Roles and Responsibility of Pastors

The Pastoral Offices are:

Pastoral Visitor Pastor

Your faculties (licence) prove that the church has empowered you to do these roles and duties. For the Old Catholic Apostolic Church you will work alongside ministers in the Apostolic Succession where greater emphasis is placed on the sacramental components of worship and church life. Your work is of equal value, but subtly different; the role of pastors is similar to say, Methodist or 'protestant' churches. Pastors are assigned an Ordinary, who may be a bishop of OCAC or the Pastor General of CDM.

You must:

- 1. Pray regularly for yourself and others.
- 2. Be obedient to Christ in all you do.
- 3. Be obedient to the Canon Law* of OCAC and to your Ordinary (* except those parts reserved for Priests or the Apostolic Succession).
- 4. Always seek to encourage others to join OCAC or CDM evangelism.
- 5. Abide by CDM Codes of Conduct.
- 6. Wear your cassock and surplice or alb and cinture when taking services, or Geneva* type gown if preferred. (* Like a university gown). You may wear a clerical collar if you are ordained pastor.
- 7. Read the Bible to yourself and others.
- 8. Always follow codes of conduct suggested by the church.
- 9. Be dutiful, honest and diligent; clean and respectable.
- 10. You must notify your ordinary of any circumstance which may affect your ministry.
- 11. You need to regularly speak with your Ordinary. This can be by phone, email or skype.

Services pastors may hold

As a pastor you are the same 'rank' as a deacon in the episcopal (Apostolic Succession) churches, so you are the same as say, a UK Methodist or URC minister.

We value the role of pastors in OCAC because you do real ministry: complimenting the Priestly Order, and can assist or work with protestant churches more readily.

You are authorised by the church to:

Hold prayer meetings

Hold prayer vigils

Take the service of Morning Prayer

Take the service of Evening Prayer

Hold services of Holy Communion (as a distinct celebration of the Last Supper, rather than in the re-creation of that event as a Priest-held Mass would).

Take school Assemblies

Take a service of healing (but only using prayer and not holy oils; not unction).

Baptise.

Act as server at any service as required.

Undertake pastoral visits.

Represent OCAC or CDM (& of course Christ) at civic events i.e. remembrance parades, public funerals etc.

Take funerals or weddings

Take a service of dispersal of ashes after cremation.

Take services of prayerful remembrance for individuals (but only where a funeral has already been held, i.e. not missing presumed dead; where a prayer vigil is preferred).

Take Bible classes

Take 'Sunday Schools' or youth services, youth clubs.

Preach at OCAC churches (and other churches), by invitation.

Take intercessory prayer at services by invitation.

Take preparatory prayer before the service; with the choir and clergy.

Take services of musical celebration; concerts, recitals, carol services etc.

Take ceremonial (non-sacramental) services; naming ceremonies, blessing of animals etc.

Hear confession and pray with the person for God's forgiveness, but not absolve sin.

Your status in the church

For the avoidance of doubt; you are full and proper ministers of Christ and OCAC, but you are not in Apostolic Succession. This does not mean that your ministry is any less effective, but it does mean that it is slightly different to priestly work. Often, pastors have a better access to preach at protestant churches for example.

Vestments

Black, brown or dark coloured cassock, a white surplice may be worn over the cassock if desired. A stole may also be worn (but not pastoral visitors).

A Geneva gown in black may be worn over secular clothing (even if you do not have a degree, you may wear it by virtue of your pastorate).

Ordained pastors may wear a clerical collar on any coloured shirt except purple.

Title

The pastorate is a distinct role within the church and the title used is Revd. Pastor John Smith, or Pastor John. Pastor Smith may be used more formally.

Pastoral Visitors have no specific title.

Pastoral Visitor

The pastoral visitor is a 'lay' function of house visitation, house groups and prayer. Hospital visits, 'listening ministry', attendance at funerals. Pastoral Visitors may take the Reserved Sacrament to the housebound or sick, and may share communion with friends and family. Prayer groups and bible classes, short services of prayer may be held. Pastoral Visitors shall always refer the needy to their pastor, priest, or ordinary for further prayer or assistance as appropriate.