

# Anglicanism 101

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What it means to be  
Anglican/Episcopalian

*St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church*

*Fall, 2007*

# Anglicanism 101

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- Identity
- Authority
- English Reformation
- Book of Common Prayer
- A New American Church
- Emphases:
  - Community
  - Pastoral/Spiritual Care
  - Mission/Work of the Church

# Week 5

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- American Church History
- Episcopalian/Anglican
- Organization
- Global and National Community

# American History = Episcopal History (sort of)

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## Before 1776

- No bishops; administered out of London
  - No confirmations, ordinations for 175 years
    - Needed to travel to London for either

## 1776: Independence

- Church could no longer swear loyalty to English King
  - Taxes could no longer support churches
  - Church structure and leaders needed to be decided upon
  - Who would consecrate new bishops?

# American Church after Revolution

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- First bishops went to Scotland, England to be consecrated (1784)
- Chosen name: Protestant Episcopal Church
  - Centrality of historic episcopate
    - Unlike most Protestant churches
  - Clearly not Roman

# New Century, New Church

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- Many BCP changes in 19<sup>th</sup> Century
  - Usually minor changes, additions
    - Later avoided changing prayerbook to avoid conflict
      - BCP needs approval at 2 triennial conventions
- High church thought low church had majority & vice versa
  - Prayerbook not changing but church was
  - Competition from Methodists, Baptists on frontier
    - Camp meetings, revivals popular among settlers

# Oxford movement: Tractarianism

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- 1830's: Beginning of serious study of liturgy, initially in England
- Radically changed worship: focus on neglected sacraments, practices
  - Ritualist wars of the 19th Century
    - High Church "ritualists"
    - Low Church "evangelicals"
    - Broad Church middle
  - Many practices of today began with this movement (Howe, pp. 76-77)

# Tractarian Heritage

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- Frontals, Eucharistic vestments
  - Vested choirs, acolytes
  - Cassocks, surplices replaced preaching gowns
- Candles, flowers in sanctuaries
- Communion tables now altars
- Crosses, crucifixes appear
- Divided chancels replaced central pulpits
- Epistle, Gospel read from opposite sides
- Bowing, genuflecting, sign of the cross

