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Canons for Clergy Care Synod Report 2026

Rev. Canon Brian Campbell and Rev. Canon Ashley Davis

We have been happy to see more rectors coming for both year 1 and year 2 for the Rector Development Program. I cannot emphasize enough the encouragement and help this has been both to the rectors who come, and for Bishop Alan and RDP staff members. For those of you who haven't come, here are the modules of growth and assessment:

- Financial Coach
- Safeguarding appointment with our Canon for Ethics Sergio Sapunar
- Meeting with Certified Executive and Life Coach Mack Arrington to review DISC profile
- Time working with Bishop Alan on their respective DISC Test profiles and how to work better together.
- Pastoral Philosophy of Ministry Assessment with Canons Brian and Ashley
- Spiritual Direction appointment
- Module with Bishop Alan on the 20 dimensions of personal health
- A great meal
- Some personal down time
- Prayer by laity at Church of the Redeemer.

In the care of our non-rector clergy, we are still giving structure for our deanery clergy care representatives and assistants. The goal is to have representatives in each deanery who contacts non-rector clergy at least

twice a year and assists in finding area resources for needs such as counseling, confession, and spiritual direction. Canon Brian and I hold regular quarterly meetings with the clergy care reps to discuss best practices, recurring struggles, updates, and make sure we are on the same page.

As of now, these are the clergy care reps who are serving in our deaneries and the Great Plains Missionary District.

1. New England: David Smith, Assistants: Sue Currie, David Currie, Eric Okrin, and Walter Witter
2. Blue Ridge: Wilson West
3. Triad: Ashley Davis, Assistant: Ralph Hawkins
4. Triangle- Tidewater: Ford Jordan
5. Eastern NC: Curt Solomon

The way each deanery functions will depend on the number of non-rector clergy in the area, which is why, for example, the NE deanery needs a team while Eastern NC can be covered by one person.

In practice, we have seen the local church, deanery care reps, and diocese provide comfort and practical help for clergy experiencing health issues, death of a loved one, marital struggles, and other ministry strains. Canons for Clergy Care are always available for extra support and connection to other diocesan resources. Other support is available through the Clergy Care Fund. Clergy must apply for these funds through Rev. Canon Ben Bowman.

Many of you are familiar with Bishop Alan's Big List or Clergy Flourishing Initiative, which includes 20 facets of a minister's health. The dimensions of

this initiative include areas of spiritual, physical, and emotional health, as well as personal growth and healthy relationships and communities. In teaching the Anglican Spirituality class, Canon Brian has combined Dallas Willard's Golden Triangle with the Anglican rhythm of Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, and Lex Vivendi. We have begun a new break-out session, that some of you may have attended, that encourages clergy to focus on Lex Vivendi, or how God is using the trials and activities of your daily life to shape you more into the likeness of Jesus. By adding this dimension to your Rule of Life, clergy can use the Lex Orandi and Lex Credendi that is so embedded in Anglican liturgy and theology and begin to focus more on how the Spirit also moves and shapes us through our everyday lives and the opportunities that life gives us to respond and practice becoming more like Jesus.

We also continue to urge our brothers and sisters in ministry to find a band or brothers or sisters to process the ups and downs of life and ministry. Clergy Care Groups are the primary way we as a diocese can help you find that kind of camaraderie. We know many of you have formed other groups with local pastors from other churches or colleagues in town. Regardless of the group, our sincere hope is that you find a place where you can talk through all the things in your life in a safe place, so that you won't be isolated, and so you have other people who are pointing you toward Christ and Christlikeness of life. We strongly believe that healthy clergy make healthy congregations.