

Geoffrey Hall

To: Geoffrey Hall

Cc: The Commission on the Diaconate

Subject: Preparation for the (vocational) Diaconate

To: Participants in Discernment Leading to Ordination to the (vocational) Diaconate

This memo is for all who are in various stages of discernment leading to the (vocational) diaconate or who have made inquiries or expressed interest in the same.

Thanks to those who have made status applications and have not yet had meetings with the Archbishop concerning those applications. The submission of each application in order is to be the indicator that you are ready to be considered for the next step in that status. The Bishop's office has received more applications and inquiries than are possible to process quickly and under the circumstances we often work with limited resources and volunteers. Thank you for your patience. Things will move forward in due course.

All may wish to note that, although all requirements must eventually be complete, it is not necessary for all components of each status to be entirely complete before beginning work towards those of the next. This is especially important if you feel you need to move ahead with the educational and/or training requirements but seem to be waiting to hear about a status application. If this, in fact, applies to you, please read the following carefully.

Postulant status includes the completion of the training requirements as outlined in Directive 7.2. There are two major areas to which you need to attend: A) those for certificate study in theology and ministry (4 courses plus one specialty area of your choice) and B) the diocesan formation requirements (6 units minimum).

1) Certificate requirements. In order to begin the certificate course components via distance education (online) at Atlantic School of Theology it is necessary for you to apply for admission as a student in the "Adult Education Program." The application forms are available on the AST web site at <http://www.astheology.ns.ca/future/ASTApplicationForms.html> or phone the Academic Office (902) 423-5592. I would recommend that if you intend to begin with a course this Fall, **you should make application as soon as possible** or at least contact the School for information about application deadlines. Although other theological institutions offer basic course work that could be considered acceptable, very few offer these by way of distance education (ie via the internet) and timing can be an issue. Using another institution of study will require consultation with the Commission on the Diaconate before you begin.

2) Formation Programme. We are making every effort to get the diocesan formation programme off the ground in September 2010 with a first unit. Please visit the web page on the Diocesan Web Site <<http://anglican.nb.ca/programs/formation/>> for information about the Programme as it is now envisioned. There are three parts to a unit of study: a) Required reading b) a day-long seminar event c) a written submission. Information will be available on the web page regarding registration and the details about this first unit. **Please register by 15 August 2010** if you intend to participate this Fall. No applications can be accepted after 31 August. Online Event Registration.

I hope this answers some questions. Thank you for taking steps toward the ministry of the (vocational) diaconate. Please pray for the Bishop's Commission (Thomas Nisbett, chair, Fran Bedell, Neville Cheeseman, Joyce Perry, Amanda Longmoore and myself) as they are indeed praying for you. Please be aware that an unanticipated response and what is necessary to design a new pathway to a renewed order of ministry has presented some real challenges for us and that we are working to be of the best support to our Bishop and those

being called to the diaconate.

Please check the web site or watch for another message from me within the next few days with details about the first unit of the Formation Programme beginning 01 September 2010.

Best regards.

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