

CANONICAL STRUCTURE

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

A. Canonical Authority

1. The National Canons make no mention of "Bishop's Committees."
2. Our Diocesan Canons provide:

The Bishop's Committee ". . . shall represent the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in the final management of the Congregation." (Canon XI, Section 3)

B. Membership

1. In the Diocese of West Missouri, a Bishop's Committee consists of no fewer than three persons.
2. To be eligible to serve a person must:
 - Be an adult communicant of the congregation
 - Have contributed regularly to the support of that congregation
 - Be conscientiously attached to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church

C. Members are appointed by the Bishop

Bishop Committee members are appointed by the Bishop (Canon XI, Section 3) on an annual basis. The term of office is one year. Vacancies in the Bishop's Committee are filled by the Bishop.

D. Officers of the Bishop's Committee

The presiding officer of the Bishop's Committee is the Vicar (Canon XI, Section 4). "The Bishop shall appoint one member of the Committee as Warden, another member as Secretary, and another member as Treasurer." (Canon XI, Section 3)

E. Corporate Structure

Congregations are not incorporated. The civil corporation which acts on behalf of congregations is the Diocese of West Missouri:

Bishop	-	President
Secretary of Diocesan Convention	-	Secretary
Treasurer of the Diocese	-	Treasurer

In all contractual matters, e.g. real estate transactions, the Diocese of West Missouri and the Bishop of the Diocese serve as the corporation of record and the chief corporate officer, respectively.

F. Bishop's Committee Meetings

Bishop's Committee Meetings are called as needed by the chair of the Committee, i.e., the Vicar.

G. Committee Structure

The Vicar, as chair, is responsible for organizing the work of the Bishop's Committee, including the forming of committees of that body and of the congregation and the appointment of chairs and members thereof. The work of such committees is under the supervision and authority of the vicar.

H. Responsibility of the Bishop's Committee

The Bishop's Committee, together with the vicar, provide temporal and pastoral oversight of the mission and ministry of the congregation. The vicar and the Bishop's Committee are accountable directly to the Bishop.

THE VICAR

A. How selected

“The Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a Minister, who shall serve such congregation during the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority.” (Canon XI, Section 4).

B. Authority and Responsibility

The Bishop is the Rector of all congregations. The Vicar serves as the Bishop’s deputy and exercises all the authority and privileges of a rector. Thus the vicar is responsible for the organization and work of the Bishop’s Committee, and for the work of the congregation, including the appointment of committees, the naming of chairs thereof, and presiding as chair of the Bishop’s Committee.

C. Duties

- “The minister shall from time to time, appoint the sexton, organist, choir leader, Sunday School superintendent, and other helpers as may be necessary, and remove the same at will; and the minister shall be the ex-officio chair of the Committee “(Canon XI, Section 4).
- The vicar exercises control over the buildings of the congregation (National Canons - Title III, Canon 14, Section 1d).
- The vicar exercises final authority in administration of music in the congregation. (National Canons - Title II, Canon 6, Section 1).
- The vicar shall carry out all the responsibilities for the care of the congregation as outlined in Title III, Canon 14 of the Episcopal Church.

OTHER

A. Property of Congregations

- “The title to all property of a Congregation shall be vested in “The Diocese of West Missouri” a corporation.” (Canon XI, Section 5)
- “No gift or donation shall be accepted, nor any purchase made, for or by the Congregation, nor any location of a Church site effected, without the consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee” (Canon XI, Section 5)

B. Business Practices

- The Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs outlines the manner in which business affairs are to be conducted in congregations.