

# General Convention 101

## How the Episcopal Church is Organized

Considering our roots, it's not surprising the government of the Episcopal Church is democratic.

- Groups of parishes are formed into dioceses.
- **The supreme policy making body is a triennial general convention**, consisting of a house of bishops and a house of deputies.
- The house of bishops elects a presiding bishop to serve as the leader of the church for a nine-year term.
- Bishops and deputies, the latter including both laity and clergy, are elected by diocesan conventions to which the constituent parishes of each diocese send lay and clerical representatives.
- The orders of ministry in the Episcopal Church are deacons, priests (presbyters), and bishops (episcopates).
- All members of the church recognize the apostolic origin of the episcopate, but they do not necessarily accept the claim that the episcopate in its present form is identical in function with that found in the New Testament.

The educational, missionary, and welfare activities of the Episcopal Church are administered by a **presiding bishop**, who is elected by the house of bishops, and by an executive council, the members of which are elected by the general convention and by units under the executive council. Headquarters of the presiding bishop and executive council is in New York City.

Besides supporting home missions, the church maintains missionaries in the territories of the United States and in many parts of Africa, Asia, and South America. The benevolent work of the denomination includes the operation and support of numerous orphanages, homes, hospitals, and other welfare institutions and the relief and resettlement of victims of war and natural disasters. Many educational institutions, including secondary schools, were founded under the auspices of the Episcopal Church.

Anglican churches and their numerous missions are located in nearly every area of the world, many of them among peoples of diverse origin who have become naturalized to Anglo-Saxon culture. They constitute a communion bound together in a common faith and practice.

## All in All.....

- We are Christian, united in the words of the Creeds.
- We are old....and new.
- We are Anglican, deriving our orders (ministry), doctrine, liturgy, and traditions from the Anglican Church.
- We are catholic (part of the universal Church of Jesus Christ) (small c)
- We are protestant. A member or follower of any of the Western Christian churches that are separate from the Roman Catholic Church and follow the principles of the Reformation, including the Baptist, Presbyterian, and Lutheran churches.
- We are ecumenical (promoting or relating to unity among the world's Christian churches).
- We are democratic.
- We are a national and international family, with over 109 dioceses in 16 countries.

And, as a body, I believe we also trust, have faith in, and believe.....

- God is profoundly in love with us.
- We are willing to be driven out and wrestle with wild beasts (metaphorically).
- Episcopalians take the bible too seriously to take it literally.
- God sometimes does his work through gentle drizzles - drip, drip, drip.
- Religion supplies the external discipline in our lives.
- Episcopal churches are not only worship centers, but frequently house a food pantry and a thrift shop and offer free meeting space for 12-Step groups and other organizations and groups seeking to minister in the community.
- The Episcopal Church insists one need not hang my brain on a hook at the entry (or check my brain at the door) when coming for worship, study, meditation and fellowship.
- We are a messy community of seekers, believers, doubters and debaters. But the Episcopal Church does continue to try to follow Jesus' example of both talking to and walking in and with the world of the 21st century.
- God will not bring us to anything He will not lead us through.

## What is General Convention?

- The primary policy making body of the Episcopal Church. It usually meets every three years to enact legislation and approve the program and budget of the Episcopal Church. It is a confederation of dioceses represented by individuals.
- A place for people to exhibit their wares related to the ministry and business of the church. The Exhibit Hall will be filled with hundreds of booths selling and giving out both stuff and ideas.

- An event where a whole variety of people can demonstrate their viewpoints in a variety of ways, including flyers, pamphlets, marches, songs, and vigils.
- A time of worship for the church. The possibilities to worship together seem almost limitless. There are large Eucharists that involve everyone as well as small prayer circles.
- A way to learn about other's experiences through organized forums and guest speakers.
- A chance to relax, enjoy good food, hear wonderful music, laugh at ourselves, talk with friends, pray, and sing.

## Who Will We See?

Today, the Anglican Communion comprises more than 80 million members in 44 regional and national member churches in more than 160 countries. General Convention is the one time that representatives of all the varied constituencies of The Episcopal Church gather to discuss the state and future of the Church as a whole.

**Deputies and Deputy Alternates** General Convention is called to conduct the business of the Church. The people chosen to do this are called Deputies. Each Diocese (also "Area Missions" and the Convocation of the American Churches in Europe) gets to send no more than four ordained persons (Priests or Deacons) and no more than four Lay Persons. Each Diocese decides how they are chosen. Alternates (in most dioceses) are elected as stand-ins for deputies who cannot be present for all or part of convention.

