



# The Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

The Episcopal Church in Western Washington

[www.ecww.org](http://www.ecww.org)

## Eucharistic Visitors: Traveling Two by Two

Diocesan policy requires that Eucharistic Visitors, especially when they are visiting private homes or apartments, take another person with them. The reasons for this are biblical, in the spirit of community, and have legal and financial implications.

- Jesus sent his disciples out two-by-two for a reason.
- It is a more robust representation of the community from which we come, and which we represent.
- Our insurance agency requires it.
- Legal advice recommends it.

This does not mean that both people need to be trained and currently licensed as Eucharistic Visitors. However, there are some restrictions in who counts as “two”. Bishop Rickel says, “A husband and wife can go, but they need to be accompanied by someone else at the church.” A couple is considered one person for the purpose of this requirement. Likewise, children under 18 may be part of the visiting team, but they are not counted as the second person required.

If the visit is to be made in a nursing home or hospital, with open doors and other people in the room, or at least in a visible environment where there are other people nearby who could witness the interaction, an exception may be made to this policy.

*Effective May 2010*