# **Essay of Personal Life, Call, and Ministry**

Submit an essay (10-12 pages) which covers three areas: *1. Your Life, Family and Faith Journey, 2. Your Personal and Spiritual Gifting and Call to Ordained Ministry, and 3. Your Understanding of the Church, the Bible and Ministry.*

This essay should include the following information for each area covered:

**Your Life, Family and Faith Journey**

* Describe your life and background, including your relationship with your parents, siblings, spouse and children (if applicable).
* Describe the family pattern of religious affiliation during your growing-up years.
* Describe how you first came to living faith in Jesus Christ and how have you grown in following Him.
* What obstacles, trials or failures have you faced which have challenged your faith? How did you respond in these situations?
* Describe where you see the Lord working in your life right now, especially in your spiritual life and disciplines.
* Describe a time when you struggled with your faith and/or felt far from God. How did you respond to this?
* Describe any mission trips (foreign or domestic) you have taken.
* What social and recreational organizations are you a member of and briefly describe your participation? (If a member of a masonic organization, please list.)

**Your Personal and Spiritual Gifting and Call to Ordained Ministry**

* Describe your strengths and growth areas and how they have been affirmed by others.
* How does your present ministry and/or work context draw on your God-given personality and strengths?
* Describe a circumstance where you faced conflict, how you reacted, what you might have done differently, and what you learned about how you react to conflict.
* Describe your usual reaction to stress.
* Describe your Spiritual gifts and how you have used your gifts in ministry.
* Describe your sense of call to ordained ministry as a vocation and the events and people who influenced and affirmed your call.

**Your Understanding of the Church, the Bible and Ministry.**

* What is your biblical and theological understanding of the nature and mission of the Church, and ministry within the Church?
* What is the role of Holy Scripture in the Church?
* What Scripture verse(s) are important to you and have they influenced your life?