

Christ Church Governance

In keeping with the framework outlined in the resources from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI, this section details the various ways in which the Corporation is governed.

Governance refers to the structure, management, administration, and communication of Christ Church Dartmouth. The following table outlines the current Governance structure of Christ Church.

Structure/ Management	Administration	Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rector ● Assistant Priest/ Pastoral Visitor ● Honorary Priest ● Parish Administrator ● Bookkeeper ● Sexton ● Licensed Lay Minister ● Warden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parish Council ● Key Security System ● Executive ● Finance Committee ● Treasurer ● Corporation Signatories ● Weekly Collection counting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mid week announcements ● Communication board ● Banners/ Flags ● Sandwich boards ● Bulletin board ● Pamphlets ● PEWS Report

Description of Governance

As part of the SafeRChurch Audit Process, the parish was asked to ask and answer the following questions, about each of the above listed, to better understand what Christ Church is currently doing:

1. **WHY**—why is the parish doing this? How does it fit into the parish’s vision and mission? How central or peripheral is it to the parish? Why is the governance structure set up this way?
2. **WHAT**—what are all the pieces of this reality? The specific, obvious and not-so-obvious elements of it?
3. **WHO**—who are the people involved?
4. **WHEN**—when does it take place? How often?
5. **WHERE**—where does this take place or happen?
6. **HOW**— how does this reporting structure work—who reports to whom, when, about what, etc.?

What We Learned:

1. **WHY**—The structure and governance of Christ Church follows the Canons as laid out by the Diocese (NS & PEI). All staff positions are governed by a covenant with the parish which reflects the vision and mission of Christ Church. Parish Council also has a covenant with the parish which also reflects the vision and mission of Christ Church. All positions are also governed by Christ Church policies.
2. **WHAT**—The paid staff positions have evolved with the needs of the Church. As of 2022 we have a full time rector, a part time pastoral visitor (ordained), full time Parish Administrator, part time Sexton, and part time Bookkeeper. There are three Wardens who, with the Rector, form the Executive of Christ Church. There is a Parish Council which represents the authority of the congregation and is the decision making body of the corporation of Christ Church.
3. **WHO**—All persons who serve on Parish Council are members of the parish of Christ Church. Hired staff may or may not be members of the parish.
4. **WHEN**— Each position has a different requirement for hours/week as outlined in the Policy Handbook. Parish Council meets monthly 10 months of the year.
5. **WHERE**—The bulk of this work takes place on the campus of Christ Church. Pastoral Visiting occurs where the parishioner needs (home or hospital).
6. **HOW**— Outside of finances, the Rector is the person to whom all things are reported. The Wardens and Parish Administrator are frequently the first point of contact for parishioners to report questions, comments, or concerns. Finances are managed by the Treasurer, Finance Committee, and the Wardents.