

**EAGLES ROCK COMMUNION OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS  
(ERCCL)**

**OFFICIAL CLERGY ATTIRE GUIDELINES**



## VII. EAGLES ROCK COMMUNION OF CHRISTIAN LEADERS OFFICIAL CLERGY DRESS CODE POLICY

In order that the Eagles Rock Communion of Christian Leaders (ERCCL) throughout the diocese might continue her effective witness of holiness and show herself an example in all things the following proves guidelines for appropriate official dress codes of clergy in the ERCCL:

The objective of these guidelines is to offer some uniformity in the matter the Clergy and Credential Holders in the church is supported by the scriptural admonition:

**“Philip. 3:16 (KJV) Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.”**

This document addresses the following categories of clergy:

- Presiding Prelate □ Bishop (Diocese)
- Suffragan/Auxiliary Bishop
- Overseers
- Senior Pastors/Associate Pastors
- Ordained Elders
- Ministers/Evangelists
- Deacons and Ministry Personnel in Training

This dress code will address ceremonial (or formal/convocational), civic (non-formal) and academic attire. It is our prayer that this code will serve as an indispensable aide in effecting our public witness within our communities. Clergy attire is considered as a uniform of ministry personnel.

Clergy personnel are required to be immaculate in dress and personal hygiene. Men should be well shaven, fingernails should be clean and breath must always be clean and guarded since communication is a major force in your business as a clergyman. Women must be well groomed and wives of clergy should represent their husbands.

### **PRELATE PRESIDING BISHOP**

#### **CIVIC**

As the Chief Apostle of the Church, the Presiding Bishop's garments are singularly and obviously separated from the rest of the Offices named herein. The Presiding Bishop's garments are singularly and obviously separate from the rest of the offices named herein. The principle color of the Office shall be "Scarlet or Roman Purple."

The Scarlet or Roman Purple shirt or Rabat may be worn for formal or informal worship services where ceremonial robes are not worn. A full white clerical collar that is at least 1 ½” in height should be worn with any clergy shirts or blouses.

The prelate of the diocese may not wear the Scarlet shirt or Roman purple Rabat in the presence of his Superior presiding International Bishop. Bishops should maintain the color of the lesser rank of the Bishopric so that your superior has the dignity of the Highest Garment in his diocese, without contradiction. No Bishop should supersede his superior in dress in the presence of their superior unless hereby authorized.

The pectoral cross and ring of the presiding Bishop shall be an incusted amethyst. The Episcopal ring is worn on the fourth finger of the right hand. No other rings besides a wedding ring should be worn when this ring is worn.

The Black suit without decoration, piping or usual contour, is the only suit to use with the Episcopal or Clerical attire. The only exception is granted to Tropical climates where the White Suit would be appropriate as academic attire. The Black suit should be of a conservative cut, reasonable trouser length and with black buttons. Black socks and black shoes should be worn with this attire.

## **CEREMONIAL**

The Ceremonial attire can be the Red wool or blend /Anglican style cassock with red piping, the attached red cincture with knotted fringe. Rochet with ruffle cuffs, red bands and red moiré tippet. The Bishop’s cross is suspended by a red/gold cross cord.

## **BISHOP (SUFFRAGAN/AUXILIARY/ORDINARY)**

A Suffragan or auxiliary Bishop is defined as a bishop assigned within a particular diocese or under the purview of a presiding prelate.

The Roman Purple shirt or Rabat may be worn for formal or informal worship services where ceremonial robes are not worn. A full white clerical collar that is at least 1 ½” in height should be worn with any clergy shirts or blouses.

The Bishop may not wear the Roman Purple shirt or purple Rabat in the presence of his Superior or the presiding Prelate Bishop unless he is dressed in scarlet. The Roman Purple shirt is reserved for the Presiding individual only. Bishops should maintain the Black or the lesser rank of the Bishopric so that their superior has the dignity of the Highest Garment in his diocese, without contradiction. No Bishop should supersede his superior in dress in the presence of their superior unless hereby authorized.

The pectoral cross and ring of the Bishop shall be gold with an amethyst in crested therein.

The Black suit without decoration, piping or usual contour, is the only suit to use with the Episcopal or Clerical attire. The only exception is granted to Tropical climates where the White Suit would be appropriate academic attire. The Black suit should be of a conservative cut, reasonable trouser length with black buttons.

## **CEREMONIAL**

The Ceremonial attire can be the Roman Purple, Roman style cassock with the attached Manteletta Purple Cincture. Rochet with ruffle and purple bands. They should also wear a Roman Purple Chimere and Black or colored Tippet (stole). Cross should be worn with green/gold cross cord.

