjects through Murdoch University.

The **Candidate** attends Formation at Wollaston Theological College. Formation includes a number of activities including supervised field placements, and continuing Spiritual Direction. The **Candidate** is required to participate in a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), usually between second and third years of Formation. During this process of Formation regular reports are received by the Examining Chaplains from the staff at Wollaston Theological College, supervisors and Candidates.

The Examining Chaplains examine each **Candidate** every year of their training and make recommendations regarding their on-going suitability to continue formation for the ordained ministry.

The Archbishop's Examining Chaplains' examine candidates each year during Formation, receiving reports from the Warden, Placement Supervisors and Candidates.

Advice is provided to the Archbishop regarding a candidate's ongoing suitability for formation and ordination.

## Phase 3

### Ordination

After a suitable period of progress, candidates are invited to a Diaconal Readiness Interview at which they meet with the Archbishop and the Examining Chaplains.

This usually happens at the end of the third year of formation for ordained ministry. If readiness to be ordained **Deacon** is discerned, the Archbishop notifies the candidates accordingly.

Newly ordained Deacons continue in formation and placement. Those called to a vocation in the diaconate continue in this ministry.

Those called to ordination as a priest will be invited to a Priesthood Readiness Interview. Most **Priests** become curates in a Parish. Newly ordained priests work under supervision of an experienced priest during the curacy.

## Phase 4

### Training in Ministry (TiM)

Subsequent to their ordination, all clergy, be they permanent deacons or priests, are required to attend a program of Training in Ministry (TiM) meetings and events for three years.