



College of Presbyters – Report for Synod, 2025

Over the last year, the goal of the Chairs of the College was to establish the necessary a.) clarity of purpose and b.) systems for the College to begin working together. To that end, an overview document was drafted to articulate the purpose, basic activities, and structures of the College and to establish a calendar of activities for its members. The Presbyters were then encouraged to raise pressing concerns and questions. After meeting in the spring to summarize the issues in front of the College, we began using this newly formulated system to work together on them.

The primary purposes of the College of Presbyters are increased collegiality and unity amongst the Presbyters of the Diocese of Christ our Hope. This goal is pursued by the members of the College through its two primary activities: communication and mutual growth as pastors.

- As a vehicle for communication, the College offers the Presbyters the opportunity to discuss important issues together and then communicate their thinking to the Colleges of Bishops, Deacons, and Laity. In so doing, it offers its own members a greater understanding of how to work together in unity.
- As a vehicle for growth, the College offers the Presbyters the opportunity to work on pastoral theology and practice together and thereby strengthen one another.

The day-to-day work of the College is accomplished through working groups that address issues raised by the Presbyters and all-College meetings where the work of these groups is presented and discussed. The primary all-College meeting occurs on the day before Convocation, but two other all-College meetings are held—one in the spring and one in the fall. In between these meetings, the working groups meet as frequently as necessary to address the issues raised.

Over the course of 2025, working groups addressed issues concerning Holy Orders, clergy protection, and church membership. Another working group was charged with developing a list of difficult cultural and pastoral questions, concerning which the Presbyters would like guidance from the bishops. In addition, a group of mentors was established within the College to help strengthen the pastoral work of the Presbyters.

After a year of working together, revisions have already been made to the calendar of activities. We look forward to the fruit of the College's work together over the years to come. If the College provides an opportunity for the Presbyters to understand each other better, strengthen each other in ministry, and communicate the thinking of the Presbyters to the Bishops, Deacons, and Laity, it will be well worth the time devoted to its tasks!

In Christ,
Rev. Steven+ Breedlove and Rev. Benji+ Davis