



The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan

Pray + Learn + Serve + Grow

Diocesan Council

Purpose: The Diocesan Council serves as the governing authority of the diocese and administers the secular affairs of the diocese. It prepares and adopts the annual budget and manages the resources and real assets of the diocese, holding full powers over all property conveyed to the diocese in trust or otherwise. Diocesan Council may create commissions, task forces, and boards to carry out its work. Diocesan Council provides review, approval or disapproval of construction, sale, or encumbrance of properties held by congregations in trust for the diocese. Diocesan Council monitors compliance with requirements of the Church Pension Fund and works with congregations to meet pension fund obligations. Diocesan Council elects the Treasurer of the Diocese. The Bishop is President of the Council.

Terms and Makeup: The Council is comprised of the members of the Standing Committee, and six additional members elected separately: three clerical positions and three lay positions; one in each order is elected by Diocesan Convention to a three-year term. After two consecutive terms, an incumbent is ineligible to stand for reelection. In that case, a former member may stand for reelection after a year out of office.

Responsibilities: Members are expected to attend scheduled meetings. Meetings are tentatively scheduled on Fridays (subject to change based on availability of members), at 10:00am until adjournment, at the Diocesan Center. Some meetings are held online using Adobe Connect technology. Additionally, Committee members are expected to read materials forwarded to them in advance of meetings by diocesan staff and the Committee's officers. Committee members may be asked to serve on ad hoc or standing sub-committees as needed (such as the finance committee or personnel committee). Members are also expected to be present at annual and special conventions of the diocese.

Skills and knowledge*: Strong people skills, especially an ability to listen actively, ask questions, and understand subtext is important. Competency in email and word processing is necessary for communications and monthly work. Knowledge of governance of the Episcopal Church at varying levels; familiarity with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Diocese of Eastern Michigan (preferred, but not required); principles of non-profit board fiduciary responsibility; familiarity with the congregations, clergy, and ministries of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. Ability to maintain confidentiality of discussions involving sensitive pastoral concerns; to shift perspective from congregationally focused to diocesan focused as needed; to discuss and debate matters upon which reasonable adults may

disagree with an attitude of respect and dignity; to work on a team effectively; analytical thinking skills.

* This list should be considered as characteristic for the Council *as a whole*, and not be interpreted as a list of required skills and knowledge for each individual member to be effective.