



the COLLEGE for BISHOPS

## 2009 MID-YEAR REPORT to the HOUSE OF BISHOPS



January 2009 New Bishops' and Spouses' Conference

Dear Friends,

*We are excited and pleased to offer this mid-year report of the work of the College for Bishops and to make it available to members of the House of Deputies. The College is committed to providing new bishops with thoughtful preparation for their work and excellent continuing education for all who serve as bishops of our church. We are confident that the programs of the College for Bishops are making an invaluable contribution to the health and vitality of our church. We are grateful for your support!*

*J. Neil Alexander  
Bishop of Atlanta  
President, Board of Directors*

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The College for Bishops is most grateful to all of the faculty members, curriculum designers, guest speakers, consultants and program participants for the success of the following 2009 offerings:

**90-DAY COMPANION PROGRAM:** a newly-elected bishop is paired with an active bishop who will guide him/her during the critical 90-day transition period between election and consecration.

**2009:** 4 active relationships, 8 additional anticipated

**NEW BISHOPS' AND SPOUSES' CONFERENCE:** newly-elected bishops and their spouses gather for five days of education, community building, reflection and support.

**January 2009:** 13 bishop and spouse participants

**LIVING OUR VOWS PROGRAM:** a canonically mandated three-year transitional resource designed to support the personal development of new bishops and equip them for transformative leadership. Annual residential retreats are coupled with an active peer coaching relationship.

**May 2009:** 37 Residency participants,  
38 coaching relationships



May 2009 Living Our Vows Residency

**SHORT COURSES:** one to two day continuing education events designed to address timely and relevant topics for bishops. These courses are typically held prior to a House of Bishops meeting. **March 2009:** 17 participants

**SMALL GROUP STUDIES:** coordinated by the College for Bishops, these are small, informal gatherings of bishops to discuss topics of their own choosing.

**2009:** 1 group (7 participants)

**CONTINUING EDUCATION:** the required minimum of four hours of continuing education are coordinated by the College for Bishops at regularly scheduled meetings of the House of Bishops. **March 2009:** 4 sessions

**CREDO FOR BISHOPS:** special CREDO conferences designed for bishops and provide opportunities for them to examine significant areas of their lives and to discern prayerfully the future direction of their vocation as they respond to God's call in a lifelong process of practice and transformation.

**February 2009 (CREDO II):** 17 participants

The mission of the College for Bishops is to provide opportunities for education and formation that will strengthen bishops in their personal lives, as diocesan leaders in God's mission and in their vocation to God as a community of bishops in service to the Episcopal Church.

*The College for Bishops has a huge impact on the wider Church in that its care for the wellbeing, formation and education of bishops also extends to others within the Church. An entire diocesan community ultimately benefits from having a well-trained and healthy leader at the bishop level. I see the College for Bishops as helping to give a gift of wellness to all members of our Church. – College for Bishops Board Member, Province IV*



**New bishop Brian Thom (Idaho) discusses content with faculty member Bp. Mark Sisk (New York) at New Bishops and Spouses Conference**

## AROUND ONE TABLE

*Around One Table* is a multi-layered resource designed to engage people in constructive conversation about the identity and mission of the Episcopal Church and how that relates to their lives and ministries. CREDO Institute and the College for Bishops are developing this initiative for the Episcopal Church and its members in close collaboration with professors from three universities who conducted the original research (the *Episcopal Identity Project*). Look for the release of this resource in the fall.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- The seeds of the College for Bishops were planted in the 1970's when The Rt Rev'd David Richards began a bishop-to-bishop mentoring program.
- Official programming was first offered to bishops in 1993 during sessions held at General Theological Seminary.
- Bishops in 78% of dioceses have contributed to the funding of the College since 2006.
- The College reaches out beyond the Episcopal Church: Bishops from Canada, Ireland and Scotland are currently enrolled in the three-year Living Our Vows program.
- Spouses of bishops are also served by the College through a password-protected web area that houses and archives resources and information.
- The College for Bishops co-sponsors intensive research projects including the Emotional Health of Clergy and Clergy Family Study, Episcopal Transitions and Elections Project, Episcopal Identity Project (*Around One Table*), and Emotional Health and Wellness of Bishops and Bishop Spouses Study.
- Approximately 84 active and retired bishops are currently involved in College for Bishops programs by serving as faculty members, peer coaches, 90-day companions, committee members or program participants. All bishops participate through the House of Bishops Continuing Education Program.

*As a rector, I am grateful for my bishop's participation in an intentional and sustained program of learning and growth which models a pattern of holy living and learning. As a Christian, I am reminded of our mutual responsibility to celebrate the inquiring minds and discerning hearts which are a part of our baptismal hope. – Parish Rector, Province III*

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To learn more about the work of the College for Bishops or to make a contribution, visit our website.