**Bishops** As the Episcopal Church (the word Episcopal means Bishop), General Convention includes Bishops. The "Constitution of the General Convention" says "Each Bishop of this Church having jurisdiction, every Bishop Coadjutor, every Suffragan Bishop, every Assistant Bishop, and every Bishop who by reason of advanced age or bodily infirmity, or who, under an election to an office created by the General Convention, or for reasons of mission strategy determined by action of the General Convention or the House of Bishops, has resigned a jurisdiction, shall have a seat and a vote in the House of Bishops."

**Episcopal Church Women Delegates & Alternates** The Episcopal Church Women hold a meeting at the same time as the business meetings of General Convention. The ECW Triennial was originally created as a parallel to GC at a time when women could not be seated as delegates to GC. There are now all sorts of events connected with the Triennial.

**Official Youth Presence** Each General Convention the Office for Youth Ministries of The Episcopal Church convenes and supports an Official Youth Presence to take part in the discernment of legislation on the floor of the House of Deputies with seat and voice

(Resolution # 1982-B045). It is our practice to accept nominations from across the church to discern 18 youth, two per province, to represent as diverse a cross section of teenagers as possible.

Youth who serve as members of the Official Youth Presence will participate in a training/orientation weekend of community building, worship, and legislative process education. They will be encouraged to attend local synod gatherings prior to General Convention and would benefit from meeting with the adult deputies of their own dioceses to learn more about the process of resolutions.

During General Convention they will attend legislative committee meetings and hearings and will be encouraged to speak to issues in hearings and during debate on the floor in the House of Deputies. These individuals must be self-confident, articulate, and energetic. In the best of circumstances General Convention is incredibly challenging for the group, highly rewarding as an experience, and often transformational for most of those involved.

**Staff** Many people are working at General Convention. Many Episcopal Church Center staff take up residence on-site for part or all of the time. The General Convention Office staff are here before and after. Some diocesan staff, congregational staff and staff of other Church entities are working on site during this time.

**Press** There are many stories to tell, and a lot of different media outlets send reporters. Please defer to the Bishop's office to answer any questions. The "official" news service for the Episcopal Church is ENS (Episcopal News Service).

**Exhibitors** Almost 200 groups, businesses and church organizations will be on hand to give you free stuff, sell you things, talk to you, show videos, sign you up for mailing lists, and other activities too! You could spend hours in the Exhibit Hall and still not see it all!

**Visitors** All others who come to General Convention are called Visitors. Some visit for a few hours, some for a day, some for a few days, and some even for the entire time. General Convention is open to anyone to visit, although they must register to get access to most events.

## What Other Groups Should We Know?

**Standing Commissions** are established by Canon to study and make recommendations on matters of continuing concern to the Church. Each standing commission has a specific area of responsibility and consists of three bishops, three priests or deacons, and six lay persons.

The Presiding Bishop appoints the bishops, and the President of the House of Deputies appoints all others. Members serve staggered six-year terms and do not have to be deputies.

**Joint Standing Committees** are written into the Joint Rules of the General Convention and consider matters related to the work and function of the General Convention itself, rather than the overall life of the Church. Members are appointed for three-year terms and, in some cases, must be deputies or bishops. Some Joint Standing Committees are also referenced in the Canons.

**Standing Committees of Executive Council** study, review, and report on matters which may come before the Executive Council. They are written into the by-laws of the Council, and members are appointed by the presiding officers at the beginning of each triennium. Only Council members may serve.

**Committees of Executive Council** are customarily established by a General Convention resolution; they have specific mandates and report through the Executive Council. In some cases, these committees expire at the end of a triennium.

**Ad Hoc Committees of Executive Council [Task Forces]** are created by the Council to accomplish specific tasks, such as a feasibility study or research project, or to address a specific issue or concern. Often called task forces or working groups, they must be given a specific mandate and timeframe for completing their work. The Council resolution that creates an ad hoc committee must specify its composition; some members may be from outside of the Executive Council.

**Committees of the House of Deputies or Bishops** are given ongoing responsibilities on behalf of the whole House. They are accountable only to the House that creates them. The establishing resolution or charge should specify the committee's mandate and composition. These are different from legislative committees which process legislation during meetings of the General Convention.

