

**SOCIAL MEDIA & ELECTRONIC  
COMMUNICATIONS POLICY**  
at  
**HOUSE OF BISHOPS MEETINGS  
and GATHERINGS**

Once adopted by the House of Bishops, these policies are to be distributed to all in attendance at House meetings and gatherings in English, Spanish, French, and Creole and other languages necessary. Copies of these policies are to be distributed to all bishops' tables and sufficient copies made available for visitors, guests, staff, chaplains, and translators.

- 1. The terms social media and electronic communications include but are not limited to:** photographs, email, blogs, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, videotaping, live streaming, audio taping and other multimedia, including electronic listening and/or recording devices.
- 2. The House will be informed at the beginning of any session when reporters, journalists and/or photographers are present.**
- 3. Each session will begin with a declaration of the status of meeting or gathering by the chair or leader as either a "Regular Session" or an "Executive Session". It is also desirable that the status of each session be displayed prominently at the entrance of the room where House is gathered**
- 4. The status of meetings or gatherings of the House of Bishops are as follows:**

**Regular Session:** Members of the House, invited guests, chaplains, translators, visitors, members of media, and staff designated by the Presiding Bishop are present

**In Regular Sessions:**

Photographs may be taken only with the permission of those in the photograph; an exception is given to designated staff taking pictures; pictures taken by the staff will be reviewed. Photos may only be released after permission is given at the end of that session, not during the session. Photos by designated staff may only be released at the close of day

It is assumed that speakers may be quoted at regular sessions, but these quotations may not be communicated in any form until the close of that session.

**Executive Session:** Members of the House, guests invited by the Presiding Bishop, chaplains, and translators are present

Note: Executive Sessions are intended:

*To strengthen relationship and communication among members*

*To allow members to speak freely and explore all aspects and directions of issues and concerns presented*

*To discuss sensitive issues in private until the House is ready to speak publically*

(edited from *boardsource.org*)

**In Executive Sessions:**

Confidentiality in discussions is assumed and is to be respected.

The use of social media and electronic communications, and preparing drafts for them, are prohibited.

Photographs are not permitted

Video recording and audio recording are not permitted

Specific members of the House of Bishops may not be quoted or referred to in any communication or posting of messages

Any communications concerning Executive Sessions must wait until after an official report/statement of the House has been publically distributed

Members of the House sending any messages or communications concerning the content of an Executive Session after the official report has been released are to refer only to their thoughts and reflections and avoid stating another's comments

- 5. Robert's Rules of Order allows both discussion and voting during either a Regular Session or an Executive Session.**

# Norms of the House of Bishops

## General Convention

2015

Salt Lake City, UT

## Core Values and Behaviors

## Preamble for Commitment and Core Values

## Social Media and Electronic Communications Policy for HOB Gatherings

## CORE VALUES AND BEHAVIORS

### The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church

A review of the past covenants made by the House, conducted by the Pastoral Development Committee, reveals seven core values that are supported by observable behavior and are intended to serve us both when we are in session and out, as we strive to follow Christ and be faithful to the baptismal covenant and our ordination vows as bishops of God's church:

**1) ATTENDANCE**, as demonstrated by full participation in meetings and worship.

As the Body of Christ, all members are significant, the Body is diminished by the absence of some, and we have vowed to "share with [our] fellow bishops in the government of the whole Church" (BCP 518)

***Will you be faithful in ATTENDANCE?***

***I will with God's help.***

**2) FULL AND INTENTIONAL INCORPORATION** in the House, as demonstrated by engagement with the work of the College for Bishops and rotation of leadership in core and working groups during meetings of the House.

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith" (Rom 12:1ff). We have also leadership of the Church" (BCP 517).

***Will you be faithful in FULL AND INTENTIONAL INCORPORATION in this Body?***

***I will with God's help.***

**3) COLLEGIALITY**, as demonstrated in our mutual respect for each other and our attention to how our individual and corporate actions affect the Church.

But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it (1Cor 12:24b-26).

Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him! In everything you do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law of the prophets (Matt 7:9ff).

***Will you be faithful in COLLEGIALITY in this Body?***

***I will with God's help.***

## CORE VALUES AND BEHAVIORS Cont'd

**4) MUTUAL RESPECT**, as demonstrated by respectful listening and talking, and increased attention to avoid mean-spiritedness, with appropriate confidentiality. To demonstrate EQUALITY IN COMMUNICATION in core and working groups as well as conversations in plenary sessions.

We have promised to "respect the dignity of every human being" and to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself" (BCP 305). Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven (Matt 18:4).

***Will you be faithful in MUTUAL RESPECT AND EQUAL COMMUNICATION in this Body?***

***I will with God's help.***

**5) COLLECTIVE WISDOM**, as demonstrated in retaining materials that need further attention from one meeting to the next, and in learning from each other.

A bishop in God's holy Church is called to be one with the apostles... You are called to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the Church... With your fellow bishops you will share in the leadership of the Church (BCP 517). Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit? I believe in ... the communion of saints (BCP 304).

***Will you be faithful in sharing COLLECTIVE WISDOM in this Body?***

***I will with God's help.***

**6) DIRECTNESS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE COMMUNICATIONS**, as demonstrated by a "check it out, talk it out" covenant.

Let your word be "Yes, Yes" or "No, No"; anything more than this comes from the evil one (Mat 5:37). For I fear that when I come, I may find you not as I wish, and that you may find me not as you wish; I fear that there may perhaps be quarreling, jealousy, anger, selfishness, slander, gossip, conceit, and disorder (2Cor 12:11). Your joy will be to follow him who came, not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many (BCP 517).

***Will you be faithful in DIRECT COMMUNICATION in this Body?***

***I will with God's help.***

**7) ACCOUNTABILITY**, as demonstrated in past work to involve conversation and prayer before moving toward controversial actions.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord? (BCP 304). Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the study of Holy Scripture, that you may have the mind of Christ? (BCP 518). Are you persuaded that God has called you to the office of bishop? (BCP 517).

***Will you be ACCOUNTABLE to God and your fellow bishops in this Body?***

***I will with God's help.***

## House of Bishops Spring Meeting Kanuga Camp and Conference Center Hendersonville, North Carolina- March 2015 General Convention 2015 Preamble for Commitment and Core Values

We, the Bishops of the Episcopal Church gathered in our March 2015 meeting, call ourselves to the leadership and agreements expressed below as we move forward in the mission of the Church.

We seek to be a mission-minded Church as an expression of our core values encompassed in the Great Commandment, calling us to be a community of love in which all can find their place.

### The Experience of General Convention

We, as bishops in community, will designate a time each day in which to share our faith in meaningful conversation with each other. We desire to pause for prayer, spiritual reflection, and discernment during the work of Convention, especially when we are engaged in more difficult and challenging conversations and decisions.

We recognize the usefulness of a variety of action tools, including legislation, continuing conversation, and consensus. We ask that the Convention determine the most timely and appropriate means of proceeding, recognizing the variety of tools available and the potential gain and consequence of each tool used. On sensitive issues, we will be willing to suspend the Rules of Order and go into discussion in smaller groups before proceeding.

We will be diligent in identifying those questions best served by technical response and those requiring adaptive work.

### Commitments in Preparation for Convention

We will operate and speak from an experience of Communion within which we seek to discover the way forward in areas of disagreement.

We will encourage our deputations to be fully and broadly informed, to increase our capacity for deep listening (especially when engaged in difficult and discomforting debate and conversation), so that we, as a Convention and people of faith, can make the best decisions available to us at this time in our life.

We recognize our unique responsibility to guard the faith, unity and discipline of the Church while at the same time reaffirming that the House of Deputies and House of Bishops share a mutuality of governance, representing the whole of our Church.

We commit to be in dialogue with bishops and deputies who speak from a perspective different from our own, and to pray for the whole of the conversation at convention. We encourage our deputies to seek such conversation and prayers.