

Constitution *and* Canons

The Anglican Diocese of All Nations
The Anglican Church in North America

Constitution

Preamble & Statement of Faith

Section 1 – General: In the Name of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen. The Anglican Diocese of All Nations, a non-geographic Diocese, is composed of Anglicans united by a common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and a commitment to the trustworthiness of the Holy Scriptures. As Anglicans, we believe and confess Jesus Christ to be the only Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no one comes to the Father but by Him.

Section 2 – Theological Acknowledgements:

- A. We acknowledge and receive the Fundamental Declarations of the Anglican Church in North America, as set forth in Article I of the Provincial Constitution, which specifically states:

As the Anglican Church in North America (the Province), being a part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church of Christ, we believe and confess Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one comes to the Father but by Him. Therefore, we identify the following seven elements as characteristic of the Anglican Way, and essential for membership:

1. We confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, containing all things necessary for salvation, and to be the final authority and unchangeable standard for Christian faith and life.
2. We confess Baptism and the Supper of the Lord to be Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself in the Gospel, and thus to be ministered with un failing use of His words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.
3. We confess the godly historic Episcopate as an inherent part of the apostolic faith and practice, and therefore as integral to the fullness and unity of the Body of Christ.
4. We confess as proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture the historic faith of the undivided church as declared in the three Catholic Creeds: the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian.
5. Concerning the seven Councils of the undivided Church, we affirm the teaching of the first four Councils and the Christological clarifications of the fifth, sixth and seventh Councils, in so far as they are agreeable to the Holy Scriptures.
6. We receive The Book of Common Prayer as set forth by the Church of England in 1662, together with the Ordinal attached to the same, as a standard for Anglican doctrine and discipline, and, with the Books which preceded it, as the standard for the Anglican tradition of worship.
7. We receive the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1571, taken in their *literal and grammatical sense, as expressing the Anglican response to certain doctrinal issues controverted at that time, and as expressing fundamental principles of authentic Anglican belief.

In all these things, the Anglican Church in North America is determined by the help of God to hold and maintain, as the Anglican Way has received them, the doctrine, discipline and worship of Christ and to transmit the same, unimpaired, to our posterity.

We seek to be and remain in full communion with all Anglican Churches, Dioceses and Provinces that hold and maintain the Historic Faith, Doctrine, Sacraments and Discipline of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

**We believe that the word “literal” requires historical context consequently, the Anglican Diocese of All Nations believes that the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1571, must also be taken in their plain and historical sense, as faithful expressions of the teaching of Holy Scripture, and the standard for Anglican theology and practice.*

- B. That in accordance with the apostolic tradition, Bishops, Priests, and Deacons must be biologically born male and identify as male. (1 Corinthians 14:34-38; 1 Timothy 2:11-15; 3:1-12)

Section 3 – Ethical and Sexual Behavior Acknowledgements: We acknowledge all ethical aspects and behavior are inseparable from our faith. We acknowledge God’s creation of humankind as male and female. Consequently, regarding sex, we also acknowledge God’s intention is that sex is not only a means of reproduction but also a joyful expression within marriage of love, honor, and devotion between a man having been born as a biological male that identifies as male, and a woman having been born as a biological female that identifies as female. Thus, a healthy marital relationship between a man and a woman is the only sexual relationship that is sanctified and permitted in the Bible and by the Church. Moreover, we acknowledge that sexual relations outside marriage including but not limited to fornication, adultery, impurity, homosexuality, and same-sex intimacy or marriage are against the divine order evident in the teachings of the Bible, and it is our individual duty and that of the Church to eschew, abstain from, and battle against these matters, while offering the means of healing to everyone who has been afflicted with their misuse. (Genesis 1: 26-28, 2: 21-24; Matthew 5: 27-32, 19: 3-12; Luke 7: 36-50; John 8: 1-11; Romans 1: 21-28, 3: 22-24, 1 Corinthians 6: 9-11, 13-16; Ephesians 5: 3; 1 Timothy 1: 8-11, 3: 2-4, 12)

Section 4 – No Amendment: This Preamble and Statement of Faith is not subject to amendment.

Article I

Fundamental Declarations of the Diocese

The Diocese hereby adopts, receives, and affirms the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) Statement and the Jerusalem Declaration issued June 29, 2008; and we acknowledge the authority the Anglican Church of North America and affirm the Fundamental Declarations of the Province as set forth in Article I of the Provincial Constitution.

Article II

Order, Governance, and Discipline

The Diocese is composed of Congregations, Missions, and clergy, united by a Bishop. The order, governance, and discipline of the Diocese shall be vested in the Bishop as the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Standing Committee, the Synod, and the Ecclesiastical Trial Court in conformity with this Constitution and its Canons.

Article III

Authority, Composition, and Operations of the Synod

Section 1. Authority

The Synod, as the legislative body of the Diocese, shall have authority to adopt Canons, and approve resolutions and take any other specific action for the conduct of the affairs of the Diocese.

Section 2. Composition

- A. The Synod shall be composed of the Clerical Order and the Lay Order.
 - B. The Clerical Order shall be composed of Clergy Delegates comprising the Bishop or Bishops and all of the Presbyters and Deacons under the authority of the Bishop.
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C. The Lay Order shall be composed of the Lay Delegates elected by the Congregations and Missions as defined by Canon.

D. Each member of the Clerical Order and Lay Order shall have voice and vote.

Section 3. Meetings

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Synod. As provided by Canon, the Synod may also hold Special Meetings. The Lay Delegates shall serve only for the Annual Meeting of the Synod for which they are elected and for any Special Meetings held prior to the next Annual Meeting unless other delegates are chosen specifically for any Special Meeting.

Section 4. Quorum for the Transaction of Synod Business

In order to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any Synod meeting, a majority of the Delegates of the Diocese must be present that are delegates representing one-half of the Congregations and Missions must be present.

Section 5. Presiding Officer of the Synod

The Bishop shall be the Presiding Officer and shall preside at all meetings of the Synod unless he assigns the role of Presiding Officer to a member of the Synod. In the Bishop's absence, the Standing Committee shall assign the role of Presiding Officer to a member of the Synod.

