

From Fr. Don:

Structure Two

CORRECTION After a quick read of the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan I must correct #3 from last week. The Vestry (or Governing Body per the Canons) are responsible for the employment of parish staff.

7. The use of the terms "Senior" and "Junior" warden have been replaced by "Wardens" who are elected by the Vestry with specific duties as assigned by Canon, the parish by-laws and by parish policy.

8. A Congregation is composed of active and inactive members. A communicant is an active member who attends regularly and receives communion at least three times during the last year unless otherwise prevented. The clergyperson in charge, or the vestry, is required to prepare a roster of active communicants in good standing no less than 60 days before each Annual or special congregational meeting.

For those of you who find this kind of information interesting, the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan are online.

The by-laws of the Church of the Resurrection are also available on our parish website www.clarkstoneepiscopal.com.

9. The Rector (priest-in-charge) and every paid member of a parish staff is required to have a current "Letter of Agreement" which spells out the responsibilities and duties of that position and how that person is paid.

10. The Vestry (or Governing Body) is required to meet regularly. For the most part, meetings are open to anyone wishing to attend, however, the group may wish to discuss matters in "executive session" within which no minutes or votes are taken.

One of the most interesting aspects of Episcopal Church structure and governance is the way in which one level is repeated in the next higher. The parish structure is nearly the same as Diocesan and Diocesan structure is very near the same as The Episcopal Church USA (TEC).

Fr. Don+