



DIOCESE of
CHRIST our HOPE

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Canons for Clergy Care

Canon Brian Campbell

Canon Ashley Davis

Care for Rectors and Vicars

One major feature for clergy care has been the implementation of the Rector Development Program (RDP). This calendar year, more than half of the Rectors/Vicars of the Diocese made the trip to Greensboro, NC and experienced the following:

1. Financial Coaching
2. Safeguarding appointment with our Canon for Ethics, Sergio Sapunar
3. Time working with Bishop Alan on their DISC Test profile
4. Pastoral Philosophy of Ministry Assessment with Canons Brian Campbell and Ashley Davis
5. Spiritual Direction appointment
6. Module with Bishop Alan on the 20 dimensions of personal health
7. A great meal
8. Some personal down time
9. Prayer by laity at Church of the Redeemer

The response of the Rectors has been overwhelmingly positive. Here are a few testimonials from some participants:

"We experienced a strong personal connection with and support from Bp Alan, Angela Kaye, and the RDP team. The DISC profile assessment was personally and interpersonally valuable. And the provisions and care for both clergy and spouse were generous—a real blessing!"

"Two highlights from the RDP: 1) Thoughtful gift bag included a print of an artist that I mentioned in my pre-meeting call with the RDP Team, and 2) To have a group of laity pray for me (and spouse) was a significant time."

"The various appointments were so helpful, so much so I left with a much better sense of my own gifts, strengths, and potential, rather than with any feelings of incompetence, insecurity, or guilt. The schedule was not taxing or overwhelming, but thoughtful – even restful! The prayer my wife and I received from several team members at the end was especially moving – and needed. I left with some very holistic, practical, and previously unknown truths that I could take and put into action"

Care for Non-Rector Clergy

We have made considerable progress in the last nine months toward giving structure to the care of non-Rector clergy (and eventually aspirants) in our diocese. Each deanery will have a clergy care representative who stays in periodic contact with the non-rector clergy and assists in finding area resources for needs such as counseling, confession, and spiritual direction.

Five of our seven deaneries and the Great Plains Missionary District all have assigned clergy care representatives (CCRs). The following people serve as CCRs.

1. Northeast Deanery: Rev. David Smith, Assistants: Rev. Sue Currie, Rev. David Currie, Rev. Eric Ockrin, and Rev. Walter Wittwer
2. Blue Ridge Deanery: Rev. Wilson West, Assistant: Rev. Tori Davis
3. Triad Deanery: Canon Ashley Davis, Assistant: Rev. Ralph Hawkins
4. Triangle-Tidewater Deanery: Rev. Ford Jordan
5. Eastern NC Deanery: Rev. Dave Linka
6. Great Plains Missionary District: Rev. Cindy Telisak

The way each deanery cares for its clergy will depend on the number of non-rector clergy in the deanery. For example, the Northeast Deanery needs a team while the Eastern NC Deanery can be covered by one person. We have had two organizational meetings and will continue to hold meetings quarterly to discuss issues, recurring struggles, and best practices.

In practice, we have seen several stressful situations in individual parishes where either the local church structure and/or the deanery has stepped in to provide the care needed for local clergy and family – the Body of Christ functioning as it should! Canons for clergy care are always available for extra support and connection to other diocesan resources.

Clergy Care Fund

The Clergy Care Fund is an additional resource for clergy in financial need. Clergy must apply for these funds through Canon Ben Bowman, and Canon Ashley Davis can also assist if needed.

Clergy Care Groups

We have also been encouraged by the number of clergy who have been participating in clergy care groups. Many of you know that Canon Brian Campbell is a champion of this cause and works with the province to promote and launch these groups. We are happy to announce that we have nearly 40 clergy from our diocese in 14 different groups, 7 of whom were placed in new groups in October of 2025! Clergy Care Groups are a terrific way for clergy to care for their own spiritual health and growth with a band of brothers or sisters who understand the isolation that ministry can cause. As the diocese works to care for its clergy, we also encourage all our clergy to take steps to do those things that will help them remain healthy pastors.