Section 6. Voting

The Synod shall deliberate and vote as one body and, a majority of those voting shall be necessary for a decision. However, a vote by Orders shall be held for any other purpose as may be called for by this Constitution and for such other purposes as may be authorized by Canon.

Article IV

Office of the Bishop

Section 1. Nomination and Election

Upon the need for a Bishop (including without limitation a Bishop Coadjutor or a Bishop Suffragan), the Standing Committee shall appoint a Committee on Nominations for Bishop made up of Clergy and Laity. A special Synod shall be called for the purpose of nominating a suitable candidate to the Provincial College of Bishops who, after hearing testimony of faith and call to the office, will be given opportunity to declare their consent to the nomination.

Section 2. Vacancy, Incapacity, or Impermissible Absence of the Bishop

If the position of Bishop becomes vacant, or if the Standing Committee should determine upon careful deliberation that the Bishop is incapacitated or otherwise prevented from performing the duties of his office, the Standing Committee will become the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

Article V

The Standing Committee

There shall be a Standing Committee of the Diocese that shall perform those duties required by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. The Standing Committee shall be comprised of the Bishop, and such clergy and laity as elected by the Synod as provided by Canon.

Article VI

The Officers of the Diocese

In addition to the Bishop, or Bishops, the Officers of the Diocese shall be the Chancellor, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Registrar, and such other Officers (including officers by Preferment) as may by Canon be established. The selection and duties of the Officers of the Diocese shall be prescribed by Canon.

Article VII

Ecclesiastical Trial Court

Section 1. Ecclesiastical Trial Court Established

There shall be an Ecclesiastical Trial Court of the Diocese for the application of Church discipline in accordance with the Constitution and Canons and to resolve such other disputes and controversies which may by Canon or request of the Bishop be submitted to it.

Section 2. Jurisdiction, Composition, Terms of Office, and Procedures

The jurisdiction, composition, terms of office, and procedures of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall be established by Canon.

Article VIII

Concerning Property

Section 1. Of the Diocese

All property, both real and personal, owned by the Diocese now and in the future is and shall be owned by the Diocese, and shall not be subject to any trust interest in favor of any Anglican Jurisdiction, Diocese, or Province, or any other claim of ownership arising out of constitutional or canonical law.

Section 2. Of Congregations and Missions

All property, both real and personal, owned or held by or on behalf of a Congregation or Mission of the Diocese is and shall be owned by the Congregation or Mission, free of any trust interest or other claim in favor of the Diocese or any Anglican Province, or any other claim of ownership arising out of constitutional or canonical law.

Article IX

Incorporation

The Diocese may incorporate in accordance with the laws of the State where any of its Congregations or Missions

is located. The Bishop shall be the President of the corporation and the Standing Committee shall be the Board of Directors of the Diocese. Operation of the corporation shall be as provided by Canon and applicable State and Federal law.

Article X

Affiliation and Membership

Congregations of the Diocese shall be those Congregations that are members of the Diocese as defined by Canon. Missions of the Diocese shall be those Congregations that are affiliated with the Diocese as defined by Canon. The Congregations and Missions whose representatives participate in the first Synod that formally adopts this Constitution shall be the founding members of the Diocese. Memberships and affiliations between the Diocese and other ecclesiastical organizations including the Province shall be voluntary and based on the mutual willingness of both to establish and maintain such membership or affiliation. All memberships and affiliations shall be formed, maintained, or terminated under such terms as may be set forth by Canon.

Article XI

Adoption and Amendment

Section 1. Adoption

This Constitution became fully effective this 13th day of October 2023 by virtue of Synod vote and requirements of ACNA diocesan membership.

Section 2. Amendment

No amendment to this Constitution may be adopted until it has been reviewed by the Bishop and by a Committee on Constitution and Canons established according to Canon and their recommendations given to the Standing Committee for final recommendation to the Synod. Any proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the Annual Meeting or Special Meeting (i.e. Synod), and if approved by a majority, shall lie over to the next annual Synod, and if again approved by a majority, the Constitution shall then stand amended as proposed.

Canons

Title I

Organization and Administration of the Diocese

Canon 1

Order, Governance, and Discipline of the Diocese

The order and governance of, and discipline within, the Diocese shall be vested in the Bishop, the Standing Committee, the Synod, and the Ecclesiastical Trial Court. The distribution of the authority for the order and governance of, and discipline within, the Diocese shall be as follows:

1. The fundamental agencies of mission in the Diocese are the Congregations and the Missions.
 2. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall be vested in the Bishop and, in the absence of the Bishop, in the Standing Committee of this Diocese. Clergy and lay members of the Diocese
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are expected to honor the Bishop and submit to his leadership in all things lawful and in accordance with holy scripture and Anglican tradition.

3. Ordained ministry in the Diocese shall be exercised only by domiciled bishops, presbyters, and deacons under the authority of the Bishop or clergy domiciled in other ACNA, GAFCON, or GSFA Provinces and Dioceses licensed by the Bishop to do so.
4. The legislative and non-ecclesiastical executive authority of the Diocese shall be vested in the Synod, and in the time between meetings of the Synod, by the Standing Committee.
5. The judicial authority of the Diocese shall be vested in the Ecclesiastical Trial Court.
6. Each member Congregation and Mission may establish and maintain its own governance not inconsistent with the provisions of the Diocesan Constitution and Canons.
7. The Diocese may own its own property and any such property shall be free of any claim of trust or ownership by the any other ecclesiastical entity.

Canon 2

Of the Synod

Section 1. Powers and Duties

The Synod, as the legislative body of the Diocese, has the power to adopt and amend the Diocesan Constitution and Canons; establish and oversee the program of the Diocese; and elect members of the Standing Committee, and Diocesan representatives to the councils of the church beyond the Diocese and other elected positions as authorized by Canon.

Section 2. Membership

The Synod shall be composed of the Lay Delegates chosen in accordance with these Canons, the clergy of the Diocese, and the officers of the Diocese as prescribed by canon.