**Task Forces of the General Convention** are established under the Joint Rules. The Presiding Bishop appoints the bishop members and the President of the House of Deputies appoints priests, deacons and lay persons. Consultants may be engaged in some cases. The establishing resolution must specify an expiration date for the task force; a two-thirds vote in both Houses is required to extend that date.

**Boards** oversee semi-autonomous components of the Church, such as the General Theological Seminary, the Church Pension Fund, and Church Deployment. Since a board's

actions do not require ratification by the General Convention, their triennial reports are limited typically to an update on their work.

**Agencies** are legally independent corporations affiliated with the Church, such as Episcopal Relief and Development. They have their own officers and boards which may be partially selected by the General Convention or ratified by Executive Council. Agencies are expected to develop their own mandates and make their own business decisions. An agency's triennial report may contain a resolution for continued funding of the organization.

### **Executive Council**

The Executive Council of the Episcopal Church is an elected body representing the whole Church. In the course of the three years between convention, known as the "triennium", the Executive Council will customarily meet once in each of the nine provinces of the Episcopal Church.

The Executive Council has the duty to carry out programs and policies adopted by General Convention. It is the job of Executive Council to oversee the ministry and mission of the Church. The Executive Council is comprised of twenty members elected by General Convention (four bishops, four priests or deacons and twelve laypersons) and eighteen members elected by provincial synods.

## How Does General Convention Work?

At its most basic level, General Convention exists to make rules that govern the Church. There are three documents that make up what is called "Canon Law", or the rules of the Church. These are:

**Constitution** defines structure of church governance; is more difficult to change (takes two General Conventions) is organized by "Articles"

**Canons** define rules of church; are easier to change (takes one General Convention) are organized by "Title" and "Canons"

**Rules of Order** define process to follow for Business at General Convention; are easier to change. Even though much more happens at General Convention, these "rules" are the basis of how it exists.

**TWO HOUSES** There are two houses at General Convention: the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. *Like the U.S. Congress*, both Houses must agree on an action for it to be

approved. *Unlike the U.S. government*, there is no President who can veto or Supreme Court that can strike down actions.

**The House of Deputies** is made up of no more than 8 deputies per diocese (clergy and laity). With 111 dioceses, the House of Deputies is over 800 people! That's why there are Rules of Order (such as being recognized by the chair to speak at a designated microphone). Without these Rules, it would be hard to get things done. You can watch what goes on, but you cannot speak to the House, and need to be quiet when visiting.

**The House of Bishops** is made up of Bishops. If every Bishop were to show up, there would be almost 300 members. At most General Conventions we see around 175 Bishops. One difference between the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies is that the Bishops meet outside of General Convention, but those meetings don't have the power to make rules for the Church. As with the House of Deputies, the proceedings follow strict rules of order and are generally open to visitors.

**Officers** To keep business in order, someone needs to be in charge. There are many people who work to keep things in order, but only two who have authority to call business to order. These two are the presiding officers for their respective houses and make sure all viewpoints are heard and that things keep moving.

- In the House of Deputies, Rev. Gay Clark Jennings is president.
- In the House of Bishops, it is the Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

### **The United States Congress has “bills.” General Convention has “resolutions.”**

Resolutions begin in different places. Some resolutions make specific recommendations about changing the Constitution or Canons of the church, others ask for the church to take a position on an issue, and some direct other bodies and groups in the church to act in a specific way. Resolutions are coded and numbered based on where they begin and when they are received (for instance, D042 would be the 42nd resolution introduced by deputies).

- A labels come from committees, commissions, agencies and boards;
- B labels from Bishops;
- C from dioceses and provinces; and
- D from Deputies.

### **Where do resolutions come from?**

General Convention has many legislative committees, and for good reason. If you tried to talk about everything with everyone, we would never go home, and some people say General Convention is too long as it is. The sole responsibility of most committees is to hold hearings

and discuss recommendations regarding each of the resolutions referred to them by the Presiding Officers of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies. Some committees only have an administrative function.

Although the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops each have their own separate set of Legislative Committees, the cognates (parallel committees in each house) are encouraged to meet together and hold joint hearings on resolutions. Each Legislative Committee must consider every resolution assigned, hold hearings, discuss the proposal with the cognate committee and develop a recommendation to report to their respective House.