## **OVERSEER**

### **CIVIC**

The overseer's attire should be distinct from the Pastors and Elders within the diocese; however, they are authorized to wear black or white shirts/rabats at their leisure or as authorized by the headquarters organization.

The Blue purple shirt or Rabat must be worn for formal and civic worship services. The Blue purple must not be worn in the present of the presiding Bishop if they are designated to wear these colors. The overseer should always wear a full collar and not a tab collared shirt. A full white clerical collar that is 1 ½" in height should be worn with any clergy shirts or blouses. The tab collared shirt or blouse is useful in the hospital visitation or prison or institutional ministries as a work-a-day shirt as academic attire.

The Black suit without decoration, piping/stripes or usual contour, is the only suit to use with the Episcopal or Clerical attire. The only exception is granted to Tropical climates where the White Suit would be appropriate. The Black suit should be of a conservative cut, reasonable trouser length and with black buttons.

Overseers should wear their official cross with silver chain when in civic attire. For such occasions the cross should be placed in the pocket over the heart and not exposed when in civic attire but may be exposed in ceremonial wear.

### **Ceremonial**

The Ceremonial attire can be a robe, Purple/blue Anglican Cassock straight neckline, lining, purple piping, purple cloth buttons, sash loops. Purple bengaline 5" cincture with purple knotted fringe. White English Surplice (top cover) with designs and Black bengaline Tippet (stole). Purple/blue chimere is authorized for such services. Silver cross cord to adorn Overseer's official cross when in ceremonial services.

## **SENIOR PASTORS/ASSOCIATE PASTORS**

### **CIVIC**

Pastor's attire should be distinct from the Elders during civic, official and ceremonial services.

The black shirt or Rabat must be worn for formal or official worship services. The Pastor should always wear a full collar and not a tab collared shirt in formal or official services. A full white clerical collar that is 1 ¼ " in height should be worn with any clergy shirts or blouses. (It is with the Bishop's or Pastor's authority to allow Senior Pastors to wear white clergy shirts for special events to distinguish them from Associate Pastors and Elders).

The tab collared shirt or blouse is useful in the hospital visitation or prison or institutional ministries as a work-a-day shirt for academic attire. All ordained females should wear dress suits during any formal or official service no pants. Female Pastors should wear closed toe shoes when in civic or ceremonial attire.

The Black suit without decoration, piping/stripes or usual contour, is the only suit to use with the Episcopal or Clerical attire. The Black suit should be of a conservative cut, reasonable trouser length and with black buttons. All clergy should wear black socks/nylon stockings and shined black shoes.

### **CEREMONIAL**

The Ceremonial attire can be a robe, Black Anglican Cassock, Black Cincture (cord), White English Surplice (top cover) and Black Tippet (stole). The same attire is authorized for Female Pastors. They always should wear closed toe shoes when in ceremonial attire. They are authorized to wear a silver cross with a black or gold cord.

## **ELDERS (Ruling/Administrative)**

### **CIVIC**

The black shirt or Rabat may be worn for formal or informal worship services. The Elder should always wear a full collar and not a tab collared shirt in formal or official services. They are, however, useful in the hospital visitation or prison or institutional ministries as a work-a-day shirt. A full white clerical collar that is 1 ¼" in height should be worn with any clergy shirts or blouses. All ordained female elders should wear dress suits in the aforementioned colors during any formal or official service (no pants).

The Black suit without decoration, pin striping, piping or usual contour, is the only suit to use with the Episcopal or Clerical attire. The only exception is granted to Tropical climates where the White Suit would be appropriate. The Black suit should be of a conservative cut, reasonable trouser length (for men) with black buttons.

All clergy should wear black socks/nylon stockings and shined black shoes.

### **CEREMONIAL**

The Ceremonial attire can be a Black Anglican Cassock, White square neck surplice, Black Cincture (cord), Black tippet can be worn. This attire should be authorized by the local pastor. Robes may be worn for in-house services.

## **ORDAINED – LICENSED MINISTERS**

### **CIVIC**

The black tab collar shirts are to be the official attire for licensed or ordained ministers. These are also appropriate for hospital visitation or prison or institutional ministries as a work-a-day shirt.

Licensed ministers should not wear a clerical full collar. In addition, they should not wear any other colored clergy shirts. It is the decision of the local pastor to determine if

their licensed ministers (that are not ordained) should dress in an official shirt tab shirt/blouse.

