

**Episcopal Conference of the Deaf
CONSTITUTION**

PREAMBLE

The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf is a national incorporated association of Episcopal Church workers whose purpose is to spread the Gospel of Christ among deaf people. To do this effectively the ECD acts as a central clearing house concerning all aspects of work among deaf people. The ECD Encourages the establishment of missions, promotes recruitment, training and placement of qualified workers and assists in the expansion, growth and perpetuation of the Episcopal Church work among deaf people. It strives to present a united voice before the bishops and the whole church concerning the work among deaf people and to assist church workers to better serve God and His Church, both spiritually and temporally.

ARTICLE I: DESIGNATION

SECTION I: This Constitution shall be designated for, and pertain to, that organization within the Episcopal Church in the United States of America known as the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf, incorporated March 19, 1930, in accordance with status law in the District of Columbia and hereafter referred to as the ECD.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I: The membership of the ECD shall consist of clergy members, lay members, and honorary members.

SECTION II: The membership shall be divided into two Houses.

- a. House of Delegates shall consist of two groups: clergy and lay missionaries who are actively serving deaf congregations or have been designated by their bishop to be the Missioner to the Deaf in their diocese; and lay delegates who have been so designated by their congregations or lay delegates who have been officially designated by a regional/provincial Episcopal associations of deaf person, according to the procedure described in the by-laws.
- b. House of Assembly shall consist of all clergy and lay members as described in the by-laws other than those who qualify for membership in the House of Delegates.

SECTION III: Lay members shall be active communicants of the Episcopal Church (baptized members who have received Communion at least three times in a calendar year) admitted to membership in the ECD according to eligibility as defined by the by-laws.

SECTION IV: Clergy members shall be ordained clergy or lay missionaries in good standing in the Episcopal Church admitted to ECD membership according to eligibility as defined by the by-laws.

SECTION V: Honorary membership may be conferred upon any person by majority vote at any ECD Convention.

ARTICLE III: CONVENTIONS

SECTION I: There shall be a Convention of the ECD each year except in the years a General Convention is held.

SECTION I: The officers of the ECD shall be President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Only clergy of the Episcopal Church shall be eligible for the offices of President and First Vice President. All officers and candidates for the Board shall be members of the ECD.

SECTION II: Officers and Board members-at-large shall be elected every third year at the ECD Convention. The vote shall be by marked ballot and by Houses. A concurrent majority of the votes cast by each House shall be necessary to a choice. The tenure of the President shall be limited to two consecutive three year terms. He/she shall be eligible to any other office after the two terms, and could be elected to the Presidency again three years following the expiration of his/her two previous terms. The other Board members shall hold office until their successors are elected. Continuation in office in all cases shall depend on the continuation of membership in the ECD.

SECTION III: In the event of a vacancy occurring between Conventions, the Board of Directors shall act to fill each vacancy, following conditions outlined in Article IV, Sections I and II. The next Convention shall fill the office for the remainder of the term. The following exceptions shall be made in the event of a vacancy: the First Vice President shall succeed to the office of President for the remainder of the term; if the Second Vice President is a member of the clergy, he/she shall then succeed to the office of First Vice President for the remainder of the term.

SECTION IV: The President shall

- a. Serve as chair of the Board of Directors and as *ex officio* member of all committees which he/she shall appoint as directed by the Convention or with advice of the Board of Directors.
- b. Have authority to call special meetings of the Board of Directors

SECTION V: The First Vice President

- a. Assist the President in the dispatch of the business of the ECD in its Conventions and in the program between Conventions
- b. In the absence or illness of the President, preside at the Convention and carry out the duties that pertain to the office of President

SECTION VI: Second Vice President

- a. Share in the program and work of the officers of the ECD, and perform such duties as shall be designated by the President
- b. In the event of a vacancy in the office of First Vice President between Conventions, carry out the duties that pertain to the office of First Vice President.

SECTION VII: The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursement of monies confided to his/her custody, comply with all regulations imposed upon such office by Canon Law of the Episcopal Church, and shall pay all bills authorized by ECD in convention or approved by the Board of Directors between Conventions.

SECTION VIII: The Secretary shall take all minutes of the ECD Conventions and meetings of the Board of Directors and attend to all correspondences that relate to the Conventions or work of the ECD.

SECTION IX: Each officer shall discharge all other duties that generally pertain to his/her office or as specified in the Constitution and by-laws of the ECD or as set forth in Canon Law by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION I: The Board of Directors shall consist of officers and two members-at-large who have been elected in accordance with the provisions of Article IV, sections I and II above.

SECTION II: The officers of the Board of Directors shall be the corresponding officers elected by the Convention of the ECD.

SECTION III: The affairs of the ECD between Convention shall be under the direction, management, and control of the Board of Directors.

SECTION IV: The Board of Directors shall have authority to make by-laws for its own government and to amend and alter the same, provided, however, that such by-laws do not conflict with the Constitution and by-laws of the ECD.

SECTION V: The Board of Directors shall hold meetings at the call of

- a. The President at such times and places as may be deemed expedient and necessary, or
- b. By the Secretary upon the written request of three members of the Board. The Secretary then shall notify members of the Board as to the time and place of the meeting.

SECTION VI: At any meeting of the Board of Directors called by the procedure given in Section V (b), the First Vice President shall preside; but in the event of his/her absence, the Second Vice President shall preside.

SECTION VII: No business shall be transacted at meetings of the Board of Directors unless a quorum of members is present. A quorum shall be constituted when there is present a majority of the membership of the Board.

ARTICLE VI: FISCAL YEAR

SECTION I: The Fiscal Year shall be January 1 through December 31.

ARTICLE VII: DISSOLUTION

SECTION I: In the event the ECD votes to dissolve, all monies in the treasury shall be transferred to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church to be used for Christian work among deaf people.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS

SECTION I: The Constitution of the ECD may be amended or altered by a two-thirds vote at any Convention of the ECD, provided that all proposed amendments or alterations to this Constitution be submitted in writing to the Law Committee, appointed by the Board of Directors and approved by the Convention, at least thirty (30) days before the next scheduled Convention convenes. No original amendments shall be submitted from the floor.

SECTION II: In all cases in which this Constitution is found to be in variance with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, the article(s) in question shall be amended to agree in substance and meaning with the policy and Canon Law of the Church.

As revised through the 2008 ECD Convention.