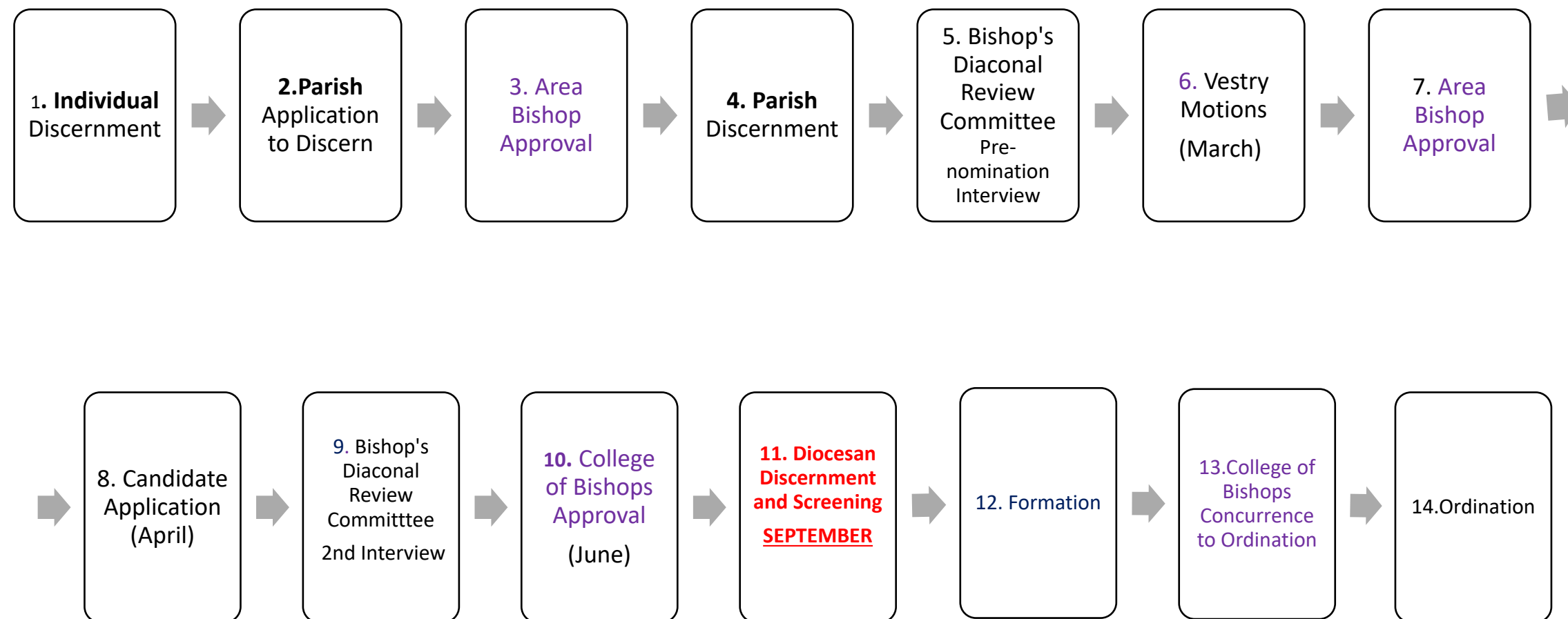




Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada

(Vocational) Deacon Process: Discernment to Ordination



(Revised August 2026 by Archdeacon Kyn Barker, Coordinator of Deacons)

1. Individual Discernment: the process starts when either an individual senses a calling, or the priest or others in the parish sense 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 (including the priest but not potential candidate(s)), mentored by a Deacon from the Area, investigates what a deacon is, does and could do for the parish in order to discern if the Holy Spirit is calling the parish to raise up a deacon. The Committee considers potential candidates to nominate, and informs the Coordinator of Deacons.
5. The Bishop’s Diaconal Review Committee (2 lay, 2 deacons, 2 priests) interviews potential candidates, and makes recommendations to the College of Bishops. (Pre-nomination Interview)
6. Vestry Motions: When the Committee assesses that 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 a candidate(s).
7. The Area Bishop receives the results of the Vestry Motion, and considers granting approval.
8. The Candidate(s) complete an extensive application including essays describing their calling and spiritual development.
9. The Bishop’s Diaconal Review Committee uses the Application as the basis for a second interview.
10. The Bishop’s Diaconal 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 Diocesan Discernment and Screening.
11. Diocesan Discernment and Screening begins in early September of each year, and involves focussed Sexual Misconduct Policy Training, discussion and training about Boundary issues, police and health check, and a psychological assessment.
12. Formation is learning, with a cohort of other candidates, about the particulars of diaconal ministry including drafting the Covenant between the Deacon, Parish and Bishop.
13. The College of Bishops is asked for their Concurrence to Ordination.
14. With the Area Bishop’s approval, Ordination takes place in the parish that is raising up the Deacon.