All licensed and ordained female ministers should wear dress suits (no pants) in the aforementioned colors during any ceremonial or official service. All clergy should wear black socks/nylon stockings and shined black shoes.

Ministers are not allowed to wear any neck jewelry when in civic attire.

**No ceremonial attire is authorized for licensed or ordained ministers.**

## **DEACONS AND MINISTERS IN TRAINING**

### **CIVIC**

A male or female deacon and minister in training are not authorized to wear a clerical collar or tab shirt. For official ceremonies and civic attire they should wear a black suit (no stripes or piping), with a white shirt and plain black neck tie (no designs thereon).

Female deacons and ministers in training for official and civic ceremonies should wear a black dress suit (no pants) or a black skirt with a white plain blouse. During special ceremonies female deacons should not wear open toe shoes. All clergy should wear black socks/nylon stockings and shined black shoes.

It is imperative that uniformity of attire is established with both our brothers and sisters that serve as deacons or are in training.

**No ceremonial attire is authorized for this position.**

## **DESCRIPTION OF ATTIRE**

## Following provides guidelines regarding ceremonial and civic attire for Eagles Rock clergy. The Cassock

The **Cassock**, an item of [Christian clerical clothing](#), is an ankle-length [robe](#). The Cassock is generally close-fitting. It may be worn by all clergy as a symbol of the servant. The bishops wear this garment in deference to our Lord Jesus who instructed, “they who would be chief among you, shall be **servant** of all.



Presiding Bishop    Bishop    Overseer    Pastor/Elder

## The Cincture

The Cincture is a [liturgical vestment](#), worn encircling the body around or above the waist. When the Cincture is tied in the front and the ends draped on either side, it is called a Roman Knot. Besides its functional role in securing the Alb and stole, the Cincture bears a symbolic role, signifying chastity and purity. Also it is the symbol of that with which the Lord “girded Himself...with a towel to wash His disciple’s feet.”

This portion of the vestment is to be of the same color as that of the Cassock with exception. The exception in this Church is when the Presiding Bishop raises one to Apostolic Chamberlain to the Presiding Bishop or Adjutant-Apostolic, all without episcopacy. In this case the Presiding Bishop will grant the designated color and from the moment of the announcement the cleric so appointed, may wear the Cincture.



## The Rochet

The Rochet is a white [vestment](#) generally worn by the [Bishop](#) in [ceremonial dress](#). The Rochet is similar to a [surplice](#), except that the sleeves are narrower. The Rochet comes below the knee and its sleeves and hem are sometimes made of lace; in the Anglican tradition, the Rochet comes down almost to the hem of the cassock and its sleeves are gathered at the wrist. The garment is the symbol of the Priesthood, which was given to Aaron and his sons, as well those of us who draw nigh to the Altar of God to represent Christ to His people. It is the symbol of worship and only Bishops or those who have Apostolic Dispensation to wear the Rochet.



## The Chimere

The Chimere is the sleeveless outer-robe of the Bishop worn by the Bishop as a component of their [choir habit](#). The Chimere is part of their formal vesture in choir dress — typically the Chimere would be worn over a cassock and the rochet. The Chimere may be worn when vested in the cope, but not necessarily. The symbol of this garment is that of the Bishop's Prophetic Office in the church as Chief Preacher and Defender of the Faith within his See. It comes in the colors of Scarlet, Roman purple, Purple, Blue Purple, and Black.

The bishop's [cassock](#) and the wrist-bands of his [rochet](#) typically match his Chimere. The specific color of this garment is **SCARLET** for the Presiding Bishop and Prelates **ONLY**.



## THE TIPPET

The tippet is a scarf or a stole which is worn over the robe or other ceremonial clergy attire. The tippet is the symbol of the yoke of Office. For our usage; however, it is preferred within this diocese that the Tippet be used with the following designation and colors.

English Red moiré tippet is worn by the Presiding Bishop. (Roman/black) Purple Tippets may be worn by all Bishops of the church with the exception of the Auxiliary Bishop. The reason for all Bishops wearing the same color Tippet is to signify that they are all Bishops with jurisdiction. In that regard, all Bishops are related to each other and hold that common bond between them.

The presiding bishop may have the seal or crest of their communion inscribed on the panels. Bishops may wear tippets with the Bishop's or their diocese seal. Overseers are also authorized to wear the seal of their presiding Bishop's and official covering.

The tippet shall be worn to seven inches from the bottom edges of the robe. Black or African colored tippets may be worn by every other ordained clergyman in the church, from "Auxiliary Bishop" to "Ordained Elder."

