November 2, 2026

Greetings from the General Board of Examining Chaplains (GBEC)!

As the time for the General Ordination Examination (GOE) approaches once again, I am writing to provide an update regarding how the exam will work in 2027.

Nominating Candidates
To nominate Candidates, please go to www.episcopalgbec.org and log in. Then, read the Welcome Letter.

Dates
The exam will be administered on January 4, 5, and 7, 2027.

Fee
The per-candidate cost of the exam for 2027 has been reduced from $750 to $500.

Exam Structure
The format of the exam itself has not changed from 2026. As in previous years, there are six questions addressing the six canonical areas mandated for examination, two of which will be administered on each of the three days of the exam period.

Accessing the Exam
As in past years, candidates will access the GOE through the GBEC website. However, as part of GBEC's effort to mitigate candidates' use of AI tools and other prohibited internet resources, such as search engines, while taking the examination, candidates are now required to prepare the machine they will use for taking the GOE by downloading and installing a small, no-cost web browser called Safe Exam Browser (SEB). Through SEB, candidates will log into the GBEC website to access the questions for each exam period, answer the questions, and submit their responses. While in use, this browser will block access to all other programs on the user's machine. SEB will remain active while an exam is underway. Upon completion of an exam, the browser will close automatically and users will regain full access to their machines. It is critical that candidates download, install, and test SEB well in advance of the first exam period. Instructions for doing this are being produced now and will be emailed to registered candidates and proctors (see below) and posted on the GBEC website.

Exam Resources
Another change from recent years is that only limited resources are allowed for answering the exam questions. The questions have been constructed in a manner that

reflects this change. If they wish, candidates may bring into the testing environment only the following items: a single study Bible in the translation and language of their choice, a copy of the current Book of Common Prayer in the language of their choice, some scratch paper, and writing implements. No other devices, books, or other materials are permitted. In addition, SEB will grant candidates access to digital versions of the NRSV and the Book of Common Prayer for all questions. Some questions will require the use of additional resources. In such instances, those additional resources will be supplied with the question. Candidates will be able to familiarize themselves with how this looks and functions when they download SEB and test it on their machine by accessing the sample GOE question that will be available on the GBEC website. Instructions for this are forthcoming.

Exam Proctoring

An additional change is that candidates are now required to sit for the exam in a proctored environment. Those nominating candidates for the exam are responsible for naming proctors. Proctors may be any adult who is not related to candidates and may proctor individuals or groups. Each candidate must be assigned to a proctor in the GBEC system prior to the start of exams. Nominators are also responsible for securing appropriate space for this purpose and communicating the specifics regarding location and access to their nominees. Proctors will ensure that candidates do not bring into the environment any devices or materials other than the optional items named above and will be asked to attest that each exam taken under their supervision was proctored in accordance with the directions that proctors will receive separately in due course.

Questions? Concerns?

I hope that the information above is helpful for you and your candidates as you prepare for the coming round of exams. Please share it broadly with your candidates and any colleagues who are involved in the GOE process. If you have any questions or concerns or need help, feel free to contact us at 843-779-1630 or info@episcopalgbec.org.

We are glad to be working with you in this important ministry!

Faithfully and gratefully yours,



Duncan C. Ely
Executive Director & GOE Administrator
General Board of Examining Chaplains

General Board of Examining Chaplains of The Episcopal Church
67 Anson Street | Charleston, SC 29401-1529
Office: 843.779.1630 | Mobile: 864.415.6338 | ely@episcopalgbec.org |
www.episcopalgbec.org