

Bishop's 2021 Visitation Customary during COVID

During time of COVID, I have been keeping my visitation schedule. I meet with congregations via Zoom, on a live feed or in-person outside, as is appropriate to both the congregation and Diocesan guidelines. Below are my preferences for a visitation, which are designed to make things simple and easy for clergy and congregations.

For all congregations, please:

- contact Kirstin Nielsen a month before your visitation to discuss the type of service and coffee hour -- email kirstin@realepiscopal.org.
- invite a deacon to be present, either online or in person to proclaim the gospel.
- discuss with the bishop the role of the officiant or presider. I prefer to share leadership.
- know that I prefer to preach.
- Send a bulletin and a link to worship 5 days ahead of the visitation to both Kirstin and me.
- plan a Zoom coffee hour on Sunday morning, or a parish get together via Zoom for an afternoon or evening.
 - I prefer an informal style of coffee hour so that I can make contact with people and get to know something about them.
 - This informal conversation should last no more than one hour.

If a vestry meeting/bishop's committee meeting is desired, please plan it for a special time other than a Sunday morning. Please contact my assistant (Kirstin) to calendar times/dates.

For a Zoom visitation:

- Send a link to Kirstin so that it may appear on my calendar no less 5 days in advance
- Send the bulletin at least 5 days in advance
- Please plan to have multiple participants in the leading of the service.

For a pre-recorded worship:

- I will send you a sermon the Thursday before, via We Transfer so that you may download it into the service.
- Please send me the link to the service.
- Plan for a zoom coffee hour or another get-together.

For an outside/in-person worship service:

- My husband will often travel with me to take care of my vestments, crozier and stand. Please be sure he has a safe location to take part in the service.
- Please have a room set aside for me to vest. Please be sure to sanitize the room before and after my visit.
- Please guide me to the nearest restroom.
- All protocols must be carefully followed. No one can touch the bishop (sorry) until further notice.
- Confirmations, receptions, and affirmations are an option with all protocols carefully in place.
 - Only touch is for confirmation, with sanitizing before and after each person
 - Please have certificates on hand for me to sign.
- I will bring my purple camp chair along in case it is needed.

I am very mindful of the fact that when I meet people in-person, I am a potential spreader of the virus in our diocese. Please carefully follow our protocols so that I may continue to travel among you whenever the situation permits.

Thank you for adhering to these basic protocols and guidelines. My intention is to make it a workable situation for us all. If you have questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to be in contact with me or Kirstin, my assistant.

Faithfully,

+Lucinda