

Alliance for the Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers

Guidelines for the Integration Paper

The purpose of the paper is to demonstrate the ability of the candidate to bring to the practice of one's ministry the resources of one's own human and spiritual formation; appropriate insights from Scripture, Church teaching, theology, and other pertinent areas of study; and formation in the sound practice of one's pastoral ministerial specialization.

The integration paper is to be 11–15 pages in length, double-spaced, 12-point font, and is to include the following elements:

- *description* of a concrete problem or issue in ministry that one has encountered in practice (1–2 pages);
- *exposition* of material from Scripture, Church teaching, theology, and other pertinent areas of study that address this problem or issue (5–6 pages);
- *application* of theological/intellectual insights to the problem or issue in a genuinely useful way and a *resolution* of the problem or issue that reflects sound practice of one's pastoral ministry specialization (3–4 pages);
- *reflection* on how one's personal and spiritual formation help the candidate to deal with the problem and ways in which the issue challenge the candidate to further personal and spiritual growth (2–3 pages).