

# JOURNEY TO BECOMING A SYNOD PARISH DEACON



## In the beginning...

### DISCERNMENT

Discernment can look many different ways. The Synod Parish Deacon (SPD) Handbook defines it as, "A person perceives an inward call seeking an outward expression: a desire to express their faith in a focused and committed public way."



## Next, we need to talk...

### PASTORAL ENDORSEMENT

Schedule time with your pastor to talk about your interest in becoming an SPD. This can be before, during, or after the discernment process. Once your pastor decides to endorse you, your pastor should provide you with an endorsement letter. You will send your endorsement letter and your completed application to the synod office to the attention of the Synod Parish Deacon Oversight Committee (SPDOC) Chair. The SPDOC will review applications during the quarterly meetings. Upon approval, you are officially an SPD candidate!



## Time to learn...

### EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

You may have already started the education process, and that's OK! This is when you will begin to track your completed courses and educational requirements set by the program. You can access the SPD Training Record form on the synod website. There are a number of ways to complete the training requirements: Select Program, diakonia, or other approved educational programs.



## We need to talk (again)...

### TABLE TALK

All candidates, along with their pastors, are required to participate in the oversight committee's "Table Talk". These are conversations between the candidate, pastor, and oversight committee. During this time we'll review the SPD Handbook and the program's policies.



## You're almost there...

### OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE APPROVAL

After you have received your pastoral endorsement, completed your application and training record, and attended a table talk; you will send your completed documents to the attention of the SPDOC Chair at the synod office. The committee will review your completed documents for final review and approval for commissioning.



## Go and make disciples...

### COMMISSIONING

Upon final approval, the pastor and the oversight committee will coordinate a date for commissioning. The bishop or the bishop's designee must officiate at each commissioning.