It is the policy of the Bishop of Alabama that prior to any bishop of the Episcopal Church or any Province of the Anglican Communion being invited into the diocese, other than the bishops canonically resident in the Diocese of Alabama, a written request to the Bishop of Alabama shall be made by the clergy or lay leadership so intending to invite a bishop. This policy relates to speaking or preaching engagements, retreats and missions as well as participation in any liturgical service. This policy does not relate to private or family events when the outside bishop is not being asked to function in his or her role as a bishop of the Church and for which no publicity will be generated.

The written request shall be made to the Bishop of Alabama at least 30 days prior to the occasion for which the outside bishop is being invited. The written request will state the occasion and date for which the outside bishop is being invited and shall list all liturgical and other public responsibilities being asked of the outside bishop.

It should be the understanding of all parties involved that until written or oral consent for such a visitation is granted by the Bishop of Alabama, no announcements or publicity (written or oral) regarding the possible visitation should take place at either the parish or community level.