



LITURGY AND EPISCOPAL VISITATION CUSTOMARY FOR BISHOP'S VISITATION The What and the Why of a Customary

WE HAVE REVISED THIS ITERATION OF THE CUSTOMARY TO ADAPT IN THE AGE OF COVID.

A customary provides a process, a pathway, for us to make an Episcopal visitation an opportunity to celebrate your congregation's mission and ministry. Hopefully it informs you of my preferences for the visitation and all of its elements, so we know what to prepare, how to prepare, and what to expect. It has more than just a practical side to it. It enables all of us to fully participate in the day, the worship and whatever else we plan. Getting all of this taken care of well before my arrival should make it more relaxing for all of us and allow us to be open to what the Spirit is doing, rather than wondering about the details of what happens and when. So, I ask you to please plan for our time together carefully. Let us celebrate joy in Christ, as a way of life in and through our worship and witness together. Let us journey deeper in our stewardship, leadership and relationship.

With affection, +Prince

Scheduling

The scheduling of visitations will be coordinated by the Rector/PIC (or Wardens in absence of a rector) and the Bishop's Office. As a general rule, I do not return to a parish for a regular pastoral visitation until all other parishes have been visited.

Visitations are scheduled with the following priorities:

- the length of time since the last Episcopal visitation, preferably annually.
- the need to schedule Episcopal rites: major parish anniversaries, dedication of new buildings, groundbreakings, etc., which can be scheduled on days other than Sunday.
- recognizing/commissioning of first responders, community leaders, lay leaders including sextons and other administrative staff, and address particular pastoral needs of the parish
- the celebration of a patron saint or other significant event in the life of the parish.

You may request upcoming dates, but normally we will not make final commitments more than six months in advance. Even with great care given to my visitation schedule, there will

still be some need for flexibility. There will be parish emergencies, personal illness, travel delays, and a host of other things that may require last minute rescheduling. It is my commitment that such changes will be kept to a minimum. I am open to having visits on a weeknight or Saturday.

Procedures

Since it is an annual visit, I will preach at each visitation. I would like the Rector/PIC to lead the liturgy of the Word during my visitation. Also, I would like you to discern a celebration of missional practices, dedication of new initiatives, commissioning of lay leaders, community-centered celebrations, or such, as part of the official Episcopal visit. Let us use the Baptismal Covenant in place of the Nicene Creed.

Vestments

Please indicate, during the planning phase, if your preference is for me to wear rochet and chimere, or chasuble (cope) and miter for my visit.

Liturgy

I prefer to use the Revised Common Lectionary. During COVID, I encourage keeping readings to just two, or just the Gospel and a truncated service length of time to under an hour. Please let me know ahead of time if you would like me to preach a children's sermon. I invite you to sustain the rhythm of Eucharistic Prayer you are using for the season.

Baptism

If baptism is scheduled I would prefer that the priest, when present, do the actual baptism. I am happy to do the chrismation.

Announcements

Announcements should be made by the Rector or Vicar at the time usually set apart for the same. Generally the Bishop will have brought his or her greetings as part of the sermon.

Holy Eucharist

Please be mindful that as host, I prefer to receive communion after everyone else in the congregation. Due to COVID-19 and in love for our community and neighbors, we aim to joyfully celebrate the Eucharist in a manner that reduces the risk of infection as much as possible. We ask that you sanitize your hands before receiving communion. Please keep your mask on until you have received communion in your hand, and then only briefly adjust your mask to partake. There will be only the Body of Christ in the bread offered to the faithful at this time. The Priest will consecrate the wine and I encourage that it be poured out into the earth with a prayer for the Earth and the environment such as: *We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains,*

and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and forever. Amen

Additional Procedures for Visitation

In preparation for my visitation, I prefer to have a telephone/zoom conversation with the priest, or warden, **two weeks prior to a scheduled visitation** in order to plan the broad outline. Please contact my executive assistant to make an appointment. Angela Krueger for Eastern Michigan, (877) 752-6020. Catherine Cameron-Heldt for Western Michigan, (616) 319-2006.

- Kindly email/mail me your latest Mutual Ministry Review summary prior to the telephone or face-to-face conversation.
- Kindly let me know if there is anything significant that I should be aware of, or something specific you'd wish me to address during my visit.
- Kindly contact the Executive Assistant for any needed certificates that can be prepared in advance of my visit.
- Kindly email names of your parish leadership, those in diocesan leadership, or anyone to specifically acknowledge on the day of my visit, with a copy to my executive assistant.
- Kindly send me an electronic copy of the liturgy.
- Kindly send an electronic copy of the liturgy and the Episcopal Visitation Information Sheet to my executive assistant early in the week for my review.

We invite the parish treasurer to send the unpledged offering on the day of my visit as a check, made payable to the appropriate diocesan office of the Bishop's visitation. Please put *Bishop Special Need Fund* for Western Michigan in the memo section of the check. For the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, please put *Bishop's Discretionary Fund* in the memo section of the check. The Bishop's Funds get audited annually.

During my visit, I wish to meet with clergy and vestry for about thirty minutes. Please set up a time for this meeting prior to the visitation with my executive assistant. You are welcome to invite members of your congregation who are elected officials, delegates and those serving in the diocese in some capacity to the meeting. At the vestry meeting, I would like to discuss how your parish is working on its goals in the areas of congregational development, mission, evangelism and creation care.

Hospitality

We will follow the Corona Virus directives for Eastern and Western Michigan that are in place at the time of the visitation, to decide if Coffee Hour is an option at the time of the visitation. These directives can be found at: eastmich.org/coronavirus or edwm.org/coronavirus

Parking

Please have a spot reserved for the Bishop near the entrance to the church complex. It is also helpful to have someone available to greet the Bishop and to assist with carrying vestments, staff and other materials related to the visit.

Episcopal Visitation Information Sheet

Please return the Visitation Information Sheet below to the appropriate diocesan office *one month prior to your scheduled visitation.*

Episcopal Visitation Information Sheet

Return to Diocesan Office:

Angela Krueger, Diocese of Eastern Michigan
124 N. Fayette St.
Saginaw, MI 48602
(877) 752-6020
akrueger@eastmich.org

Catherine Cameron-Heldt, Diocese of Western Michigan
1815 Hall St. S.E.
Suite 200
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
(616) 319-2006.
ccameron@edwm.org

1. Date of Visitation:

2. Name of Congregation:

- Name of Rector/Vicar/Senior Warden:

3. Contact numbers:

- Church: (include area code):
- Rector/Vicar Home: (include area code):
- Cell (include area code):

4. Directions to Church: (also give any special directions about parking or church entrance)

5. Schedule of the Day (generally between 9:00am and 3:00pm) Please list all scheduled activities including services, educational hours, vestry meeting, etc.

Service or Activity Time Notes:

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6. Liturgy: *Please check the appropriate entry and include an approximate number of persons anticipated for the sacrament.*

Time of service:

Holy Eucharist with baptism:

Baptism:

Other:

Time of service:

Holy Eucharist only:

Baptism Number to be baptized:

Other:

7. Other liturgical notes: *Include information on dedications, blessings, or other special liturgical aspects of the services.*

8. Propers of the Day: *The Bishop prefers that the Revised Common Lectionary (Episcopal version) is used.*

9. Comments or areas for discussion with the Bishop:

Name of person submitting form:

Date: