

Clergy Conference Bishops Time

1. Liturgical Permissions

New website from General Convention www.episcopalcommonprayer.org lists all the approved resources for use. If it is on that page, you do not need to ask for permission to use it. It includes BCP, new alternative trial texts for A, B, and D, includes all 6 Enriching our Worship, other resources as well. Any questions that you have regarding liturgy come to the Bishops' office for permission.

What do you need to ask permission for?

Anything that isn't on the website and mostly as it relates to principal Sunday morning services. That includes resources around the Eucharist, treated under the same rubric as Rite 3. Please be specific in your request, "I would like to use the New Zealand Eucharist Prayer W for Lent 2024." Or "we would like to have this in our canon of resources". Permission can be for one time, one season or from now on. When asking to use a different liturgy, please explain why you would like to use this resource. We could share this with others.

Other days of the week fall under Rite 3. If not the principal service, please use order for service and ask yourself whether or not the resource would meet the guidelines of Rite 3.

If there is something that you think the bishops would want to know about, please let them hear it from you rather than after the fact.

Plan to continue to develop the spreadsheet that lists all the liturgies that have been approved for others so that you can access that information.

Deacons Masses – not currently allowed. The Diaconate is its own order with its own sense of call and vocation in the Church.

2. **Parish or Clergy Directory** –As we know, directories go out of date the minute that they are published. We are looking into what other dioceses are doing. Clergy Finder online "or Red Book Episcopal" can help. Please make sure that your information is up to date at the Commons. Contact Alison at ahollo@episcopal.org with changes. We will look into Breeze, a crowd-sourced database.
3. **Confirmation** age and expectations: We are looking at how we practice our confirmation services in the diocese. Trying to not have huge confirmation services. Our dream would be for the service to have 25-30 or fewer people being confirmed. Age expectation: the people coming forward to be confirmed are old enough to make this decision themselves. Confirmations will still be done during visitations, as well. You can ask to join your neighboring parish's visitation. Receptions, Confirmations, Reaffirmations are all being done.
4. **Licensing Clergy** – Currently licenses are year to year. We will be going to a 3-year licensing rotation which will be coterminous with the year of the next Mandatory Clergy Professional Development Day. If someone is licensed between those years, they will be licensed until the end of the next MCPD year.
5. **COVID protocols** –There is no expectation or necessity to be doing anything differently from pre-COVID distribution of the sacraments. Please have your parish think about where you are headed as to how you are practicing and administering the Eucharist. Getting back to one bread, one cup. Please move away from pre-packaged communion kits. The end of the program

year is an opportune time to initiate such a change. The bishops are happy to talk you through how to have those conversations in your parishes, if needed. Again, One bread, One Cup.

6. Expectations of Clergy re: participation in Diocesan Events:

The very real challenges of clergy who are bi-vocational, or who work multiple jobs, are understood. We continue to seek ways of facilitating participation from all clergy in these events.

- a. Annual **Diocesan Convention is required**, if you are not going to be at Diocesan Convention, you need to seek permission to be excused. ECCT Annual Convention this year is October 27 (Friday) & October 28 (Saturday), 2023 at the CT Convention Center. We are looking at the dates for 2024 and 2025 now. Our hope is for you to have 3 years' worth of convention dates.
- b. **Renewal of Vows is expected**. We are looking into doing it on a different day rather than the Tuesday during Holy Week. Renewal of Vows will be in the spring for Priests. Many of the Deacons have full time jobs. The Deacons will have a Fall Gathering. The Deacons should be with the Renewal of Vows with the Priests. Please let the bishops know if you do not plan to attend.
- c. **Clergy Conference is expected**. Please let the bishops know if you do not plan to attend.
- d. **Clergy Retreat, Clergy Day and Clergy Camp – encouraged, but not required or expected, to attend.**