



## 2.0 BISHOP'S VISITATION

### **Introduction**

Our life in Christ is rooted in the unity Jesus enjoys with the Father and the Holy Spirit and Paul continually exhorts the members of the church to center their common life 'in Christ'. This unity is the base from which we stretch for others in the Harvest field: "*Love one another as I have loved you.*" (John 15:12) and "*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey all He has commanded.*" (Matthew 28:19-20) My work among you, by God's grace, is to encourage and strengthen what the Holy Spirit is doing to advance the Kingdom of God and to support you as a local church pastor to lead those whom God has entrusted to you in such a way that they are maturing as His Kingdom citizens, which means that they are actively discipling others as they are being discipled. Among the discipled and discipling core of your church's membership, those with gifts to lead and spiritually influence others need your specific attention through encouragement and regular training as servant leaders. Those you train will provide the congregation with lay models and mentors that will increase church health, growth and missional impact. The fruit of proclamation is biblically based in human action that demonstrates daily the truth that the body of Christ is serving and loving the world into the fullness of life in Jesus. Your equipping brings practical expression to others when the church's members carry the gospel to the unchurched, "building one another up in *love and good deeds*" (Hebrews 10:24).

### **Kingdom Advancement through Disciple-making and Mission Advancement**

1. **Disciplemaking** - This year, I will be meeting with you and your leadership team again to review and discuss progress on your Disciple-making Plan for your Local Church. If you do not have a plan yet, then please seek the resources you may need in order to develop one. This is a core function of clergy leadership in the Local Church. If you need help from the Bonhoeffer Project, contact them and register. I will help you defray the costs. I want to review the written document that you have already developed with your Vestry and other key leaders to assist with overcoming any challenges you are facing. This year, we should also be able to focus on disciple-making that strengthens marriages and trains parents to disciple their children.
2. **Mission** - If you would like to explore, in the context of this Disciple-making Plan Review, any of the following topics, I would be very glad to work with you on that. The following 4 areas of focus for clergy and lay leader teams to address are essential to healthy and productive Local Church life:
  - a. Mobilizing the people of God for mission
  - b. Equipping lay members for mission through relational evangelism

I would also like to meet over dinner or dessert at your home, if possible, with some people you select who are tithing to the Local Church and who have the means to make offerings to the Crozier Society. The Crozier Society extends the reach of our Local Churches to start work in college campuses and in ethnic neighborhoods.



In review of the foregoing, this year I hope to:

1. Meet and pray with your Leadership Team on discipleship and mission.
2. Worship with your people.
3. Meet and pray with you and your spouse over a meal.
4. Meet over a meal with people for missional engagement funding through the Crozier Society.

## Preparation Guidelines

*What I need from you is to pray and plan ahead for my visit with you:*

1. **Meet with your Vestry** and key lay leaders a minimum of **90 days** in advance of the visitation to prepare them for the weekend and secure a commitment from them to participate in it. Ask them what they would like to see accomplished and put that in writing to Jenna and me.
2. Invite several **intercessors from your Local Church** to pray for this time together that we may experience a sovereign move of the Holy Spirit, that the Word of God may be preached, His Presence may be welcomed and people may be mobilized to carry good news to the unchurched and pre-Christian people in the world around them.
3. **Administrative Details for the Visitation** - Facilitating this visitation will require some administrative support. Please alert your administrative assistant or Church Administrator to the following items and associated timelines (Please send to Jenna all documents at [jenna.vazquez@westernanglicans.org](mailto:jenna.vazquez@westernanglicans.org)):

### 1 month in advance of the Visitation:

- a. **Episcopal Visitation Response Packet** – is completed and returned to Jenna.
- b. **Lectionary** – the ACNA lectionary will be used on a visitation weekend as I hope that you are using it daily and weekly. If not, please begin to do so.
- c. **Liturgy** – the Renewed Ancient Text is the rite that will serve as the base Eucharistic Service.

### 2 weeks in advance of the Visitation:

- d. **Bulletin** – a copy to be sent to Jenna **2 weeks** prior to the visitation (this is a complete bulletin including all liturgy, music with words, collect and proper preface and scripture readings)

### At the Visitation:

- e. **Records** – please provide a copy of the Local Church's current financial information to the bishop and allow him to review and sign the canonical register (green) and worship service book (red)



## Implementation Actions

### 1. Worship Guidelines

- a. Please use the ACNA lectionary
- b. I will wear the Vestments that suit your congregation's needs the best (please note on the Episcopal Visitation Response Packet); either:
  - i. Rochet and chimere
  - ii. Cope and mitre
- c. The Rector or priest in charge will share with me the leadership of the Holy Eucharist service. You lead the *proanaphora* after the Acclamation. I will celebrate, beginning with the *Sursum corda*. I will also support the episcopal actions of Absolution (following the Prayer of Confession) and Blessing (prior to diaconal dismissal). It helps to have a deacon pointing the altar missal. If baptisms are planned, the rector or priest-in-charge should baptize with me standing alongside you.
- d. Please use the ACNA Renewed Ancient Text Eucharistic service when I am visiting (Please find all current Texts for Common Prayer at: [http://www.anglican church.net/?/main/texts\\_for\\_common\\_prayer](http://www.anglican church.net/?/main/texts_for_common_prayer)).
  - i. Please email Jenna with any questions you have.
  - ii. Jenna will produce the large print copy of the liturgy for me to use for the Worship Service.
- e. Please arrange for a bishop's chaplain, other than yourself, for the service who will ensure that:
  - + The crozier, mitre and service book are available for episcopal actions
- f. The **Bishop's Discretionary Fund** is used to support clergy and Local Church needs which are beyond 'normally budgeted' resources. Please print in the Worship bulletin and/or announce at the announcement time that the offering will be received for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. In lieu of receiving an offering, the vestry may opt to make a donation on its own. Checks for the Discretionary Fund should be made payable to:  
Diocese of Western Anglicans and noted in the memo field  
"Bishop's Discretionary Fund."  
Please send to Diocese of Western Anglicans,  
346 Termino Ave., Long Beach, CA 90814.

### 2. Disciple-making Planning

- a. **Meet with Church Leaders** – Please schedule a block of time with your Clergy and lay leaders to review and discuss progress on implementing disciple-making processes as primary functions of the Church.

### 3. Records Review (Please make these records available to me for review)

- a. Financial Records (Budget, Profit and Loss Statement, Cash Position)
- b. Worship Services book (red book)
- c. Canonical Register (green book)