

**C-3: Resolved that the Canons of the Diocese of Virginia be amended as set forth below.**

*Submitted by:* The Constitution and Canons Work Group:

Garway Bright, Christ Church, Glen Allen  
The Rev. Michael Cadaret, St. Bartholomew's, Richmond  
R. Scott Caulkins, Church of Our Saviour, Charlottesville  
Trevor Cox, St. James's, Richmond  
The Rev. Amanda Kotval, St. Paul's Ivy  
The Rev. Emily Krudys, Church of Our Saviour, Montpelier  
The Rev. Jay Morris, Aquia Episcopal Church, Stafford  
Allison Otto, St. George's, Arlington  
The Rev. Sven vanBaars, Abingdon Episcopal Church, White Marsh

The background of this resolution and C-2, the companion resolution with proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Diocese, is found at the beginning of C-2. Below is the rationale for each section of the Canons the Work Group proposes for amendment, followed by a markup of the proposed changes and a side-by-side comparison of the current version and the proposed amended version.

**Amendments to Canons:**

**Canon 1**

**Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment conforms to the proposed changes to the Constitution by referring specifically to Priests and Deacons (and Bishops, where appropriate) rather than to ordained Ministers. Other changes are made to clarify the process of determining or challenging the eligibility of Clergy to have a vote at Convention, and for grammatical clarity.

**Proposed amendment:**

**Canon 1.**

**Official List of the Clergy of the Diocese.**

Section 1. A list of all the ~~ordained Ministers~~Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Episcopal Church canonically resident or licensed to work in ~~this~~the Diocese, ~~of Virginia~~ (hereinafter "the Diocese"), with their respective mailing addresses, cures, stations, and positions, shall be prepared by the Ecclesiastical Authority and ~~kept, corrected up to date,~~ on file maintained at the headquarters of the Diocese. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall keep the Church Pension Fund informed of the employment ~~of~~by any parish, congregation, diocesan related institution, or other ecclesiastical organization in ~~this~~the

Diocese, of Clergy canonically resident in ~~this~~the Diocese and of non-resident Clergy officiating in ~~this~~the Diocese.

~~Section 2. The right of any Clergy person to vote in the Convention shall, if challenged, be determined by the Convention itself according to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons, whether the name of such Clergy person is inserted in or omitted from the list.~~

Section 2.

(a)

~~Section 3.~~ The official list of the Clergy of the Diocese, with the names of those ~~entitled~~eligible to vote in the Convention, shall be laid before the Convention on the first day of its meeting and the roll of the Clerical members ~~entitled~~eligible to vote shall be determined from it.

(b) The list of the Clergy submitted to the Convention shall be appended to the Journal and be transmitted to the Secretary of the General Convention.

Section 3. If the eligibility of any Clergy person to vote in the Convention is disputed, such person's eligibility shall be determined by the Convention according to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons.

Section 4. Every Clergy person canonically resident in the Diocese shall attend every meeting of the Convention or, if unable to attend, shall send to the President of the Convention a written statement of the reasons for the absence.

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text:**

**Canon 1.  
Official List of the Clergy of the  
Diocese.**

Section 1. A list of all the ordained Ministers of the Episcopal Church canonically resident or licensed to work in this Diocese, with their respective mailing addresses, cures, stations, and positions, shall be prepared by the Ecclesiastical Authority and kept, corrected up to date, on file at the headquarters of the Diocese. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall keep the Church Pension Fund informed of the employment of any parish, congregation, diocesan related institution, or other ecclesiastical organization in this Diocese of Clergy canonically resident in this

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Canon 1.  
Official List of the Clergy of the  
Diocese.**

Section 1. A list of all the Bishops, Priests, and Deacons of the Episcopal Church canonically resident or licensed to work in the Diocese of Virginia (hereinafter "the Diocese"), with their respective mailing addresses, cures, stations, and positions, shall be prepared by the Ecclesiastical Authority and maintained at the headquarters of the Diocese. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall keep the Church Pension Fund informed of the employment by any parish, congregation, diocesan related institution, or other ecclesiastical organization in the Diocese,

Diocese and of non-resident Clergy officiating in this Diocese.

Section 2. The right of any Clergy person to vote in the Convention shall, if challenged, be determined by the Convention itself according to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons, whether the name of such Clergy person is inserted in or omitted from the list.

Section 3. The official list of the Clergy of the Diocese, with the names of those entitled to vote in the Convention, shall be laid before the Convention on the first day of its meeting and the roll of the Clerical members entitled to vote shall be determined from it. The list of the Clergy submitted to the Convention shall be appended to the Journal and be transmitted to the Secretary of the General Convention.

