



The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

The Psychiatric Examination

Please take this form to a diocesan-appointed psychiatrist. They are:

Counseling and Mediation Center
200 W. Douglas, Suite 560
Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 269-2322

Have the psychiatrist return the confidential report to the Canon to the Ordinary at Bethany Place.

Required under Title III (“Of Postulants”)

I. Instruction for Examining Physician

The Canons require that every person who desires ordination (or reception into the ordained ministry of this Church) undergo an examination to cover this person’s “mental and nervous as well as physical condition.” Examiners are urged to use, wherever possible, psychological and psycho-diagnostic tests as a regular part of their examinations. The Summary Evaluation, provided for your use, asks only for answers to certain specific questions. No other matter should be included on *that particular form*. It is intended primarily for submission by the Bishop to the Standing Committee of the diocese, and it may be shared with other canonically established bodies, as may be required, with the knowledge of the person so examined.

II.

In addition to filling in the Summary Evaluation that is provided for submission by the Bishop to the Standing Committee, a personal letter on a separate sheet from the examiner should be addressed to the Bishop answering the following questions. Your letter will enable the Bishop to exercise more helpfully a pastoral relationship with the person examined.

At least one quarter of clergy who are certified for a total disability pension by the Medical Board of the Church Pension Fund are diagnosed as having psychological or emotional disorders. In addition, many exhibit distress very early in their service as an ordained minister. Hence, the significance of your report for Bishops and Standing Committees.

1. Did the examination include a psychiatric interview? Psychological tests? Both? If tests, what test or tests?

2. a. Is there indication in your examination that further investigation of this person's mental health is needed? If so why are you recommending that a supplementary psychiatric or neurological examination or special testing by a certified clinical psychologist be required?
- b. Does the applicant suffer from any psychiatric illness? Are there any signs in the present behavior of the applicant suggesting in your opinion that this person may become ill under the usual pressures of clerical life?

If there has been any history of mental illness or of psychiatric treatment, is there subsequent impairment or improvement of the personality?

Is there any pathology or serious maladjustment or limitation of personality that, in your opinion, would disqualify that applicant for the ministry of the Church?

3. What traits or characteristics of the applicant's personality would make for, or tend to lessen, effectiveness in the ministry of the Church? In answer to this question, the Examiner is requested to report such information, or impressions as he/she is able to obtain concerning the following matters:

- Rigidity of thinking and particular areas where it appears
- Potential intelligence and ability to use it
- Attitudes toward those in authority and the applicant's own use of authority
- Feelings about men, about women, about sexual aberrations, about this person's past sexual experience, present situation and expectations
- Uses of aggression, creative and destructive
- Capacity for group relationships, and sense of community or of collective values
- Types of situations that create anxiety and reactions to them
- Place of religion in this person's emotional life
- Motivations for desiring to enter the ministry
- Insight into this person's own strengths and limitations
- Special abilities or outstanding qualities of leadership

4. Are there indications that therapy would cure this pathology or maladjustment or personality?
Are there indications that therapy would make for greater usefulness in the ministry?
What type of treatment would you recommend?
What length of treatment would you recommend?

Please return these questions and reports in a confidentiality envelope to the:

Canon to the Ordinary
The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas
835 SW Polk Street
Topeka, KS 66612