



Mission Region Structure

(Adopted July 7, 2025)

For implementation of the Diocesan Canons adopted at the organizing Diocesan Convention (specifically Canon II.2), the Standing Committee recommends the Diocesan Council consider and approve the following plan for the diocese's Mission Region structure:

Purpose

"The Mission Region provides a vehicle for Congregations, Emergent Communities of Faith, Companion Ministries, Programmatic Organizations, and Seasonal Chapels in proximity to each other to offer mutual support, share best practices, and collaborate on program, projects and activities in furtherance of their respective missions and the mission and vision of the Diocese." (Canon II.2.2)

A Mission Region is composed of the entire area (generally defined by county lines) of the region, not just the particular towns and locations of current Episcopal entities. Episcopal entities share the responsibility of building the Episcopal presence and identity across the entirety of the region.

Deans

The Bishop (Episcopal Authority) shall appoint a priest to serve as dean of each Mission Region. The dean's roles are to:

1. Serve as an extension of the Bishop's pastoral ministry within the Mission Region
2. Convene regular meetings of the clergy of the Mission Region (Clericus)
3. Meet regularly with the Bishop, or designated staff representative, as a council of advice and means of communication between the Bishop/diocesan staff and the congregations/Episcopal entities of the Mission Region

Initial appointments of deans with establishment of this regional structure will be equally divided between one-, two-, and three-year appointments. Thereafter, deans will be appointed to three-year terms. Although not required, deans will generally serve no more than two full consecutive terms.

Regional Councils

Like the Mission Regions themselves, the purpose of Regional Councils is to facilitate collaboration, networking, and mutual support amongst Episcopal entities within the region.

Regional councils are comprised of all clergy of the Mission Region and two lay representatives from each congregation, summer chapel, emergent community of faith, companion ministry, programmatic organization within the Mission Region. One of the two lay representatives shall serve on the Vestry or governing board of the Episcopal entity. A quorum is deemed to exist if a majority of the constituent Episcopal entities of the Mission Region have at least one authorized representative (lay or clergy) present.

The Regional Council will be led by an elected chair and vice-chair. One of the two positions will be held by a lay person and one will be a member of the clergy. The dean may not serve as the chair or vice-chair. Leadership positions are elected to three-year terms in September/October of each year, to start on November 1. An individual may serve one term as vice-chair followed by one term as chair, but they may not be re-elected to a second continuous term of either position.

Regional Councils may apply for diocesan funding for collaborative ministry initiatives within the Mission Region and are responsible for any funds received or collected in their name. All funds shall be accounted for as a designated fund at a member congregation or as a designated fund within the diocesan account. Mission Region funds shall not be kept in a separate account and must be a part an annual audit/financial review (whether diocesan or parochial).

The Regional Councils shall also facilitate conversations among local congregations concerning congregational planting, reorganization, closings, and discernment around potential uses for re-purposing of property of closed congregations. Regional Councils are responsible for recommending a name for the Mission Region to Diocesan Council for its adoption. Names may be for a town/location, geographic feature, saint's name, or other name deemed appropriate by the Regional and Diocesan Councils.

Congregations and other entities may request to be moved from one Mission Region to another. In considering and approving such a request, Diocesan Council will transfer, as necessary, adjacent counties that do not have an Episcopal presence to ensure that any and all Mission Regions have a contiguous border.

Proposed Mission Regions

Mission Region 1: St. James, Beaver Island; St. John, Harbor Springs; Christ Church, Charlevoix; Nativity, Boyne City; Emmanuel, Petoskey; Transfiguration, Indian River; St. James, Cheboygan; St. Luke, Rogers City, Camp Chickagami [9]

Mission Region 2: St. Christopher, Northport; St. Peter, Leland; St. Paul, Elk Rapids; Grace, Traverse City; St. Philip, Beulah; St. Francis, Grayling; St. Elizabeth, Roscommon [7]

Mission Region 3 St. Mary, Cadillac; St. John, Onkama; Holy Trinity, Manistee; St. Andrew, Big Rapids; St. John, Mount Pleasant St. John, Fremont; St. John, Alma; Grace, Ludington [8]

Mission Region 4: Trinity, Alpena; Grace, Lachine; Calvary, Hillman; St. Mark, Atlanta; St. Andrew, Gaylord; AuSable Inclusion Center, Mio; St. Andrew, Harrisville; Hope St. John, Oscoda; Christ Church, East Tawas; Trinity, West Branch [10]

Mission Region 5: St. Mark, Newaygo; St. Paul, Greenville; Plainsong Farm; Holy Spirit, Belmont; St. John, Ionia; Grace, Grand Rapids; St. Andrew, Grand Rapids; St. Mark, Grand Rapids; St. Philip, Grand Rapids; Sudanese Grace, Grand Rapids; Holy Trinity, Wyoming; Two Churches, Kentwood [12]

Mission Region 6: St. James, Pentwater; Episcopal Youth Camp; St. Peter, Montague; St. Paul, Muskegon; St. Gregory, Muskegon; St. John, Grand Haven; Grace, Holland; All Saints, Saugatuck; Epiphany, South Haven [9]

Mission Region 7: Good Shepherd, Allegan; St. Timothy, Richland; St. Martin, Kalamazoo; St. Luke, Kalamazoo; St. Stephens Diaper Bank, Plainwell; St. Barnabas, Portage; St. Mark, Paw Paw; St. Augustine, Benton Harbor; St. Paul, St. Joseph; Mediator, Harbert; Trinity, Niles; St. John, Sturgis, Trinity, Three Rivers [13]

Mission Region 8: St. Paul, Gladwin; St. John, Caseville; St. Paul, Bad Axe; St. John, Midland; Holy Family, Midland; St. Alban, Bay City; Trinity, Bay City; St. Matthew, Saginaw; St. Paul, Saginaw; St. John, Saginaw [10]

Mission Region 9: Trinity, Lexington; Grace, Port Huron; Holy Family, St. Clair; St. Paul, Harsens Island; St. John, Dryden; Grace, Lapeer; St. Dunstan, Davison; St. Christopher, Grand Blanc; St. Paul, Flint; St. Andrew, Flint; St. Jude, Fenton; St. Paul, Corunna; St. John the Baptist, Otter Lake Christ, Church, Owosso, St. John's, Sandusky [15]

Mission Region 10: St. David, Lansing; Trinity, Grand Ledge; Emmanuel, Hastings; St. John, Charlotte; St. Francis, Shelbyville; St. Thomas, Battle Creek; Resurrection, Battle Creek; Trinity, Marshall; St. James, Albion; St. Mark, Coldwater [10]

**After initial adoption by Diocesan Council, Council and the Constitution and Canons Committee should determine which portions of this plan ought to remain as a Diocesan Policy and which should be proposed as an amendment to Diocesan Canons. It is recommended that those sections that name which region a particular entity is in should remain a part of Council policy so that future requests to be moved from one region to another can be made by Council and do not require approval by Convention.