



The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

March 23, 2020

You are receiving this notice because you represent a worshipping community currently being served by a priest who is retired, part-time, an interim, a member of another branch of Christ's one, holy, and apostolic Church, a linked community, or long term supply clergy.

If you are being so served, you may have a Letter of Agreement stipulating conditions or term limits on such ministries. In other situations, some of you may have long standing and customary arrangements.

In an effort to be fair and pastoral to all, and in anticipation that God's grace and healing power soon will return us to health and normalcy, I am urging your compliance with the following.

1. Because of the difficulties and disruptions caused by this current pandemic, I am asking you to continue indefinitely, the services of your priest without regard to the stipulations of your Letter of Agreement (including the Appendix A). If you are functioning on a Sunday to Sunday basis only, I leave matters to your discretion. At such a time as I believe we are on the road to "normalcy," I will send a follow-up communication regarding my request.
2. It is my expectation that a fair and reasonable compensation will continue to be offered to the clergy, and that the clergy will continue to provide such pastoral and spiritual care in a manner consistent with my directions and within local capabilities.
3. In a number of situations, I know that individual clergy have made "time away" plans that will now be compromised. I ask that your church do all in your power to honor and respect those plans. This is a period in which we should manifest our compassion for one another rather than insisting on the letter of the law.

If you have any questions or concerns in these matters, please let me know. It is not my intention to dictate to your situation. It is my intention to insist that we treat each other in a manner that befits our Baptismal heritage.

Unless I hear differently from you, I am presuming your acceptance of my request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Russell Kendrick".

The Rt. Rev. J. Russell Kendrick
Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast

CC: Clergy serving your congregation

JRK/bmg/mrp