



The
EPISCOPAL CHURCH *in*
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA

Diocesan Leadership Role Description

The Diocesan Council for the Diocese of the Susquehanna

To effect the reunification of our two dioceses at this year's (2025) Diocesan Convention, each diocese will elect three clergy and three lay members to Council to create a membership as outlined, below.

Membership of the Council for the Diocese of the Susquehanna will include 12 members, six clergy and six lay; The Diocesan Bishop and Assistant Bishop, and The Diocesan Treasurer. The Chief Financial Officer and Chancellor shall serve as *ex officio* members. The Council shall elect a Secretary from among its members.

The duties of the Council will be to articulate the mission priorities of the diocese and shall annually communicate to the Convention for its consideration and approval of those priorities, together with programs and services to implement this strategy, setting these programs and services in an order of a priority and including criteria and standards for evaluating same.

The Council members will work with the Finance Committee to prepare and submit annually to the Convention for its consideration and approval a proposed operating budget for the diocese as well as a schedule of clergy compensation.

The Diocesan Council shall have the powers and duties to buy and sell real estate, securities and other investments, to receive, hold, administer, and properly dispose of all property, real and personal, which may be given, granted, conveyed, bequeathed, or transferred to the Diocese.

The Diocesan Council shall have a Finance Committee and may form any other Committees that it deems necessary to achieve its work. The Finance Committee shall monitor the financial affairs of the Diocese; shall provide for an annual audit of the Diocese; and shall recommend to the Diocesan Council the proper and prudent administration of such real or personal property as may have been granted to the corporation known as the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna, or any real or personal property designated for the use of the Episcopal Church in this Diocese. Such recommendations shall include recommendations for the approval of all investments or change in investments held by and under the control and supervision of the Diocese.

Meetings:

It is expected that the Council will meet monthly by Zoom with the possibility of an occasional in-person or hybrid meeting.

Qualifications and Eligibility to stand for election from the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania:

Members of the Council are to be Members in Good Standing of one of the parishes in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, have a general understanding of Episcopal polity, acumen for working collaboratively in a group focused on mission and resources, and availability to meet monthly.

Election for Deputies to the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church from The Diocese of the Susquehanna

To effect the reunification of our two dioceses, at this year's (2025) Diocesan Convention, each diocese will elect 4 clergy and 4 lay members to the General Convention Deputation to create a membership as outlined, below.

The Diocese of the Susquehanna will be represented by a deputation of eight: four clergy and four lay members elected at the 2025 Joint Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem and the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. The deputation will include four alternate clergy and four alternate lay members.

The election of four clergy and four lay persons from each diocese will yield two clergy to serve as deputies and two clergy to serve as alternates, and two lay persons to serve as deputies and two lay persons to serve as alternates. The distinction between deputy and alternate will be determined by the percentage of votes received.

If a deputy is unable to serve, they will be replaced with a deputy from the same predecessor diocese as the deputy who has withdrawn.

A Chair and a Vice Chair of the deputation, each from a different legacy diocese, shall be chosen by and from among those elected.

Qualifications: For the election in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, all clergy deputies must be canonically resident in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and in good standing. For the lay deputies, they must be Members in Good standing at one of the parishes in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.

Responsibilities and Expectations: The work of the Diocesan Deputation begins with preparation in months preceding the General Convention and may include online

committee work as assigned by the President of the House of Deputies. At the Convention, responsibilities include committee work; faithful, prayerful, and conscientious participation in plenary sessions, committee hearing and worship. Deputies will be asked to participate at the direction of the Diocesan Communications department in offering periodic updates back to the diocese during the course of Convention. Following Convention, the Deputation continues to inform and integrate the work of General Convention in the diocese.

Attending General Convention:

The 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church will be held in **Phoenix, Arizona June 23-28, 2027.**

The cost of deputies' registration, travel, hotel and expenses (at a per diem rate) will be covered by the Diocese of the Susquehanna for four deputies elected in each order as well as two alternates from each order.