

POLICY CONCERNING THE ASSIGNMENT TO THE DIOCESE OF PRIESTS FROM ABROAD

INTRODUCTION

The Diocesan Council of the Australian and New Zealand Diocese (“the Diocese”) of the Russian Orthodox Church outside Russia (ROCOR) is increasingly asked to consider the assignment to the Diocese of priests from abroad, often from outside ROCOR or its traditional constituency.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set a consistent standard for assignment, thereby minimising the risk to the Diocese of

- assigning clergymen unsuitable for service in the Diocese
- non-compliance with relevant immigration law

POLICY

Criteria for consideration of clergymen from abroad

Initial consideration will only be given to receipt into the Diocese of a clergyman from abroad if:

- an actual vacancy has been identified that cannot be filled from within the Diocese; and
- there are available means of support for the clergyman and, if applicable, his family.

If these criteria are met, formal consideration will be given to receipt of the clergyman from abroad into the Diocese only after the clergyman:

- Submits a detailed curriculum vitae showing a tangible record of commitment to the Russian Orthodox Church;
- Nominates three referees, at least one of whom should be in episcopal rank;
- Provides a police certificate from each country in which he has lived; and
- Undergoes a comprehensive independent medical and psychological assessment, providing the report in full.

If, upon consideration of this information, the clergyman appears suitable for service in the Diocese, his suitability will be further assessed in an interview. Ideally, the interview will be in person, but may be by telephone or video-link. The interview panel will include the relevant dean and two other priests of appropriate rank and experience.

Suitability

All clergymen being considered for service in the Diocese should in their service be willing to reflect the norms and traditions of ROCOR.

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In addition, a decision concerning the suitability of a clergyman for service in the Diocese will be made with regard to the requirements of the parish with the actual vacancy. Factors to consider include, but are not limited to:

- Age
- Experience
- Fluency in Russian, Church Slavonic and English
- Interpersonal skills
- Capacity to undertake secular work

Probationary period

If, following an interview, the clergyman is deemed suitable for service in the Diocese, it will be made clear to him that:

- The Diocese will only give approval to a temporary visa
- That the period of the temporary visa is a probationary period, towards the end of which the suitability for continued service will be assessed
- That for the duration of the probationary period the clergyman will be expected to undertake his duties under the guidance of the dean, or another priest of appropriate rank and experience

Related Documents

- Governance Committee Considerations

Authorisation

+ Metropolitan Hilarion



Australian and New Zealand Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

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