

## **Church of Ireland**

### **The House of Bishops**

#### **PROTOCOL FOR TRANSFER OF CHURCH ARMY EVANGELISTS TO TRAINING FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY**

The House of Bishops adopted this protocol in 2014. It sets out the process for transfer of Church Army Evangelists to training for ordained ministry within the Church of Ireland.

1. Mindful of the importance of the ministry of evangelist within the Church, and the Church of Ireland's long-established partnership with Church Army, no transfer to training for ordained ministry within the Church of Ireland will be permitted before completion of five full years of service within Church Army.
2. A diocesan bishop ('the sponsoring bishop') who has received enquiry locally about such a transfer will ensure that the name is included on an advance notice of meeting for the House of Bishops and bring the name to the attention of the House of Bishops.
3. The sponsoring bishop shall arrange for the Church Army Evangelist ('enquirer') in question to meet the Director of the CITI to undergo academic assessment.
4. The House of Bishops will determine whether or not the enquirer is to undertake the Foundation Course. In reaching a decision in this matter the House of Bishops shall have at its disposal a written report from the Director of the CITI and the sponsoring bishop. It should be noted that where an enquirer does not undertake and satisfactorily complete the Foundation Course s/he is not eligible to enrol on the M.Th. degree programme.
5. Upon completion of the Foundation Year (if undertaken), if the enquirer wishes to proceed with training for ordination he or she shall undergo psychological assessment by arrangement with the sponsoring bishop.
6. Enquirers, who have received the support of a diocesan bishop, must attend a Bishops' Selection Conference. The decision on whether or not to give such support is a matter for the diocesan bishop alone.
7. The recommendation of the Bishops' Selection Conference will be communicated, as is customary, to the sponsoring bishop, who will then make his or her decision.
8. The decision will be communicated to the House of Bishops by the sponsoring bishop for noting.
9. Where an enquirer has been recommended for training, the House of Bishops, guided by the sponsoring bishop and Director of the CITI, will determine what course of study is to be undertaken by that enquirer, including in the internship year.
10. The enquirer will, at the appropriate stages, be required to undergo the Garda vetting or AccessNI vetting process (as appropriate), and to undertake the Safeguarding Trust training programme.
11. Further psychological assessment is required before a decision is taken to ordain the enquirer.
12. Following ordination, the deacon will serve in an internship in accordance with the current practice of deploying interns.
13. Upon completion of internship, where the deacon has both successfully completed the course of training, and where a decision has been taken to ordain the deacon to

the priesthood, the candidate priest will enter the curacy discernment and allocation process.

14. The sponsoring bishop has no obligation to provide a curacy.
15. A Church Army Evangelist who has trained and transferred to ordained ministry is not permitted to become an incumbent or vicar within two years of his or her first appointment, but may, if so permitted, become a bishop's curate after the completion of one year.

**House of Bishops of the Church of Ireland**

**April, 2014**

**Amended April, 2015**