



ALL ABOUT MORE THAN IT'S ALL ABOUT

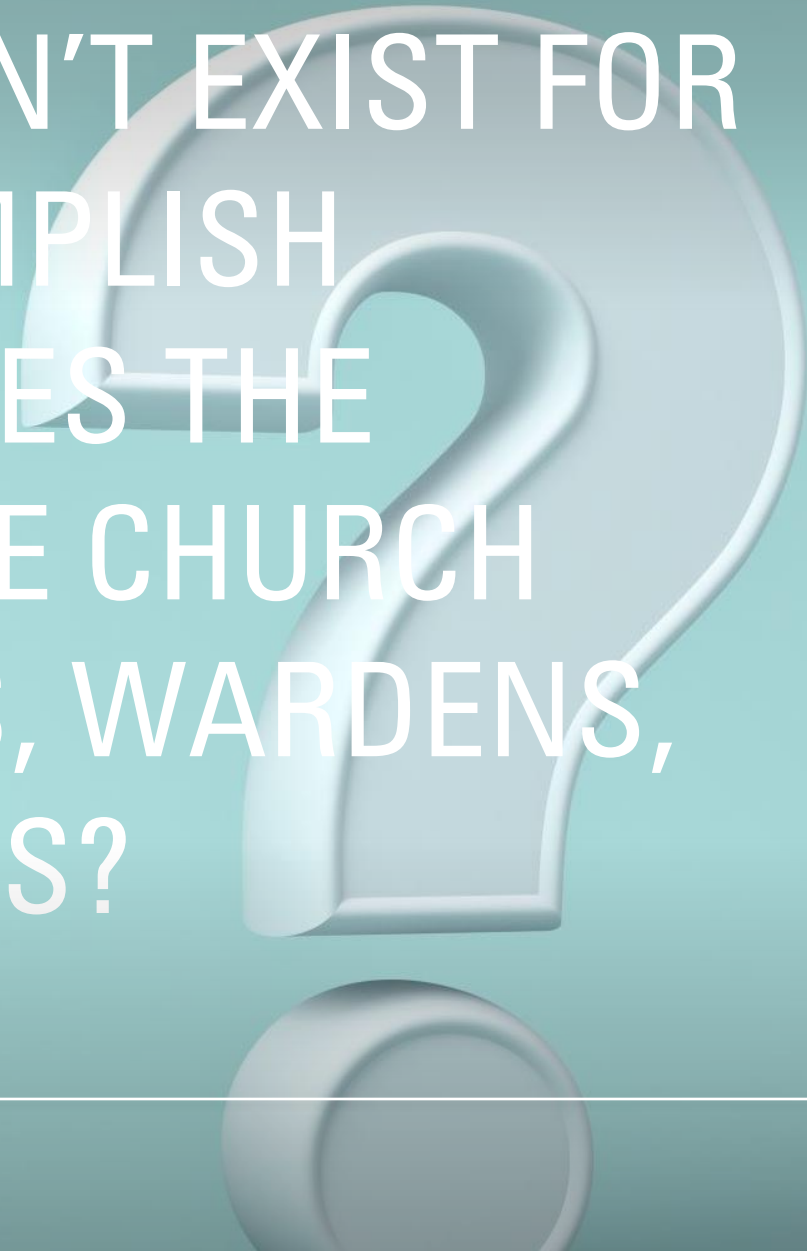
Webinar on
Vestries, Wardens
and Parish Councils

ORGANIZATION: MEANS TO AN END OR JUST THE END

- In his book *Harvest of Humanity*, John Seamands tells this story: "A German soldier was wounded. He was ordered to go to the military hospital for treatment. When he arrived at the large and imposing building, he saw two doors, one marked, 'For the slightly wounded,' and the other, 'For the seriously wounded.'"
- "He entered through the first door and found himself going down a long hall. At the end of it were two more doors, one marked, 'For officers', and the other, 'For non-officers.' He entered through the latter and found himself going down another long hall. At the end of it were two more doors, one marked, 'For party members' and the other, 'For non-party members.' He took the second door, and when he opened it he found himself out on the street."
- "When the soldier returned home, his mother asked him, 'How did you get along at the hospital?' 'Well, Mother,' he replied, 'to tell the truth, the people there didn't do anything for me, but you ought to see the tremendous organization they have!'"

AT THE END OF THE STORY
ALL HE COULD CONCLUDE
WAS, "WHAT A GREAT
ORGANIZATION IT WAS" ..
.NOT WHAT A GREAT
ORGANIZATION HAD
ACCOMPLISHED FOR HIM ..
. IT REALLY DIDN'T SERVE
ANY LARGER PURPOSE

ORGANIZATION DOESN'T EXIST FOR
ITSELF BUT TO ACCOMPLISH
SOMETHING! WHY DOES THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE CHURCH
EXIST? WHY VESTRIES, WARDENS,
AND PARISH COUNCILS?



**IT'S ABOUT
SPREADING THE
GOSPEL OF JESUS
CHRIST!**

It's all about more than
than it's all about!

