

Bishop's Visitation Customary

The Bishop's congregational visits are not only for the purpose of meeting the canonical requirements, but also for the building of connections and relationship. To that end, Bishop Kym wants congregational leadership to know that her primary goal during her visit is to be in conversation with the community, to explore how the Holy Spirit is moving in your context, and to learn how the Office of the Bishop can be of support.

Form Of Worship

Bishop Kym expects that her visit will include a lectionary-based service of Holy Eucharist. Vestments should reflect the colors of the liturgical season. If there is a service of baptism scheduled the vestments should be white; for confirmations the Bishop prefers red, and will consent to white or the seasonal color. The Bishop expects to preach and celebrate during the service unless other arrangements are made. The Bishop leaves the selection of music, Eucharistic Prayers and Prayers of the People to congregational leadership. If congregations are observing special liturgical seasons with alternate readings, they should inform the bishop's Executive Assistant at least 3 weeks prior to the visit.

The Bishop asks that there be gluten-free hosts available.

The Bishop will schedule Celebrations of New Ministry as her schedule permits on weekday evenings. She is also happy to incorporate this service as part of her regular visitations when applicable.

It is expected that the loose plate offering goes to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Relationship-building

The Bishop expects to have time for intentional relationship building with congregational leaders, including spending time with Vestry/Bishop's Committee members, lay pastoral leaders and/or clergy. The Bishop is also willing to facilitate formation time or question and answer time with the congregation. If there are candidates for confirmation/reception, time may be scheduled for the Bishop to meet with them. These relationship building events can happen before or after worship for thirty to forty-five minutes. The Bishop will sign the parish register at the conclusion of the visit.

Accommodations

If a congregation is located more than 2.5 hours from the Office of the Bishop, the Bishop will travel the day before and stay overnight. When possible, the Bishop would like partnered congregations to worship together for the visitation. From time to time, one or more of the Bishop's Canons, will accompany her. Occasionally, her family will travel with her.

The Bishop delights in fellowship time and asks that there are gluten-free and dairy-free options available. Please note, the Bishop is not vegetarian (bacon is both gluten-free and dairy-free!).