Guidelines for Petitioning for Ordination in the OCA
These Guidelines were Approved at the Fall, 2013 Holy Synod Meeting

A.   The following procedure will be used by seminary students who may be seeking ordination in the Orthodox Church in America:

B.   If students, at any point after their first year of studies, intend, with the blessing of their confessor, to petition for ordination, they must:

> 1.   Be interviewed, with their spouse if applicable, by their diocesan bishop, who will give his blessing to proceed with the petitioning process;
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> 2.   Be interviewed, with their spouse if applicable, by their confessor;
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> 3.   Be evaluated by the appropriate authorities at their Seminary in accordance with the Seminary's internal methods of assessment and the Seminary issues a letter of recommendation;
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> 4.   Undergo a standard agreed-upon battery of psychological testing under the supervision of their Seminary and paid for by the Orthodox Church in America (see appendix A for recommended tests);
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> 5.   Undergo a standard criminal background check through the Chancery of the Orthodox Church in America;
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> 6.   If approved by the proper Seminary authorities, students must present their portfolio to the Metropolitan. This portfolio shall include
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> > i.   A letter from the Diocesan Bishop
> > ii.   A letter from the confessor,
> > iii. A letter from the Dean of the Seminary
> > iv.   Results from the psychological test
> > v.   Results of the criminal background check
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> 7.   The Metropolitan will make his decision for approval of ordination and inform the candidate of his decision. If not approved, then a written response to the candidate will be sent.
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> 8.   The date of ordination will be set in consultation with the Chancery, Diocesan authority and the Seminary.

Appendix A: Recommended Psychological Tests. These tests are subject to change upon the recommendation of the Holy Synod of Bishops, the Board of Theological Education and other qualified consultants.

> I.   The psychological testing of candidates petitioning for ordination or reception into the Orthodox Church in America is now standard practice.

II.   The testing must be of equal or greater nature for all and at equivalent and qualified institutions. The tests cannot be done by someone not licensed and qualified to administer the tests.

III.   The Orthodox Church in America will pay for all standard testing for Seminary candidates who will be entering into service in the Orthodox Church in America. Those clergymen petitioning to enter into the Orthodox Church in America will either pay for the testing themselves or with some agreement with the Diocesan authorities with whom they will be serving.

IV.   All candidates for ordination or reception will have a standardized criminal background check which is paid for by the Orthodox Church in America.

V.   The information contained in both the psychological test and the criminal background tests are strictly confidential and can only be reviewed by competent and assigned authorities. The contents may not be shared with anyone outside of these authorities.

VI.   The tests and checks will not be conducted without the written permission of the applicant.

VII.   Currently, these tests are the standardized norms to be used:

   A.   Psychological Testing:

      1.   Personality Inventory which can include 16 Personality Factor (PF), 16 Personality Test (PT), Personal Data Inventory, MMPI-2 and MCMI-III
      2.   Leadership Style which can include FIRO-B and MBT1
      3.   Vocational Interest Scale which can include R-COPE (Religious Coping Index)
      4.   Personal Interview with will include an in-depth clinical interview combined with other tests.
      5.   The tests results will include a comprehensive written report which will include raw data and interpretive comments.

   B.   Background Check

      1.   Criminal History
      2.   Employment Verification
      3.   Driver's License and SSN Verification
      4.   I-9 Verification
      5.   Sexual Offender Registry Search
      6.   Consumer Credit History