



## CLERGY COMMUNITY NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS

We are made for connection and community. 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 and cannot exercise ministry in a vacuum. 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.

- **DIOCESAN CONVENTION** –the annual gathering of the Diocesan Household takes place in November of each year. This is a family reunion and priority setting gathering for the Diocese, canonical requirement for all active clergy within the diocese. Absences should be approved by the Bishop.
- **CLERGY RETREATS** – two annual retreats in the spring and fall are designed to be intentional time away from the regular rhythm of ministry. These are required gatherings for all active clergy. Absences should be approved by the Bishop.
- **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 required for all active clergy and may take the form of an in-person meeting, coffee, walk, or via video conference.
- **CONVOCATION CLERGY DAYS** –gatherings of the clergy within the four convocations of the Diocese with the Bishop for mutual support. These gatherings are planned by the Dean of the convocation.
- **ORDINATIONS AND RENEWAL OF MINISTRY** – gather to support our colleagues as they are ordained or celebrate the renewal of ministry.
- **CLERGY ZOOM MEETINGS** – a monthly online gathering of the clergy for support and learnings on specific topics related to ministry. Each session counts as 1.5 units of continuing education.
- **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.