Section 4. Every Clergy person canonically resident in the Diocese shall attend every meeting of the Convention or, if unable to attend, shall send to the President of the Convention a written statement of the reasons for the absence.

of Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese and of non-resident Clergy officiating in the Diocese.

Section 2.

(a) The official list of the Clergy of the Diocese, with the names of those eligible to vote in the Convention, shall be laid before the Convention on the first day of its meeting and the roll of the Clerical members eligible to vote shall be determined from it.

(b) The list of the Clergy submitted to the Convention shall be appended to the Journal and be transmitted to the Secretary of the General Convention.

Section 3. If the eligibility of any Clergy person to vote in the Convention is disputed, such person's eligibility shall be determined by the Convention according to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons.

Section 4. Every Clergy person canonically resident in the Diocese shall attend every meeting of the Convention or, if unable to attend, shall send to the President of the Convention a written statement of the reasons for the absence.

## **Canon 2**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment to this canon includes a change also made elsewhere in the Canons to insert the date of January 23, 1972, when the Diocesan restructuring plan was established, rather than referring to the effective date of canons. This is intended to promote clarity as to why certain boundaries, etc. were fixed as of this date. The proposed amendment also adds reference to Missions and Vestry Committees where appropriate, while the current text refers only to a Church or Vestry even though Missions do have delegates to the Convention. Other proposed changes are for organization and clarity and are not intended to effect substantive change.

## Proposed amendment:

### Canon 2.

#### Lay Representation in the Convention.

Section 1. The Churches of ~~this~~the Diocese entitled to Lay representation in the Convention are those which were recorded by the Secretary of the Convention as Parish Churches or Separate Congregations ~~on the effective dates~~ of ~~this Canon~~January 23, 1972, together with Churches thereafter constituted in accordance with ~~Canon~~the Canons of the Diocese and received into union by act of the Convention.

Section 2. The Missions of ~~this~~the Diocese entitled to Lay representation in the Convention are those which were recorded by the Secretary of the Convention as such ~~on the effective dates~~ of ~~this Canon~~January 23, 1972, together with those Missions thereafter constituted in accordance with ~~Canon~~the Canons of the Diocese and reported as such to the Secretary of the Convention.

Section 3. A list of the Churches and Missions entitled to representation in the Convention shall be appended to the Journal of each meeting of the Convention.

#### Section 4.

(a) No later than April 1, the Vestry of a Church or the Vestry Committee of a Mission shall elect the Lay Delegates from that Church or Mission to the Convention and one Lay Alternate for each Lay Delegate elected. For Churches and Missions entitled to multiple Lay Delegates, the Vestry or Vestry Committee may designate the order in which the Lay Alternates are to serve in the event Lay Delegates are absent. In the event a Lay Delegate is absent and no Lay Alternate is available, the Vestry or ~~Vestry Committee~~ (or if the Vestry or Vestry Committee is unavailable, the Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge, in consultation with the Wardens,) shall appoint a person qualified to serve as a Lay Delegate and so advise the Committee on Credentials.

(b) ~~Section 5.~~ — The election of ~~adult confirmed communicants in good standing as~~the Lay Delegates and Lay Alternates to the Convention shall be certified by the Rector, ~~Vicar, Register, Priest-in-Charge, Register,~~ or one of the Wardens of the Church or Mission, in duplicate, which certificate shall be in a form to be supplied by the Secretary of the Diocese. One copy of this certificate shall be ~~sent~~provided to the Secretary of the Diocese no later than April 15 of each year, and a copy shall be givenprovided to each Delegate and each Alternate named therein.

Section 5. Each elected Lay Delegate and Lay Alternate shall be an adult confirmed communicant in good standing. For purposes of these Canons, each of the terms "adult", "confirmed", "communicant", and "good standing" has the respective meaning given such term in Canon I.17 of the General Convention.

Section 6. Lay Delegates of Churches and Missions, or in their absence, their Alternates, shall be entitled to one vote each on all questions coming before the

Convention. Alternates shall not be entitled to voice and vote in the meetings of the Convention except when serving in the absence of a Lay Delegate.

Section 7.

(a) The Secretary of the Diocese shall make a roll of the Lay Delegates and Alternates certified to the Secretary as duly elected with their respective Churches and Missions. Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this Section, the roll made by the Secretary shall be accepted as the authentic roll of Lay Delegates and Alternates.

(b) The President of the Convention shall appoint a Committee on Credentials, to be composed of one Clerical member and two Lay Delegates, to which shall be referred the credentials of all Lay Delegates, and Alternates certified under subsection (a) of this Section. The Committee on Credentials shall make its report to the Convention promptly. Until this report is received, review the accuracy of the roll as made by the Secretary shall, unless objection is made, be accepted as the authentic roll of of the Lay Delegates and Alternates. prepared by the Secretary and promptly report its determination to the Convention.

