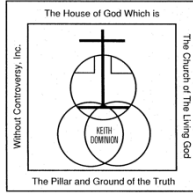


# NORTH CAROLINA DIOCESE

# MEMO



## FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY



To: All Ministers of each Rank of the North Carolina Diocese

From: Bishop Charlene M. Jamison, Jurisdictional Prelate

Date: Thursday, February 13, 2025

Re: **NC DIOCESE OFFICIAL MINISTERIAL ATTIRE INFORMATION**

“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” Ephesians 4:3-6.

Ministerial attire holds significant importance as it symbolizes reverence, dedication, and the sacred role of clergy in worship. In Exodus 28:2, God commands, "Make sacred garments for your brother Aaron to give him dignity and honor." This attire sets ministers apart, reflecting their commitment to serving God and the community. It fosters a sense of unity and respect among congregants, enhancing the worship experience. Furthermore, in 1 Peter 2:9, believers are called "a royal priesthood," emphasizing the need for distinctiveness in their service. Ministerial attire, therefore, is a visual representation of divine calling, reminding both clergy and laity of their holy purpose.

Every minister is encouraged to follow the guidelines outlined below. Staying consistent helps us create a unified presence for our online audience, and it also enhances your local reputation in your community and beyond.

**PART I:** When requested by the NCD Jurisdictional Prelate for High Holy Services, **Class A Vestments** are to be worn, which are composed of several different pieces, each of which has its own specific purpose and meaning. Let's look at the components and their significance and meaning.

**The Cassock:** A long robe that is typically black or white in color. The cassock is worn over the clergyman's street clothes and serves as a reminder of their commitment to the church.

**The Chimere:** A loose sleeveless robe that is worn over the cassock and is a symbol of the minister's servanthood to God and the church. (purple for Bishops and black for State Elders and General Elders).

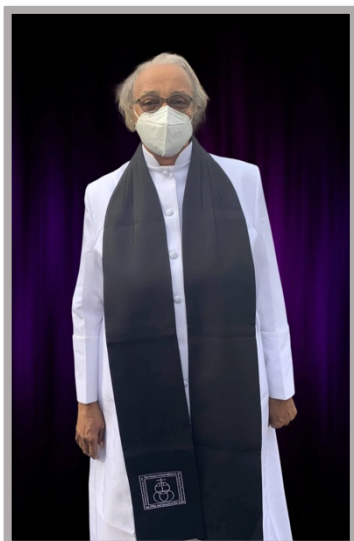
**The Tippet:** An essential part of a clergy's wardrobe. It is a long, narrow scarf that is typically worn draped over the shoulders and



around the neck. The tippet is a symbol of authority and respect, and it is a sign of humility and service to the church. It is also a reminder of the minister's commitment to the service of God and the community. A tippet is an important part of a clergy's identity, and it is a powerful symbol of one's dedication to the service of God. (Purple for Bishops and black for State Elders, General Elders and Elders).

It should be noted: Clergy dresses and Dickies should not be worn during the time when Class A Vestments are worn.

**PART II:** When requested by the NCD Jurisdictional Prelate, **Class A1 Vestments** are to be worn, which are composed of several different pieces, each of which has its own specific purpose and meaning. Let's look at the components and their significance and meaning.



**The Cassock:** A long robe that is typically black or white in color. The cassock is worn over the clergyman's street clothes and serves as a reminder of their commitment to the church.

**The Tippet:** An essential part of a clergy's wardrobe. It is a long, narrow scarf that is typically worn draped over the shoulders and around the neck. The tippet is a symbol of authority and respect, and it is a sign of humility and service to the church. It is also a reminder of the minister's commitment to the service of God and the community. A tippet is an important part of a clergy's identity, and it is a powerful symbol of one's dedication to the service of God. (Purple for Bishops and black for State Elders, General Elders and Elders).

It should be noted: Clergy dresses and Dickies should not be worn during the time when Class A1 Vestments are worn.

**PART III:** When requested by the Jurisdictional Prelate, **Class B Vestments** is to be worn for more informal church services or community events. Unlike Class A attire, which is more formal, Class B attire is designed to be comfortable yet still respectful of the church's standards.

**The Black Suit:** plain/ solid black suit with no embellishments or designs. The suit should not have any form of decoration.

**The Clergy Shirt:** a full black shirt or purple (for Bishops only). Ministerial dickies with or without collars are prohibited. No hats, robes, or tippets are to be worn, and for our female ministers, only small stud earrings are to be worn, and for all ministers of every rank, no additional jewelry (other than a wedding band) should be worn. Female ministers, please do not wear clergy dresses or use any other collar that is not represented below.

It should be noted: Clergy dresses and Dickies should not be worn during the time when Class B Vestments are worn.



In a world often divided by differences, coming together in unity, wearing the same clergy clothing and shoes, symbolizes a profound connection rooted in shared faith and scripture. This act transcends individual identities, fostering a sense of belonging and collective purpose. Scripture teaches us the power of unity, as seen in Psalm 133:1, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" By donning identical attire, we visually and spiritually affirm our commitment to these teachings, reminding ourselves and others that we are united in our devotion, love, and service to a higher calling. Together, we stand stronger, embodying the essence of our faith.

This document is prepared to not only render instructional information, but also to share with those of the ministry of the importance of implementing and maintaining a standard. Remember, unity is essential in all we do, while simultaneously building camaraderie and glorifying God. As Ecclesiastes 4:12 (NIV) states, "Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken." This scripture highlights the strength found in unity. When we stand together, we support one another, build stronger communities, and reflect God's love and purpose in our lives.

### **REFERENCE LOCATIONS TO HELP FOR OFFICIAL MINISTERIAL PURCHASES:**



<https://www.hogconline.org/product-page/cassock>



<https://www.hogconline.org/product-page/tippet>