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SAMPLE LETTER:

TO APPLICANT FOR DIACONAL MINISTRY

Dear Applicant:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada welcomes you in this time of discernment as you begin the application process for becoming a deacon in this church. Candidacy is a partnership of candidate, congregation, seminary and the synod's Candidacy Committee. It is the prayer of this church that we will prepare and guide faithful, passionate and courageous leaders who will serve God. The ELCIC is committed to providing theological education and spiritual support that prepares gifted men and women for rostered ministry.

The Candidacy Committee of your synod acts on behalf of the ELCIC in discerning with you the ministry to which you are called. In the Lutheran tradition, a person's individual sense of call to rostered ministry must be confirmed by the larger community of the church. By the power of the Holy Spirit, this process invites chosen representatives of the church to determine that a person's character, ability, preparation and commitment are appropriate for diaconal ministry. The Candidacy Committee has responsibility for assessing the call and maintaining contact with candidates throughout their preparation and study for rostered ministry. The synod Examining Committee has responsibility for final recommendation of candidates for ordination. Ordination takes place when a candidate receives and accepts a call to serve in a particular ministry setting.

The preparation and evaluation of candidates is based on the *Standards for Diaconal Ministry (ELCIC Candidacy Manual page 35)*. A copy is enclosed for your convenience. Please be aware that candidates for rostered ministry are expected to abide by the ELCIC Sexual Abuse or Harassment Policy (<https://elcic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/SexAbusePolicy2006.pdf>) and the Policy for Protection of Children, Youth and Other Vulnerable People (PPCYOVP) (<https://elcic.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Policytoprotectchildrenyouthandothervulnerablepeople.pdf>).

Once your registration materials are completed, the Candidacy Committee will arrange for a structured interview. After psychological and career evaluation, a structured interview is scheduled. A positive decision on endorsement is required prior to enrolment in a seminary degree program and candidacy for diaconal ministry. The journey toward ordination provides ongoing opportunities for discernment, growth and development of your diaconal identity. Partnerships might be formed to offer you guidance, support and evaluation. Your participation in the candidacy process of the ELCIC is a significant part of preparation and formation for becoming a deacon. The members of the Candidacy Committee are dedicated to serving as partners with you and the whole church in this process.

The church seeks out those who would serve as faithful witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ in our world today. Diaconal ministers meet a variety of needs in the ministry and mission of the ELCIC and serve the whole church. May God be with you as you offer yourself for service in the public ministry of the ELCIC.

Faithfully,