(c) Should doubt arise as to the right of any Lay Delegate or Alternate to a seat, the Committee on Credentials shall hear the evidence presented and report its judgment. Upon this report theThe Convention shall determine the matter based on the report of the Committee unless, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, the Convention decides to hear the whole case *de novo*.

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text:**

**Canon 2.  
Lay Representation in the Convention.**

Section 1. The Churches of this Diocese entitled to Lay representation in the Convention are those which were recorded by the Secretary of the Convention as Parish Churches or Separate Congregations on the effective date of this Canon, together with Churches thereafter constituted in accordance with Canon and received into union by act of the Convention.

Section 2. The Missions of this Diocese entitled to Lay representation in the Convention are those which were recorded by the Secretary of the Convention as such on the effective date of this Canon, together with those Missions thereafter

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Canon 2.  
Lay Representation in the Convention.**

Section 1. The Churches of the Diocese entitled to Lay representation in the Convention are those which were recorded by the Secretary of the Convention as Parish Churches or Separate Congregations as of January 23, 1972, together with Churches thereafter constituted in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese and received into union by act of the Convention.

Section 2. The Missions of the Diocese entitled to Lay representation in the Convention are those which were recorded by the Secretary of the Convention as such as of January 23, 1972, together with those Missions thereafter constituted in

constituted in accordance with Canon and reported as such to the Secretary of the Convention.

Section 3. A list of the Churches and Missions entitled to representation in the Convention shall be appended to the Journal of each meeting of the Convention.

Section 4. No later than April 1, the Vestry of a Church or the Vestry Committee of a Mission shall elect the Lay Delegates from that Church or Mission to the Convention and one Lay Alternate for each Lay Delegate elected. For Churches entitled to multiple Lay Delegates, the Vestry may designate the order in which the Lay Alternates are to serve in the event Lay Delegates are absent. In the event a Lay Delegate is absent and no Lay Alternate is available, the Vestry or, if the Vestry is unavailable the Rector or Vicar in consultation with the Wardens, shall appoint a person qualified to serve as a Lay Delegate and so advise the Committee on Credentials.

accordance with the Canons of the Diocese and reported as such to the Secretary of the Convention.

Section 3. A list of the Churches and Missions entitled to representation in the Convention shall be appended to the Journal of each meeting of the Convention.

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(a) No later than April 1, the Vestry of a Church or the Vestry Committee of a Mission shall elect the Lay Delegates from that Church or Mission to the Convention and one Lay Alternate for each Lay Delegate elected. For Churches and Missions entitled to multiple Lay Delegates, the Vestry or Vestry Committee may designate the order in which the Lay Alternates are to serve in the event Lay Delegates are absent. In the event a Lay Delegate is absent and no Lay Alternate is available, the Vestry or Vestry Committee (or if the Vestry or Vestry Committee is unavailable, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, in consultation with the Wardens) shall appoint a person qualified to serve as a Lay Delegate and so advise the Committee on Credentials.

(b) The election of the Lay Delegates and Lay Alternates to the Convention shall be certified by the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, Register, or one of the Wardens of the Church or Mission, in duplicate, which certificate shall be in a form to be supplied by the Secretary of the Diocese. One copy of this certificate shall be provided to the Secretary of the Diocese no later than April 15 of each year, and a copy shall be provided to each Delegate and each Alternate named therein.

Section 5. The election of adult confirmed communicants in good standing as Lay Delegates and Lay Alternates to the Convention shall be certified by the Rector, Vicar, Register, Priest-in-Charge, or one of the Wardens of the Church or Mission, in duplicate, which certificate shall be in a form to be supplied by the Secretary of the Diocese. One copy of this certificate shall be sent to the Secretary of the Diocese no later than April 15, and a copy shall be given to each Delegate and each Alternate named therein.

Section 6. Lay Delegates of Churches, or in their absence, their Alternates, shall be entitled to one vote each on all questions coming before the Convention. Alternates shall not be entitled to voice and vote in the meetings of the Convention except when serving in the absence of a Lay Delegate.

Section 7. The Secretary of the Diocese shall make a roll of the Lay Delegates and Alternates certified to the Secretary as duly elected with their respective Churches and Missions. The President of the Convention shall appoint a Committee on Credentials, to be composed of one Clerical member and two Lay Delegates, to which shall be referred the credentials of all Lay Delegates. The Committee shall make its report to the Convention promptly. Until this report is received, the roll as made by the Secretary shall, unless objection is made, be accepted as the authentic roll of Lay Delegates and Alternates.

