

DIOCESE OF KOOTENAY

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Subject: Continuing Education Plan and Events

Introduction

It is essential that people in all professions take advantage of continuing education opportunities which provide deeper understanding and further skill development. Participation in ongoing educational programs benefits those taking the programs, their congregations, and the diocese.

General Synod Continuing Education Plan (CEP)

Since January 1, 1979 the Diocese of Kootenay has been a member of the General Synod Continuing Education Plan. The details of this Plan and ongoing course suggestions and other resources are detailed on a national website www.cep.anglican.ca.

Clergy Educational Leave/Retreats

Clergy are entitled to three weeks continuing education per year. Educational leaves can be accumulated to a maximum of 12 weeks. The Bishop of Kootenay expects that all clergy will take advantage of this leave on a regular basis. Further, it is expected that a minimum of 3 days of this time annually will be devoted to a personal retreat.

In order for an educational leave to be approved the program of study must be approved by the Bishop. The program may take the form of a course offered by KSM or another institution, distance education, or self-directed study. Educational leave may also be granted for clergy seeking sabbath time. The parish will be responsible for arranging and funding replacement clergy who must also be approved by the Bishop. Parishes are to maintain clergy salaries during approved educational leave.

For educational programs longer than the annual three week leave clergy must negotiate their leave time with the Bishop, Wardens and Church Council, no less than 90 days in advance.

Annual personal retreats do not require approval in advance by the Bishop. Retreats are an important piece of the spiritual journey for any Christian and individuals should select a retreat program that refreshes and deepens their relationship with God. However, access to a spiritual director is highly recommended and a written memorandum concerning the retreat (dates, location, format) is required upon completion. Continuing Education Funds

may be accessed in order to fund a retreat provided they are authorized in advance by the Bishop.

Annual Clergy Conference

There will be an annual Diocesan Clergy Conference. The Continuing Education Committee elected by the Greater Clericus will plan the annual Conference in consultation with the bishop. All licensed clergy, stipendiary and not, are expected to attend.

Given that the conference is an expectation a fund to cover the costs of the conference will be generated by assessments to congregations. Also, to assist those clergy travelling greater distances within the Diocese of Kootenay a Travel Pool will also be established.