

## Episcopal Conference of the Deaf

### CONSTITUTION

#### PREAMBLE

The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf is a national association of Episcopal Church workers whose purpose is to spread the Gospel of Christ among ~~d~~Deaf people. To do this effectively the ECD acts as a central clearing house concerning all aspects of work among ~~d~~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 ~~d~~Deaf people. It strives to present a united voice before the bishops and the whole church concerning the work among ~~d~~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 and lay members, ~~and honorary members.~~

SECTION II: The membership of the ECD shall be ~~divided into two Houses~~ considered the House of Assembly.

- a. House of ~~Delegates~~ Assembly shall consist of ~~two groups: all~~ clergy and lay missioners who are actively serving ~~d~~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 been officially designated by a regional/provincial Episcopal associations of Deaf person,~~ as described in the By-Laws Article I, Section II. ~~according to the procedure described in the by-laws.~~
- b. House of Assembly shall also consist of all ~~clergy and~~ lay members as described in the ~~By-Laws Article I, Section IV~~ 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 Article I, Section I.~~

SECTION IV: Clergy members shall be ordained clergy or lay missioners 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: The ECD shall convene in 3 year cycles aligning with General Conventions of the Episcopal Church. In the year prior to each General Convention, there will be an ECD convention with election of officers. ECD Board members will attend each General Convention to promote the ECD. In the year following each General Convention, the ECD shall convene for a gathering of relevance to all interested in Deaf Ministry.

### **ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS**

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 paper ballot ~~and by Houses. A concurrent majority of the votes cast by each House shall be necessary to a choice.~~ A 2/3 majority of votes cast shall be necessary for an election to pass. 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 officer's vacancy from amongst the members of the Board 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.~~ If the vacancy is in the position of Chaplain or Member at Large, the Board will fill the vacancy from among the membership.

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~~: VI: The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements 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 each month all bills authorized by ECD in convention or approved by the Board of Directors between Conventions.

SECTION ~~VIII~~ VII: 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 VIII: 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, and a Chaplain, selected by the Board as spiritual adviser. Only clergy from the Episcopal Church or partner denominations in communion with the Episcopal Church shall be eligible for this position. The Chaplain shall

encourage and equip the Board spiritually, serve as adviser on church teachings and Canon Law, and share in the program and work of the ECD.

SECTION II: The officers and Members at Large of the Board of Directors shall be ~~the corresponding~~ duly elected ~~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 the 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~~ are 4 members of the Board present.

SECTION VIII: The Board of Directors shall be permitted to conduct necessary business by mail, email and conference calls (including computer chat meetings). Mail votes shall be sent to the President and shall be signed by the officer voting.

SECTION IX: Any officer who fails to carry out the duties of his/her office between ECD Conventions for a period of three consecutive months shall be deemed to have retired from his/her office and the next Convention shall proceed to fill the unexpired term, following conditions outlined in the Constitution, Article IV, Section III.

## 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 ~~d~~Deaf people.

\*\*\*Note to Polly – if we dissolve do we have to give our money to the Executive Council? Could we give it to The Episcopal Disability Network?

## 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~~ different than 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 ~~2011~~ 2017 ECD Convention.