Should doubt arise as to the right of any Lay Delegate or Alternate to a seat, the Committee on Credentials shall hear the evidence presented and report its judgment. Upon this report the Convention

Section 5. Each elected Lay Delegate and Lay Alternate shall be an adult confirmed communicant in good standing. For purposes of these Canons, each of the terms "adult", "confirmed", "communicant", and "good standing" has the respective meaning given such term in Canon I.17 of the General Convention.

Section 6. Lay Delegates of Churches and Missions, or in their absence, their Alternates, shall be entitled to one vote each on all questions coming before the Convention. Alternates shall not be entitled to voice and vote in the meetings of the Convention except when serving in the absence of a Lay Delegate.

Section 7.

(a) The Secretary of the Diocese shall make a roll of the Lay Delegates and Alternates certified to the Secretary as duly elected with their respective Churches and Missions. Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this Section, the roll made by the Secretary shall be accepted as the authentic roll of Lay Delegates and Alternates.

(b) The President of the Convention shall appoint a Committee on Credentials, to be composed of one Clerical member and two Lay Delegates, to which shall be referred the credentials of all Lay Delegates and Alternates certified under subsection (a) of this Section. The Committee on Credentials shall review the accuracy of the roll of the Lay Delegates and Alternates prepared by the Secretary and promptly report its determination to the Convention.

(c) Should doubt arise as to the right of any Lay Delegate or Alternate to a seat, the Committee on Credentials shall hear the evidence presented and report its judgment. The Convention shall determine the matter based on the report of the

shall determine the matter unless by a vote of two-thirds of the members present the Convention decides to hear the whole case *de novo*.

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### **Canons 3, 4, and 5**

#### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed changes are for organization, clarity, and consistency of terminology and are not intended to effect substantive change.

#### **Proposed amendments:**

#### **Canon 3. Deputies to the Provincial Synod.**

Section 1. At the regular meeting of the Convention preceding the meeting of the Provincial Synod, there shall be elected by ballot:

(a) one member of the Clergy and two Lay persons to be Deputies to the Provincial Synod, and

(b) one member of the Clergy and one Lay person to be Alternate Deputies to the Provincial Synod, to serve as a Deputy if a Deputy is unavailable for a meeting of the Provincial Synod, all of whom shall serve until their successors are elected.

~~Section 2. A report shall be made to the regular meeting of the Convention following each meeting of the Synod.~~ Qualifications for election as a Deputy or Alternate Deputy to the Provincial Synod shall be the same as for election as a Deputy to the General Convention.

Section 3. A report shall be made by the Deputies to the regular meeting of the Convention following each meeting of the Provincial Synod.

#### **Canon 4. Deputies to the General Convention.**

Section 1. At a regular meeting of the Convention held more than one calendar year preceding each regular meeting of the General Convention, ~~there;~~

(a) ~~There~~ shall be elected by ballot the full number of Clerical and Lay Deputies to the General Convention to which ~~this the~~ Diocese is entitled, and a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to a choice.

(b) Following the election of the full number of ~~Clergy~~ Clerical and Lay Deputies, a ballot shall be taken for a like number of ~~Clergy~~ Clerical and Lay Alternate Deputies; and the proper number receiving the highest vote shall be declared Alternates in the order of preference of that ballot.



(c) The Clerical Deputies and Clerical Alternate Deputies to the General Convention shall be ~~Presbyters~~Priests or Deacons canonically resident in ~~this~~the Diocese, and the at the time elected and at the time of any meeting of the General Convention at which they serve.

(d) The Lay Deputies and Lay Alternate Deputies to the General Convention shall be persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church in ~~this~~the Diocese at the time elected and at the time of any meeting of the General Convention at which they serve.

(e) The Deputies so elected shall serve for the regular meeting for which they are chosen and for any special meeting held prior to the next regular meeting of the General Convention, unless other Deputies are elected by the Convention.

Section 2. Each of the Deputies shall signify to the Secretary of the Convention within 30 days after election whether the Deputy accepts the election. The Secretary shall issue to each Deputy who accepts election a certificate of election. Should any Deputy elected decline or fail to signify acceptance, or fail to meet the requirements for election, or should a vacancy occur otherwise, the Secretary of the Convention shall issue the certificate of election to the Alternate Deputy of the same order in which the vacancy occurs, who was first elected, or, if more than one were elected on the same ballot, who received the highest votes; and if there is more than one vacancy the others shall be filled successively in like manner.

