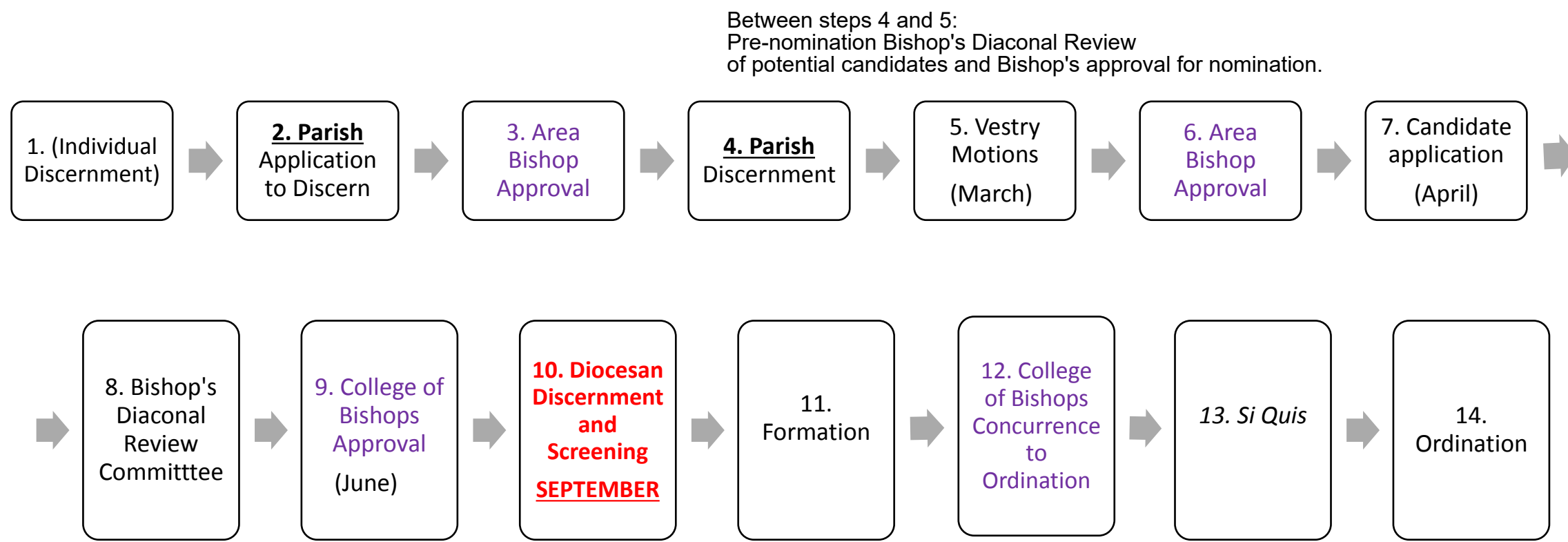




(Vocational) Deacon Process: Discernment to Ordination



1. Individual Discernment: usually the process starts when either an individual senses a calling or the priest or others in the parish senses a calling in someone.
2. Parish Application to Discern: The priest and corporation complete an "Application for Parish Discernment" and submit it to the area bishop and the Coordinator of Deacons.
3. The area bishop meets with the parish priest and the potential candidate(s) and gives approval to proceed.
4. A Parish Discernment Committee of 5-6 members (not including the priest or the potential candidate), mentored by a deacon from the area, investigates, in general, what a deacon is, does and could do for the parish. The committee considers potential candidates to nominate.
5. Vestry Motions: When the committee thinks the parish is ready, having provided sufficient education to the parish, the parish considers a motion to raise up a deacon and, if that passes, to nominate candidates.
6. The area bishop receives the results of the vestry motion and considers granting approval.
7. The candidate(s) complete an extensive application, including essays describing their calling and spiritual development.
8. The Bishop's Review Committee (2 lay, 2 deacons, 2 priests) uses the application as the basis for an interview
9. The Bishop's Review Committee makes recommendations to the College of Bishops as to whether the candidate should proceed, not proceed or be reconsidered after additional discernment and learning. The College decides if the candidate will proceed to the next step.
10. Diocesan discernment and screening begin in early September of each year, and involves focussed Sexual Misconduct Policy training, discussion and training about boundaries, police and health checks, and a psychological assessment.
11. Formation is learning, with a cohort of others, about the particulars of diaconal ministry, including drafting the Covenant between the deacon, the parish and the bishop.
12. The College of Bishops is asked for its concurrence to ordination.
13. *Si Quis* is a formal asking of the parish to support the candidate's ordination.
14. With the area bishop's approval, ordination takes place in the parish that is raising up the deacon.