Section 3. Membership Lists and Mode of Election of Delegates

There shall be two classes of delegates, being Clergy Delegates and Lay Delegates (in the aggregate Delegates):

A. Clergy Delegates

- i. An official list of all duly ordained presbyters and deacons under the authority of the Bishop shall be maintained by the Ecclesiastical Authority, kept current by the Registrar, and on file in the central office of the Diocese. The list shall contain the addresses and positions of the clergy and shall be published at least 30 days in advance of any meeting of the Synod. Any member of the clergy whose name is not on the list who wishes to vote at the Synod shall bring the omission to the attention of the Registrar.
 - ii. The official list shall be available to the Synod on the first day of its meeting.
 - iii. Every member of the clergy under the authority of the Bishop shall attend every meeting of
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the Synod unless excused by the Bishop in writing.

B. Elected Lay Delegates

- i. Each Congregation of the Diocese shall send two lay delegates to the Synod.
- ii. Each Congregation and Mission of the Diocese shall select its delegates according to its respective governing rules with no more than one alternate for each delegate so chosen and shall report its selection no later than 60 days before the ensuing meeting of the Synod, on a form prepared by the Registrar of the Diocese. Each delegate and alternate shall be an Eligible Voter in the Congregation or Mission represented.
- iii. A list of all duly elected Lay Delegates to the Synod of Congregations and Missions of the Diocese shall be compiled, maintained, and kept current by the Registrar.

Section 4. Meetings of the Synod

- A. The Synod of the Diocese shall meet every year and may also have Special Meetings called for a specific purpose.
- B. A quorum of the Synod of the Diocese shall consist of a majority of the Delegates of the Diocese with delegates representing one half of the Congregations and Missions also present.
- C. The Bishop with the advice of the Standing Committee shall determine the date, time, and place of all meetings of the Synod. The Secretary of the Diocese shall give notice of Annual Meetings at least 90 days in advance, except for good cause as determined by the Bishop and the Standing Committee, and no less than 15 days prior to any Special Meeting.
- D. The agenda for any Synod meeting shall be distributed to Delegates no fewer than 15 days prior to the meeting.

Section 5. Committees of the Synod

There may be a Synod Committee on Resolutions, Nominations, and such other committees, as the Bishop may deem necessary. The Bishop shall appoint all Synod committee members and committee members shall be current members of the Synod. Each committee shall keep its own records, and all committee recommendations required by the Diocesan Constitution and Canons shall be in writing.

Section 6. The Synod Credentials Committee

A Synod Credentials Committee, appointed by the Presiding Officer of the Synod, shall consist of two Clergy and two Lay Delegates who shall determine the presence of a quorum in accordance with these Canons and hear and resolve any disputes over proper representation in the Synod, subject to appeal to the Bishop by any excluded Clergy, Lay Delegate, Congregation, or Mission.

Section 7. Rules of Order

The Bishop, with the advice of the Chancellor, shall propose Rules of Order for adoption by the Synod at the outset of each Synod meeting.

Section 8. Parliamentarian

The Bishop may appoint a Parliamentarian to advise the Bishop and the Synod on parliamentary issues. The ruling of the Bishop on any parliamentary matter may be overridden by a vote of two-thirds of those present and voting at the Synod.

Section 9. Diocesan Delegates to the Councils of the Church beyond the Diocese

The Synod of the Diocese shall elect the delegates and alternates to all Councils of the Church beyond the Diocese. The Standing Committee may fill vacancies in the event that an insufficient number of elected delegates or alternates are able to serve.

Section 10. Subdivision of the Diocese into Regions or Districts

When it shall appear to the Bishop that it would advance the administration of the Diocese, the Bishop, after consultation with the Standing Committee, may organize the Diocese into archdeaconries or regions.

Canon 3

Of the Standing Committee

Section 1. Standing Committee Established

- A. Eligibility. Lay Members of the Standing Committee shall be Eligible Voters in a Congregation or Mission of the Diocese. Clergy members of the Standing Committee shall be under the authority of the Bishop.
- B. Composition. The Standing Committee of the Diocese shall be composed of the following members:
 - i. the Bishop;
 - ii. Suffragan Bishops *ex officio* and without vote;
 - iii. the Chancellor *ex officio* and without vote;
 - iv. Four members of the clergy and Four members of the laity elected by the Synod for staggered three-year terms. The Bishop may add one lay member and one clergy member to reflect the diversity in the diocese.
 - v. the Treasurer *ex officio* and without vote.
- C. Voice, Vote, and Quorum. The Bishop and each elected member of the Standing Committee elected shall have voice and vote. Fifty percent of the voting members of the Standing Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Items before the committee, unless otherwise specified in the Canons, shall be passed or rejected by simple majority vote.

Section 2. Powers and Duties

Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, the Standing Committee of the Diocese shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. Serve as a council of advice to the Bishop and as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in the absence of a Bishop authorized to act;
- B. Serve as nominating committee for all offices filled by the Synod;
- C. Serve as the authority of the Synod in between meetings of the Synod, except for the authority to amend the Constitution and the Canons of the Diocese;
- D. Adopt and amend the budget of the Diocese and ensure that the Bishop is adequately remunerated;
- E. Perform such other duties and responsibilities, as may be assigned by the Bishop.

Canon 4

Officers of the Diocese

All officers in the church are called to a ministry of service. This ministry that all leaders in the church are called to fulfill is God's work. It is in God's hands and done in God's name to God's glory; therefore, all officers must always serve humbly and cheerfully.

Section 1. The Bishop

The Bishop shall serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese and the Presiding Officer of the Standing Committee and the Synod. Suffragan Bishops shall also be considered Officers of the Diocese.

Section 2. The Chancellor

The Chancellor of the Diocese, appointed by the Bishop, shall be a member of the Diocese. He or she shall be learned in the law and licensed to practice law in one of the jurisdictions encompassed by the Diocese. The Chancellor shall have responsibility for the legal affairs of the Diocese and shall serve as counsel to the Bishop and the Standing Committee. The Bishop may appoint Deputy Chancellors that shall also be Officers of the Diocese.

Section 3. The Secretary

The Secretary of the Diocese, appointed by the Bishop, shall be a member of the Diocese. He or she shall keep the minutes of the Synod and shall submit such reports as the Bishop may request. The Bishop may appoint Assistant Secretaries as necessary.

