



Acronyms that you might hear and what they mean

Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) The role of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) is to facilitate the cooperative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, to exchange information between the Anglican Provinces and churches, and to help to coordinate common action. It advises on the organization and structures of the Anglican Communion, and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the Church, including ecumenical matters. The ACC membership includes one to three people elected from each Anglican Province. Where there are three members, there is a bishop, a priest and a lay person. Where fewer members are appointed, preference is given to lay membership.

The ACC is one of the four Instruments of Communion that serves the worldwide family of Anglican/Episcopal churches, with the Archbishop of Canterbury being the “Focus for Unity.” They are:

- The Archbishop of Canterbury in his international role as primus inter pares, the senior bishop in the Anglican Communion
- The Lambeth Conference (which usually meets every 10 years for the bishops of the Anglican Communion; its first meeting was held in 1867)
- The Primates Meetings (which are regular meetings for the senior archbishops and bishops of the 38 Provinces, who first met in 1979)
- The Anglican Consultative Council (which meets every three years or so, and includes bishops, clergy and laity as members appointed by the 38 provinces of the Communion. It first met in 1971.)

The ACC is the only one of the four Instruments of Communion that includes lay representation. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Ian Douglas (Diocese of Connecticut), the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings (Diocese of Ohio), and Rosalie Simmonds Ballantine, Esq.



(Diocese of the Virgin Islands), are the elected members of ACC for the Episcopal Church.

In January 2011, Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori was re-elected for a second three-year term to the Anglican Communion Primates' Standing Committee representing Central, North and South Americas, and the Caribbean.

For more information: [Anglican Consultative Council](#); Public Affairs Office: [Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Jefferts Schori elected to Anglican Communion Primates Standing Committee](#); Episcopal News Service: [Presiding bishop re-elected to Primates Standing Committee](#)

Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE) Since its establishment in 2003, Anglican Women's Empowerment has been working for gender justice, as well as the empowerment of women and girls, in the church and the world. Seeking to be faithful to the Gospel, AWE gathers and connects women from the Episcopal Church and throughout the Anglican Communion in order to share resources and opportunities to help serve the vulnerable in our society. For more information: [Anglican Women's Empowerment](#)

Archbishop of Canterbury (ABC) The primate of the Church of England who is recognized by Anglicans throughout the world as the spiritual head of the Anglican Communion. The current Archbishop of Canterbury is the Most Rev. Justin Welby. He was named 105th Archbishop of Canterbury on November 9, 2012 and enthroned on March 21, 2013. For more information: [The Archbishop of Canterbury](#), [Anglican Communion web site](#); [The Archbishop of Canterbury](#)

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Found in all Episcopal churches, and the basis of our worship service. For more information: [Book of Common Prayer](#)

The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory (BSG) A Christian Community of The Episcopal Church, its Communion Partners, and the worldwide Anglican Communion, whose members follow a common rule and serve the church on



parochial, diocesan, and national levels. Members — clergy and lay, without regard to marital status — live individually, in small groups, or with their families. They support themselves and the community through their secular or church-related work, making use of their God-given talents in the world while not being of the world. The trust that all labor and life can be sanctified is summed up in the community's motto: *Soli Deo Gloria*, To God Alone the Glory. For more information: [The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory](#)

Church Pension Group (CPG) Serves the clergy, lay employees and their families, parishes, dioceses, and other institutions of the Episcopal Church by providing comprehensive retirement, health, and life insurance benefits and other programs and services as approved by the General Convention and the Board of Trustees. For more information: [Church Pension Group](#)

Church Publishing Inc. (CPI) This official organization produces prayer books, hymnals, and other titles mandated by the General Convention through the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. In addition, Church Publishing carries works on liturgy, music, homiletics, church history, liturgical theology, Anglican spirituality, contemporary global Anglicanism, and emerging issues, as well as recorded music and a growing list of software products and online services. For more information: [Church Publishing, Inc.](#)

Clergy Reflection, Education, Discernment Opportunity (CREDO) An Episcopal organization that promotes clergy and lay wellness through annual conferences that focus on further vocational discernment. For more information: [CREDO](#)

Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC) Formed as a worldwide association of Anglican colleges and universities of higher education as a result of an International Conference of representatives assembled at Canterbury in 1993. For more information: [Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion](#)



Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards (CCABs) Interim bodies that carry out the work of General Convention between Conventions: Executive Council, Standing Committees of Executive Council, Standing Commissions of the General Convention, Committees of Executive Council and Task Forces, Agencies and Boards. For more information: [Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards; Episcopal Church Structure and Organization](#)