Deans and Presidents of College, Seminaries and Bible Institutions who are ordained clergyman, may wear the Tippets with the Coat of Arms of their particular School or Institution. It is inappropriate to wear a tippet denoting fraternal or sorority colors or symbols thereon.



## The Zuchetto

The Zuchetto is the Bishops Prayer Cap and must not be worn by any other than the Bishop. The Bishop **ONLY** wears the Zuchetto in [cassock](#), Soutain (housedress), Choir Dress or Ceremonial Vestments. The Zuchetto is removed during Prayer of Invocation, The Public Reading or Hearing of the Gospels of Jesus Christ.

The Zuchetto is always worn beneath the Mitre and is always worn beneath the Biretta. The Zuchetto is never worn with a suit.



## Eagle's Rock Clergy Shirts



Red/Scarlet  
Bishop/Prelate



Fuchsia  
Presiding Bishop



Roman Purple  
Bishops



Blue Purple  
Overseers



Black  
Pastors/Elders



White  
Sr. Pastors Optional

## **Ministers Licensed/Ordained**



### **CLERGY JEWELRY**

#### **PRELATE PRESIDING BISHOP**

The Bishop is the only member of clergy is authorized to wear a gold chain with the Pectoral cross. When the Bishop is adorned in their official ceremonial attire the cross should be clearly displayed.

The Bishops' Pectoral cross is always worn in the pocket, when wearing Civic attire, with the Gold chain placed across the Bishop's heart. The cross should be a (noncrucifix) Style. The Bishop's Cross should be at least 2 ½ " in height and adorned by a gold chain of 36" and may be embroiled with a ruby or amethyst stone. Since the cross is not jewelry as the world would consider, it will signify to the onlooker that the wearer is a Chief among Servants in the church.

The official Bishop's Episcopal Ring should be of 18K gold or better and is worn on the fourth finger of the right hand. The ring should bear the symbol of the Dove (descending) and the other side of the Ring will bear the symbols of the Mitre, Cross and Shepherd's Staff. No other rings, bracelets or other attire is to be worn on this hand when the official ring is adorned.

#### **DIOCESSES/AUXILIARY BISHOPS**

Same as presiding Bishop

**BISHOPS OFFICIAL RING**



## **OVERSEERS**

The Overseer shall wear a silver chain when wearing the Latin cross. This Latin or Pastoral cross should be at least 3” in length. When the Overseer is in official attire, robes, or cassock the cross may be displayed openly. For official ceremonial services the cross should be suspended by a purple/gold cross cord.

Whenever this cross is worn with Civic attire, it should be suspended by a silver chain only and placed in the shirt pocket. This cross is similar to the Pastoral cross and should be plain (no stones or images). It should be suspended by a silver chain of at least 32” in length. The cross is always worn in the pocket over the heart when wearing civic attire.

Overseers are authorized to wear silver cross ring or one embroiled with an amethyst stone.



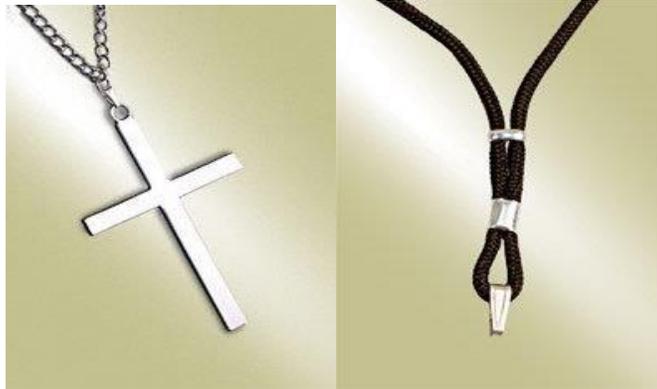
**OVERSEER'S RING**



The ring of the Overseer should be silver and they are also authorized a cross ring.

## SENIOR PASTORS

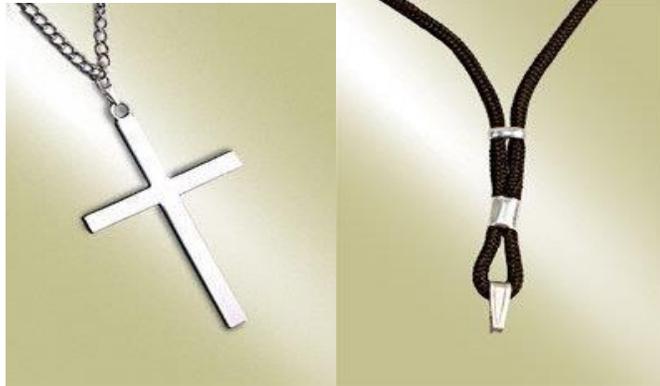
Senior Pastors are authorized to wear a cross on the Civic attire; it should be suspended around the individual's neck by a black cord. The Latin/Pastoral cross should be plain (no stones or images) and silver in color and should be at least 3" in length suspended on cord of a least 32". The cross should be worn in the pocket when wearing civic attire. Official crosses are exposed only during ceremonial events when wearing cassocks or robes. They are considered as part of the official uniform of clergy.



