

**CLERGY TERMINOLOGY**  
**Diocese of Central New York**

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**SUPPLY CLERGY**

A priest retained on a per diem basis to officiate at liturgies and to provide limited, specified pastoral care. If a priest is not canonically resident in the Diocese, he or she must have a license to officiate in order to supply.

**Supply Clergy Duties:**

Supply Cleric's sole duty is to celebrate the Eucharist at a regular worship time, at funerals, or weddings as contracted by the congregation. A supply priest does not run vestry meeting.

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**PARISH PRIEST**

A priest retained for a specified time period and for specified number of hours per week.

**Parish Priest Duties:** Works with the Vestry to maintain the regular schedule of worship services and has full responsibility for the conduct of the worship. In consultation with the Senior Warden, respond pastorally to any emergencies, pastoral care, marriage preparation, funerals. At the request of the warden(s), offer guidance to the Vestry but does not run Vestry meetings.

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**INTERIM RECTOR:**

A full-time or part-time priest trained for interim ministry, who is typically retained for a one year, renewable, if necessary, while a search is being conducted. An Interim priest has a written contract specifying roles and responsibilities. The Interim priest is not eligible to become rector.

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**PRIEST-IN-CHARGE**

A priest retained during a transition period, on a full-time or part-time basis, with a three year agreement. A Priest-in-Charge has full authority of Rector, except tenure, unless otherwise specified in the agreement. A Priest-in-Charge is only eligible to become Pastor or Rector if such a provision is agreed upon in the initial contractual arrangement.

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**VICAR**

A priest, appointed by the Bishop, with full authority of Rector, except tenure, serving full-time or part-time, with charge and responsibility for a parish or mission.

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**RECTOR**

A full-time or part-time priest, with tenure, elected by the Vestry with the Bishop's approval. The responsibility for the conduct of the worship and the spiritual jurisdiction of the parish are vested in the Rector, subject to the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution and the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese, the pastoral direction of the Bishop, and the Religious Corporation Laws of the State of New York. Specifically, the Rector is responsible for the following areas:

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- Chair Vestry and Annual Meetings
- Worship/Music
- Programs
- Use of Buildings and Grounds
- Pastoral Care
- Supervise, Hire and Dismiss Staff

In order to call a Rector, a congregation must be financially sound and in a position to support and sustain a tenured priest.

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**ASSISTING CLERGY (CURATE, ASSISTANT, ASSOCIATE)**

A priest selected by the Rector (in conversation with the Vestry), who serves under the authority and direction of the Rector. Before the selection of an Assistant, the name of the priest proposed for selection shall be made known to the Bishop. Any Assistant selected shall serve at the discretion of the Rector. An Assistant is expected to submit his or her resignation to a new Rector and further service would be up to the determination of the new Rector. Assisting clergy are not eligible to become Interim Pastor, Priest-in-Charge, Pastor or Rector.