Section 4. The Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Diocese, elected by the Standing Committee, shall be a member of the Diocese. He or she shall be the custodian for all of the funds of the Diocese and shall be learned in financial and accounting matters. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Standing Committee from time to time shall deem appropriate; shall prepare the annual Diocesan budget; and shall file an annual report to the Synod on the financial status of the Diocese, including reports of account for all funds under his or her custody or control, profit and loss statements, and balance sheets. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for the preparation of such periodic financial reports as may be required by the Standing Committee.

Section 5. The Registrar

The Registrar, appointed by the Bishop, shall be a member of the Diocese. He or she shall be the custodian of official records of the Diocese and shall issue such certification as may be directed by the Bishop or the Standing Committee.

Section 6. Preferment Offices

The Bishop may at his discretion, designate a preferment office. The Bishop, at his sole discretion, may grant or remove the preferment office of Archdeacon and Canon. A preferment is not a right but a privilege. It is tremendous responsibility and honor that calls for the highest standards of integrity and conduct in carrying out the respective office's duties. A preferment is intended to be a lifetime preferment. That means that in the normal course of events the title and privileges remain with the recipient and go with the recipient into retirement. However, the Bishop may remove the honor for just cause (incompetence, conduct unbecoming of one's role, etc.) or modify it at his discretion (*e.g.*, allow the recipient to keep the title but remove the recipient from actively functioning as an Archdeacon or Canon).

- Portfolios (responsibilities assigned to the recipient's preferment) are for a period of three years and renewable at the sole discretion of the Bishop. During that period of time the Bishop may, at his discretion, modify or change the portfolio based upon the skills of the Archdeacon and needs of the Diocese.
- Portfolios may include assignments as Executive Archdeacon, Regional Archdeacons, and other senior assignments requiring the authority of an Archdeacon or Canon. Effective immediately, the Rector of the Cathedral of the Diocese shall be designated as of the "Dean of the Cathedral." The Rector of the Pro-Cathedral shall be designated as the "Provost of the Pro-Cathedral." The order of seniority for clergy is as follows: Executive Archdeacon, Canon to the Ordinary, Dean of the Cathedral, Provost of the Pro-Cathedral, Regional Archdeacons, Archdeacons, Canons, Priests, and Deacons.

Section 7. Terms of Office and Synod Representation

The Chancellor, the Secretary, the Registrar, and the preferment officers shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop and be members of the Synod with voice and vote. The Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Standing Committee and be a member of the Synod with voice and vote.

Canon 5

Committees of the Diocese

Section 1. Finance Committee

- A. Establishment. There shall be a Finance Committee of the Diocese, appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, with at least one representative from the Standing Committee. The Treasurer shall also serve as an *ex officio* member with voice and vote.
 - B. Duties. The Finance Committee shall oversee the Treasurer; assist in preparing the annual Budget of the Diocese; and shall issue guidelines for audits and investment management, and Congregations' and Missions' annual financial reviews. The Finance Committee shall oversee the insurance and benefits programs for the Diocese, its clergy, and lay personnel.
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- C. Reporting and Audits. The Finance Committee shall cause the records and accounts of the Treasurer to be audited by internal auditors on an annual basis. The Finance Committee shall issue periodic reports to the Bishop and the Standing Committee on the financial condition of the Diocese.

Section 2. Committee on Constitution and Canons

- A. Establishment. There shall be a Committee on Constitution and Canons, which shall consist of four members plus the Chancellor. The Chancellor shall serve as the chair of this committee. Members shall be appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the Chancellor.
- B. Duties. After review by the Committee on Constitution and Canons, all proposed amendments to the Diocesan Constitution or Canons shall be submitted to the Standing Committee no fewer than 60 days prior to the next Synod meeting. The Standing Committee shall provide the final recommendation to the Synod for all proposed amendments no fewer than 30 days prior to the next Synod meeting.

Title II

Organization and Administration of Congregations and Missions

Canon 1

Congregations and Missions

Section 1. Congregations Defined

- A. Any group may seek to affiliate with the Diocese as a Congregation as provided in this Canon. A Congregation is a community of worshippers that meets the following criteria:
 - i. Has a single governing body, herein referred to as its “Vestry” (regardless of the name by which it is known at any given parish), under the authority of the Bishop. The Vestry of each Congregation shall act and function as its Board of Directors;
 - ii. Conducts weekly worship in a public space in accordance with the doctrine and forms of worship recognized as Anglican in form and substance of the Anglican Communion as permitted by the Bishop;
 - iii. Has enabled ministries for prayer, evangelism, discipleship, service, fellowship, and Bible study;
 - iv. Is financially self-supporting and has the ability to fund its own operations, and to contribute to the support of the Diocese; and
 - v. Is organized in accordance these Canons.
 - B. Any group not meeting the above requirements that wishes to be recognized as a Congregation may apply to the Standing Committee for a waiver of one or more of these requirements.
 - C. Any group not meeting the requirements for Congregations may apply to be recognized as a Mission.
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Section 2. Mission and Religious Orders Defined

- A. Mission. A group of worshiping Christians which is not yet fully in conformity with the Anglican order of worship or governance and yet which seeks affiliation with the Diocese, may with the consent of the Bishop apply to become a Mission.
- B. Religious Order, Community, or Society. A group of Christians who have made religious vows in a particular order, community, or society (for example the Order of St. Benedict). The Bishop may permit whatever degree of autonomy and deviation from the usual Anglican order of worship or governance which he deems appropriate for the particular group, and upon acceptance of such Mission, such group shall be a Mission in the same manner as any other Congregation of the Diocese.

Section 3. Application Procedure

- A. Any group of the faithful seeking to affiliate as a Congregation, Mission, or Religious Order shall submit its application to the Registrar or designee on forms and in accordance with standards prescribed by the diocese. The Bishop will review the application and approve or disapprove at his discretion.
- B. An ACNA Congregation, Mission, or Religious Order attached to another diocese or jurisdiction, desiring to become a member of or affiliated with this Diocese, shall follow the procedures in ACNA Title I.6.9. Any other Congregation, Mission, or Religious Order attached to a non-ACNA diocese or Province, will be received at the discretion of the Bishop.

