

TITLES

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

The Episcopal Church uses several different titles for ordained people that are designed to signal their role in the wider Church. But sometimes these titles can be confusing. This guide explains the ministry of each role as well as how to address the person in written and spoken forms.



DEACONS

WHAT THEY DO: A servant ministry under the direct authority of a bishop to connect the Church and the world

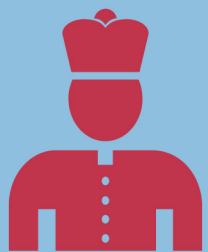
WRITTEN: The Rev. **SALUTATION:** Dear Mr./Ms... or Dear Deacon **SPOKEN:** Mr./Ms. or Deacon



PRIESTS

WHAT THEY DO: Administer sacraments, teach, preach, bless and declare pardon, and provide pastoral care

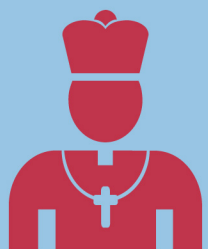
WRITTEN: The Rev. **SALUTATION:** Dear Mr./Ms... or Dear Father/Mother **SPOKEN:** Mr./Ms. or Father/Mother



CANONS

WHAT THEY DO: Title given to those who serve on a bishop's staff or at a cathedral; usually clergy but may be laity

WRITTEN: The Rev. Canon (simply Canon if lay) **SALUTATION:** Dear Canon **SPOKEN:** Canon



ARCHDEACONS

WHAT THEY DO: Clergy (often priests but also deacons) given special administrative authority by the bishop

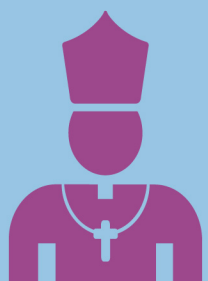
WRITTEN: The Venerable **SALUTATION:** Dear Archdeacon **SPOKEN:** Archdeacon



DEANS

WHAT THEY DO: Oversee a cathedral, seminary, college curriculum and faculty, or deanery (division of a diocese)

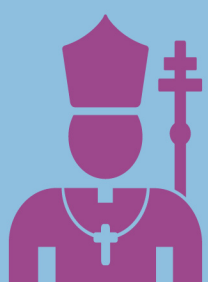
WRITTEN: The Very Rev. **SALUTATION:** Dear Dean **SPOKEN:** Dean



BISHOPS

WHAT THEY DO: Lead a diocese, perform ordinations and confirmations, and connect a diocese to the larger Church

WRITTEN: The Rt. (Rt. stands for Right) Rev. **SALUTATION:** Dear Bishop **SPOKEN:** Bishop



PRESIDING BISHOPS

WHAT THEY DO: Chief pastor and primate of the Episcopal Church who offers vision and leadership for the Church

WRITTEN: The Most Rev. **SALUTATION:** Dear Bishop **SPOKEN:** Bishop