



## Types of Bishops

### **Bishop Diocesan (“Ordinary”)**

Diocesan bishops hold jurisdiction in their dioceses, with responsibility for the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the church. The Bishop Diocesan encourages clergy in their congregational work and spiritual growth, as well as presiding over the services unique to the role of Bishop. The Bishop Diocesan works with the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and other officers and staff to effectively manage the operations of the diocese.

### **Assistant Bishop**

A bishop who assists the diocesan bishop by providing additional episcopal services. An assistant bishop is appointed by the diocesan bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee of the diocese. The assistant bishop must be an ordained bishop. The assistant bishop serves under the direction of the diocesan bishop, and may not serve beyond the termination of the appointing bishop's jurisdiction.

### **Assisting Bishop**

A bishop who assists the Standing Committee by providing additional episcopal services, in the absence of a Bishop Diocesan. An assisting bishop must be a qualified bishop who has resigned all previous responsibilities. The assisting bishop serves under the direction of the Standing Committee and may not serve beyond a contractually agreed-upon time frame. Assisting bishops have no ecclesiastical authority, which is held by the Standing Committee.

### **Bishop Coadjutor**

Assistant bishop with the right of succession upon the resignation of the diocesan bishop. Before a bishop coadjutor is elected, the diocesan bishop must consent to such an election.

### **Bishop, Provisional**

A bishop authorized to serve a diocese whose own bishop is unable to fulfill that ministry due to disability or resignation [or other cause]. The convention of a diocese may choose a bishop (or bishop coadjutor) of another diocese to take full episcopal authority until the cause no longer exists or until the diocese elects and consecrates another Bishop Diocesan of its own. The convention may revoke such a provisional charge at any time.

### **Suffragan Bishop**

A suffragan bishop is an assistant bishop who does not automatically succeed a diocesan bishop. A suffragan bishop may be elected bishop or bishop coadjutor. In 1814 James Kemp was consecrated Suffragan Bishop of Maryland, even though the office was not authorized by the Episcopal Church's Constitution. Eventually, the 1910 General Convention enacted “Of Suffragan Bishops.” A diocese may elect a suffragan bishop, but no diocese may have more than two suffragan bishops except with the special consent of a General Convention.

### **Bishop Visitor or Protector**

The bishop named to have an official, canonical relationship with a religious order. Each order must designate a Bishop Visitor or Protector, who serves as guardian of the order's constitution and arbiter of last resort for issues of conflict in the community. The Visitor or Protector may be the bishop in whose jurisdiction the order is established. Another bishop may accept election to this role with the permission of the diocesan bishop.

If you have any questions or comments, please submit an inquiry to the Discernment Committee on the Diocese's Transition web page:

<https://dioceseofeaston.org/transition/>