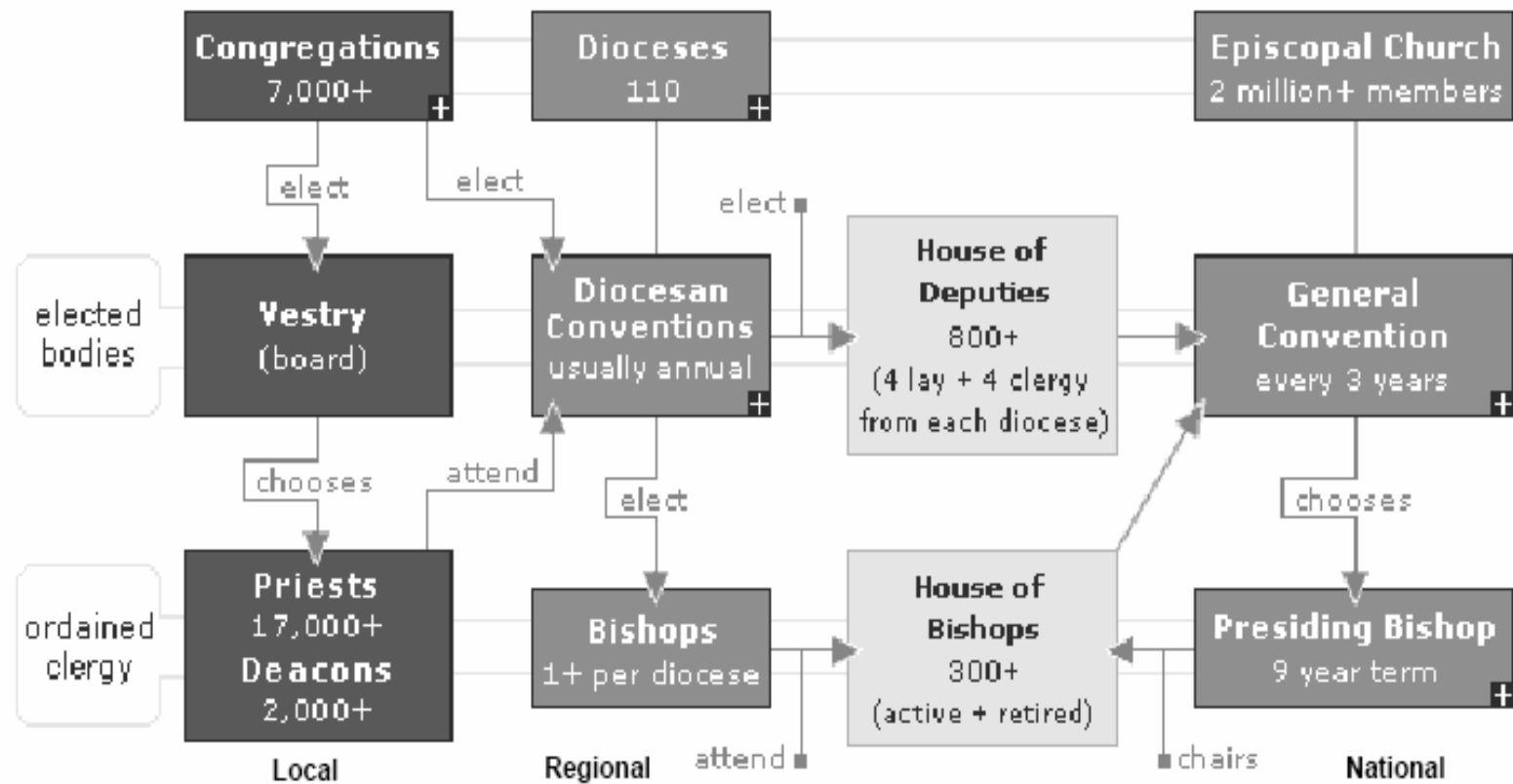


# Organization of the Church

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- ❑ Laity: *laos*: “the people” - all of the baptized
- ❑ Bishop: basic unit of the church
  - Gr.: *episkopos*: overseer
  - Elected by both lay and clergy
- ❑ Priest, deacon derivative of/ordained by bishops
  - Priest: presbyter/sacerdote – one who sacrifices
  - Deacon: servant
- ❑ Rector, vicar serve as bishop’s representative
- ❑ Vestry/Bishop’s Committee: lay representation
  - Anglican approach to congregational participation

