Canon for Congregational Vitality (Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma)

The Canon for Congregational Vitality (CCV) serves as an integral member of the Bishop’s Executive Staff, alongside the Canon to the Ordinary and the Canon for Finance and Administration.

The CCV will have primary responsibility for developing and executing the diocesan strategy for congregational vitality, consistent with the Bishop’s vision, and in collaboration with the diocesan staff team known as the Ministry Partners (the directors of faith formation, stewardship, and communications).

Background

The religious landscape is rapidly changing (even in the “Bible belt” of Oklahoma), and the pandemic is likely accelerating cultural trends in religious affiliation and practice. A central question we are asking is: how can our congregations in Oklahoma, of all sizes, become more vibrant, mission-driven, Christ-centered, resilient, financially sustainable, and spiritually mature, and what can our diocesan staff do to encourage and support these traits?

These are some of the related questions we are asking:

What partnerships among Episcopal congregations, non-Episcopal congregations, and other groups might support vitality?

How might we think creatively about buildings, technology, and new models for ordained and lay ministry?

What does a small, vital congregation in a rural town look like?

What does effective 21st century evangelism look like?

Where and how ought we to be planting new churches and missional communities?

How do we reach out more effectively to the Latinx, Native American, LGBTQ+, youth and young adult, and other communities in our diocese?

How do we measure congregational vitality over time? What are its characteristics?

CCV Main Areas of Responsibility

Lead Ministry Partners Team

The CCV will convene and support the Ministry Partners in efforts designed to equip congregations and their clergy and lay leaders, through consultations, workshops, and
other trainings. The CCV will host Ministry Partners team meetings to track progress on strategic vitality initiatives, and offer one-on-one coaching/supervision to the team members.

**Visit Congregations**

Coordinating with the Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary’s visitation schedule, the CCV will visit congregations around the diocese most Sundays to preach, preside, lead forums/trainings, and/or meet with lay leaders.

**Advise the Bishop**

With the Canon to the Ordinary and Canon for Finance and Administration, serve as a council of advice for the Bishop and for the other canons.

**Core Competencies**

- Personal and spiritual maturity, with a disciplined prayer practice
- Strategic thinking
- Self-motivated hard worker
- Adaptability, creativity, and flexibility in problem solving
- A positive, collaborative, and encouraging presence
- Ability to receive and give honest feedback

**Qualifications**

- Master of Divinity or equivalent
- Ordained as an Episcopal priest for at least 5 years
- Served as rector or priest-in-charge with a demonstrated track-record of congregational development, ideally in a multicultural setting
- Demonstrated leadership in diocesan ministry and collegiality with Episcopal colleagues
- Knowledge and experience in staff supervision
- Excellent communications skills. Technological Proficiency. Ability to speak Spanish a plus
- Availability for evening and weekend meetings. Ability to travel to parish locations around the diocese, including most Sundays (diocesan vehicle provided)
Compensation and Benefits

- Salary $95,000 to $100,000 (depending on experience)
- Fully Paid Family Health Coverage
- Diocesan Vehicle
- Scholarships Available - Episcopal School Tuition

To Apply

Submit the following materials (electronic submission preferred) to: The Rev. Canon Eric Cooter, Canon to the Ordinary; canoneric@epiok.org

1. Resume/Curriculum Vitae
2. OTM profile
3. Cover Letter
4. Written response to the application assignment below.

Please reflect on the following scenario: A (fictional) congregation with an ASA of 55 in Westville, Oklahoma was once able to sustain financially a full-time rector, but is no longer able to do so, and has been relying on a supply priest for the past 9 months. How might you think about assisting this congregation in their path towards greater vitality?