**A place where your voice can be heard** - An important part of Committee meetings is that visitors are allowed to speak and be heard. With over 20 different committees, some meeting every day and some more than once in a day, there is plenty of opportunity for you to speak and have your voice heard.

**Where to go** - Locations and times of all Committee meetings are posted on a board near the House of Deputies and Bishops (and on the online app), usually the afternoon before meetings the next day.

**When to speak** - You will need to get to a committee meeting early and sign up, and you usually are limited to speaking for only a couple of minutes. You may not get to speak at all, but this is one place where you can make your voice heard.

**What to say** - If you are going to speak at a Committee meeting, there are some important guidelines to keep in mind:

- Don't speak to hear yourself.
- Don't speak to make sure youth are heard.
- Don't speak if someone else has said what you wanted to, just pass.
- Speak when you have passion for the issue.
- Have prepared remarks.
- You can only speak twice on one issue.
- Arrive early to Committee sessions.
- Sign in once you get there, but understand there is a strict order in which people can speak.
- Don't start until called upon.
- Address the Chair, "Mr. Chairman," "Madam Chairman" to "gain the floor."
- Introduce yourself and your Diocese.
- Begin your statement with one sentence regarding your stance on the resolution: "I would like to speak in favor of (in opposition to) the proposed resolution."



- Speak confidently and clearly.
- You only have 3 minutes – use it wisely.

## Helpful Mechanics

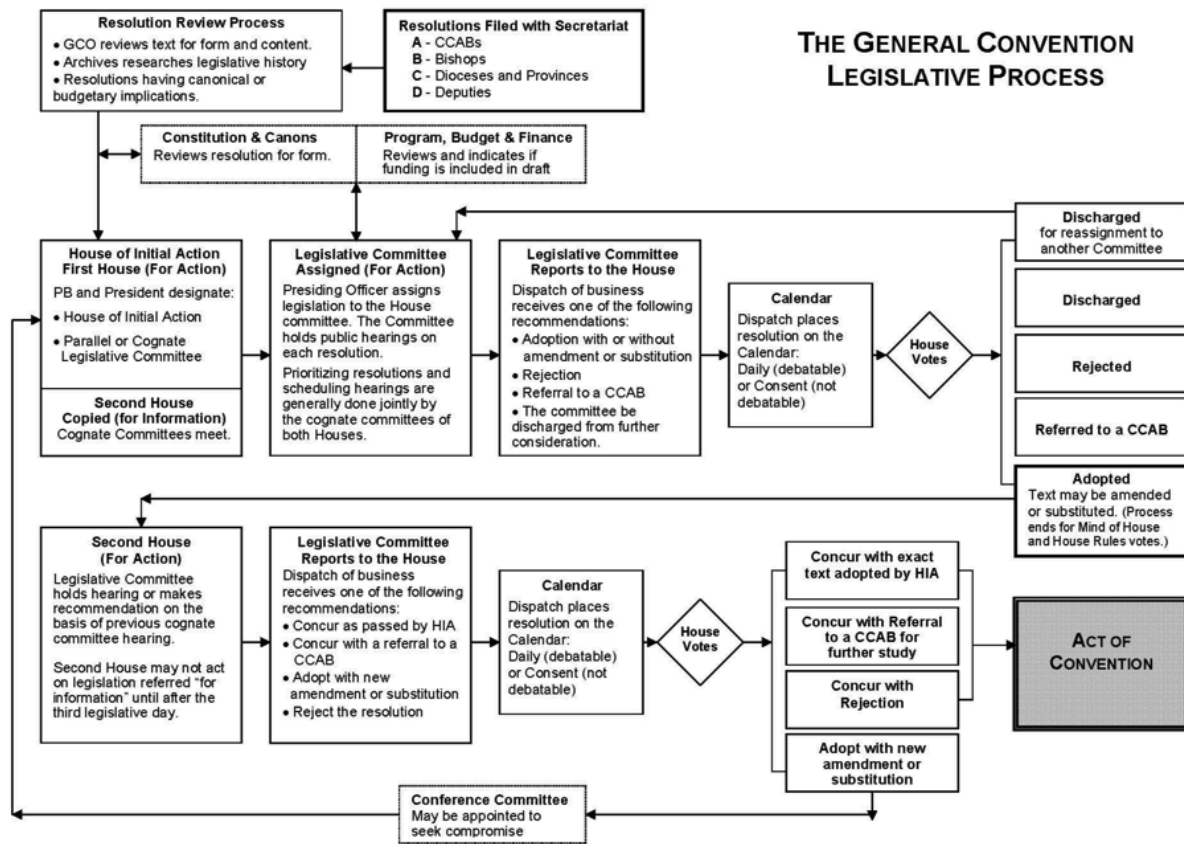
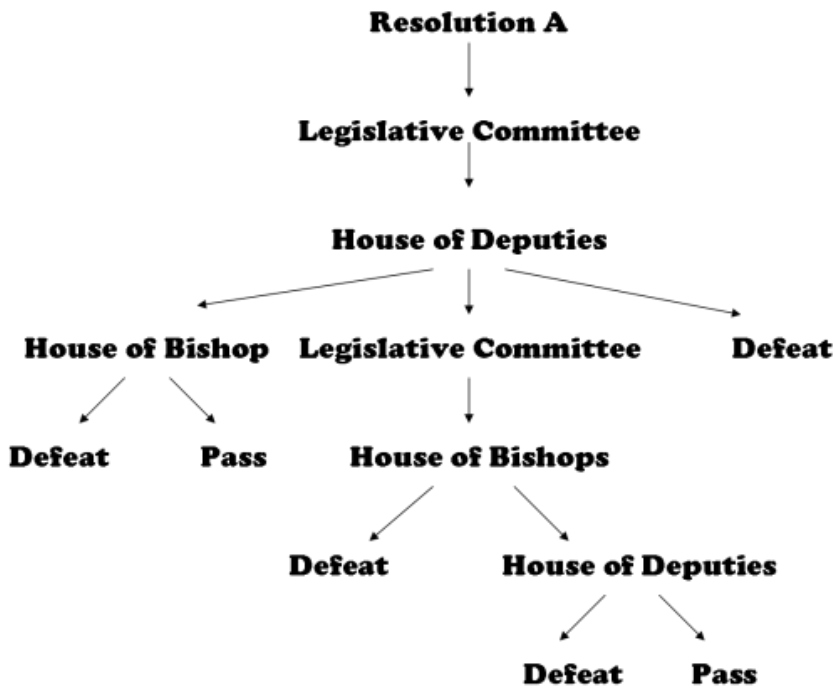
Every legislative process has four simple steps. Even if you don't know the "ins and outs" of parliamentary procedure or Robert's Rules of Order, you can still follow the process.

