



## The Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes

1446 South Main Street, Akron, OH 44301

### BISHOP'S VISITATION CUSTOMARY

(Revised January 2024)

The pastoral visitation of the bishop is an important time in the life of the congregation. While confirmations, baptisms, or other special celebrations are significant, they are not essential for the Bishop's ministry among you. It is my prayer that through the preaching of God's written word and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist God will anoint me to fulfill the aspirational goal of 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12:

*"For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory."*

This customary serves as a guide to assist the clergy and congregation as you prepare for the visit. Please read it carefully and respond in a timely fashion with the requested information so I can best prepare for my time with you.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

I desire that our ministry and worship together will be a time of renewal and refreshing in the Holy Spirit for the congregation, the clergy, and me. Please prepare for my visit by leading the congregation in prayer for God's anointing on the services that all who are present will encounter the Living God.

#### LITURGICAL GUIDELINES

- **Liturgical Colors:** For Confirmation(s)/Reception(s) and/or Ordination(s), the color will be RED; for Baptism(s) with or without Confirmation(s)/Reception(s), the color will be WHITE; for visitation without Baptism(s) or Confirmation(s), the color will be that of the liturgical season.
- **Liturgy of the Day:** The eucharistic liturgy for visitations will be the Renewed Ancient Text (BCP 2019) unless there is a request made and granted prior to the visitation. When there are no Baptisms, Confirmations, or Receptions, the liturgy should include the Renewal of Baptismal Vows (substituted for the Nicene Creed).
- **Lectionary Readings:** ADGL congregations should all use the ACNA lectionary readings found in the 2019 Book of Common Prayer. Bishop Mark will preach from the ESV and prefers the lessons be read from the ESV. Please note if the Psalm is read from the Coverdale Psalter.

- **Bishop's Attire:** Please consult with the Bishop regarding preference and local custom regarding the appropriate vestments to be worn.
- **Service Bulletin:** It is important that you email a copy of your service bulletin to Canon Andrea Orchard by Thursday noon so I can best prepare for the service.

## CONFIRMATIONS AND RECEPTIONS

The Bishop will meet with Confirmands and/or those being received to exhort and examine them as a group for at least 45 minutes prior to vesting for the service. When possible, this could be done the day prior to the service.

## CERTIFICATES, SIGNATURES, PHOTOS

- Certificates can be downloaded from the diocesan website. The Diocese can print and prepare certificates for Confirmation(s) and Reception(s).
- If you have items for the Bishop to sign (certificates, Bibles, Prayer Books, etc.), please have them ready to be signed before the service in a room near where the Bishop will be vesting.
- If photos are to be taken (confirmands, etc.), please arrange for this to happen immediately after the service in an organized fashion.

## PARISH REGISTER

The Bishop will examine and sign the Parish Register and Service Record during his visit.

## MEETINGS WITH CLERGY AND PARISH LEADERSHIP

The Bishop will meet with Rector and spouse during his visit. This might best happen over a meal or coffee. The Bishop will also meet with any Assisting Clergy and their spouse during the visit.

The Bishop will also meet with the parish's leadership (wardens, vestry, mission council) to get a sense of the congregation's health and missional vision. We will also discuss how the Diocesan Leadership can best serve the local parish. These meetings may be arranged the day before or the day of the visit.

## THE BISHOP'S ARRIVAL

It will be very helpful if I am met by a priest, deacon, designated chaplain, or other designated person to assist with carrying Vestments.

## FOOD

Please have bottled water available for the service. Different parishes will have different customs but having a meal (or healthy snack) after the service, though not required, will be appreciated.

## ADMINISTERING COMMUNION

We have a variety of practices within our diocese and throughout the Anglican Communion in addition to more recent COVID protocols. Please have the Rector or designated person direct me concerning the local practice for distributing the sacrament to the congregation.

## OFFERING/DONATION

It is customary for an offering to be taken up for the Bishop's discretionary fund, which is used to assist diocesan clergy, people, and parishes/missions with various needs. You may arrange for this as best fits your local situation and does not impact your regular giving. Some parishes designate the "loose offering" or determine a designated amount. You may make your offering online at <https://www.adgl.us/give>, or your check can be made out to the Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes with *Bishop's Discretionary Fund* in the memo, and mailed directly to the diocesan office: **Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes, Att: Rev. Canon Andrea Orchard, 810 S. Main Street #393, Akron, OH 44311.**

Neither Bishop Mark nor Bishop Allen receive an honorarium for episcopal visitations. If Bishop Emeritus Roger Ames visits on behalf of Bishop Mark or Bishop Allen, it is proper to arrange for him to receive an honorarium and mileage expense reimbursement.

## QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please contact Rev. Canon Andrea Orchard at the diocesan office for assistance with any visitation details. Her contact information is located at the bottom of the page.

I look forward to our time of worship and ministry together.

Blessings!



Bishop Mark A. Engel