

# Archdiocese Of Washington

## Office of Vocations

### DIACONAL VOCATIONS PROGRAM (DVP) Application Procedures

We are excited about your interest in applying to the Diaconal Vocations Program (DVP) of the Orthodox Church in America. It is wonderful that you are looking to grow spiritually by exploring the ways you can serve our Lord and His community. We are confident that you are undertaking this after prayerful reflection and discernment on your part and in concert with discussions with of your parish priest.

If you are now interested in formally applying to the DVP, there are several steps you must go through:

**Obtain Your Priest's Blessing:** Your priest must send the bishop a written request, conveying his blessing for you to apply to the program.

**Undergo a Criminal Background Check:** You must submit to a criminal background check through the approved service in use by the Orthodox Church in America (currently Protect My Ministry). The process is simple: you will provide us with your full name and email address and then Protect My Ministry will contact you directly to begin the process.

**Undergo a Psychological Evaluation:** You will need to undergo a psychological evaluation by an Archdiocesan-approved professional. The Archdiocese will provide you with the contact information for the professional and cover all associated costs. You will arrange the scheduling and authorize access to the findings by the Archdiocesan Bishop and Chancellor.

**You will meet with the Archdiocesan Review Panel** to further discuss your interest in the DVP. The bishop will appoint an interview panel consisting of himself, the parish priest, the parish council president (or other appropriate representative of the parish) and the Archdiocesan Chancellor. The panel will ask you about your role in the church and parish life to date; ask you about why you want to become a deacon and your vision of what that entails. They will also discuss your strengths and potential areas of improvement. Following these discussions they will make a recommendation to the bishop on whether you are ready at this point to enter the DVP.

**Receive a formal blessing from the bishop:** After all the above has been completed, the bishop will make a formal determination on whether you should be enrolled into the DVP at this point or recommend some other course of action.

Once you are enrolled in the DVP, the bishop and the Archdiocesan Review Panel will continue to follow your progress and obtain updates from the DVP Administration. Upon successful completion of the formal DVP training (which includes formal recommendation by the Board of Theological Education and approval of the Holy Synod) the bishop, in consultation with the Archdiocesan Review Panel and the DVP Administration will make a final determination about your ordination or of other possible vocational service.

*Approved by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon on May 15, 2021*