Ember Day Letters

According to the *Book of Common Prayer*, the Ember Days are traditionally observed on the Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays after the First Sunday in Lent, the Day of Pentecost, Holy Cross Day, and December 13th.

It is customary in the Episcopal Church for persons seeking ordination to write “Ember Day Letters” to communicate with their bishop about their discernment and formation.

In the Diocese of Maine all **Postulants** are required to write four Ember Day Letters annually (dates above). In composing the letters, please write about what is true for you spiritually, personally, vocationally, and academically. Please do not write only about that which is radiating sunshine; content must also convey what is challenging, or even difficult. You may include other material that might give a “snapshot” of your life and work, including sermons, papers, or academic evaluations. The Bishop will respond to your letter with his own reflections and comments. Consider the discipline of writing Ember Day Letters in a spirit of prayer and reflection. Ask God to fill you with grace to accomplish this task, trusting that God wants to reveal something to you about your call to ministry.

Please send your letters to Bishop Brown via email ([tbrown@episcoaplmaine.org](mailto:tbrown@episcoaplmaine.org)) and copy Canon Barbara Martin ([bmartin@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:bmartin@episcopalmaine.org)). Ember Day Letters are held in confidence; they are never shared, unless you give express permission, with either the Commission on Ministry or the Standing Committee.

In the Diocese of Maine all **Candidates** are herewith *not* required to write Ember Day Letters. Instead, Candidates are asked to make face-to-face appointments, twice annually (assuming Candidacy is at least a year), and to schedule two additional telephone or video appointments. What is essential is for these to be convenient for **you**; The face-to-face conferences can occur either via Zoom, at Loring House, or when mutually convenient, at your local church, or your school/formation setting. Please contact Canon Martin,  [bmartin@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:bmartin@episcopalmaine.org), to arrange these meetings.

**Transitional Deacons** should schedule a meeting with the Bishop regarding placement for their first call. These conversations may be in-person or phone, via email or post mail, or by using a Zoom conference.

I agree to fulfill my responsibility to be in touch with the Bishop on Ember Days as outlined above.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Signature Date*

After signing, please return this sheet to:

The Episcopal Diocese of Maine

Canon Barbara Martin

Post Office Box 4036

Portland, ME 04101