Daughters of the King (DOK) The Daughters of the King is an order for lay women in the Episcopal Church. Daughters live by a Rule of Life, which includes prayer and service in their parishes and communities. For more information: [Daughters of the King](#)

Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) The missionary organization and corporate body of the Episcopal Church. The constitution of the missionary society was first adopted by the special General Convention of 1821 and incorporated by the New York State legislature. In 1877 the constitution of the society was enacted as a canon of the General Convention. This canon was amended in 1919 to provide for the Presiding Bishop and Council (now Executive Council) to be the directors of the society and to administer its work. For more information: [Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society](#)

Education For Ministry (EFM) A popular four-year theological course for lay people. For more information: [Education for Ministry](#)

Episcopal Church and Visual Arts (ECVA) A national organization with chapters in many dioceses that promotes and encourages the work of artists in the Episcopal Church. ECVA is known for its online exhibits. For more information: [Episcopal Church and Visual Arts](#)

Episcopal Church Building Fund (ECBF) An independent 501(c)3 organization, Episcopal Church Building Fund empowers congregations to enhance their mission through the strategic, resourceful, and creative use of their buildings. For more information: [Episcopal Church Building Fund](#)



Episcopal Church Women (ECW) An organization that strives to support all women in the church in their ministries. ECW was first organized in 1871 as the Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions. For more information: [National Episcopal Church Women](#)

Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD) A group of deaf and hearing people who worship God together in the Episcopal tradition. For more information: [Episcopal Conference of the Deaf](#)

Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) Refugees have survived some of the most dire and difficult circumstances imaginable, fleeing their countries to escape persecution, oppression, and war. Through its network of 30 affiliates in 27 dioceses, Episcopal Migration Ministries welcomes and resettles refugees to peaceful homes and hopeful futures in the United States, partnering with faith groups, volunteers, community organizations, and many other local supporters to build a foundation for success for these new Americans. For more information: [Episcopal Migration Ministries](#)

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) An organization that supports and encourages those who recognize and promote the importance of stewardship in their own communities and parishes. For more information: [TENS](#)

Episcopal News Service (ENS) Offers in-depth reporting and analysis of local, regional, national, and international news for Episcopalians and others interested in the church's mission and ministry. Providing written and multimedia coverage, Episcopal News Service is the officially sponsored online news source of the Episcopal Church. For more information: [Episcopal News Service](#)

Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) Remains a popular and well-attended annual event geared toward youth in grades 9-12 and their adult leaders. For more information: [Youth Ministries](#)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) The Episcopal Church is in full communion with ELCA. For more information: [The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#)



Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Governance and Administration for Mission (GAM) A subcommittee of Executive Council, this committee focuses on administration and governance on an internal level: internal board issues, board (Executive Council) governance, accountability, structural issues, communications, Human Resources policies, strategic planning, relationships with other Episcopal Church bodies such as Archives, and a relationship with the General Convention Office. For more information: [Executive Council Joint Standing Committee on Governance and Administration for Mission](#)

General Convention (GC) The main governing body of The Episcopal Church that meets every three years. The General Convention is made up of two houses: the House of Bishops (HOB) and the House of Deputies (HOD), which present, consider, modify, and ratify resolutions that direct the work of the church for the next three years. The 2012 General Convention was held in July in Indianapolis, Indiana. In 2015, General Convention will be held June 25-July 3 in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information: [General Convention](#)

Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) Girls age 5 to 21 can be members of this parish-based Episcopal society that has been around for over 130 years. Much like the Girl Scouts, the Society helps guide girls through the first part of their lives with an emphasis on worship and service. For more information: [Girls' Friendly Society](#)

The House of Bishops (HOB) One of two governing bodies at General Convention, this group is comprised of the bishops of The Episcopal Church. For more information: [House of Bishops](#)

The House of Deputies (HOD) One of two governing bodies at General Convention, this group is comprised of elected clergy and lay representatives from all the Episcopal Church dioceses. For more information: [House of Deputies](#)

La Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America (IARCA) Includes Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama, Guatemala, and El Salvador, and its 18th-century origins are based on their relationships with the Church of England and the



Episcopal Church. For more information: [La Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America](#)

Journey to Adulthood (J2A) A youth ministry program for 6th to 12th graders. J2A emphasizes rites of passage (see Rite 13), Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Used in many Episcopal parishes. For more information: [J2A](#)

Lift Every Voice and Sing (LEVAS) This hymnal is a collection of 280 musical pieces from both the African American and Gospel traditions. It includes service music and several psalm settings, in addition to the Negro spirituals, gospel songs, and hymns. For more information: [Lift Every Voice and Sing II](#)

