

Canon 604 – Congregations: Total or Shared Ministry Teams

Canon 604.1 Team Call. Any congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota, whether a cathedral, parish, mission or special mission, with the consent of the Bishop and in accordance with the Canons and the Diocesan policies and procedures in The Handbook for Total or Shared Ministry, may call forth persons to serve on a Total or Shared Ministry Team.

Canon 604.2 Composition. Total or Shared Ministry Teams will normally be composed of six or more members, each member responding to a call in one or more of the ministry areas, which may include but are not limited to administration, stewardship, education, evangelism, liturgy, pastoral care, preaching, outreach and sacramental ministry. Each team shall be supported by one or more mentors or consultants.

Canon 604.3 Spiritual Ordering of Team. Some members of the team may be Ordained in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, others may be Licensed in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church, and some may be Commissioned in accordance with the Policies of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota, as set forth in The Handbook for Total or Shared Ministry.

Canon 604.4 Authority of Team. Members of a Total or Shared Ministry Team, whether Licensed, Ordained, or Commissioned, shall be responsible for the ministry areas identified in Canon 604.2 for which they have been discerned by the congregation, in collaboration with the Rector, Vicar, Priest-in-Charge or Dean, if there be one, and any other areas allocated to the Team or its members by the By-Laws or congregation, subject to Canon Law, the advice and counsel of any appointed mentor or consultant and the Godly counsel of the Bishop.

Canon 604.5 Process. The policies and procedures for calling, commissioning, and functioning of teams are contained in The Handbook for Total or Shared Ministry, which is the responsibility of the Commission on Ministry by the authority of the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.

Renumber Current Canons 604 – 613 as Canons 605 – 614

Explanation. There are 38 congregations in the Diocese of Minnesota with Total or Shared Ministry Teams. The existence of these Ministry Teams were not, however, part of our Diocesan Canon Law except for a reference in Canon 608.3 which assigns to Missioner Congregationers the responsibility of being a consultant for Team Ministry. Bishop James Jelinek, therefore, called together a task group, with particular attention to Diocesan wide representation and the background and experience of each member of the task force. The Bishop charged the group to discuss what things belong in the Canons and what things belong in policy and procedure. The proposed Canon authorizes and supports Total and Shared Ministry. Policies and Procedures contained in the Diocesan Handbook on Total and Shared Ministries give details of the process and give the Bishop, Standing Committee and Commission on Ministry flexibility in working with ministries in context.