

ACM Leadership Pipeline and Pathways to Ordination



ANGLICAN
COMMUNITY
OF SAINT MARK

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1. What has been agreed? - Statute, Constitution, GSSC, Archbishop.

Title B Canon xxxviii is the Anglican Community of St Mark (ACM)'s empowering Canon and requires any Community set up under the statute be approved by General Synod/Te Hinota Whanui or by the Standing committee thereof.

ACM was approved by the General Synod/te Hinota Whanui Standing Committee Chaired by Mr Selwyn Parata (Tikanga Māori) on 11 October 2018. In the ACM Constitution the Objects of the Community include ("f") "a pathway to Holy Orders for individual members." (Mr Parata noted on the day that this was not unusual as within Tikanga Māori dioceses often received candidates raised up for ordination by local communities. At the ACM inauguration in Christchurch, we noted that Archbishop Philip explicitly endorsed ACM's pathway to Holy Orders.)

We have authorisation to identify, prepare, and pre-select candidates for ordination and then recommend them to the Bishop of the Diocese for inclusion in their selection process.

2. What are ACM's aspirations and needs?

- a) *to be able to fill vacancies in theologically orthodox parishes,*
- b) *to sustain mission focussed ministry generationally,*
- c) *to be skilled at church and congregation planting*
- d) *to train and develop leaders for this church.*

The ACM accepts the Five-Fold Mission statement of the Church's Constitution, giving priority to the first mark "the proclamation of the Gospel" without neglecting the other four.

We will always, then:

1. Seek to increase the number of disciples and incorporate them into the Church.
2. Expand our existing churches by adding new congregations.
3. Plant new churches as needed
4. Pioneer new forms of church to reach groups we are not reaching through existing models of church.

We need to train people to lead in each of the areas with the character, biblical knowledge, theological competency, and ministry skills to achieve these aims.

3 ... Potential Ordination Pathway

Recognition and Preparation for Ministry begins in the Parish with ACM support.

4... Recognising and training emerging leaders in the Parish

We encourage parishes to develop a culture where emerging leaders are recognised, deployed and trained whether that leads to ordination or ongoing lay ministry. We encourage Vicars and parish leadership to begin identifying emerging leaders, and offering Training and Coaching / Mentoring relationships, well before ordination selection. We commend the apprentice model, noting that we tend to raise “supporters” rather than “successors” (Jamie Bester: Leaders moving from “from doers to equippers”). See Resource section below.

5 ... Formation and Training - both before and after selection

(to equip for #2 “ACM Aspirations and Needs” and as a pre-track for explorers.)

ACM will:

a) work with parishes and providers to offer courses before selection to support parish level leadership development and discernment.

b) work with dioceses, their Bishops and Ministry Educators to ensure that diocesan formation programmes support the needs of ACM candidates.

Post ordination formation and training would normally happen in and through the Diocesan programmes. Care would be needed to ensure that our candidates were not destabilised by other approaches to mission. Curates sponsored by ACM would be able to gather once or twice a year.

6... Process to “pre-select” through ACM to “offer” to Diocesan selection processes.

ACM’s selection process will be centred around the needs articulated under #2 above. The fundamental questions that need to govern our selection are a clear demonstration of faith in Christ as Lord of their life, the character of the candidate, and their suitability to lead.

The process begins at parish level which requires:

A) Clergy to be actively on the lookout for new people and identify potential leaders. This begins in the “Incorporation and discipleship” processes of the parish.

B) that as these leaders emerge, they are given more responsibility to lead through home groups or youth groups or preaching and other ministry opportunities in the parish.

C) they be tapped on the shoulder to see if they are responsive to a call to be trained for ordination.

D) Vicars to respond supportively when candidates are testing their own call.

E) candidates then be assessed by a selection panel appointed by the Standing Committee which will report to the ACM Standing Committee who will recommend the next steps to be taken.

7 ... Support for Candidates as they go through Diocesan selection processes

We invite Bishops to give consideration as to how ACM might offer support to ACM candidates during diocesan selection processes.

For instance it might be that providing for a representative from ACM to be present for the Diocesan Selection processes and to attend any selection “weekends” would be useful and acceptable. We fully endorse that Ordination is a Bishop’s primary prerogative, that they appoint Examining Chaplains to assist in their discernment of a call, and believe that appointing an ACM representative as an Examining Chaplain would not in any way diminish a Bishop’s discernment process.

8 ... Support for Candidates after selection and during training

We invite Bishops to consider how a relationship between ACM candidates and ACM can be formally continued after selection so that the spiritual needs of the candidate can be supported during the challenges of theological education and formation, and to assist training environments to be understanding of the place and needs of ACM in this Church.

We need candidates to emerge from theological formation that are a good fit for ACM style parishes and believe such continuing relationship to be complementary to the diverse ecosystem of theological education suggested by Te Pae Tawhiti discussions. The formal recognition of an already existing mentoring relationship would be very positive.

9... Resources: (To be expanded)

For parishes identifying emerging ministry leaders

For potential mentors / coaches

For Ministry Skills

The current Zoom series with Bishopdale and AFFIRM Internship programme at Bishopdale.

Church Planting Basics

<https://sthildplanting.org/exploring>

<https://sthild.org/digital-awards>

For ministry formation:

Bishopdale Theological College

Laidlaw College

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