Section 4. Discontinuing Membership and Disaffiliation from the Diocese

- A. A Congregation or Mission may discontinue membership or disaffiliate from the Diocese, either upon the action of the Congregation or Mission, or the action of the Bishop and the Diocese.
 - B. A Congregation or Mission seeking to discontinue membership or disaffiliate from the Diocese shall adopt a Resolution of Concern by a two-thirds vote of its vestry. The Resolution of Concern shall be addressed to the Bishop and shall contain a brief statement seeking to consult with the Bishop for termination of membership or affiliation, setting forth the reasons for the proposed action, and shall contain a request to the Bishop to consult with the vestry and the clergy in charge of the Congregation or Mission. If after consultation with the Bishop the vestry desires to terminate membership or disaffiliate, a Resolution of Membership Termination or Resolution of Disaffiliation shall be prepared and adopted by the membership of the Congregation or Mission by a two-thirds vote. This resolution shall be transmitted to the Bishop and placed before the Standing Committee for ratification. Upon ratification by the Standing Committee, all relationship of membership or affiliation shall be dissolved.
 - C. A Congregation or Mission may be removed from membership or disaffiliated from the Diocese. If such action is contemplated, the Bishop shall write a Letter of Concern to the rector or other clergy in charge and to the vestry. The Letter of Concern shall contain a brief statement seeking to commence a discussion with the Congregation or Mission and set forth the reasons for the possible need for removal or disaffiliation and shall contain a request to the Vestry and the clergy in charge of the Congregation or Mission to consult with the Bishop regarding the need for such action. If after such consultation the Bishop determines that to discontinue membership or disaffiliate is in the interest of the Congregation or Mission, or in the interest of the Diocese, a Resolution of Membership Discontinuance or a Resolution of Disaffiliation shall be prepared and submitted to the Standing
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Committee and transmitted to the rector or other clergy in charge, and to the Vestry. Upon adoption of the resolution by the Standing Committee, all relationship of Membership or Affiliation shall be dissolved.

- D. A Religious Order may disaffiliate with the Diocese by a majority vote of its members or it may be disaffiliated by the Bishop if he determines that it is in the best interest of the Diocese.

Section 5. Governance of Congregations/Missions

- A. **Governing Body of Congregation Defined and How Elected.** The Rector and Vestry shall be the governing body of the Congregation. The Rector shall be the Chairman of the Vestry.

- B. **Governing Documents and Structure**

- i. Each Congregation shall adopt governing documents in conformity with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and shall operate in accordance with the same. Each Congregation shall furnish to the Chancellor a copy of its governing documents, and such governing documents of each Congregation shall be kept by the Registrar.

- ii. **Duties.** The Vestry shall at a minimum have the following duties:

- a. Provide for the financial support of the Rector and exercise fiduciary oversight of the Congregation's finances;
- b. Pray regularly for the Rector and the Congregation;
- c. Support the Rector in all aspects of his ministry, including ensuring the Christian formation, biblical literacy, and spiritual maturity of the members of the Congregation;
- d. Provide an adequate place for regular worship;
- e. Provide for the compensation of paid staff members;
- f. Establish an adequate insurance program for the Congregation that includes, at a minimum, property damage, liability, personal injury, and errors and omissions;
- g. Support Biblically based financial giving by members of the Congregation;
- h. Ensure that the Congregation or Mission shares in the financial support of the Diocese. Each Congregation or Mission is expected to contribute a tithe of its income for the financial support of the Diocese; and
- i. Strive for unity and adopt principles for resolving conflict.

- iii. **Vestry Oath.** Every person elected a Vestry member shall take the following oath of office:

"I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary for salvation through Our Lord Jesus Christ and I do yield my hearty consent to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. I promise, with God's help, that I will

faithfully execute the duties of the office of Vestry member of this Congregation to the best of my ability.”

- iv. Vestry Elections. Every Congregation shall have an annual meeting in keeping with its governing documents at which meeting new Vestry members shall be elected.
- C. Finance Committee. The Vestry of each Congregation shall provide for a Finance Committee, which shall prepare a budget for adoption by the Vestry. The Finance Committee shall make regular financial reports to the Vestry. No Congregation may operate on a deficit budget without adequate reserves to cover such deficit.
- D. Treasurer. Each Congregation shall have a Treasurer, elected by the Vestry, who shall be a member of the Finance Committee *ex officio*, and be bonded in such sum and with such surety as the Vestry from time to time shall determine. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Congregation and shall perform such other duties as required by the Vestry.
- E. Officers of the Congregation. In addition to the Rector, the Wardens, and the Treasurer, a Congregation may have such other officers as allowed by its governing documents.
- F. Investments. All investments of congregational funds shall be under the oversight of the Vestry and shall be made with due regard to applicable State law for fiduciaries. The Vestry may consult with the Diocese for guidance with regard to investments. Investment funds shall be deposited in banks or other financial institutions where such deposits are adequately insured, or in such other conservative investments appropriate for the management of monies by a fiduciary.
- G. Audits and Reviews. The Vestry shall cause the accounts of its Treasurer and all other custodians of funds or securities to be reviewed and reported annually in accordance with the standards to be prescribed by the Finance Committee of the Diocese.
- H. Members and Eligible Voters. The Rector and Wardens shall maintain a current list of the Members and Eligible Voters of the Congregation. Any person who believes he or she is entitled to be included on the list of Eligible Voters may appeal to the Vestry for its determination.
- I. Sacramental Registers and Vestry Minutes. The Rector and Wardens shall maintain a register of official acts such as worship services, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, funerals, and visitations of bishops and other clergy. The register shall include the date and name of the service, the name of the officiant, the name of the preacher, the number of attendees of each such service, and the number of communicants at each such service. Minutes of all meetings of the Vestry shall be kept in permanent form.
- J. Annual Report. The Rector and Wardens shall submit to the Secretary of the Diocese an Annual Report on a form to be prescribed by the Standing Committee.

Section 1. The Pastoral Relationship Defined

A prayerful process of discernment, including due diligence, shall be undertaken in the calling of a Rector to a Congregation, and the Vestry shall gain the Bishop's consent before extending an offer to a candidate. The relationship between the Rector and the Congregation, with the support of the Bishop, is one of mutual trust and dependence in carrying out the ministry of the Congregation. As the spiritual leader of the Congregation, the Rector requires the full cooperation and support of the Vestry. The Rector, in consultation with the Vestry, shall select all assisting clergy, including assistant and/or associate clergy rectors, and deacons (see Section 5). In the event of an irreconcilable conflict between the Rector and Vestry that is brought to the attention of the Bishop by either party (Rector or Vestry), in writing, regarding some aspect of the service or employment of assisting clergy, the Bishop shall have plenary discretion to resolve the disputed issue(s) as he deems appropriate, unless ACNA Title IV is implicated, at which point it take precedent.

