

CHEYENNE RIVER EPISCOPAL MISSION

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Priest-in-Charge for the Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission will serve as the spiritual leader for the people of the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation. The Priest-in-Charge (PIC) position is a three-year term. At the end of this three-year term, the Priest-in-Charge could become the Superintending Presbyterian (Mission Vicar) of the Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission, contingent on the goals being met and expectations followed to the satisfaction of the Bishop of South Dakota (goals and expectations described below).

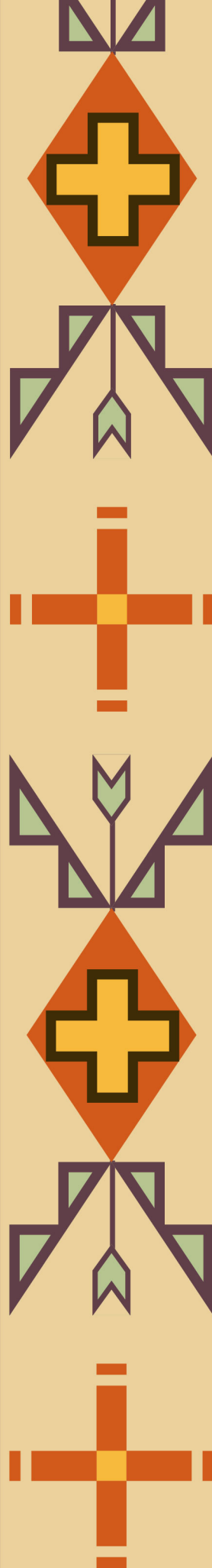
The Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission covers all 4,266 square miles of the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation (the fourth largest reservation in the U.S.) and its 8,090 residents. This reservation is home to four of the seven traditional Lakota bands: the Minnecoujou, Dohenunpa (Two Kettle), Itazipco (Sans Arc), and Sihásapa (Blackfoot). The Priest-in-Charge, working with congregational lay leaders, will oversee the regular worship, pastoral care, and education of eleven congregations (eight that worship regularly), which together have an average Sunday attendance of 85.

One must be aware of the not insignificant difficulties posed by doing ministry in this context. There is extremely high unemployment, and nearly two-thirds of the population lives near or below the poverty line. Suicide is an epidemic, especially among young adults and youth, and some data suggest that one in five girls on the reservation has considered suicide, and one in ten have attempted it. The people also suffer from the effects of historical trauma and continued systemic racism. Moreover, there is debate about the most faithful ways to integrate traditional Episcopal and traditional Lakota forms of spirituality into authentic Christian worship. The Priest-in-Charge will need to be able to learn from and work with the people to develop and promote forms of worship and spiritual practice that are vital, appropriate, and faithful to both The Episcopal Church and Lakota culture.

Despite these challenges, doing ministry on the Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission can be extremely rewarding and spiritually deepening work for the person with the right mix of gifts and interests. Lakota culture and the expressions of Christianity coming out of Lakota culture offer a unique opportunity to learn about a different way to be authentically Episcopalian. We hope that if you have any interest in indigenous ministry or missional work, you will take time in prayer to discern whether serving in the Diocese of South Dakota and partnering with the people of the Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission are the right next steps in your ministry.

COMPENSATION

\$37,479 compensation+1.25% increase per year of service in ministry, \$5,100 utility allowance, vicarage, pension, and 85% health insurance coverage for any family situation (individual, couple, family)



TRAITS

It is expected that the Priest-in-Charge for the CREM will possess all the necessary traits that come with being a functioning parish priest. The candidate will be skilled in leading worship, preaching, and offering pastoral care. The following traits, however, will be needed, especially with this ministry:

- A very active and attentive listener
- Extremely organized
- Skilled in conflict management
- Knowledgeable about social media, i.e., Facebook
- Able to care for multiple, often simultaneous, high-stress pastoral situations

GOALS

The following S.M.A.R.T. (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based) goals have been devised for the PIC to obtain:

- The PIC will clarify and define the membership on the Mission Council
- The PIC will help the Mission Council create its own Ministry Description
- The PIC will help the Mission Council to review its bylaws and update as needed, particularly so that they conform to Episcopal and diocesan canons.
- The PIC will help the Mission Council to create a Ministry Council Covenant Agreement
- The PIC will recruit and identify the lay leadership of each of the congregations, including Senior Wardens, delegates, etc., and communicate that information to our diocesan office.
- The PIC will identify and recruit at least one viable candidate for ordination and five candidates for catechist ministry
- The PIC will maintain and foster missionary relationships with groups outside and inside the diocese
- The PIC will establish a youth ministry program and actively promote and recruit campers for Thunderhead Episcopal Center
- The PIC will complete parochial reports for each congregation

EXPECTATIONS

- The PIC will reach out to all members, listening to, caring for all, and not being co-opted by any particular congregation or group.
- The PIC will recruit lay leaders to help in all areas of CREM ministry.
- The PIC will have a mentor and will meet with that mentor at least once a month
- During the last week of each month, the PIC will submit a monthly report to the Bishop concerning progress on the established goals
- The PIC will set appropriate boundaries and expectations about availability for wakes and funerals and will make use of lay ministers to ensure that funerals and wakes are not to occupy the majority of their time
- The PIC will use education and training materials approved or offered by the diocese and will encourage regular participation by CREM leaders in Niobrara School for Ministry continuing education opportunities
- The PIC will take at least one day off
- The PIC will take vacation time each year
- The PIC will maintain and update the CREM Facebook site on a regular basis
- The PIC will work with the diocese's Property Manager on all property issues and will maintain records.

