



Clergy Community Norms and Expectations

God calls us to into a ministry of mutuality and collegiality, with our clergy siblings, in sharing and being the Good News of Jesus Christ. We know that we do not do ministry in a vacuum and we cannot do the work of ministering in Christ's name alone. We are made for connection and community. As you enter the community of clergy that make up the Diocese of Missouri, we strive to hold each other accountable and offer our best selves as we work towards a common mission.

The Bishop, Diocesan staff, and clergy all work together to create an intentional community that builds trust, encourages support, and provides pastoral care as a way of being companions one to another. As an intentional way of seeking to be more connected as a Diocesan household, the following are our common commitments to gather as a community of ordained leaders that care for and support each other.

- **CLERGY RETREAT** – an annual Lenten retreat designed to be intentional time away from the regular rhythm of ministry.
- **CLERGY & SUPPORT GETAWAY** – spring/summer opportunity for clergy and their support networks to step away for a time of fun, refreshment, and leisure.
- **CLERGY CONFERENCE** – an annual clergy conference in the fall designed to be an opportunity for mutual learning and engagement.
- **ORDINATIONS & RENEWALS OF MINISTRY** – gather to support our colleagues as they are ordained or celebrate the renewal of ministry.
- **BIWEEKLY CLERGY ZOOM MEETING** – an online gathering of the clergy for support and learnings on specific topics related to ministry.
- **ANNUAL BISHOP'S MEETING** – an annual meeting with the bishop, outside of visitation. This is a pastoral check-in on vocation and the work of ministry. This may take the form of an in-person meeting, coffee, walk, or via video conference.

CLERGY CONTINUING FORMATION/EDUCATION:

Clergy are expected to continue the process of being formed for the work of ministry. Priests are expected to complete 30 hours of continuing education, while Deacons must complete 15 hours of continuing education. Jillian Smith (jsmith@diocesemo.org) keeps track of continuing education hours.