

Reimagining the Episcopal Church in Connecticut FAQs

Q. What is changing?

A. Deaneries (the current 14 regional organizations that currently elect members to the Executive Council and the Board of the Missionary Society) are being replaced by six **Regions**. The current **Executive Council** and Board of the Missionary Society is being replaced by the **Mission Council**. We are also formally recognizing **Ministry Networks** and the role that they play in the life of ECCT.

Q. What is the Mission Council and who will be its members?

A. The **Mission Council** is the body charged with ensuring that the decisions of the annual convention are implemented and with making any needed decisions between conventions. It replaces the current Executive Council and Board of the Missionary Society.

- Its members include two members (one clergy; one lay) selected by each **Region**
- There will also be a total of nine members from the **Ministry Networks**
 - A slate of at least double the number of open positions will be selected from candidates put forward by **Ministry Networks** by a committee composed of the Bishops and others.
 - The **Ministry Network Mission Council candidates** will be elected by the **Annual Convention**.
- Members of the **Mission Council** also include the Bishops and officers of ECCT.
- **Mission Council** members will serve rotating three-year terms and serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- All **Mission Council** members must be members of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut and be prepared to serve all of ECCT, not just their **Region** or **Ministry Network**.

Q. What is a Region?

A. A **Region** is the common witness of a geographic area in ECCT.

- There are six geographic region *link to Region Maps and lists*
- Each **Region** provides a lay and clergy representative to the **Mission Council**.
- Each **Region** will establish its own leadership structure
- Each **Region** will have and select a **Region Missionary** (funded by the ECCT)
- Each **Region** will meet at least once a year to raise up members for the **Mission Council** and possibly more often as the Region determines.
- Each **Region's** purpose is to allow its worshipping communities to work collaboratively with each other as directed by the Holy Spirit.
- **Regions** are primarily organized geographically; the **Mission Council** will approve requests for a parish to change its **Region**.

Q. What is a Region Missionary?

A. A **Region Missionary** is has the assignment of helping the people, parishes, worshipping communities and **Ministry Networks** in a **Region** to catalyze, connect, convene and build capability. They can be lay or ordained.

- The ECCT is funding the **Region Missionaries** as part-time positions.
- Each **Region** will define the job description of its Region Missionary specific to its context and culture and select its own **Region Missionary**.
- The **Region Missionary** appointments will be confirmed by the **Mission Council**.

Q. What is a Ministry Network?

A. A Ministry Network is a group of individuals from more than one Episcopal parish or worshipping community who are collaborating on a ministry serving God's mission.

Ministry Networks can include participants from outside of ECCT. The possibilities for these ministries are wide open!

- A **Ministry Network self-identifies**; they designate their own convener, set their own expectations and their own goals.
- **Ministry Network activities** can include (but are not limited to) sharing best practices, planning public forums/workshops as well as activities directly related to their particular ministries.
- There will be an annual opportunity for **Ministry Networks** to nominate someone from their network to be a candidate to the **Mission Council**. They can also apply for funding from the ECCT or apply for non-ECCT funding that may be available to their specific ministry.
- Current **Deaneries** that meet the definition of a Ministry Network can go forward as a **Ministry Network**.

Q. So how do we organize all of this?

A. Convocations!

- Each **Region** will have its own convocation; at least one of our Bishops and members of the TRECT-CT3 team will be present to facilitate.
- There will also be a **Convocation for Ministry Networks**.
- Each **Convocation** will be designed with the help of members from the Region to reflect the character and interests of the **Region**.
- The desired outcome for each convocation is for the Body of Christ in the **Region** to come together to begin to build a structure and organization that will enable them to catalyze, connect, convene and build capability in the worshipping communities, various ministries and people of the region. Specific goals for each convocation are to:
 - Begin to design an organization that will allow all the members to communicate and work together in God's mission. This structure will be designed by the **Region** and as such, will probably be very different from Region to Region.
 - Select initial members (one lay; one clerical) to serve on the **Mission Council**. Again, how these members are selected will and will vary from Region to Region.
 - Develop a job description for the **Region Missionary**; Region Missionaries should be selected, if at all possible, by July 1st.
- The TRECT-CT3 facilitators will provide tools to help the Regions meet these goals. Various examples of governance structures and human resources job descriptions will be provided.

Q. Who Should Come?

A. Everyone! Anyone and EVERY one active in a ministry or who is being nudged by the Holy Spirit. Wardens. Vestry Members. Priests. Don't limit your participation to the previously elected Deanery and Annual Convention Delegates. These Regions are brand new and will have a brand new way of operating.