

Who's Who in Church Deployment

Rector. Typically the vestry of parish, a self-supporting congregation calls the rector to be the spiritual leader. The rector is the ecclesiastical authority of the parish, and the term is derived from the Latin for "rule." The rector has authority and responsibility for worship and the spiritual jurisdiction of the parish subject to the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, the constitution and canons of the church, and the pastoral direction of the bishop. Other clergy in the parish serve at the discretion of the rector, and the buildings and furnishings are under the rector's control.

Vicar is a priest who is appointed as the spiritual leader of a mission congregation by the bishop. The term is derived from Latin *vicarious*, "substitute"; the priest represents the bishop who is in charge of the congregation.

Interim Rector is a priest appointed by the bishop and approved by the vestry to oversee the congregation while there is a search for a new rector. The term is unusually one year or until the search is concluded. More often than not, the priest appointed has been trained in interim ministry, and that person cannot be a candidate for rector. It is an intentional ministry of reviewing the past, assessing the present, and envisioning the future for the congregation -- a ministry of preparing the congregation for a new rector.

Priest-in-Charge is a priest who is appointed by the bishop and approved by the vestry to oversee the congregation for a period of one to five years. This extended period give the congregation an opportunity to focus on development rather than focusing on a search process. A priest-in-charge may be appointed following a long tenured rector, or a period of instability or conflict, or as a time to develop financial support or as an opportunity to explore other forms and models of ministry. The priest-in-charge may be selected as rector if mutually agreed to by the priest, vestry, and bishop.