



# **Episcopal Church in Idaho Clergy Continuing Education Policy**

## **Policy Title: Clergy Continuing Education**

### **Purpose:**

This policy outlines the expectations for continuing education for parochial clergy within the Episcopal Church in Idaho. The purpose of this policy is to foster ongoing spiritual, theological, and professional development among the clergy, ensuring they remain equipped to serve their congregations and the wider Diocese effectively in an ever-changing world. Continuing education supports the clergy's well-being and enhances the quality of ministry throughout the Diocese.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all parochial clergy canonically resident in or licensed to officiate within the Diocese of Idaho.

### **Policy Statements:**

#### **1. Continuing Education Requirement:**

All parochial clergy are required to undertake a program of continuing education at least once every two years. This education should contribute to their growth in areas such as spiritual formation, theological understanding, pastoral care, leadership skills, congregational development, or other areas relevant to their ministry. Acceptable forms of continuing education include, but are not limited to:

- Reading two books on a relevant topic within the two-year period (or one book per year).
- Completing an online course.
- Attending a spiritual three-day retreat away from the parish.

- Participating in a course or program offered for professional development.
- Engaging in a course or program focused on congregational vitality and development.

## **2. Reporting Requirement:**

Following the completion of their continuing education, clergy are required to submit a brief report to the Diocesan Office. This report should include:

- The dates and duration of the continuing education activity.
- A description of the program or course undertaken.
- A brief reflection on how the education has contributed to their personal and professional development and its applicability to their ministry.

## **Exceptions:**

The requirement for continuing education every two years is mandatory unless an explicit excuse is granted by the Bishop of Idaho. Requests for excuse must be submitted in writing to the Bishop's office in advance of the two-year period, stating the compelling reason for the inability to fulfill the requirement. Excuses will be granted only for extraordinary circumstances, such as prolonged illness, significant family emergencies, or other unique situations as determined by the Bishop.

## **Review:**

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Bishop and the Diocesan Council to ensure its continued relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with the evolving needs of the clergy and the Diocese.