Corporate Structure of ECR
The Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real (A California Nonprofit Religious Corporation)

We are also known as the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real, a diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America but we are also known by the subtitle of this page, which is the legal name of the corporation. We are a corporate entity because we have assets (financial and physical, including land and buildings) and liabilities which must be managed.

The corporation does it's work under the authority of Diocesan Convention. Any corporation must have a corporate form. Some Episcopal Dioceses are structured as "corporation sole." By law, a corporation sole consists of only one person, the bishop, who alone manages the assets and liabilities of the corporation. A "corporation aggregate" consists of multiple members, and this is the form of the Diocese of El Camino Real (ECR). ECR's assets and liabilities are managed by a Board of Trustees, which is composed primarily of members elected by Diocesan Convention, and ex-officio members. The bishop is an ex-officio member and President of the Board of Trustees. In times when we are between bishops, typically a member of the Standing Committee acts as ex-officio President of the Board of Trustees.

Although legally, the role of the Board of Trustees is to manage the assets and liabilities of the diocese, their real mission is to support the mission and ministry of the Diocese and its congregations. The Board of Trustees works with many other diocesan bodies, as well with congregations (in association with the Canon for Congregational Development and Growth) to help them manage their assets and liabilities and grow their ministries.

Additionally, in 1999 the board (called "directors" at that time) formed The El Camino Real Foundation, a California corporation which is legally separate from the diocese, but works for the benefit of the congregations of the diocese, especially with regards to managing bequests and legacies.