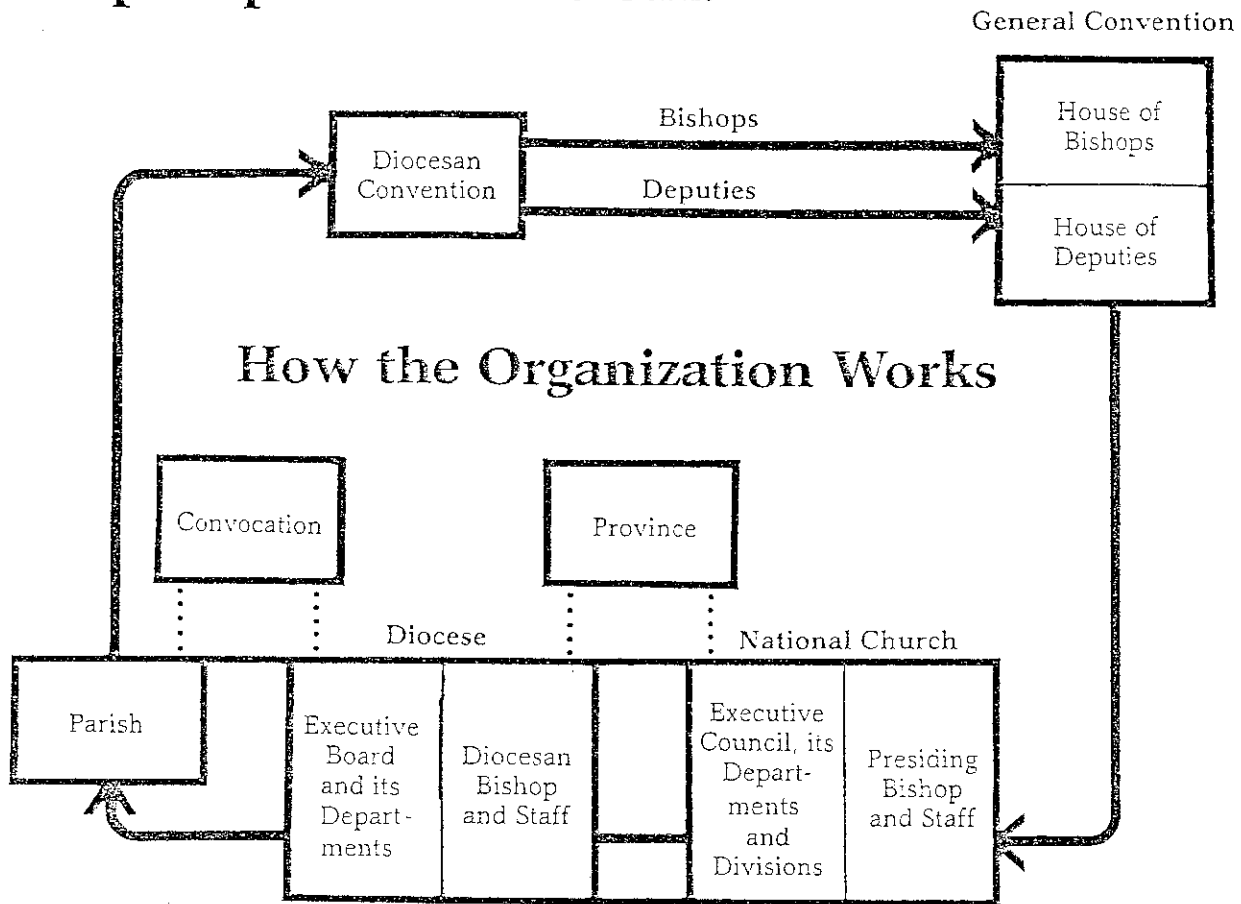


The Episcopal Church U.S.A.



THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION

The Anglican Communion consists of hundreds of dioceses scattered over the globe which, though they have no visible head, are all united in recognition of the Archbishop of Canterbury as their senior bishop; and though they legislate for themselves, still elect to be united in worldwide bonds of cooperation, communion and fellowship. The Anglican Consultative Council which meets every 2-3 years in various parts of the world, helps maintain that union, keeping before its member communions concerns through the medium of meeting and discussion, communication and research. Every ten years the Bishops of the Anglican Communion, at the behest of the Archbishop of Canterbury, gather for what is known as the Lambeth Conference, which though it has no legislative power, exerts worldwide influence in bringing the strength of the church to bear on important issues.

THE NATIONAL CHURCH AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The national headquarters of the Episcopal Church are located at 815 Second Avenue in New York City, familiarly known as "815". Here the staff of the various departments along with those attached to the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council have their offices. Here all administrative and missionary functions for the Episcopal Church both domestically and in its overseas jurisdictions, are carried out. The Executive Council, whose members are elected by province (one each) and by the General Convention, meets quarterly to consider matters pertaining to the General Convention's budget, missionary appointments, and many concerns relating to the functioning of the church and its role in society. The General Convention which meets every three years is the major decision

making body of the church whose presiding officer is the Presiding Bishop. The Presiding Bishop is the pastoral and administrative head of the Episcopal Church.

THE PROVINCE

Though it has no administrative status, the province serves as a geographical linkage for a group of dioceses for purposes of sharing, strengthening, affirming and, when deemed appropriate, taking concerted action. The Diocese of Texas is one of 12 dioceses in the Seventh Province. Six of these are in whole or part within the borders of the state of Texas; the others range from Western Missouri to Western Louisiana. They meet in synod every three years to elect a representative to Executive Council and to consider matters and concerns in common.