Section 2. Search Committee

The Vestry may serve as the Search Committee to consider appropriate candidates for election and call as Rector, having first consulted with and received a list of proposed candidates from the Bishop. The Vestry may alternatively establish a different search committee, but the Vestry shall have the authority in the Congregation to call a Rector. The names of the final candidates shall be submitted to the Bishop for his advice. No person may be elected and called as Rector without the approval of the Bishop. A Rector shall be elected by the affirmative votes of two-thirds of the Vestry. The call of the Rector shall be in writing in a letter of agreement between the Rector and the Vestry and signed by the Bishop. It must distinctly express job description and any special conditions, together with the stipulations of salary and other benefits offered to the Rector. The Rector and assisting clergy must be domiciled in the Diocese or licensed by the Bishop in order to function as clergy in the diocese.

Section 3. Appointment of A Vicar by the Bishop

In the absence of a Rector in any Congregation or Mission, the Bishop may, upon the request of the Wardens of such Congregation or Mission, appoint a Vicar to lead worship and to perform such other functions of Congregational or Mission leadership which is carried out by clergy.

Section 4. Recognition by the Bishop

The Rector and all other clergy shall not be recognized by the Bishop unless they are domiciled in the Diocese or licensed by the Bishop.

Section 5. The Selection of an Assistant Minister

If the Vestry of a Congregation agrees that a vacancy occurs for assisting clergy, the Rector shall first consult with the Bishop. The names of the final candidates shall be submitted to the Bishop for his advice. No person may be elected and called as assisting clergy without the approval of the Bishop. The Rector and Vestry must agree upon the final candidate before a call is offered. The call of assisting clergy shall be in writing in a Letter of Agreement between the assisting clergy and the Vestry and signed by the Bishop. It must distinctly express job description and any special conditions, together with the stipulations of salary and other benefits offered to the assisting clergy.

Section 6. Restrictions upon Rector's Resignation and Removal

A Rector may not resign as Rector without consulting the Vestry and the Bishop. A Rector may not be removed except as hereinafter provided. No Rector, Vicar, or Priest in Charge may be called or dismissed from a

Congregation without the consent of the Bishop and then only as provided by these Canons.

Section 7. Resolving Conflicts in the Pastoral Relationship

- A. Whenever matters of disagreement develop, it is incumbent upon all parties to approach one another with patience, understanding of the views of all parties, and Christian charity to avoid having the relationship imperiled or hindered.
- B. If after reasonable attempts at reconciliation, either the Rector or a majority of the Vestry believe the pastoral relationship to be imperiled or hindered by reason of dissention, either or both shall present the matter to the Bishop.
- C. Upon such notification the Bishop shall promptly seek reconciliation by whatever means he believes appropriate that is not inconsistent with Holy Scripture. Both the Rector and the Vestry shall participate cooperatively in the process. The Bishop may issue such interim directives appropriate to the cause before issuing a final judgment. Prior to issuing a final judgment, the Bishop may consult with the Chancellor of the Diocese.
- D. After consulting with the Vestry, the judgment of the Bishop may include a leave of absence for the Rector, a refusal to dissolve the pastoral relationship, or a judgment of dissolution.
- E. If the relationship is to be dissolved, the judgment may include terms and conditions for compliance by both parties. If a dissolution of the pastoral relationship is necessary, the Bishop may dissolve the pastoral relationship but only upon receipt of a resolution adopted by the Vestry by two-thirds vote, however if the Rector voluntarily resigns no Vestry vote is necessary. The Bishop shall in all cases render pastoral support to the Rector. Upon issuing such judgment, the Bishop shall direct the Registrar of the Diocese to record the dissolution.
- F. If at the time of a need for the Bishop's intervention in the relationship between a Rector and a Congregation there be no Bishop, the Standing Committee or Vestry may appeal to the Archbishop for action.
- G. If the Bishop and a member of the clergy involved in a controversy or dispute over the pastoral relationship both agree to submit the controversy or dispute to the Ecclesiastical Trial Court, such controversy or dispute may be submitted to the Ecclesiastical Trial Court for its adjudication. The Bishop may at any time remove any such controversy or dispute from the Court and proceed to administer the case in accordance with these Canons.

Canon 3

Congregation and Mission Property

Section 1. No Denominational or Diocesan Trust in Congregation and Mission Property

All property, both real and personal, owned or held by or on behalf of a Congregation or Mission of the Diocese is and shall be owned by the Congregation or Mission, free of any trust interest or other claim in favor of the Diocese, or any Anglican Province, or any other claim of ownership arising out of constitutional or canonical law.

Section 2. Ownership of Congregation and Mission Property

A Mission may own real and personal property both before and after it becomes a Congregation.

Title III

Worship and Administration of the Sacraments

Canon 1

Worship

Worship and the Administration of the Sacraments in this Diocese shall be in conformity with these Diocesan Canons.

Canon 2

Of Authorized Translations of the Bible

The lessons used in services of public worship and the order of a lectionary of each Congregation and Mission shall be read from translations of the Holy Scriptures as authorized by the Bishop of the Diocese.

Canon 3

Of Authorized Forms of Public Worship and Authorized Editions of the Book of Common Prayer

The Bishop shall ensure that the forms used in Public Worship and the Administration of the Sacraments be in accordance with Anglican Faith and Order and that nothing be established that is contrary to the Word of God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

Canon 4

Of Christian Marriage

Section 1. Christian Marriage in the Diocese

The Diocese affirms our Lord's teaching that Holy Matrimony is in its nature a covenantal union, permanent and lifelong, of one man and one woman. No marriage or other conjugal union of persons shall take place in any of the Congregations or Missions of the Diocese, or with the participation of the clergy of this Diocese except in accordance with these Canons.

