Episcopal Diocese *of* Washington Diócesis Episcopal *de* Washington

What Is a Diocese?

In the Episcopal Church, a diocese is a geographic region under the spiritual and administrative leadership of a bishop and several democratically elected governance bodies. All congregations are the expression of The Episcopal Church in their respective communities, united by a common faith, yet with considerable independence and unique identities. Each diocese is part of the wider Episcopal Church and the global Anglican Communion. Many decisions guiding a congregation's life are made locally; others are made at the diocesan level; and still others are made at a General Convention held every three years.

The Diocese of Washington serves as the spiritual foundation and governing body for all congregations within our diocese. The bishop, diocesan staff, and leadership bodies exist to support and strengthen our congregations, clergy, and lay leaders, so that all may thrive as followers of Jesus and his way of love. The diocese is only as strong as its congregations, our commitment to one another, and our common call to embody Jesus' reconciling love.

The diocesan structure is financially supported by the congregations and various endowment funds entrusted to us. Congregational support is an investment in a network of relationships that ensures no congregation or leader navigates alone.

What Congregations Receive from the Wider Diocese:

- **Spiritual leadership and vision** — The bishop and her staff provide teaching, preaching, pastoral care, and strategic direction for our shared mission.
- **Care and counsel in times of need** — Immediate pastoral support, HR and legal guidance, communications help, and other assistance for congregations, diocesan institutions, and leaders.
- **Leadership development and equipping** — Training, consultation, and resources for vestries, ministry teams, and lay leaders to support and strengthen congregational viability and vitality.
- **Stewardship of resources** — Expertise in financial management, real property guidance, and benefits administration for clergy and lay employees.
- **Formation and care of clergy** — Discernment, training, placement, and ongoing support throughout all stages of ordained ministry.
- **Shared ministry and witness** — Connecting congregations for collaboration, fostering new ministries, amplifying our public voice, and partnering with the wider church.
- **Financial Resources–**Emergency support, strategic investment, and loans in times of need.

Supporting the diocese is an investment in all of us, for the good of all and our collective witness to the gospel of Jesus. Thank you for your part in our life and witness.