

Anglican Polity

People

Q: Who are the ministers of the Church?

A: The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

Q: What is the ministry of the laity?

A: The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

Q: What is the ministry of a deacon?

A: The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments.

Q: What is the ministry of a priest or presbyter?

A: The ministry of a priest is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as pastor to the people; to share with the bishop in the overseeing of the Church; to proclaim the Gospel; to administer the sacraments; and to bless and declare pardon in the name of God.

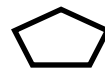
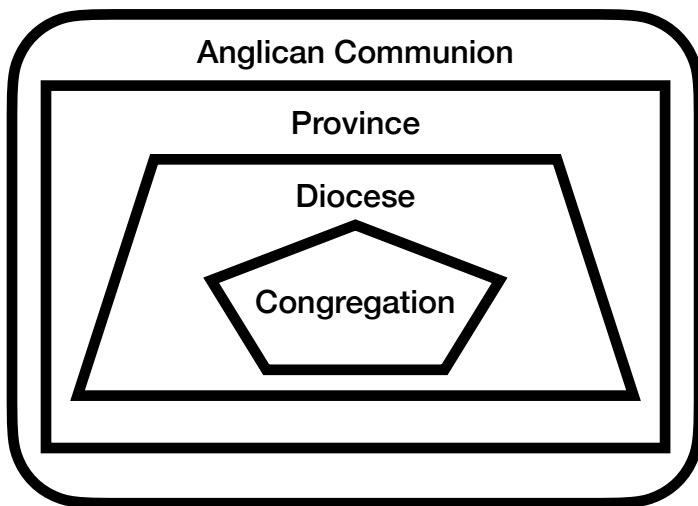
Q: What is the ministry of a bishop?

A: The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church; and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry.

From the Catechism on pages 855-856

The Book of Common Prayer. New York: Oxford University Press, 1979

Organizational Structures



Congregation (Savior)

- Rector
- Clergy & Staff
- Vestry
- Members



Diocese (C4SO)

- Bishop
- Executive Leadership Team
- Diocesan Convention



Province (ACNA)

- Primate: Archbishop / Presiding Bishop
- Provincial Tribunal
- Executive Committee
- College of Bishops
- Provincial Council
- Assembly



Anglican Communion

(Instruments of Unity / Communion)

- The Archbishop of Canterbury
- Primates' Meeting
- Lambeth Conference
- Anglican Consultative Council

Global Anglican Futures CONFERENCE (GAFCON)

Consists of 9 Provinces of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Church of North America (ACNA). The ACNA is a province in formation in the Anglican Communion but is recognized as a province by GAFCON.

Notes

Congregation (Church of the Savior)

- Rector
 - Oversees running the church by coordinating the clergy, staff, and vestry
 - Oversees church discipline
- Clergy
 - Makes decisions about the liturgy
 - Coordinates pastoral care
- Staff
 - Daily administration and running of the church ministries
- Vestry
 - Creates the budget and proposes bylaw changes
 - Gives council to the Rector
- Members
 - Elects vestry members
 - Approves budget and amendments to bylaws

Bylaws: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/599355e2bf629ad2be88553a/t/652154195d0d443c8aee03d3/1696683033686/*FINAL+UPDATED+MEMBERS-2023-Bylaws.pdf

Diocese (C4SO)

- Bishop
 - Todd Hunter
 - The ecclesiastical authority
- Executive Leadership Team
 - 10 people (half clergy, half laity)
 - Council to advise the bishop
 - Creates the budget and other administration
- Diocesan Convention
 - All Clergy & 2-6 Lay Delegates / congregation.
 - Approves budget, new Canons, and receiving congregations to be part of C4SO

Canons: <https://c4so.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/C4SO-Canons-Final.pdf>

Province (ACNA)

- Archbishop
 - Foley Beach Bishop of the Diocese of the South
 - Presides over running the Province
- Provincial Tribunal
 - Ecclesiastical court — rules on canon law
- Executive Committee
 - 12 people (half clergy and half laity)
 - Creates the budget and oversees administration
- College of Bishops
 - ≈ 50 members (All bishops in the province)
 - Oversees doctrine and worship
- Provincial Council
 - ≈ 120-140 people (2 clergy & 2 laity / diocese)
 - Approve budget
 - Elects members to Executive Committee
 - Recommends changes to the Canons
- Assembly
 - ≈ 250-300 people (laity, clergy, and youth)
 - Ratifies changes to the Canons

Constitution & Canons: <https://anglicanchurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/ACNA-Constitution-and-Canons-June-2019.pdf>

Structure Infographic: <https://anglicanchurch.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Structure-ACNA.pdf>

Anglican Communion

Independent churches (42 provinces) that have a common heritage in the Church of England

Instruments of Unity / Instruments of Communion

- The Archbishop of Canterbury
 - The Primate of the Church of England
 - Being in relationship with Canterbury is part of being an official Province
- Lambeth Conference
 - Meets every 10 years or so
 - Invitation is to most of the bishops in the communion.
- Primates' Meeting
 - Meets at varying intervals
 - Consists of all the Primates (Archbishops / Presiding bishops) of the various provinces
- Anglican Consultative Council
 - Meets about every 3 years
 - Consists of clergy and laity

<https://www.anglicancommunion.org/structures/instruments-of-communion.aspx>