**Motion** A formal proposal that the assembly take certain action. Usually a "motion" at General Convention is a Resolution, but sometimes there are other motions like "Amend the Motion", "End Debate," or "Send to Committee." You may often hear the motion for "Previous Question" which, if passed, effectively ends debate.

**Second** An indication that there is at least one person besides the mover that is interested in seeing the motion come before the meeting. It does not necessarily indicate that the seconder favors the motion, just that they think it is important to talk about it.

**Debate** An opportunity for members to talk about what they think of the motion. This usually takes the most time. Some motions don't have discussion, they just go to the last step.

**Vote** A point comes when a decision is made. Most votes are by majority (more than half the votes cast), and some need a two-thirds vote (at least two-thirds of the votes cast). The votes are tabulated by electronic counters. Sometimes in the House of Deputies there are votes "By Orders", which means that a majority of the deputation of Clergy and a majority of the deputation of Laity must be in favor for a resolution to pass.



# Episcopal Terms and Acronyms

## **The Structure of our Church**

Congregation: A local gathering of worshipping Christians, sometimes called parish or mission.

Deanery or Convocation: A regional district of congregations within a diocese.

Diocese: The primary unit of organization in the Episcopal Church, overseen by a bishop and legislative body (convention or council or synod of the diocese).

Province: The Episcopal Church is divided into nine geographic provinces. In other parts of the Anglican Communion, province refers to the Anglican Church in a whole country or multi-country region.

## **“General Church” Any and all of the following:**

General Convention: The Episcopal Church’s national legislative assembly meets every three years to set church-wide policy and budget. Decisions are made in a two-house legislature, House of Bishops and House of Deputies (clergy and laypersons), following a traditional parliamentary format. The Constitution & Canons of the Episcopal Church are set here. In addition to its bishops, each diocese may send four ordained and four lay deputies (plus alternates).

House of Bishops: All bishops, diocesan, suffragan, assisting, and retired, are members of this body, which **also** meets periodically between General Conventions.

Interim Bodies: Over twenty-five committees and commissions of the General Convention meet in between Conventions to research, deliberate, and prepare reports.