## ASSOCIATE PASTORS & ELDERS

Associate Pastors may wear the silver pastoral cross with black cord only with their Pastor's consent. Elders may wear a silver cross suspended by a black cord only for ceremonial services. Pastors are authorized to wear a gold cord for these services.

Ministers are not authorized to wear a cross or any neck jewelry while in official clergy attire. A cross with a purple cord is authorized if clergy is an official adjutant.



## Cross Cords



**Bishops wear pectoral gold cross/gold chain**  
**Overseers wear silver cross/ silver chain**  
**Special cords for Ceremonial services**

## OVERSEERS

These positions are appointed by the Presiding Bishop, upon the recommendation of the Bishop in the Provinces. The basic cassock of this office is **ENGLISH/BLUE PURPLE** with matching Cincture. no other office within the diocese is permitted to wear this color except **Bishops**.

All other items of Choir Dress are the same as described in the foregoing sections, with the following exceptions:

- (A) **The Surplice/Rochet** is worn by this office and all other below this office. This garment is of white linen or cotton with wide sleeves reaching below the elbow and whose hem is, either above or slightly below the knee. The yoke of this garment may be square or round and the hem thereof may be adorned with matching white lace.
- (B) **The Stole** is the top symbol worn by this office.

In the foregoing section the Chimere is mentioned but in this office no such provision is made except by Apostolic Dispensation. In such cases the Presiding Bishop will issue the Dispensation and the Surplice is immediately changed and the Rochet is granted with the Black Chimere. If no such Dispensation is granted, it is forbidden for any cleric to fraudulently wear this garment.

## CEREMONIAL VESTMENTS

This Vestment is the same at the Lord's Table (*as described in the foregoing Section*) with the exception of the use of a **MITRE, ZUCHETTO (skullcap) or Crosier**.

## CIVIC WEAR

The civic wear of the Overseer and all other clergy is the same as that of a Bishop with the following exceptions:

- A. The Breast Front** must be either **BLACK. Or ENGLISH/BLUE PURPLE.**
- B. The Cross and Suspension Cord.** The Cross should be silver while the Cord must be silver. The length should be between 32' and 40' from end to end.
- C. Shoes and Stocking** must be black (or stockings should be off black for ladies).
- D. ALL OTHER DIRECTIVES APPLY.**

## **SPECIAL NOTES**

- Members of clergy should not wear any neck jewelry when dressed in official clergy attire. Female's earrings should be conservative bob style.
- Female members of the clergy should always wear closed toe shoes when wearing civic/ceremonial attire.
- Wives and First Ladies that are not members of the clergy should not wear slacks when accompanying their spouses dressed in ceremonial attire.
- Members of clergy should never remove their official uniform in public or wear their clergy shirt/blouses without their collars.

## SPECIAL DISPENSATIONS THE COLLEGE OF BISHOPS

The Members of this College have the distinction of the same vestment as that of the Presiding Bishop with two reservations: (1) Bishops may not wear solid WHITE Cassock or Cincture, nor does any Bishop wear the Scarlet Cassock. (2) Bishops may not wear the Scarlet Slippers.

The highest color of this Office is **Roman Purple**, with regard to the Cassock. Since there are five ranks of the Bishopric within our church, it is needful to make clear the color designation within each rank regard to the **Chimere**, as follows:

The Presiding Bishop

**SCARLET**

The Provincial Bishop

**SCARLET**

The Co-adjutor Bishop

**SCARLET** (provided this office has Dispensation)

The Suffragan Bishop

**ROMAN PURPLE**

The Auxiliary Bishop

**ROMAN PURPLE**

There may be times when Bishops may elect to wear the **BLACK** Clergy shirts but during Collegial *Conclaves* (*meeting of the College of Bishops or settings when peers will be present*) all **Eagles Rock** Bishops will adhere to the regimen set forth by the Presiding Bishop through his Chief Adjutant or Chaplain.

The Civic Attire as described under the Presiding Bishop's Section is the same for all Bishops with the exception described therein.