

GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES: THE CANDIDACY PROCESS FROM ENTRANCE TO APPROVAL

Congratulations on your Entrance to candidacy for rostered ministry leadership in the ELCA! This reference sheet is intended to help you prepare for further steps and stages in the candidacy process.

Detailed information about the candidacy process is available in the ELCA's Candidacy Manual, which can be found on the ELCA website; on the homepage of that website click "resources" and then scroll to the photo icon for "candidacy."

For now, here are some of the major items you should know and anticipate:

- Appendix D of the Candidacy Manual is the Candidate Plan, which is also available as a separate resource on the ELCA website. In consultation with your candidacy committee relator and your seminary advisor you will be responsible for filling in the details of that plan as those details become clear and the relevant decisions are made with your seminary and your candidacy committee. Whenever you update or revise your Candidate Plan, be sure to share a copy of the latest version with your candidacy committee, your seminary advisor and other key seminary staff. *Please note: If you are planning to attend a school other than an ELCA seminary, you must affiliate with an ELCA seminary as soon as possible. Delaying your affiliation with an ELCA seminary could lengthen the timeline of your candidacy process.*
- Your synod candidacy leaders will ask you to complete and sign a FERPA release form annually to ensure the timely sharing of information (such as transcripts, evaluations, etc.) between your seminary and your synod. You will be requested to give a copy of your current FERPA release to both your seminary and your synod.
- The next occasion of formal interview with your candidacy committee will be Endorsement. Communicate regularly with your candidacy committee and your seminary about the anticipated time of your Endorsement interview, and let your seminary know when your candidacy committee is planning to hold that interview.
- Candidates who receive Endorsement from their candidacy committees will meet again with their committees for a third formal interview at the occasion of Approval. Communicate regularly with your candidacy committee and your seminary about the anticipated time of your Approval interview, and let your seminary know when your candidacy committee is planning to hold that interview.
- Candidates who receive Approval from their candidacy committees will then prepare for assignment and first call. Your candidacy committee and churchwide staff will instruct and guide you on the steps and procedures related to assignment for first call.

The peace and blessing of Christ be with you as you move forward!