Executive Council: This interim body of the General Convention implements and monitors decisions between Conventions. Executive Council is composed of forty members, 18 elected by provinces (one layperson and one ordained person from each). and 20 elected by General Convention (4 bishops, 4 ordained persons, and 12 laypersons), The Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies (President & Chair) are also members.

815: Often used, but not the preferred term for the Episcopal Church Center in New York City (refers to the street address, 815 Second Avenue). Houses the Presiding Bishop and staff, offices of the General Convention and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, as well as some church-related agencies. Also referred to as the “Church Center.” Presiding Bishop is elected from among the House of Bishops for a twelve year (soon to be nine year) nonrenewable term. The Presiding Bishop is spiritual leader and primary representative of the Episcopal Church. The Presiding Bishop’s staff has about 200 persons.

PECUSA, ECUSA: Commonly used acronyms/abbreviations for the Episcopal Church, or the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA,

Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society PECUSA: The corporate name of the church-wide organization of the Episcopal Church. Every Episcopalian is a member.

## **Official Church Agencies & Bodies**

Archives of the Episcopal Church: The national archives of the Episcopal Church are located in Austin, Texas.

BTE: Board for Theological Education, an interim body

CDM: Council for the Development of Ministry, linking commissions on ministry with theological seminaries.

CDO: Church Deployment Office matches clergy and lay professional candidates with open positions in congregations and church-related work settings.

Church Pension: Includes the Church Pension Fund, Church Insurance Company, Church Life Insurance Corporation, Church Hymnal Corporation, Episcopal Church Clergy and Group Employees' Benefit Trust. Based at 445 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY.

Episcopal Church Building Fund: Provides loans of up to \$100,000 for new and improving church properties, consultation and other resources.

Episcopal Life: The official Episcopal Church newspaper.

Forward Movement: *Forward Day by Day*, *D/a a Dia*, *Anglican Cycle of Prayer* are some of Forward's most popular titles. Publisher of tracts and devotional materials.

JPIC Committee: Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee serves Executive Council with four working groups: Anti-Racism, Environmental Stewardship, Economic Justice, Jubilee Ministries, linking peace, justice, and creation. The original JPIC consultation was convened by the World Council of Churches in Seoul, Korea, in 1990.

Ministries with Young People Cluster: This program cluster includes Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, and Young Adult/Higher Education Ministries.

Multicultural Ministries Committee: A committee of Executive Council overseeing multicultural ministries on a national level. Includes ministries with American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian-American, Black, and Hispanic people across the US.

OBAF: Office of the Bishop for the Armed Forces coordinates military chaplaincies.

PBFWR: Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief (also called PB Fund).

SLC: Standing Liturgical Commission is composed of ten members appointed by the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies.

SRI: Social Responsibility in Investments is a program to monitor social responsibility of both churches and publicly held corporations.

## **Anglican and Global Relations**

Anglican: A worldwide communion of Anglican churches under the spiritual Communion oversight of the Archbishop of Canterbury, with nearly 70 million members in 164 countries.

Anglican Consultative Council: Representative advisory body with secretariat in London, UK, and a total membership of 69, The Archbishop of Canterbury is the Council President. The ACC also operates the office of Anglican Observer at the United Nations.

Archbishop Of Canterbury: The Primate of All England, Metropolitan of the Province of Canterbury, of first among equals of all Anglican bishops, and the spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion. The See of Canterbury was founded in 597 with the arrival of St. Augustine, who established the first church in the town, The present Archbishop is the Most Rev. and Right Hon. Rowan Williams.

CPSA: Church of the Province of Southern Africa includes South Africa, Lesotho, Mozambique, and Namibia.

“Full Communion”: Where two Churches not of the same denominational or confessional family, mutually recognize and accept one another’s ministries, including unrestricted *communio in sacris*, Churches in full communion with the Episcopal Church Include Old Catholic Churches, Philippine Independent Church, and the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, as well as the Churches of Bangladesh, North India, Pakistan, and South India,

IACSA: Iglesia Anglicana del Cono Sud de las Americas, Anglican Church of the Southern Cone of the Americas, including Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia, and Uruguay.

Intercommunion: Varying degrees of relation other than “full communion”

Lambeth Conference: A global invitational conference of Anglican bishops convened by the Archbishop of Canterbury approximately every ten years for taking “common counsel.”

