

Glossary for Convention Discussion 2014

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

Baptismal Covenant Our formal commitment to love God as we are loved, within the knowledge and blessing of the Holy Spirit. We make this covenantal promise at the time of our baptism (if we are baptized as infants our parents and godparents make these promises for us with the congregation affirming their support). The outward signs of this commitment are water, chrism and the presence of the welcoming community who share in the promises and agree to support the new Christian in their life in Christ. The Baptismal Covenant may be found in the *Book of Common Prayer*, pages 304-305.

Camp Washington/Board of Camp Washington Camp Washington is a residential summer camp for boys and girls located on 300 acres in Lakeside, CT (Litchfield County) owned and operated by Camp Washington, Inc., a non-profit affiliate of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT). The Camp has facilities that accommodate up to 175 people for camp sessions as well as other group meetings and events. It is frequently used as a place for retreats and conferences. For years, the Executive Committee has served as the board of directors of Camp Washington, Inc. In 2014, the Executive Committee elected a separate board of directors for Camp Washington.

Canon (cathedral, staff, church rule) The word "canon" is from Old French canon, from Latin canōn, from Ancient Greek κανών (kanōn, "measuring rod, standard"). In our common use, there are three applications: a cathedral canon is a member of the clergy who hold an honorary appointment and participates in the life of the community through its liturgies and Chapter meetings. A canon who serves on diocesan staff is so named for his or her connection to the bishop. We also use the word "canon" to refer to rules that organize our church at the General Church and the diocesan level.

Cathedral Discernment Task Force This Task Force is charged with overseeing a diocesan-wide exploration of the nature and purpose of cathedrals in the context of the opportunities and challenges facing the ECCT. It will report its findings and recommendations to the 2015 Annual Convention.

Chancellor The Chancellor is the legal advisor to the Bishops nominated by the Bishop Diocesan, elected by Annual Convention, and serving in an unpaid voluntary position. The Chancellor advises the Bishops on matters of secular and ecclesiastical law.

Commission on Ministry (COM) The COM is a body that is nominated by the Bishop and elected by Annual Convention to advise and assist in the work of Title III of the General and Diocesan Church canons regarding Ministry (of lay and ordained).

(The) Commons Formerly a wool manufacturing plant, and then a ball bearing factory, The Commons is the new location of the office and meeting space for ECCT, located on the third floor of the Meriden Enterprise Center at 290 Pratt St., Meriden, CT. It has 9,700 square feet that include an open floor plan enhancing collaborative work, five conference rooms, kitchen, media studio, chapel and our archival collection.

Constitutions and Canons These are the rules of the ECCT and the General Church, by which we govern ourselves as Episcopalians to help organize and commit our focus on the primary goals of embracing and sharing the Word of God.

Deanery The Deanery is an organizational subgroup of a diocese that promotes community and interaction within a group of parishes and communities of worship within a particular geographic designation. In turn, the Deaneries choose from their membership one clergy and one layperson to serve as representatives on the Executive Council.

Delegate vs. Deputy Delegates are the elected representatives from parishes in our diocese to our Annual Convention. Each parish or mission station is entitled to one lay delegate for the first 200 communicants in good standing and one additional lay delegate when that number is exceeded. Each parish and mission station is entitled to the same number of alternates as they have delegates. (The second reading of the proposed revisions for the diocesan constitution will take place at this year's convention in October 2014. If passed, representation of parishes at convention will change to include two delegates from each parish regardless of size.) If none of the parish delegates or substitutes can attend the Annual Convention, new representation must be elected at the Annual Parish Meeting or a Special Parish Meeting. **Deputies** are elected from each diocese to serve in the House of Deputies at the triennial General Convention of the Episcopal Church. The House of Deputies is comprised of lay and ordained members. With the House of Bishops, it constitutes the bicameral system of leadership in our church. The deputies from the Episcopal Church in Connecticut are elected at our annual convention two years preceding a General Convention. **Delegates** vote the views/position of those they represent; **Deputies** vote their conscience.

