



## **FAQ Concerning Episcopal Areas**

### **1. What is an episcopal area?**

Bishops are assigned to each annual conference (an individual conference) or to an area that is made up of one or more conferences. These conferences maintain their internal structure and identity even though they are one area served by one bishop. The bishop travels between the conferences offering leadership to each. The North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) currently has 10 conferences and 9 bishops, with one episcopal area sharing a bishop: the Dakotas and Minnesota. A reduction of another bishop would configure to 10 conferences, 8 bishops and two shared episcopal areas.

### **2. Who decides which conferences share a bishop?**

Final decision making regarding conference boundaries and episcopal areas rests with the Jurisdictional Conference. A task force was formed recently to make recommendations to the NCJ College of Bishops and Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee. Through this work, a recommendation will come to the Jurisdictional Conference in July.

### **3. How are bishops assigned?**

The Northern Illinois Conference is part of the NCJ. All the annual conferences in the jurisdiction are represented on the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee by one clergy delegate and one lay delegate who meet with the bishops throughout the quadrennium to get to know their strengths and needs. At the Jurisdictional Conference, the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee reviews the conference profile provided by the annual conference's Episcopacy Committee. After bishops have been elected at the Jurisdictional Conference, the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee makes assignments for each episcopal area or annual conference.

#### **4. When will we know if Northern Illinois is one of the conferences sharing a bishop?**

During the next 6 months, a task force will review options and configurations, these, in turn, will be reviewed by both the Jurisdictional Episcopacy Committee and the College of Bishops. It is expected that the recommendation to the Jurisdictional Conference will be made at the end of June.

#### **5. When will we know who our bishop will be?**

Historically, the episcopal assignments are announced at the Consecration Service on the last day of the Jurisdictional Conference. This year's service is scheduled for Saturday, July 18, 2020, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.