Iona School Application Process
2026-2027 Academic Year
Lay and Clergy Tracks

Instructions:

Thanks for your interest in joining one of our cohorts in the Iona School of Ministry! We are delighted to be in conversation with you at this point in your journey.

Our Iona School has traditionally offered training toward the diaconate and the priesthood, and as of the 2026-2027 school year hope to offer a lay leadership track offering certificates in worship leadership, pastoral care, and catechesis/formation (an administrative leadership track is coming in the 2027-2028 academic year).

This application is an opportunity for you to share about your background, your spiritual journey, and your sense of calling, as well as your hopes for formation through Iona.

How to Apply:

1. **Reflect:** Read and reflect upon all of the information and questions in this document.
2. **Prepare Your Responses:** Begin organizing your thoughts about how you will answer the questions. You may want to make a copy of this document that you can use to begin drafting your responses. You can do so by clicking *File → Make a Copy.*
3. **Application:** When you are satisfied with how you will answer the questions, begin entering them at this Application Link. (*Note that if you prefer to answer the questions verbally rather than typing them, a Zoom-based interview can be requested instead.)*

We recognize that applicants come from many different backgrounds, life stages, and ministry experiences. We encourage you to apply even if you are uncertain whether Iona is the right next step. The application process itself is part of the conversation and discernment.

If you have questions, concerns, or encounter trouble submitting your application, please do not hesitate to contact:

The Rev. Courtney Jones
Dean, Iona School
Episcopal Diocese of Olympia
cjones@ecww.org.
(206) 325.4200 ext. 2017

Applications are due on July 1st. If you're reading this after July 1st, but want to apply, please contact the Dean.

Demographic Information: *You will be asked to provide the following information…*

- Name
- Address
- Email
- Phone
- Current Church Membership
- Name of the Rector/Vicar/Priest in Charge

Cohort Information:

- You will be asked whether you wish to enter the lay or clergy cohort. If you are interested in Iona because you are hoping to get further training as a lay minister, choose "lay track." If you are interested in discernment for holy orders (diaconate, priesthood), choose "clergy track."
- If you select lay track, you will be asked to select areas of interest from a list.
- If you select clergy track, you will be asked questions about your discernment status: are you just getting started, already in "Exploring Vocations," in "Diocesan Discernment," or a postulant for holy orders.

Application Questions:

You will be asked to respond to questions in the following **four areas**. It may be helpful to read all of the questions before beginning your responses. Please observe the suggested word limits. *Note that if writing or typing is not your forte, you can request to answer these questions in an interview.*

1) **Background and Congregational Engagement:** What is your background and experience with the Episcopal Church? Please include information regarding how you are currently engaged within your congregation. (500 words or fewer)

2) **Interest in Iona School:** Answer one or both of the following questions in 250 words or fewer:
    a. What led you to the Iona School at this point in your life?
    b. What sparked your interest in the Iona School?

3) **Learning and Formation Goals:** Answer one or more of the following questions for a total of 250 words or fewer:
    a. As a participant in the Iona School, what would be some of your learning goals?
    b. While at Iona, what would be your goals for personal and/or spiritual formation?
    c. How are you hoping Iona might help you grow?

Additional question for clergy track:

4) **Discernment and Vocation:** Answer one or both of the following questions for a total of 500 words or fewer:
    a. Are you exploring a potential call to ordained ministry? If so, please share a bit about your sense of God's movement in your life, as you discern what that call might entail.
    b. What is your sense of what God is calling you to do after you graduate?

Financial Considerations:

For the most up to date info, check out the Tuition and Financial Considerations page of the Student Handbook.

Scholarship Resources: Scholarship resources are available for both the lay and clergy tracks. If you require scholarship assistance in order to attend, be prepared to share relevant information about any financial resources that you may be able to contribute toward that total cost. The application includes the question: "Please indicate the amount of scholarship that you are requesting for this year and why?"