

1.0 AUTHORITY OF THE ORDINARY

The Anglican Church in North America is learning everyday how to be missional in its focus, while also incorporating the Anglican essentials that have guided us since the Reformation. This expression of Anglican is 'applied reformed Catholicism' and it is being shaped daily by laity, deacons, presbyters and bishops. Insofar as it is possible, we are a learning community of faithful disciples and servant leaders, living together in humility and seeking the Lord's guidance for His direction so that we may participate in the Kingdom of God. In our movement, we have leaders who have been trained in other Christian traditions that do not have Anglicanism at their core. Others among us have come into our movement from the Episcopal Church. We must be much in prayer for one another so that we may be guided not only by our traditions and practices that we love and affirm, but even more so guided by the Lord, who sees with perfect clarity what we need in order to become who and what He intends.

So, what is the authority of the diocesan bishop in this emergent missional Anglican movement?

Our canons succinctly define the bishop as the "Ecclesiastical Authority". This carries with it two implications:

1. The bishop is the one who directs and guides the diocese forward, utilizing the functions of his office, which include:
 - a. Teaching
 - b. Evangelizing
 - c. Managing
 - d. Pastoring

For example, when a Rector resigns or retires, the Bishop becomes the Ecclesiastical Head until a new Rector is called and hired.

2. The bishop is the one who serves the purposes of God in and among the clergy and laity of the diocese, encouraging and strengthening them for the work of mission to which God has called them.

Whatever the bishop does to fulfill his role as the Ecclesiastical Authority, his effectiveness will be dependent upon his submission to the Holy Spirit and the constant prayers of the people of God. Would you pray that the Lord who has called your bishop to the apostolic ministry will fulfill His purposes among the people of God so that more and more people will see the Kingdom of God and be expressions of it in their daily life?