

CLERGY CONTINUING EDUCATION POLICY (Clergy Continuing Formation Requirements and Report)

Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

POLICY:

The Diocese is committed to continuous learning.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to Diocesan clergy as outlined.

PROCEDURE:

1. 24 CEUs (Continuing Education Units) per calendar year are required for full-time stipendiary clergy serving diocesan congregations and institutions such as hospitals, human need facilities, and schools.
2. 12 CEUs per annual cycle are required for all other clergy exercising ordained ministry within the Diocese. This includes part-time, supply, bi-vocational priests, deacons, chaplains, and ordained persons who are not working full time, including retired clergy who are continuing to work part time.
3. Clergy who are canonically resident but not living or serving in the Diocese of the Rio Grande will be exempt from this requirement. Fully retired, non-active clergy are encouraged but not required to obtain CEUs.
4. Clergy who serve in religious professional capacities such as hospital chaplains or heads of schools who are required to have continuing education from a licensing/certification agency will be allowed to utilize the continuing education credits required by those agencies as long as they meet the contact hour requirements of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. If they do not completely meet the diocesan requirement, they can supplement their licensing CEUs with other opportunities.
5. Clergy must submit a report of their continuing education for the prior year by the Monday following Clergy Conference each year. The prior year is defined as the time period since the last Clergy Conference. They may report their annual continuing education hours on line by clicking on:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1LnIXc4w4x7_pWF3JetKCajtZQZXMWg3WOSGuWdT_Y9E/viewform

The same report can be accessed directly from the website of the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

Please note that there is no need to save certificates proving attendance at an event other than for one's own records, nor does one need to submit a paper report to the diocese.

Continuing Education Unit (CEU)

The standard for one CEU in the Diocese of the Rio Grande is one contact hour in a learning situation. This may include one-on-one instruction, online learning, classroom, conference, small group collaborative work,

and the educational component of religious pilgrimages. Worship, fellowship, breaks, and mealtimes during a class do not qualify for CEU's. Nor do conferences and educational opportunities that do not support professional, theological or personal development, or classes to become proficient in hobbies or second careers.

Independent Studies

Independent study can qualify for CEUs. However, for an independent study project to qualify for approval, at least six weeks in advance of commencing the project the clergy person must have submitted a proposal to Bishop Vono, the Canon for Formation, and the Chair of the Continuing Education Committee of the Commission on the Ministry of the Baptized. How many hours will be granted for an independent study will be determined by these three in consultation with each other. Generally no more than 12 hours will be granted.

Continuing Education in Local Deaneries

Local deaneries provide an ideal venue for clergy continuing education. However, for a deanery event to qualify for continuing education hours, the dean of the deanery must have submitted a proposal to Bishop Vono, the Canon for Formation, and the Chair of the Continuing Education Committee of the COMB at least six weeks in advance of the deanery meeting. Beginning September 1, 2015 approval for CEU's for a deanery event will not be granted if approval is sought after the event.

In New Mexico there are many opportunities for clergy to pursue high quality continuing education expressly designed for pastors. See, for example,

- The Center for Action and Contemplation (<https://cac.org/>)
- Ghost Ranch (<http://ghostranch.org/>)

Also, the vast majority of a clergy person's requirements can be met by attending the annual clergy retreat offered by the Diocese and by coming to Diocesan Convention and taking the classes offered there.

If you have questions regarding whether an event will qualify for continuing education in the Diocese of the Rio Grande, please feel free to contact the Canon for Formation.

Approved by Standing Committee: December 7, 2016