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## **EPISCOPAL GUIDELINES FOR HEALTHY PARISH LIFE**

### **DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA & PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND**

- The clergy and the parish will:
  - a) Conform to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Anglican Church of Canada.
  - b) Uphold the Constitution, Canons and Guidelines of the diocese, as well as the Policies and Procedures authorized by Diocesan Synod and Diocesan Council.
  - c) Follow Episcopal Guidelines set forth by the bishop.
- The clergy and the parish will endeavour to order their common life in keeping with the Baptismal Covenant as set forth in the Book of Alternative Services, and the Rule of Life as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.
- The clergy and the parish will formalize a covenant of relationship and ministry according to diocesan standards.
- The clergy and the parish will uphold and support the ministerial gifts of clergy and laity alike, encouraging one another in leadership roles in worship, spiritual development, pastoral care, stewardship and administration.
- The clergy and the parish will honour diocesan Policies and Procedures as well as episcopal directives in matters of liturgy. The authorized texts are the Book of Common Prayer and the Book of Alternative Services.
- The clergy and the parish will collaboratively work to maintain the well-being of the priest, and by extension, the parish, by ensuring that the incumbent has two full days off each week, a full vacation, annual retreats and regular continuing education.
- Rectories will be properly maintained for the privacy, comfort and safety of the incumbent and his/her family.
- Priests in receipt of a housing allowance will live within a reasonable distance from the parish, the location being approved by the bishop.
- The clergy and the parish will normally consult with the regional dean regarding administrative concerns and with the archdeacon regarding pastoral concerns.
- Conflict is found in various forms in the life of the parish family. When conflict is ignored or not dealt with in a timely and healthy way, both the priest and the parish can be hurt and parish relationships can be damaged. Where conflict arises in the life of the parish, the priest and the parish will find support through the bishops, archdeacons, regional deans and programs for dealing with conflict recommended by the bishop. When conflict arises in matters of pastoral concern, the priest and the parish are strongly encouraged to seek support from the archdeacon. When conflict arises in matters of administrative concerns, the priest and the parish are strongly encouraged to seek support from the regional dean.
- The clergy and the parish will work in a collegial and supportive manner with other priests and parishes.
- The clergy, the parish and diocesan Synod staff will work in a collegial and supportive manner.
- The clergy and the parish will be actively involved in regional and diocesan gatherings of the Church.