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING IN THE SCRIPTURES:

- “Now at that time while the disciples were increasing, complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food” (Acts 6:1)
 - “So the twelve summoned the disciples and said . . . Select from you seven good men of reputation . . . “ The First Deacons (6:5)
 - “And the Word of God kept on spreading, and the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem and a great many priest were becoming obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7)
 - The Problem
 - Organization Solution with right intent
 - Gospel Growth
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AND IT HAPPENS AGAIN . . . IN ACTS 15

- “Some men came down from Judea and began teaching that, ‘Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you are not saved” (Acts 15:1)
 - “The apostles and elders came to look into this matter” (15:6). The Jerusalem Council . . . The Church’s first General Council.
 - “When they read it [the decision of the council] they rejoiced because of its encouragement” (15:31)
 - Problem
 - Organizational Solution
 - Problem solves, people rejoice, the church grows . . . Happy churches grow!
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AND SO IT'S THE STORY OF
THE BIRTH, GROWTH AND
CONTINUATION OF THE
CHURCH IN THE BOOK OF
ACTS: PROBLEM,
ORGANIZATION, FURTHER
ADVANCEMENT OF THE
GOSPEL . . . SO IT SHOULD
BE FOR US!

CHURCH ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES ARE ALL ABOUT MORE THAN THEY ARE ALL ABOUT!

They ought not exist as an end in and of themselves . . . But they exist to grow the Kingdom of God, facilitate ministry, and reach people for Jesus Christ!

AT EVERY MEETING AT EVERY
LEVEL OF THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE CHURCH WE NEED TO
BEGIN AND END WITH ONE
QUESTION: HOW IS WHAT
WE'RE DOING TODAY
GROWING THE KINGDOM,
FACILITATING MINISTRY, AND
HELPING PEOPLE WITH THE
GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST?

