

## 2.0 BISHOP'S VISITATION

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 is to encourage and strengthen what the Holy Spirit is doing to advance the Kingdom of God and to support the local church pastors and members in their work of carrying the gospel to the unchurched, building one another up in *"love and good deeds"* (Hebrews 10:24).

We learned through the Values and Priorities exercise for 2016 that our lay and clergy diocesan leaders want to focus on:

- + Congregational Development
- + Lay Leader Development
- + Clergy Leadership Development

I will concentrate on either or both of these two key values in our time together during the Episcopal Visitations. It will require us to focus on our Key Leaders and facilitate their development as missionally focused people. I propose that we commit to:

### 1. **Kingdom Advancement**

Please plan for a time of sharing and teaching with the clergy and key lay leaders, including, but not limited to the Vestry on Saturday (for a Friday/Saturday visitation) or Sunday afternoon or evening (for a Sunday/Monday visitation). The Workshop will focus on a few key subjects, such as these:

- a. Missiology and lay empowerment through vocation
- b. Mobilizing the people of God for mission through spiritual gifts and vocational discernment
- c. Equipping lay members for mission through relational evangelism
- d. Strategizing for community transformation by exegeting the culture and developing the congregation through Natural Church Development
- e. Disciple-making through imitation and reproduction

### 2. **Impactful Worship**

Let's plan for a time of celebration on Sunday where we may enjoy the Lord together, with confirmations and raising lay disciples to leadership through the body of Christ.

### 3. **Clergy Time**

Please arrange for enough time to share and reflect on the ministry together so that our partnership in the gospel remains strong and grows stronger through common vision and mutual encouragement. Time should be reserved with the Rector and spouse. You may also plan for the 'clergy team' and/or spouses to meet together with me to discuss team-based ministry.

## Preparation Guidelines

Most or all of two days are reserved for visitations for congregations that would benefit from congregation development strategies and workshop assistance: Saturday and Sunday *or* Sunday and Monday. For congregations that are smaller, shorter visitations or more frequent contact midweek may be more helpful to advance God's Kingdom in their area.

As a general rule, the Bishop will be based in Southern California for the first two weeks of the month and in Arizona for the second two weeks of the month, making himself available for midweek appointments, to be scheduled as needed. From time to time meetings among bishops will require travel outside of the diocese. The needs of the Rocky Mountain Deanery are unique and adequate time will be set aside for visitations or other gatherings, as needed.

### What I need from 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.
2. Organize your discipleship calendar to include sufficient **preparation for the confirmands** you present. Please affirm your compliance with the minimum preparation standards in the Discipleship Guidelines on page 4 of this section.
3. Invite several **intercessors from your congregation** 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 acknowledged and people may be mobilized to carry good news to the unchurched and pre-Christian people in the world around them.
4. **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)):
  - + **Episcopal Visitation Response Packet (see appendix N)** – to be returned **4 weeks** prior to the visitation
  - + **Lectionary** – the ACNA lectionary will be used on a visitation weekend
  - + **Bulletin** – copy to be sent **2 weeks** prior to the visitation
  - + **Certificates** – please print out Diocesan certificates and have them ready for the bishops signature
  - + **Records** – please provide a copy of the congregation's current financial information for the bishop and allow him to review and sign the canonical register and service worship book

## Structuring the Visitation

### 1. Worship Guidelines

- a. Please use the ACNA lectionary per our bishop's request
- 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 (Specify either: 1)red for confirmations and 2)white for all other days)
- c. The Rector or priest in charge will share with me the leadership of the Holy Eucharist service. You lead the *proanaphora* and I will celebrate, beginning with the *Sursum corda following the Acclamation*. 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 **and helps very greatly to have a large print version available for these aging eyes**. If baptisms are planned, the rector or priest-in-charge should baptize.
- d. Please use the ACNA Renewed Ancient Text for the 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)). Please see administrative details above for timelines. If you have any liturgical questions regarding the order of the service, please let Jenna or me know well in advance, so we can correct major issues before the weekend visitation. Please print out this worship service for me, even if you generally project the worship service.
- e. If there are confirmations, please allow an additional 3 or so minutes per person for the laying on of hands. For most worship services, this adds an additional 30-35 minutes to the worship service. Regarding the distinctions for confirmation, reception and reaffirmation:
  - + **Confirmation** is for someone who has been baptized and wants to be confirmed in the Holy Spirit for service as an Anglican Jesus follower
  - + **Reception** is for someone who has been baptized and confirmed in the Roman Catholic or one of the Orthodox communions; it is not for Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, etc.
  - + **Reaffirmation** of baptismal vows is for everyone who wants to re-commit their life publicly to Christ and His Church.
  - + The crozier is held for episcopal actions
  - + The confirmation, reception and reaffirmation prayers are printed and available for me to read
  - + Nametags or 3x5 cards with their names are in the Rector's hand with a note stating: Confirmation or Reception or Reaffirmation
  - + Chrism is in the Rector's hand for the laying on of hands

- f. The **Bishop's Discretionary Fund** is used to support clergy and congregation needs which are beyond normally budgeted resources. If you intend that the offering be given to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, please print in the Worship bulletin and/or announce in 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. Discipleship Guidelines

- a. Please arrange a meeting with me for a minimum of one hour or more on the day of the worship service or, if you prefer, on the day prior to the worship service should the schedule allow it, so that I may meet with the Confirmands (I will be asking them about their preparedness, so please be sure they have been disciplined properly for this next step in following Jesus).
- b. If you want me to do any teaching, in addition to what I have already prepared (see page 1 for details), please alert me well in advance of our time together, so that I may prepare.

## 3. Governance Planning

- a. If you are dealing with any governance issue that involves your clergy, please feel free to schedule a block of time for me to work alongside you with your clergy team.
- b. If you are dealing with any governance issue that involves your board, please feel free to schedule a block of time for me to work alongside you with your Wardens or your Vestry.

## 4. Leadership Planning and Development

- a. Since each congregation is at a different stage of development, please advise me on the specific Kingdom Advancement issues that you are facing so that I may shape our time accordingly.
- b. If you would like me to meet with your Director of Discipleship or Director of Mission, I would be glad to make some time to assist them. Those on your staff, either paid or unpaid, who are focusing on disciple making may appreciate a time to discuss their goals and how they plan to meet them.

## 5. 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
- c. Canonical Register