Diocese “The Diocese” refers to the 60,000 people in Connecticut who identify as Episcopalians within 168 parishes and worshipping communities; and their congregational assets, which combine to participate in God’s mission. The Diocese is a geographic designation of the Church that, in Connecticut, includes the entire state. (Some states, e.g., Massachusetts, have more than one Episcopal diocese.) The terms Diocese of Connecticut and the Episcopal Church in Connecticut describe the same thing: 60,000 Episcopalians in Connecticut participating in God’s mission.

Donations and Bequests For Church Purposes, Inc. (D&B) D&B is a non-profit affiliate of the ECCT that holds and invests financial resources of the Missionary Society, parishes, and other affiliates of ECCT who choose to participate in D&B’s investment program. D&B’s investment services are open to all worshipping communities and affiliates of ECCT.

Executive Council (formerly BDEC) The Executive Council of ECCT is an elected body that exercises the authority of ECCT between sessions of the Annual Convention. The Executive Council meets quarterly to carry out the programs and policies adopted at Annual Convention, and to provide financial oversight of ECCT. The Executive Council also serves as the board of directors of the Missionary Society.

Faith and Order This group is a committee of the Episcopal Church, formerly known as the Committee on Constitution and Canons, which oversees revisions of the Constitutions and Canons and reviews resolutions in advance of the Annual Convention.

Five Marks of Mission The Five Marks of Mission, developed by the Anglican Consultative Council between 1984 and 1990, (the 4th mark was updated in 2012) provides an outline of the areas in which God calls us to serve. They include a call to: (1) proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom, (2) teach, baptize and nurture new believers, (3) respond to human need by loving service, (4) seek to transform unjust structures of society, and to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation and (5) to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Joint Leadership Gathering This group includes the main governing bodies of ECCT: Executive Council, Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry, and the Trustees of D&B. The Joint Leadership Gathering meets quarterly for leadership development and to share their progress, endeavors and future plans with each other.

Listening Sessions (Process) The Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church in CT (TREC-CT) has held 2 sets of listening sessions in 6 different locations across our diocese with more than 200 people in attendance. The purpose was to gather and discuss the needs of God's people to participate fully in God's mission as ECCT in the 21st century. Conversations have included topics of collaboration, structure, deaneries, other regional groupings, diocesan office support and funding. TREC-CT will continue to listen in 2015 and shape a plan regarding the structure and organization of our diocese for consideration of the 2015 Annual Convention.

Missio Dei from Latin, the mission of God. God's mission is one of restoration and reconciliation and is the story our Holy Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. ECCT's 100-word definition of God's mission follows : "God loved into creation- the universe, earth, humanity. It was diverse, and it was good. Human sin entered and distorted our relationship with God, one another, and creation. God yearns to make all whole again. This is God's mission. God chose and liberated a people, sent the law and the prophets. God came in Jesus, fully human and fully divine. In Jesus' life, death and resurrection we are restored to unity with God and each other. God sent the Holy Spirit, empowering the Body of Christ. God co-missions us in baptism to participate in God's mission of restoration and reconciliation."

Missionary Society Founded in 1813, ECCT organized this voluntary missionary agency to extend the Church and its work across Connecticut. All Episcopalians in Connecticut are members of the Missionary Society. As currently operated, the Missionary Society serves primarily as a holding company for the financial assets and real property of ECCT. The Executive Council serves as its board of directors.

Mutual Responsibility and Interdependency in Christ (MRI) Adopted at the 2011 Annual Convention, this resolution takes its inspiration from a statement from Project Canterbury, made at the Toronto Anglican Congress in 1963, with the same name. ECCT's MRI resolution directed the development of mechanisms to support and encourage mutual responsibility and interdependence across our diocese, agreeing that parishes pledging at or above 10% of their total operating revenues to the diocesan convention budget are eligible for preference for appointments to diocesan committees and councils at the discretion of the bishops, may seek grants and loans from the diocesan-wide resources, may move forward in transition and seek a rector or the appointment of an assistant/associate, and are eligible for the posting of a deacon. The resolution also called for regional co-operative ministry teams to work with Parishes and Mission Stations whose contributions to the diocesan convention budget

fell below 10% of the Parish's or Mission Station's total operating revenues; and noted that if a Parish or Mission Station failed to contribute 10% of its total operating revenues to the diocesan convention budget for two consecutive fiscal years, beginning in Fiscal Year 2012, the Bishop may declare it an "aided parish," and exercise full authority over its day-to-day administrative, financial and spiritual life, pursuant to Canon I, Section 13 (a).