Section 2. Procedure for Divorced Person to Seek Permission to Be Married in the Diocese

Should a man and a woman, one or both of whom have been divorced, wish to be married to one another in this Diocese, or by any of the clergy of this Diocese, the couple must first secure the Bishop's consent by applying on a form prescribed by the Bishop for such purpose. Within 30 days from the date of receipt of the application signed by the couple and the proposed officiating clergy, the Bishop shall communicate in writing his determination of the application.

Section 3. Clergy to Officiate at Weddings

The clergy of this Diocese shall not officiate at nor in any way participate in any weddings at any location except in accordance with these Canons.

Canon 5

Of Standards of Morality and Ethics

Section 1. Exemplary Morality

Clergy and laity of this Diocese are called to be exemplary in all spheres of morality. This is a condition of being appointed to or remaining in a position or office of leadership or holding any license from the Bishop. Failure to exemplify Biblical morality in attitude and action may lead to disciplinary action by the Bishop.

Section 2. Sanctity of Marriage

In view of the teaching of Holy Scripture, the Lambeth Conference of 1998, and the Jerusalem Declaration, this Diocese upholds faithfulness in marriage between one man and one woman in lifelong union; believes that abstinence from sexual relations is right for those who are not called to marriage; cannot legitimize or bless same-sex unions or ordain persons who engage in homosexual behavior. Sexual relations should take place only between one man and one woman who are married to each other.

Section 3. Sanctity of Life

God, and not man, is the Creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, all clergy and laity are called to uphold and respect the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death.

Section 4. Pastoral Ministry

Clergy and laity are called upon to show Christ-like compassion to those who have fallen into sin, encouraging them to repent and receive forgiveness, and offering the ministry of healing to all who suffer physically or emotionally as a result of such sin.

Section 5. Protection of Children, Young People and Adults

Clergy and laity are stewards responsible for the nurturing and care of children, young people, and adults who participate in the life of the Congregation. There is no tolerance for engaging in or remaining silent about inappropriate sexual language or advances toward or abuse of children, young people, or adults.

Title IV

Of Ministers: Their Recruitment, Preparation, Ordination, Office, Practice, and Transfer

Canon 1

Of the Ordination Committee and Examining Chaplains

There shall be a Diocesan Ordination Committee comprising of clergy and laity appointed by the Bishop. The Ordination Committee shall assist the Bishop with the identification, selection, examination, interviewing, and other screening of applicants for admission as postulants and as candidates for ordination to Holy Orders. The Ordination Committee shall also assist and advise the Bishop in formulating the needs and requirements for the present and

future ministry in the Diocese, and regarding the manner of selection of persons for ministry. The Bishop may appoint Examining Chaplains from among clergy and laity of the Diocese for the purpose of assisting the Bishop with oversight of postulants and candidates for ordination and their assessment for ordination.

Canon 2

Of Candidates for Holy Orders

Section 1. Seeking Holy Orders

- A. Any person who has been confirmed or received by a Bishop of any orthodox Anglican Province who believes he has been called by Almighty God to ordained ministry in the Church should seek the discernment of others to confirm that call.
- B. Applicants to be ordained a deacon must at the time of ordination be not less than 23 years of age, have made a public commitment of their faith in Christ and have lived their Christian faith in an exemplary manner for some time, and have been a part of a Congregation or Mission of the Diocese for not less than one year, except for good cause.
- C. Applicants to be ordained a presbyter must be a man who has been a deacon for not less than twelve months, have made a public commitment of his faith in Christ and have lived his Christian faith, and served as a deacon in an exemplary manner for some time. Variations in the time frames for having served in the diaconate are at the discretion of the Bishop.
- D. The Bishop retains the privilege of modifying the requirements for ordaining an applicant when the missional needs of the Diocese dictate.
- E. The Bishop retains the privilege of denying the ordination of any applicant at any time during the preparation for ordination. And the Bishop may suspend or revoke an Applicant's license after ordination if he fails to fulfill a condition of the Applicant's ordination.

Section 2. Reception of Ordained Clergy

The Bishop may receive into the Diocese to the ordained ministry any ordained deacon or presbyter in a manner consistent with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

Section 3. Licensing of Clergy from Another ACNA Diocese or Jurisdiction or from a Non-ACNA Diocese or GAFCON or GSFA Province

Clergy who are domiciled in another ACNA diocese or jurisdiction or a non-ACNA diocese or GAFCON or GSFA Province may be licensed by the Bishop to function in the Diocese. Such clergy serve at the pleasure of the Bishop, and their licenses may be withdrawn by the Bishop for any reason.

Section 4. Domicile of Rectors

Rectors shall be domiciled in the diocese to which their congregation belongs. ACNA Title III.7.

Canon 3
Of Deacons and Their Ordination

Section 1. Concerning Prerequisites for Ordination

No person shall be ordained a deacon in this Diocese until that person shall have completed satisfactory assessment conducted by those appointed by the Bishop for this purpose and shall have demonstrated sufficient knowledge of Holy Scripture; the Doctrine, Discipline, and Anglican Worship; and any other topics the Bishop shall deem necessary for the Office and Ministry of Deacon; and shall have subscribed without reservation to the declaration set forth in Section 2 of this Canon. The prescribed preparation and course of study for ordination shall be at the discretion of the Bishop.

Section 2. Concerning the Required Declaration of Ordinands

No person shall be ordained a deacon in the Diocese until such person shall have subscribed without reservation to the following declaration:

"I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary to salvation, and I consequently hold myself bound to conform my life and ministry thereto, and I do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of Christ as this Church has received them."

Canon 4
Of Presbyters and Their Ordination

Section 1. Ordination Following Period of Diaconate

No man shall be ordained a presbyter in this Diocese unless he shall have first been ordained a deacon. No deacon may be ordained as presbyter prior to twelve months from the date of his ordination to the diaconate. The Bishop may for good cause shorten the period of required service as a deacon.

Section 2. Theological Requirements and Assessment of Candidates for Ordination

No deacon shall be ordained a presbyter in this Diocese until he shall have passed a satisfactory assessment prescribed by the Bishop. The prescribed course of study and components of the assessment shall be at the discretion of the Bishop.

Section 3. Concerning the Required Declaration of Presbyters

No person shall be ordained a presbyter in the Diocese until he shall have subscribed without reservation to the following declaration:

"I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary to salvation, and I consequently hold myself bound to conform my life and ministry thereto, and I do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of Christ as this Church has received them."

