

Steadfast Support

The Right Reverend Craig Loya highlights the special assistance the Church Pension Group (CPG) has provided the clergy and lay employees of his diocese during the pandemic. View [video](#).

Bishop Craig Loya
The Episcopal Church in Minnesota

As Bishop of The Episcopal Church in Minnesota, I serve as the chief pastor for our 104 faith communities, which include about 96 congregations. We have about 19,000 members. They are distributed across congregations and other institutions all over the state of Minnesota.

Bishops provide important connective tissue for the life of a diocese. The best way to support and nurture that connective tissue of a diocese is to stay connected with people. That means, for me, a typical day consists of a lot of back-to-back meetings; meetings with our governing bodies, meetings with clergy and lay leaders and congregations, meetings with our team here in the diocesan offices. It's by connecting with people, both one-to-one and in groups, that I help nurture and sustain that connective tissue that's so important to the work we do.

Like everywhere, the pandemic has been incredibly hard and painful for us in Minnesota. COVID-19 disrupted all of our familiar ways of living and connecting. CPG's response to the pandemic has been a seamless provision of the services that they were already providing.

Just knowing that CPG was there was a tremendous source of support and reassurance. We knew that if we ran into something that was really challenging, or a problem that we didn't have solutions for, CPG would be there and be responsive.

CPG provided a lot of assistance as both our diocese and many of our congregations were applying for PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loans. They created resources that helped us analyze our payroll a little bit more accurately, and where to apply for the loans. There was a resource developed for deferring pension payments for congregations. Even if no one took advantage of that option, simply knowing it was there created a sense of safety and security during a really challenging and disruptive time.

I think the heart of Christian discipleship is learning how to see our lives as a matter of stewardship. CPG serves the Church by stewarding our most precious and important resource, which is our lay and ordained leaders. By doing that in such an exemplary way, it enables all of us to be more faithful stewards of everything that has been entrusted to us.

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