

# Reimagining CURACiES



The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

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# The Traditional Way of Training Priests in Congregations

- One to three years in a church
- First as deacon, then as priest
- Limited to experiences of one congregation
- May or may not look to needs of the priest's formation for a lifetime of ministry

**Providing new clergy a foundation for  
thriving in ministry**

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# What do clergy need to thrive in ministry?

Community consciousness  
and missional imagination

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# Markers of Thriving Ministry

*Dr. Matt Bloom*

1. Clarity around core commitments
2. Belief that one can commit one's best to what matters most
3. Self-awareness of one's own knowledge, skills, and abilities
4. Sense of authenticity: the ability to be who one is

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# Mutual Support in a Cohort of Priests

The benefit of learning together—of *teamwork* as a way of doing ministry—is that of magnifying clergy’s experience by reflecting on ministry as it takes place in the regular rhythms of the church year.

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# Intentional Practice

- Spiritual director
- Coach
- Congregational mentoring team
- Space for reflection
- Retreats

# Curacies Reimagined

- Three congregations; three clergy
- Each priest will spend one year in each congregation
- The three priests will meet as a cohort for ongoing reflection, learning, guidance, supervision, and shared projects

# First Cohort: Raleigh-Durham

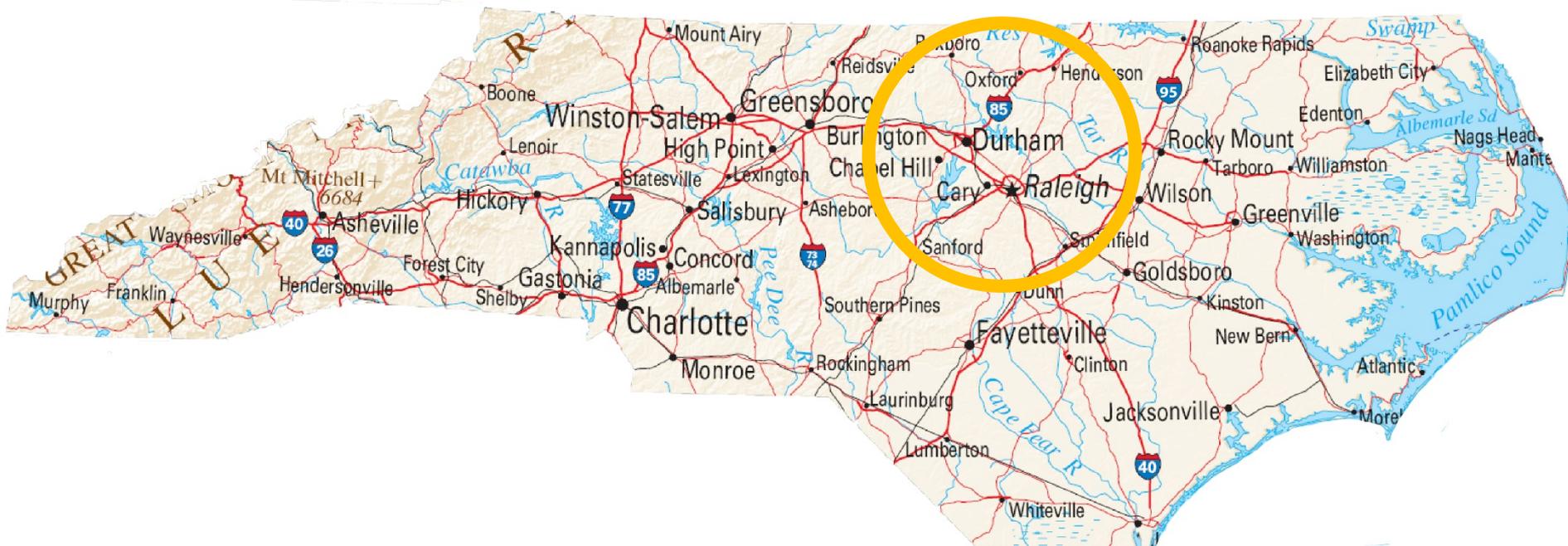
We looked for vibrant churches in close proximity to one another so that curates may live in one location as they serve each church over the expanse of three years.

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We sought churches that differed in size, liturgical preference, racial and ethnic composition, community context, and specialized ministries.

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- **St. Titus, Durham** ([sttitusdurham.dionc.org](http://sttitusdurham.dionc.org))
- **Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill**  
([thechapelofthecross.org](http://thechapelofthecross.org))
- **St. John's, Wake Forest** ([stjohnswf.org](http://stjohnswf.org))



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# Formation

- Formation happens through on-the-job learning in host parishes
- As curates transition between parishes, each one maintains a checklist to ensure that core competencies are being developed

# Formation

Competencies include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Liturgy
- Leadership and management
- Administration and finance
- Education
- Pastoral and self-care
- Community organizing

# Congregational Support for New Clergy

- Covenant
- Lay mentoring groups
- Supervising priest
- A learning congregation

# Questions?

- More information: [reimaginingcuracies.org](https://reimaginingcuracies.org)
- To apply, send following materials to Catherine Massey, Canon for Transition ([Catherine.Massey@episdionc.org](mailto:Catherine.Massey@episdionc.org)):
  - A cover letter (letter of interest in this program)
  - Resume
  - OTM portfolio
- Application deadline is March 21, 2020