

**bishop**

The chief sacramental officer of the Episcopal Church, and the office that gives that church its name. The Greek word for bishop is *episcopos*, "overseer"; the name of the Episcopal Church thus means that it is a church with bishops. Diocesan bishops are the chief pastors for their dioceses, entrusted with safeguarding the teaching and faith of the church and with special offices of ordination and confirmation. They are required to visit all the parishes and missions in their dioceses at regular intervals, preside at diocesan conventions, and assume administrative oversight of their dioceses. In the Episcopal Church there are six kinds of bishops: the Presiding Bishop, diocesan bishops, bishop coadjutors, suffragan bishops, assistant bishops, and retired bishops. See also *bishop, assistant; bishop coadjutor; bishop, suffragan; Bishop, Presiding; House of Bishops; ordinary.*

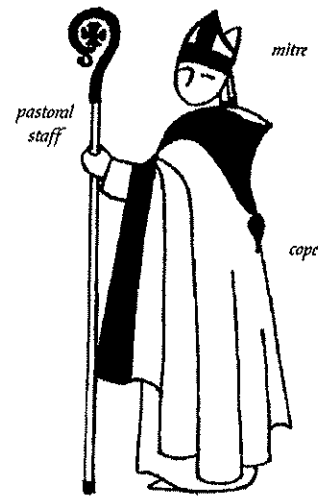


FIGURE 13  
BISHOP IN COPE AND MITRE WITH  
PASTORAL STAFF

**bishop, assistant**

A bishop who has retired from being bishop in one diocese and who is hired by a bishop in another diocese to assist with visitations and other episcopal work. An assistant bishop serves at the pleasure of the diocesan bishop.

**bishop coadjutor (KO.ah.JOO.ter)**

A bishop elected by a diocesan convention to become the bishop of that diocese when the present diocesan bishop retires. A coadjutor differs from a suffragan bishop in that the suffragan is elected only to assist the diocesan bishop.

**Bishop of the Armed Forces**

Bishop with the administrative and pastoral oversight of all Episcopal chaplains in the armed forces, veterans' affairs, and institutions of federal corrections. The bishop is also the liaison to Episcopal clergy serving in hospitals, prisons, and jails.

## **B**

### **Bishop, Presiding**

Presiding officer and primate of the Episcopal Church and a symbol of the unity of its dioceses. The Presiding Bishop is elected at a meeting of the General Convention by the House of Bishops with the concurrence of the House of Deputies, for a term of nine years, ending at the General Convention nearest to his or her sixty-eighth birthday. The office of the Presiding Bishop is located at the national headquarters of the Episcopal Church at 815 Second Avenue in New York; the Presiding Bishop's official *cathedra* is in the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul (the National Cathedral) in Washington, D. C. The responsibilities of the Presiding Bishop are to preside at meetings of the House of Bishops and of the Executive Council, to be the chief officiant at ordinations of bishops, to oversee the entire program of the church, and to represent the Episcopal Church to the member churches of the Anglican Communion.

### **bishop, suffragan**

A bishop elected by diocesan convention especially to assist the bishop of the diocese with episcopal visitations, confirmations, and baptisms. The suffragan bishop may succeed the diocesan bishop only if he or she is specifically elected by the diocesan convention.

### **bishop's advisory committee**

See *mission committee*.

### **bishop's chaplain**

Member of the clergy designated to walk before the bishop in procession and carry the bishop's pastoral staff.

### **Bishops, House of**

See *House of Bishops*.

### **Blessed Sacrament**

Term for the consecrated bread and wine of the eucharist.