

R14-3

Resolved, that the presbyters of the Diocese of Atlanta in consultation with the Bishop shall form a committee to write a comprehensive policy for clergy continuing education that will be submitted to the Bishop by the end of the calendar year 2014; and be it further

Resolved, that this policy will make careful consideration of clergy wellness in regard to this policy as directed not just by the letter of the law but also the spirit of the law as enumerated in Canon 35 Section 8 (d) (e) that governs clergy continuing education

Explanation:

The Diocese of Atlanta has no policy that illuminates or seeks to articulate the governing principles of clergy continuing education. The canonical authority to shape clergy continuing education is granted to the cleric, in consultation with the 'employer' which could be a vestry or a rector, or the Bishop, or a board etc....

The current reporting form and non-canonical standard found on the diocesan website [cite URL] was created by a former Bishop without consultation with the Diocesan Clergy. This reporting form has served as a de-facto policy, but is in clear contradiction of Canon 35, Section 8 (d) (e) where we read:

*(d). Every **cleric and employer**, by whatever name, shall review together annually the above described agreement to update it and **assure that it meets current needs of the cleric**. Terms of this updated agreement shall be sent to the Bishop within thirty (30) days after being officially arrived at and recorded in the employer's minutes.*

(e). Nothing in this Canon shall be construed to establish minimum standards of Continuing Education of a cleric as a prerequisite for continued employment or for the future employment of a cleric.

It is unconscionable that the clergy of this diocese should be bound to an obtuse, outmoded, and irrelevant reporting form as a policy that clearly contradicts the canons of the church.

Submitted by: the Rev. Benno Pattison, Church of the Epiphany, Atlanta
the Rev. Ben Day, Church of the Epiphany, Atlanta
the Rev. Ruth Pattison, St. Anne's, Atlanta