Resolutions Written motions used to codify the direction of the adopting entity. Resolutions are an expression of the will, or view, of a legislative body, such as the Annual Convention. The business of convention is conducted through consideration and voting on a series of resolutions that affect our common life as ECCT.

Resolution 3 2013 Adopted by the 2013 Annual Convention, this resolution charges the Bishop and Standing Committee to appoint a task force to develop a process of parish collaboration that may further strengthen our church communities, to develop a strategy on the location of parishes to serve better the mission of God in Connecticut in the 21st century, and to report its findings/strategic recommendations to the 2014 Annual Convention. Secretary of Convention

The Secretary of Convention is an elected officer of the Annual Convention and is the chair of the Convention Planning Committee. Along with the Planning Committee, the Secretary of Convention has oversight over all aspects of Convention, from the Call to Convention that goes to all parishes and clergy to the Journal of Convention published after the Annual Convention, and everything in between. The Secretary of Convention also has duties related to the election of a bishop, the election of a rector, and notifying Annual Convention of actions of General Convention.

Secretary of the Diocese The Secretary of the Diocese serves as a corporate officer for ECCT and is traditionally elected Secretary of the the Missionary Society. The secretary is the key administrator for the Executive Council and the board of the Missionary Society. Chief responsibilities include planning meetings and providing support for the work of the Council and that Board. The secretary tracks and maintains the rolls of clergy and lay delegates to Annual Convention and participates in the planning of the convention.

Standing Committee The Standing Committee has several roles under the Constitution and Canons of the General Church and ECCT. Elected by Annual

Convention, half of its members are clerical, half lay. The Standing Committee is the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese in the absence of a bishop, it serves as the bishop's council of advice and consents to all bishops elected in the Episcopal Church. The Standing Committee recommends persons for ordination and advises on the sale or encumbrance of any property held by a congregation or ECCT.

The Episcopal Church (TEC) As Episcopalians, we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We uphold the Bible and worship with the Book of Common Prayer. Our liturgy retains ancient structure and traditions and is celebrated in many languages. Both men and women, including those who are married, are eligible for ordination as deacons, priests and bishops. We believe in amendment of life, the forgiveness of sin, and life everlasting. All baptized Christians, not only members of the Episcopal Church, may receive Holy Communion.

The Episcopal Church has members in the United States and the territory of Puerto Rico; and also in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Venezuela, Curacao, Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Haiti, Honduras, Micronesia, Taiwan, and the Virgin Islands.

The Episcopal Church is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, and traces its heritage to the beginnings of Christianity through the Church of England. Lay people exercise a vital role in the governance and ministry of our church. We celebrate our unity in Christ while honoring our differences, always putting the work of love before uniformity of opinion.

Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) The Episcopal Church in Connecticut includes the entire state of Connecticut and is currently comprised of 168 parishes and several other local Eucharistic communities. The basic unit of the Episcopal Church is the diocese, a geographic area, which a bishop leads. (The word "Episcopal" derives from the Greek "episcopos" meaning overseer). Our bishop diocesan is the Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, 15th bishop of ECCT, who is assisted by, and works closely with our bishop suffragan, The Rt. Reverend Laura Ahrens. Based on 2010 parochial report data, there are about 59,200 baptized members in ECCT; and average Sunday attendance is about 18,000. The annual business meeting of the diocese is called the Annual Convention, and takes place in late October. ECCT is one of 110 domestic and overseas dioceses in The Episcopal Church. The terms Diocese of Connecticut and Episcopal Church in

Connecticut describe the same thing: 60,000 Episcopalians in Connecticut participating in God's mission.

Task Force for Reimagining the Church (TREC) The Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church has been charged by the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church to create a plan for reforming the Church's structures, governance, and administration.

Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (TREC-CT) At the direction of the 229th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, a task force was formed to begin the work of re-imagining what the Episcopal Church could look like in Connecticut in the future—from how we relate to one another as individuals and worshiping communities to the structures and governance of our common life and resources.