

Board of Examining Chaplains

The Board of Examining Chaplains is charged with evaluating the proficiency of candidates for ordination in the disciplines specified in Canon III. Candidates for the priesthood take the General Ordination Exams; candidates for the diaconate take the comprehensive diaconal examinations.

Candidates for the priesthood are expected to demonstrate proficiency in the 7 canonical areas, per Canon III. The BEC reviews the candidates' GOE essays as well as the bishop's and the General Readers' evaluations. In the event that proficiency is not demonstrated in one or more of the areas, the Examining Chaplains specify the means by which the deficiency can be remedied. This occasionally involves the candidate re-writing the exam question(s), or it may involve the Board assigning other essays for the candidate to write. Remedial work is then evaluated by the Board and a decision rendered. Our goal is to work with the candidates in order to give them every opportunity for success.

Candidates for the diaconate undergo a similar testing protocol -- diocesan as opposed to national in origin and scope. The Examining Chaplains assess proficiency here as well and, as needed, devise a course of remediation.

The Board is appointed by the bishop and comprises both lay and ordained persons; it meets several times a year. It is a privilege and an honor to serve the Church in this manner, and to work with those whom the Church has called forth, set apart, and formed for Holy Orders. We look forward to continuing this ministry in 2012 and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Susan Sommer
Convener