



Bishop's Policy Regarding Retired Clergy (Priests and Deacons)

As you anticipate your retirement, it is important to have in writing the expectations I hold of the retiring clergy person. The relationship of the outgoing clergy person to the congregation has a profound impact on the capacity of the congregation to accept the ministry of the incoming clergy person. Therefore, not only are the parameters of retirement important, but how you say “good bye” is an important part of the way the parish is able to receive your replacement.

To facilitate clarity, the items of importance are listed below:

- α The retiring clergy person may not attend worship, provide pastoral care, or officiate at any services of the church from which he/she is retiring/leaving. It is expected that the retiring priest or deacon will worship at another Episcopal church, or a different congregation of their choice.
- α If it is the wish of a member of the congregation to have such ministrations rendered, it is incumbent upon the retiring clergy person to politely refuse the request.
- α If, at the wish of the next rector, the retired rector is asked to function as a supply priest, then the retired rector can accept or refuse the invitation.
- α Because only the clergy are under the discipline of the Bishop, these expectations apply particularly to the clergy person. However, best practices indicate that the congregation is able to move forward with their life when the spouse also lives into these expectations.

This is a wonderful, challenging, and exciting time in the life of the clergy and the congregation.

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