Canon 5
Of Licensed Lay Orders

The Diocese recognizes that the ministry of the laity is indispensable to the work of the Diocese and that this ministry originates within every Congregation and Mission. All clergy, Congregations, and Missions of the Diocese are strongly encouraged to equip the laity for ministries in their communities. To this end, Rectors and clergy overseeing Congregations and Missions may seek the Bishop's license for Lay Church Planters, Lay Evangelists, Lay Pastors, Lay Preachers, Lay Catechists, Lay Readers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and such other lay ministers as the Bishop may establish and license for ministry with the local Congregation or Mission as seems helpful in bearing fruit for the Kingdom of God. Those exercising these ministries need to be spiritually mature, of sound character, have received adequate training, and have regular oversight.

Title V
Ecclesiastical Trial Court and Church Discipline

Canon 1
Ecclesiastical Trial Court Jurisdiction

All clergy and laity in any leadership position within the Diocese or a Congregation or Mission of the Diocese under the authority of the Bishop who exercise ministry or leadership, or who hold any license in the Diocese or any Congregation or Mission thereof, shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court (sometimes the Court).

Canon 2
Controversies Submitted to the Court

The Bishop, any member of the clergy of the Diocese, any lay person who is a member of any Congregation or Mission of the Diocese, or any Congregation or Mission of the Diocese, may petition the Court for the resolution of any dispute between clergy, lay persons, Congregations, or Missions of the Diocese. Church discipline cases for the inquiry as to presentments or other complaints against persons, either clergy or laity, shall be submitted to the Court for determination. The Court may receive and hear petitions from any other persons, dioceses, or other ecclesiastical bodies who have any controversy with any member Congregation, Mission, clergy, or lay person of the Diocese.

Canon 3
ACNA Title IV as applicable to the discipline of Presbyters and Deacons is hereby incorporated as part of Title V.

Canon 4
The Rights of the Respondent

Any person against whom disciplinary measures are initiated (Respondent) shall be presumed innocent until he or she has been determined guilty according to the provisions and procedures described herein, but the Bishop may take all immediate actions against the person permitted under ACNA Title IV. All disciplinary procedures shall be undertaken speedily in a manner consistent with principles of fairness, due process, and natural justice.

Canon 5

The Ecclesiastical Trial Court of the Diocese

Section 1. Court Established, Composition, Number of Members, Mode of Election, and Term of Office

- a. There shall be an Ecclesiastical Trial Court of the Diocese consisting of three (3) members of the clerical order and three (3) members of the lay order, elected by the Standing Committee for three-year staggered terms. Clerical members must be domiciled and in good standing within the Diocese and lay members must be communicants in good standing of a parish of the Diocese.
- b. Vacancies occurring within the membership of the Court shall be filled by the Standing Committee. Persons elected to fill a vacancy must be from the same classification, clergy or lay, as the person they replace, and shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
- c. Within two (2) months following the annual Synod, the Court shall elect from among themselves two people to serve as Presiding Judges, one for each panel.
- d. All persons elected to the Court are eligible for re-election upon expiration of their term.
- e. The Court shall appoint a Clerk who shall be responsible for recording all proceedings.

Section 2. Court Rules and Procedures

The Standing Committee shall establish the procedures of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court consistent with the relevant Canons of the Diocese.

Section 3. Quorum and Composition of a Court Panel

The Court shall hear all cases by panel selected by the Standing Committee from among the members of the Court. A panel for a case shall consist of three members of the Court, and three Court members shall be necessary for the conduct of an inquiry as to any presentment or to hear any controversy before it, or for a judgment or for any other proceedings of a panel. All panels shall have an equal number of clergy and laity, excluding the Presiding Judge.

Section 4. Judgment of the Court

A majority of the members of a panel of the Court shall be required for any decision or judgment.

Canon 6

Attorneys and Non-attorney Advocates

The Respondent shall have the right to an attorney or a non-attorney advocate to participate in any inquiry of any presentment or other controversy. The Respondent may select his or her attorney or non-attorney advocate of choice to participate in the proceedings. All attorneys and non-attorney advocates shall upon application be admitted to the bar of the Court for the panel for which an inquiry is to be heard.

Canon 7

Clergy Licensed in this Diocese but Domiciled in Another Diocese or Jurisdiction

Canonical charges against Clergy licensed in this Diocese but domiciled in another diocese or jurisdiction shall proceed according to ACNA Title IV.6.

Canon 8
Of Renunciation of Ministry

If a member of the Clergy making a declaration of resignation or renunciation of the ministry is under accusation or presentment for any canonical offense, or if they shall have been placed on trial for the same, the Bishop to whom such declaration is made, shall not consider or act upon such declaration until after the accusation or presentment shall have been dismissed, or the trial shall have been concluded and sentence, if any, pronounced. If the Bishop to whom such declaration is made shall have ground to suppose that the member of the Clergy making the same is liable to presentment for any canonical offense, such member of the Clergy may, in the discretion of the Bishop, be placed on trial for such offense, notwithstanding such declaration of resignation or renunciation of the ministry. Under certain circumstances the Bishop of the Diocese reserves the right to accept such resignations in the best interest of the diocese.

Canon 9
Of Notification of Disciplinary Action Taken

The Bishop in pronouncing sentence shall within thirty (30) days after the sentence becomes final and not subject to appeal, notify the Archbishop. Such notice shall be limited to the sentence pronounced. A sentence may be terminated or shortened in accordance with ACNA Title IV.8.4.1.

Title VI
Adoption and Amendment

Canon 1
Adoption of the Canons

These canons became fully effective upon its approval by a majority vote of the delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Synod of the Diocese held in October 2023.

Canon 2
Amendment to the Canons

The Canons of the Diocese may be amended by the Synod at any Annual Meeting or any Special Meeting called for that purpose. No amendment may be adopted until it has been reviewed by the Constitution and Canons Committee and its recommendations given to the Synod. Notwithstanding any provision in these Canons to the contrary, the Synod may by a two-thirds majority allow the consideration of proposed amendments to the Diocesan Canons.

These Canons became fully effective this 13th day of October 2023 by virtue of Synod vote and requirements of ACNA diocesan membership.
