

Episcopal Church Structure and Organization

The Episcopal Church is governed by a bicameral General Convention, which meets every three years, and by an Executive Council during interim years. The General Convention consists of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies.

The **House of Bishops** is composed of every bishop with jurisdiction (diocesan bishop), every bishop coadjutor, every suffragan bishop, every retired bishop, every bishop elected to an office created by General Convention, and every bishop who has resigned because of mission strategy--each of whom has a seat and vote. The House may also elect collegial members who are admitted with seat and voice, but no vote. Collegial members are bishops in the Anglican Communion who serve extra-provincial dioceses.

The **House of Deputies** is composed of up to four lay and four clerical deputies from each of the jurisdictions, domestic and overseas, elected in the manner determined by each jurisdiction.

It is traditional for the House of Bishops to meet at least annually in interim sessions between General Conventions, when its agenda is limited by the Constitution and Canons to matters affecting the general state of the church and meeting the needs of contemporary society. When meeting in interim session, it does not have legislative power to initiate or amend programs approved by the two houses meeting as General Convention.

When the two houses meet concurrently in General Convention, legislation is enacted, church policy and programs are approved, and a budget for the next triennium is adopted.

The official Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards (CCABs) of the Episcopal Church are:

- Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns
- Board of the Archives of the Episcopal Church
- Episcopal Church Building Fund Board
- Board for Church Deployment
- Board of Trustees for the Church Pension Fund

- Standing Commission on Episcopal Church Communication
- Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons
- Court of Review of the Trial of a Bishop
- Court of the Trial of a Bishop
- Executive Council Committee on Criminal Justice
- Disciplinary Policy & Procedure
- Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism
- Standing Commission on Ecumenical & Interreligious Relations
- Episcopal Relief and Development Board of Directors
- Executive Council
- General Board of Examining Chaplains
- Board of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church
- House of Deputies President's Council of Advice
- Executive Council Jubilee Advisory Committee
- Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music
- Standing Commission on Ministry Development
- Standing Commission on National Concerns
- Joint Standing Committee on Nominations
- House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development
- Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop
- Presiding Bishop's Council of Advice
- Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements
- House of Bishops Planning Committee
- Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance
- House of Bishops Committee on Religious Communities
- Standing Commission for Small Congregations
- House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church
- Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women
- Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development
- Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church
- House of Bishops Committee on Theology
- Title IV Review Committee
- Standing Commission on World Mission