

About The Diocesan Disciplinary Board

updated 10/19

The Disciplinary Board shall perform the functions and have the powers and responsibilities given to a Committee of that name by Title IV of the Canons of General Convention relating to the ecclesiastical disciplinary process, and by Canon 22 of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

Members must be fully committed to the vision of Title IV. The General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2009 revised the canons known as Title IV to make clergy discipline first and foremost a process of discernment, mediation and pastoral response rather than one that is legalistic and judicial. Canon 1 of Title IV sets the theological context for the process: "By virtue of Baptism, all members of the Church are called to holiness of life and accountability to one another. The Church and each Diocese shall support their members in their life in Christ and seek to resolve conflicts by promoting healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life, and reconciliation among all involved or affected. This Title applies to Members of the Clergy, who have by their vows at ordination accepted additional responsibilities and accountabilities for doctrine, discipline, worship and obedience."

Please note that clergy members of the Disciplinary Board must be canonically resident and have been in Holy Orders for 10 years, according to Canon 22.

The Title IV process, which deals with clergy discipline in matters of conduct and practice of ministry, is about upholding and maintaining the integrity of the Episcopal Church for its members and to the glory of God. The Title IV process is also about keeping our Church safe and assuring that the processes responding to charges of sexual misconduct toward adult and minor members are carefully followed. This work is sensitive and can be stressful, and it is absolutely necessary.