MRI: Mutual Responsibility and Interdependence, a policy adopted in 1963, highlighted global connections and sharing.

PIM Partners-in-Mission: an extension of MRI, is a continuing mutual consultation among Anglican Churches to evaluate mission needs and priorities, The last Partners-in-Mission consultation in the US was in 1993.

VFM: Volunteers for Mission is a national program that sends volunteers to serve in missionary capacities in partnership with Anglican churches in the US and around the world.

## **Ecumenical**

ARC: Anglican Roman Catholic dialogue

ARCIC: Anglican Roman Catholic International Consultation

CESCM: The Council for Ecumenical Student Christian Ministries is an ecumenical collaborative consisting of mainline Protestant denominations nurturing an indigenous US student Christian movement. CESCM sponsors “Celebrate!” gatherings every four years.

COCU: Consultation on Church Union

“Concordat”: An agreement between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for intercommunion to be considered and presented for approval in 1997. Passed the Episcopal Convention, did not pass the Lutherans convention.

LED: Lutheran Episcopal Dialogue

NCC: National Council of Churches of Christ USA replaced the Federal Council of Churches in 1950 as the primary ecumenical Christian council. Also abbreviated NCCCUSA.

MCE: Ministries in Christian Education is a program unit of the NCC.

WCC: World Council of Churches is a global fellowship of churches founded in 1948 and based in Geneva.

WSCF: World Student Christian Federation is a global federation of national student Christian movements and agencies, founded in 1895, The Episcopal Church' interacts with the WSCF through CESCO.

### **General Terms**

BCP: Book of Common Prayer

GOE: General Ordination Examinations, required by most dioceses as one of many steps toward ordained ministry

UTO: United Thank Offering

HOB: House of Bishop's

HOD: House of Deputies

PHOD: President of the House of Deputies

ECW: Episcopal Church Women

DotK or DoK: Daughters of the King

### **General Church and Special Needs Organizations**

APSO: Appalachian Peoples' Service Organization

The Consultation: An association of independent groups in the church to promote a progressive agenda at General Convention. Includes APSO (Appalachian Peoples' Service Organization), Episcopal Church Publishing Company(*The Witness*), EpiscopalAsiamerica Ministry Advocates, Episcopal Peace Fellowship, Episcopal Societyfor Ministry in Higher Education (ESMHE), Episcopal Urban Caucus, Episcopal Women's' Caucus, Integrity, Union of Black Episcopalians, Urban Bishops' Coalition.

CORL: Conference on the Religious Life in the Americas

Cursillo: A renewal movement in the Episcopal Church for adults.

CWM: The Council for Women's Ministries is a circle of leaders of women's organizations that meets twice a year.

ECD: Episcopal Conference of the Deaf

EMHN: Episcopal Mental Health Network

ESMA: Episcopal Society for Ministry on Aging

NEAC: National Episcopal AIDS Coalition

NECAD: National Coalition on Alcohol and drugs offers education, training, and advocacy within the church to address the use and misuse of alcohol and drugs.

NNECA: National Network of Episcopal Clergy Associations

NNLP: National Network of Lay Professionals

NOEL: National Organization of Episcopalians for Life

ONHE: Organizacion Nacional de Hispanos Episcopates is the national'organization for Hispanic Episcopalians,

RACA: Recovered Alcoholic Clergy Association. is a working network of Episcopal clergy recovering from alcoholism.

UBE: Union of Black Episcopalians is a voluntary organization with local chapters.

UEC: United Episcopal Charities

## **Children**

CAN: Children's Advocacy Network – Formerly the Children's Advocacy Committee, concerned Episcopalians. working through the Episcopal Church's Office of Children's Ministries and the Public Policy Network to address the needs, issues, stresses, and decisions affecting children in today's society.

CDF: Children's Defense Fund, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization that exists to provide a strong and effective voice for children of America, who cannot vote, lobby, or speak out for themselves. The Episcopal Church works closely with CDF.

The OCM: considers all those between 0 and 12 children, however, the USA considers all those under 18 years, children.

Children Against Violence: A new program of the OCM of the Episcopal Church to help children and their families recognize and use their power to confidently address the violence in their lives, neighborhoods and communities as well as take steps within their own families to foster effective alternatives to violence.

Children's Charter: A mandate which calls the Episcopal Church to minister to and to nurture children, even as it honors, accepts and respects them as members and full participants of the Eucharistic community. The resolution passed in 1997 each diocese is to "study the charter and live it out locally".

