

STRUCTURE OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

General Convention

Meets once every three years

Two Houses: House of Deputies (4 clergy, 4 lay from ea. Diocese) & House of Bishops (all Bishops)

House of Deputies led by the President of the House of Deputies; House of Bishops led by the Presiding Bishop

Represents all 110 Dioceses in the Episcopal Church

1. Enacts Laws and Policies of the Episcopal Church, including Prayer Book and Hymnals
2. Elects Leadership
3. Elects Executive Council and Interim Bodies that govern between conventions
Presiding Bishop responsible for Episcopal Church staff and represents Church

Diocese

Created by General Convention

Led by the Diocesan Bishop

Could have Assisting, Coadjutor, and Suffragan Bishops

Bishop has executive and pastoral responsibilities

Bishop presides at Diocesan Convention

Diocesan Convention composed of resident clergy and lay delegates from each parish

1. Enacts laws and policies of the Diocese, as allowed by General Convention, Constitution and Canons
2. Elects Bishop, Diocesan Leaders and Deputies to General Convention
3. Elects Standing Committee and Diocesan Council that govern between conventions
Bishop responsible for Diocesan staff and represents Diocese

Parish

Created by Diocesan Convention

Led by Rector if Parish; Priest-in-Charge if Mission or between Rectors

Could have assisting priests or deacons

Rector has executive and pastoral responsibilities

Rector presides at Parish Meetings

Parish Meetings composed of parishioners who are involved in parish for 6 months or more

1. Enacts bylaws of the Parish, as allowed by canons and laws
2. Elects Vestry and lay delegates to Diocesan Convention

Vestry

1. Rector presides at Vestry Meetings
2. Vestry elects Wardens, Registrar, Treasurer, Rector
3. Vestry approves budget, committees, church policies
4. Vestry has fiduciary responsibility