# Basic Structure of the Episcopal Church

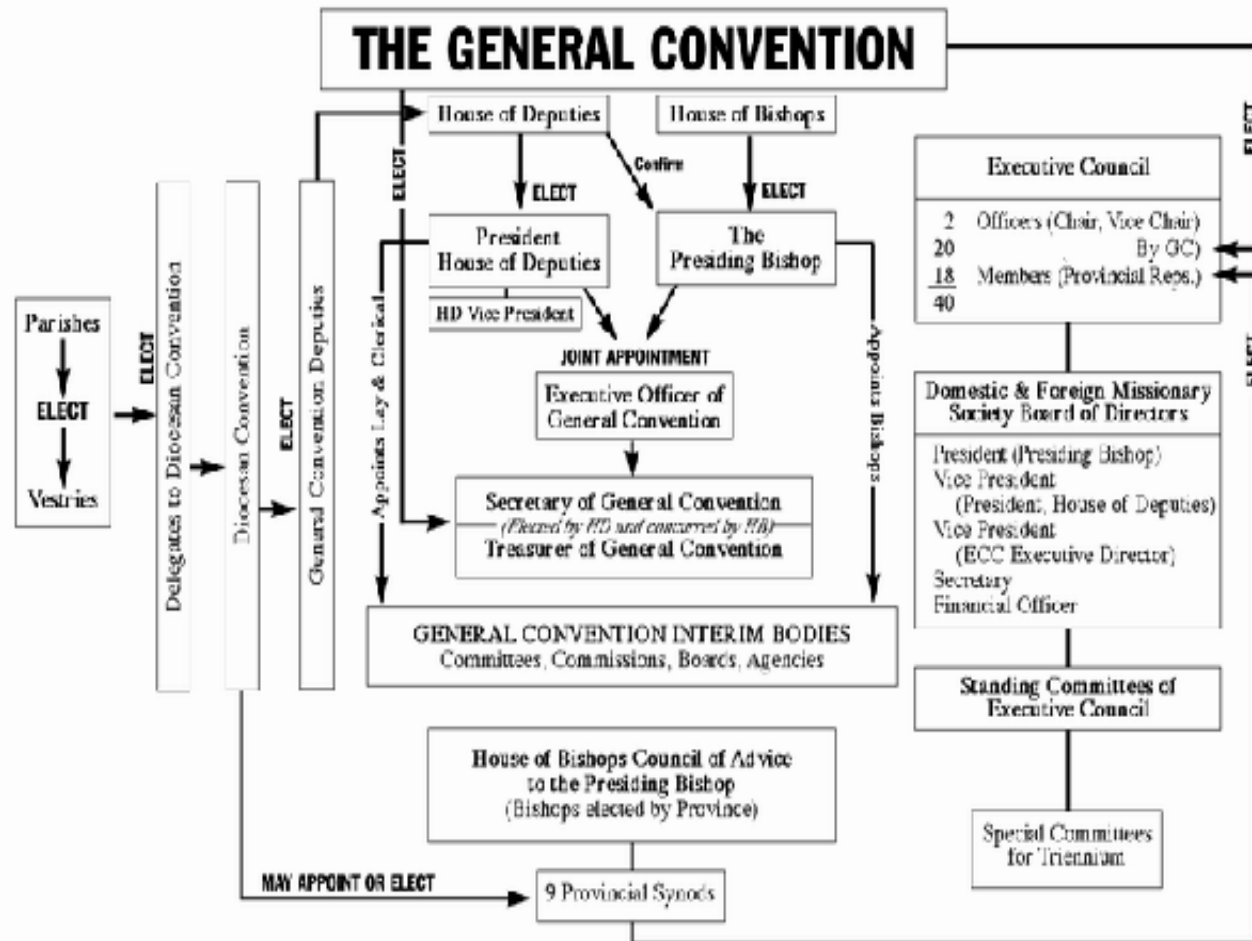


# How We Come Together

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- Lambeth Conference: every 10 years
  - Worldwide Anglican meeting at Canterbury
    - Archbishop of Canterbury: *spiritual* leader of Anglican Communion
      - Different focus than Pope over Roman Catholic Church
- General Convention: every 3 years
  - Episcopal Church USA = self-governing
    - House of Deputies: Lay and Clergy
    - House of Bishops: Bishops only
      - Legislation must pass both houses

# THE CANONICAL STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH



*General Convention Office  
as of November 25, 1997  
(Subject to Amendment)*

# Local Community

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- Middle way between clergy-led and congregational-led
- Diocesan Convention held each year
  - Diocese of Minnesota = whole state
  - Lay and clergy deputies from each parish and mission congregation
  - Resolutions passed which become standard for diocese and communities
- Additional roles for lay persons
  - Discernment of priests and deacons
  - Election of bishops
  - Eucharistic ministers, readers
  - Diocesan Standing Committee, others

# Sources

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- ❑ Edwards, David. *What Anglicans Believe*. Cincinnati: Forward Movement, 1996.
- ❑ Holmes, Urban T. III. *What Is Anglicanism?* Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse, 1982.
- ❑ Howe, Bp. John. *Our Anglican Heritage*. Elgin, IL: Cook, 1977.
- ❑ Hein, David, and Shattuck, Gardiner H. Jr. *The Episcopalians*. Westport, CT: Praeger, 2004.
- ❑ Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, available at <http://www.episcopal-dso.org/>