

Discerning a New Call

Norms for Clergy

What to Know and Expect in the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Discerning a new call is a sacred process. Whether you're sensing restlessness, renewal, or readiness, we want to walk with you as you listen for God's leading. These guidelines are meant to foster clarity, trust, and care — for you, for your current community, and for the wider Church.

1. Talk to the Bishop or Canon to the Ordinary before entering a search process.

Please reach out before you apply or begin exploratory conversations with another faith community or diocese. This is not about gatekeeping — it's about shared discernment, mutual respect, and good communication with all involved.

2. Discernment is pastoral.

Your current community matters. Timing, transparency, and care for those you serve are all part of leaving well — and it starts before you leave. We're here to help you think through that.

3. Treat informal inquiries as part of the process.

A “casual” conversation with a search chair, a site visit while traveling, or a request for a parish profile still counts as discernment. Please let us know if you're reaching out anywhere.

4. We're here to support you.

This is a moment that deserves spiritual and practical companionship. The Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary are companions on this journey, joining you in prayer and discernment.