CMO: Children's Ministries Office of the Episcopal Church.

CSMO: The Church School Mission Offering is a mission education program of the Episcopal Church and is children led. Each year the focus is on a part of the Anglican Communion or the Christian Church. TREASURE Magazine is the vehicle for the content. Themes have included: Japan, Jerusalem, the Caribbean, West Africa, Eastern Europe and Brazil. Upcoming themes: Indonesia, Mexico. Financial proceeds go to children's ministries in that part of the world.

EPC: Episcopal Partnership for Catechesis – representatives from all nine provincial Christian education networks of the Episcopal Church, and staff from the Episcopal Church Center meet to establish a deeper partnership between themselves and the Church Center.

Friendship Press: Publishing arm of the NCCC-USA. The Episcopal Church is a partner denomination. CSMO themes are the same as those decided on by Friendship Press.

PPJN: Parenting for Peace and Justice Network is an interfaith, interracial, international association of families and those who nurture families, committed to promoting peace and

justice within families, in the world and with the earth itself, The Episcopal Church has a seat on the Board.

PRAY: Programs for Religious Activities with Youth administers the following scouting God and Country award programs: God and Me, God and Family God and Church, God and Life.

Study Guide: This is the study guide for the Children's Charter.

TREASURE Kids! Project: A six year project of twelve Episcopal dioceses and the OCM to develop and share models of children's ministries with the whole church. Their work was presented to General Convention, See Children's Charter above.

TREASURE Magazine: An Episcopal children's magazine. Usually the vehicle for CSMO, but in 96-97 two issues focused on countering violence and promoting peace.

UBC: Urban Bishops' Coalition. Member bishops agreed to focus on children at risk.

## **Youth**

ALTE: Adult Leadership Training Event is a national training event for adults who work with youth.

Design Team: Team responsible for the design and implementation of each event. Team members are chosen in a variety of ways, and are different for each event.

DYC: Diocesan Youth Council

Diocesan Youth Coordinator: Sometimes paid, sometimes volunteer, this person oversees and helps to coordinate youth ministry programs in a diocese.

Ethnic Youth/Young Adult Ministries Consultation: A semi-annual networking consultation that connects leaders from American Indian, Asian-American, Black, and Hispanic youth and young adult constituencies.

EYC: Traditional name for youth groups in the Episcopal Church (Episcopal Young Church people).

EYE: Episcopal Youth Event is a national event sponsored by the Episcopal Church every three years. It is usually held on a college campus.

Happening: A renewal movement in the Episcopal Church for high school students.

IAYN: International Anglican Youth Network is a global consultation of staff related to youth and young adult ministries.

PYE: Provincial Youth Event is a regional event sponsored by the province.

PYMC: Provincial Youth Ministry Coordinator serves on contract with the Episcopal Church Center Youth Ministries Office.

Youth: In United States ministries, usually refers to persons aged 12-18. In ministries around the globe, usually refers to persons 12-35 (sometimes including children).

## **Young Adults & Ministries in Higher Education**

AEC: Association of Episcopal Colleges is a voluntary body of Episcopal Church-related colleges. It is a member of CUAC, Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion.



ARIL: Association for Religion and the Intellectual Life, publisher of CrossCurrents.

Canterbury: A traditional name for Episcopal ministries on campus. A national Canterbury Association was founded in 1949 (now defunct). A Canterbury Student Association operates in Province IV.

ESMHE: The Episcopal Society for Ministry in Higher Education is an independent society for the support and expansion of the church's ministry in colleges and universities, among students, faculty, and staff.

Ethnic Youth/Young Adult Ministries Consultation: A semi-annual networking consultation that connects leaders from American Indian, Asian-American, Black, and Hispanic youth and young adult constituencies

IAYN: International Anglican Youth Network is a global consultation of staff related to youth and young adult ministries.

NACMHE: The National Advisory Committee for Ministry in Higher Education advises the national staff on issues in higher education.

Nat Gat: Abbreviated term for the Episcopal Church's gathering of students, young adults, chaplains, and friends. Held every two years, Nat Gat is sponsored by the Episcopal Church Center, and is offered ecumenically every four years as "Celebrate!"

Plumblin: A journal of ministry in higher education.

Vocare: A renewal movement in the Episcopal Church for young adults, similar in style to Happening and Cursillo.