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Not technically a “church term,” MDGs stands for Millennium Development Goals, which were adopted by the United Nations in 2001 in an effort to eradicate global poverty by 2015. The Episcopal Church widely supports the MDGs, both in parishes and through such organizations as Episcopal Relief & Development (see Episcopal Relief & Development). For more information: [MDGs](#)

National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) An independently incorporated, voluntary membership organization, it supports, serves, and advocates for the vital work and ministry of those who serve 1,000 Episcopal schools and Early Childhood Education programs. For more information: [National Association of Episcopal Schools](#)

National Episcopal AIDS Coalition (NEAC) Formed in 1988. Today, as AIDS continues to spread in spite of treatment breakthroughs, NEAC continues to provide support for HIV and AIDS ministries across the Episcopal Church. For more information: [National Episcopal AIDS Coalition](#)

National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM) Serves health ministers who promote health and healing within Episcopal congregations, Episcopal clergy, and Episcopal dioceses and provinces. National Episcopal Health Ministries serves by educating leaders for Episcopal health ministry and parish nursing; supporting those engaged in health ministry in Episcopal congregations through membership



opportunities; providing resources to local congregations, dioceses, and provinces; and collaborating with other faith communities, institutions, and health organizations. For more information: [National Episcopal Health Ministries](#)

President of the House of Deputies (PHOD) Each General Convention, the House of Deputies elects a president and vice president. In 2012, the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings was elected president. Jennings is the first ordained woman to hold the post. In addition to presiding over the House of Deputies when it is in session, the President of the House of Deputies serves as vice-chair of the Executive Council and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, appoints clergy and lay members to standing committees and commissions and other church-wide bodies, and serves as an ambassador and advocate for work that carries out the resolutions of General Convention. For more information: [President of the House of Deputies](#)

Presiding Bishop (PB) The Presiding Bishop is the head bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church. Elected at General Convention for a nine-year term, the Presiding Bishop presides over the House of Bishops and represents the Episcopal Church at meetings of the primates of the Anglican Communion and other international gatherings. The Presiding Bishop is the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori. For more information: [Presiding Bishop](#)

Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) The set of Biblical readings appointed for use by the church throughout the year. For more information: [Lectionary](#)

Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) Founded in the parish of Cowley in Oxford, England, by the Rev. Richard Meux Benson in 1866. SSJE was the first stable religious community of men to be established in the Anglican Church since the Reformation. The order came to Boston in 1870. The Brothers of the North American Congregation live at the Monastery in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Brothers live under a Rule of Life and, at profession, make vows of poverty, celibacy, and obedience. For more information: [Society of St. John the Evangelist](#)

Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) The Standing Commission shall: (i) Discharge such duties as shall be assigned to it by the



General Convention as to policies and strategies concerning the common worship of this Church. (ii) Collect, collate and catalogue material bearing upon possible future revisions of the Book of Common Prayer. (iii) Cause to be prepared and to present to the General Convention recommendations concerning the Lectionary, Psalter, and offices for special occasions as authorized or directed by the General Convention or House of Bishops. (iv) Recommend to the General Convention authorized translations of the Holy Scripture from which the Lessons prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer are to be read. (v) Receive and evaluate requests for consideration of individuals or groups to be included in the Calendar of the Church year and make recommendations thereon to the General Convention for acceptance or rejection. (vi) Collect, collate, and catalogue material bearing upon possible future revisions of The Hymnal 1982 and other musical publications regularly in use in this Church and encourage the composition of new musical materials. (vii) Cause to be prepared and present to the General Convention recommendations concerning the musical settings of liturgical texts and rubrics, and norms as to liturgical music and the manner of its rendition. (viii) At the direction of the General Convention, serve the Church in matters pertaining to policies and strategies concerning Church music. For more information: [Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music](#)

The Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) A national group representing African American clergy and laity in the Episcopal Church. For more information: [UBE](#)

The United Thank Offering (UTO) A fundraising and grant-making program begun more than 100 years ago by the Women's Auxiliary. UTO provides grants to churches and institutions in the United States and throughout the Anglican Communion. For more information: [UTO](#)

Young Adult Service Corps (YASC) A ministry for those interested in exploring their faith in new ways by living and serving in communities around the Anglican Communion. YASC offers young adults a unique opportunity to be an active part of what God is doing in the world. For more information: [Young Adult Service Corps](#)



Adapted from “It’s All Greek To Me” which first appeared in The Episcopal New Yorker,
December 2005.