

Committee on Continuing Christian Formation

Mission

To encourage every ordained person and professional church worker in the pursuit of theological, professional and personal development.

Background:

After six years of preparatory work and two resolutions, the 74th General Convention meeting in August 2003 adopted a total revision of Title III Canons which includes the following:

Title III: Canon 7, sec. 5: *The Bishop and COM shall require and provide for the continuing education of Deacons and keep a record of such education*

Title III: Canon 9, sec.1. *The Bishop and commission shall require and provide for the continuation education of Priests and keep a record of such education.*

The following guidelines represent the work of the Committee for Continuing Christian Formation established in the Diocese of East Carolina in November 2004. These guidelines have been approved by the Bishop of East Carolina and the Commission on Ministry on October 18, 2005.

Preliminary Guidelines for Continuing Formation for Clergy

Given the objective to encourage priests, deacons and professional church workers in their pursuit of ongoing vocational and personal growth, the following are suggested areas for consideration.

1. Theological

Biblical studies

D. Min. programs through accredited institutions

Languages – Greek, Hebrew, Spanish

Church History

Favorite theologians

Arts and theology

Pop culture and theology

Medical ethics and theology

New paradigms of science and religion

Contemporary theological landscape, overview of contemporary works

Spiritual traditions - Celtic, Benedictine, etc.

2. Professional

‘safe church’ training

congregational development

homiletics – preaching

how to build prayer groups

leadership skills training

handling with conflict

reconciliation skills training
staff management, team building
stewardship, fund raising training
leading change
applying family systems theory in the Church
building healthy relationships with vestries/parishioners
participation in deanery meetings

3. Personal

coursework which assists with self-knowledge: strengths, weaknesses, etc
financial management conferences/seminars
clergy wellness program
CREDO
Fresh Start

The committee encourages individual creativity in fulfilling this requirement.

Accountability

The Bishop and committee will annually review pursuit of ongoing Christian formation endeavors by each deacon and priest. It will be expected that a short (half-page) description of such activities for the current year are to be forwarded to the chair of the Committee on or before the date of Clergy Conference.

Clergy not participating in any manner of formation such as that suggested above will be notified early in the next year and encouraged in such pursuit. These notifications will be reviewed at times of deployment and in other situations that arise concerning the individual. Intentional and regular participation in Christian formation, or the lack thereof, will be a consideration in deployment recommendations. Regular participation is also a consideration in determining compensation levels.

Potential funding sources

Parish funding
Diocesan funding through the Committee on Continuing Christian Formation
Outside sources

Time or unit requirement per year

At least one event per year

Committee members

Mary Ogus, Joy Doshier and Carrie Craig