



Anglican Diocese of the South
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Ordination Sponsors

Thank you for serving as a sponsor for one of our ordinands. Below is some information to help you prepare for this special day.

What does a Sponsor Do?

Sponsors present the candidate to the Bishop as properly selected, properly prepared, and suitable for ministry, and agreeing that the candidate is called to their order, either deacon or priest. They also witness the signing of the ordinand's oath of obedience.

Who can Sponsor?

Each ordinand needs two laity and one clergy sponsor. Customarily, the lay sponsors should include one member of the ordinand's discernment team from his or her local church. A supporting Christian friend from another tradition is also an option for the second sponsor. Often an ordinand's spouse serves as a sponsor.

Clergy sponsors should be an Anglican priest or deacon. Preferably the clergy sponsor is the Rector of the ordinand's local church, or another designated clergy mentor.

Arrival

Please arrive at least one hour before the ordination service. During that time, the Bishop or another appointed person will rehearse with everyone involved in the service, and lead a time of prayer.

Processional In

Sponsors process directly behind their ordination candidate, and are usually seated with him or her.

The Worship Service

At the beginning of the worship service, you will be asked to affirm the ordinand's selection, preparation, and faith, speaking in unison the following words:

The Bishop and People sit. The Presenters, standing before the Bishop, present the Ordinand, saying
Right Reverend Father in God, we present *N.N.* to be admitted to the Order of Priests.

Bishop Has *he* been selected in accordance with the Canons of this Church? And do you believe *his* manner of life to be suitable to the exercise of this ministry?

Presenters We certify to you that *he* has satisfied the requirements of the Canons, and we believe *him* to be qualified for this order.

After the Bishop hears a declaration by the ordinand he/she is invited to come forward to sign the Oath of Obedience. Each sponsor will sign below as a witness.

The Placing of the Stole

The spouse of the ordinand, or one of the sponsors, customarily places the deacon or priest stole upon the ordinand after the laying on of hands.

Processional Out

Typically the sponsors do not process out with the candidates.

Prayer and Support

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for our newly ordained ministers.