**BEGIN EVERY
MEETING OF ANY
KIND WITH YOUR
MISSION
STATEMENT!**

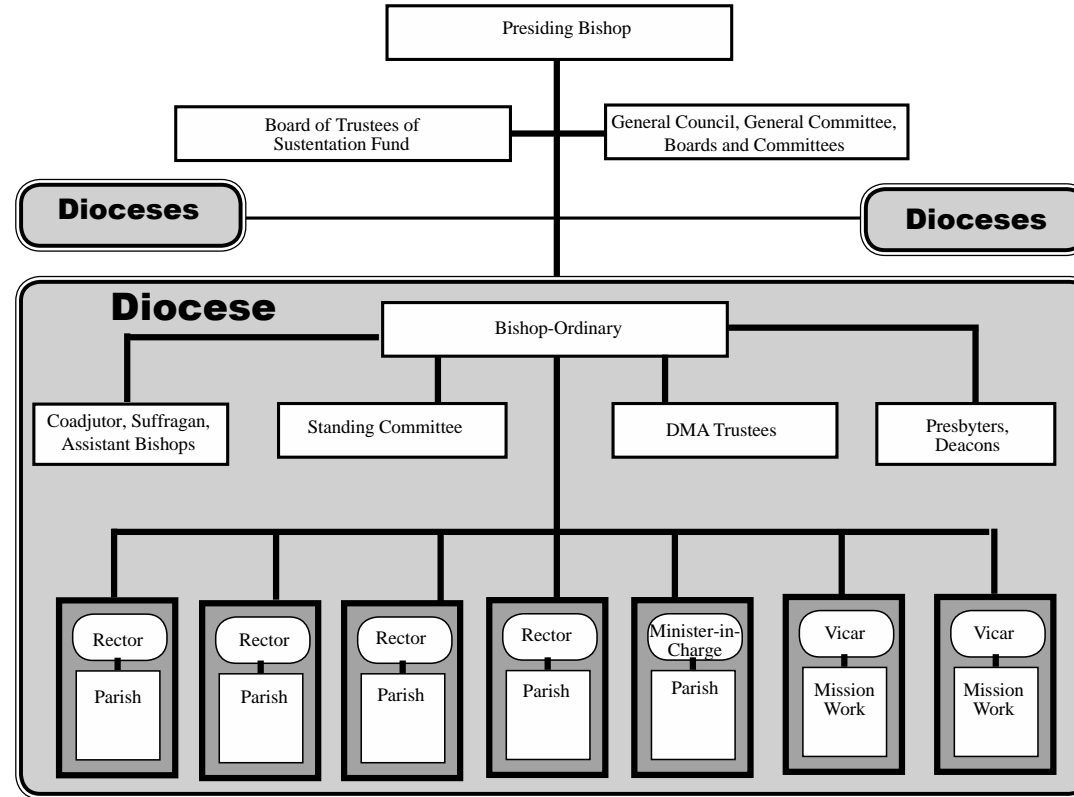


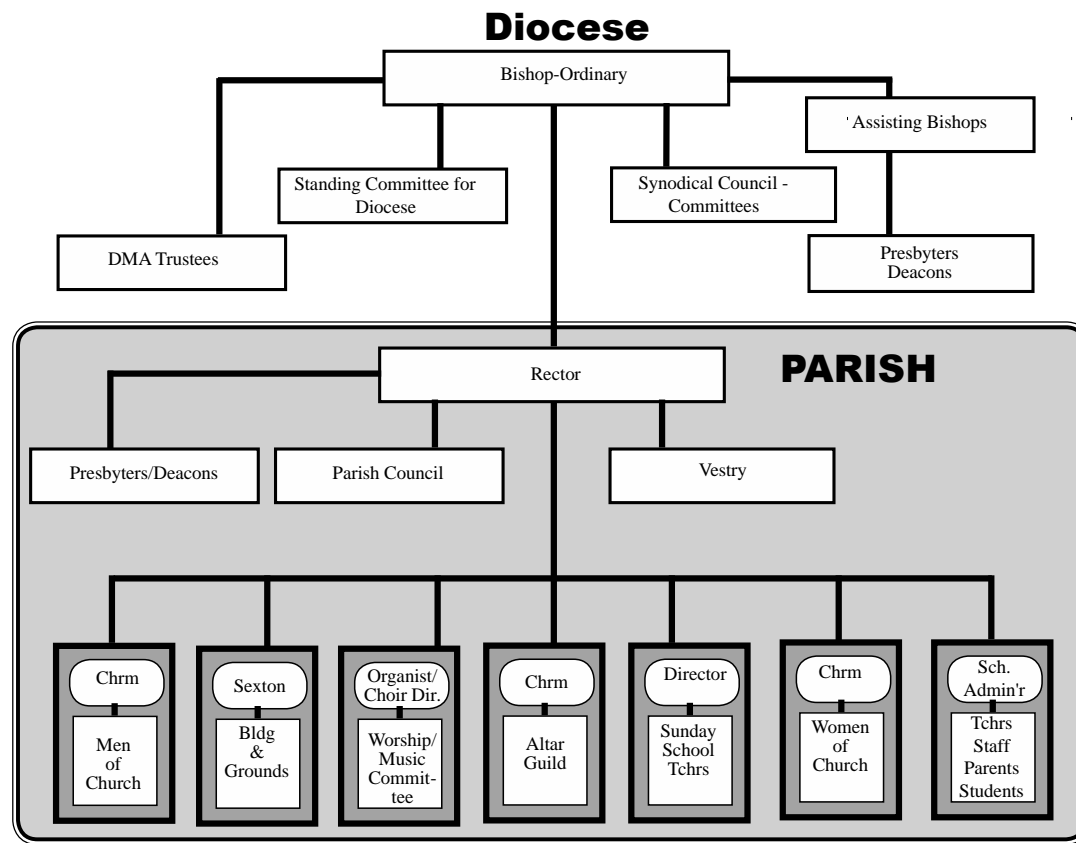
HOW IT WORKS OUT WITHIN THE HIERARCHICAL STRUCTURE OF ANGLICANISM

The Anglican Hierarchy is top down and bottom up!

- It's not exclusively top down like other catholic and protestant systems . . .
 - It's not exclusively bottom up like congregationalist systems . . .
 - It's a both/and with bishops in elected by people, consecrated by historic bishop in succession to the apostles, who are constitutionally bound, and who work pastorally within the consensus of clergy and laity
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Reformed Episcopal Church (member ACNA)





Other Ministries: Benevolence Fund; Evangelism/Outreach; Hospitality; Counseling, Daycare, etc...
 Ideally, every parish member ought to be involved with at least one ministry for the parish.

THREE KEY WORDS ABOUT ANGLICAN ORGANIZATION & STRUCTURE TO KEEP IN MIND:

- Conciliarity
 - The church exists in council with all of its parts . . . In a symmetry at each level.
 - The parts work with, not apart from the whole . . . The whole works with not apart from the parts . . . Clergy and laity working together to grow the kingdom, facilitate ministry, and help people come to Jesus Christ.
 - “The principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary function performing only those tasks which cannot be performed at a local level” Oxford English Dictionary.
 - Consensus
 - Subsidiarity
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The organizational parts do not exist as an end in and of themselves . . . But they exist to grow of the Kingdom of God, facilitate ministry, and reach people for Jesus Christ!

**CHURCH
ORGANIZATIONAL
STRUCTURES ARE
ALWAYS TO BE . . . ALL
ABOUT MORE THAN
THEY ARE ALL ABOUT!**

“THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS IS NOT REALLY JUST BEING ABLE TO MAKE A LIVING FOR PEOPLE, AND MAKE MORE MONEY, AND GO PUBLIC, AND ALL THOSE KINDS OF THINGS. BUT IT’S ACTUALLY THE POSSIBILITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.”

SO IT IS IN THE CHURCH . . . ORGANIZATION IS ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD WITH THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST . . . ALWAYS ABOUT MORE THAN IT’S ABOUT!

Eileen Fisher, Founder and CEO of Eileen Fisher
