



Roles and Responsibilities

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President of the House of Deputies

PHoD

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Brief history and context of General Convention

- The first General Convention met in 1785 in Philadelphia and began work on a constitution and a revision of the Book of Common Prayer
- The Church's form of governance and pattern of worship was determined shortly thereafter and both endure to the present day
- General Convention is bicameral: it has two legislative houses
 - elected bishops make up one house (House of Bishops)
 - lay and ordained deputies (equally represented) make up the other house (House of Deputies)
- All bishops of TEC are entitled to seat, voice and vote in the House of Bishops
 - Some restrictions apply
- Each diocese may elect up to eight deputies to the House of Deputies: four lay persons and four priests and/or deacons
- The House of Bishops and House of Deputies meet, deliberate and vote separately
- Resolutions must pass both houses in the same language to be enacted
- The House of Bishops is chaired by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church
- The House of Deputies is chaired by the President of the House of Deputies

Office of the President of the House of Deputies

The office of the President of the House of Deputies (PHoD) is a non-stipendiary position that is held for the triennium between General Conventions and has a limit of three consecutive terms

- The PHoD is elected/re-elected at General Convention
 - Parishes elect vestries
 - Parishes/Vestries elect delegates to Diocesan Conventions
 - Diocesan Conventions elect General Convention Deputies
 - General Convention Deputies sit as the House of Deputies
 - House of Deputies elects President of the House of Deputies

Canonical duties of the President of the House of Deputies

The PHoD's canonical responsibilities include:

- Preside over the House of Deputies
- Appoint Deputies to Legislative Committees
- Determine additional legislative committees when necessary
- Appoint clerical and lay members of many Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards (CCAB's)
- Serve *ex officio* on all Standing Commissions
- Serve as Vice Chair of Executive Council
- Serve as Vice President of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS)
- Serve on the Agenda Committee for Executive Council
- Serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Planning & Arrangements for General Convention
- Appoint and preside over President's Council of Advice
- Work jointly with the Presiding Bishop to appoint: Executive Officer of the General Convention and the Financial Officer of Executive Council

Additional necessary activities of the PHoD

In addition to the PHoD's canonical duties, necessary activities include:

- Communicate with Deputies throughout triennium
- Meet and communicate regularly with the Presiding Bishop
- Consult with the Presiding Bishop on major staff appointments and issues as requested
- Maintain presence at Episcopal Church Center often in conjunction with other meetings
- As an *ex officio* member of all Standing Commissions, meet at least once with each Commission during the triennium