### Section 3.

1.(a) Within 90 days of the Diocesan Convention electing them, Deputies to the General Convention ~~Deputies must~~shall meet (which may be done virtually) to elect a Deputation Chair and Vice-Chair, one of whom must be a Clergy~~Clerical~~ Deputy and one of whom must be a Lay Deputy.

(a)(b) To the extent reasonably practical, the Deputation Chair and Vice-Chair will, among other duties, help assure that:

1.(1) Deputies and Alternates are trained in the most current procedures of the House of Deputies, including Committee procedures;

2.(2) Deputies and Alternates are provided information needed to vote knowledgeably in General Convention elections for members of church-wide bodies;

3.(3) -The Diocese is fully represented when the General Convention votes on measures and elections before it;

4.(4) Alternate Deputies are engaged in the work of the General Convention;

5.(5) Specific concerns and resolutions offered by the Diocesan Convention for consideration by the General Convention are addressed;

6.(6) The Diocese, especially the Diocesan Convention, receives a timely and informative post-General Convention report; and

7.(7) A written report summarizing important practices and helpful hints about the work and procedures of the General Convention and the deputation is given to the Secretary of the Diocese promptly after the General Convention to be shared with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of successive General Convention deputations.

**Canon 5.  
The Church Pension Fund.**

Section 1. The Diocese of Virginia hereby ratifies and confirms its adoption of the system of the Church Pension Fund.

Section 2. In furtherance of the Church Pension Fund:

- (a) The Secretary of the Diocese shall keep the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese advised of the benefits of the Church Pension Fund for Clergy and qualified Lay employees and shall procure prompt payment of the amounts due the Church Pension Fund, or such other comparable pension fund as may be selected by the Diocese, a Church, Mission, or Related Organization, from the Diocese and the several Churches, Missions, and Related Organizations in the Diocese.
- (b) The Secretary of the Diocese shall keep the Church Pension Fund informed of the Clergy canonically resident in ~~this Diocese, the qualified Lay employees of this~~the Diocese, the qualified Lay employees of the Diocese, the qualified Lay employees of the Churches, Missions, and Related Organizations in ~~this~~the Diocese, and the beneficiaries of the Clergy and qualified Lay employees who may be entitled to receive pensions from the Church Pension Fund.
- (c) The Secretary of the Diocese shall report to the Executive Board which Churches, Missions, or Related Organizations have failed to pay in full their assessments by the Church Pension Fund and such other matters regarding the operation of the Church Pension Fund as may be appropriate.

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text:**

**Canon 3.  
Deputies to the Provincial Synod.**

At the regular meeting of the Convention preceding the meeting of the Provincial Synod, there shall be elected by ballot one member of the Clergy and two Lay persons to be Deputies to the Provincial Synod and one member of the Clergy and one Lay person to be Alternate Deputies to the Provincial Synod to serve as a Deputy if a Deputy is unavailable for a meeting of the Provincial Synod, all of whom shall serve until their successors are elected. A report shall be made to the regular meeting of the Convention following each meeting of the Synod.

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Canon 3.  
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Section 1. At the regular meeting of the Convention preceding the meeting of the Provincial Synod, there shall be elected by ballot:

- (a) one member of the Clergy and two Lay persons to be Deputies to the Provincial Synod, and
- (b) one member of the Clergy and one Lay person to be Alternate Deputies to the Provincial Synod, to serve as a Deputy if a Deputy is unavailable for a meeting of the Provincial Synod, all of whom shall serve until their successors are elected.

Qualifications for election as a Deputy or Alternate Deputy to the Provincial Synod shall be the same as for election as a Deputy to the General Convention.

Section 2. Qualifications for election as a Deputy or Alternate Deputy to the Provincial Synod shall be the same as for election as a Deputy to the General Convention.

Section 3. A report shall be made by the Deputies to the regular meeting of the Convention following each meeting of the Provincial Synod.

**Canon 4.  
Deputies to the General Convention.**

Section 1. At a regular meeting of the Convention held more than one calendar year preceding each regular meeting of the General Convention, there shall be elected by ballot the full number of Clerical and Lay Deputies to the General Convention to which this Diocese is entitled and a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to a choice. Following the election of the full number of Clergy and Lay Deputies, a ballot shall be taken for a like number of Clergy and Lay Alternate Deputies; and the proper number receiving the highest vote shall be declared Alternates in the order of preference of that ballot.

The Clerical Deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons canonically resident in this Diocese, and the Lay Deputies shall be persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church in this Diocese.

The Deputies so elected shall serve for the regular meeting for which they are chosen and for any special meeting held prior to the next regular meeting of the General Convention unless other Deputies are elected by the Convention.

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Deputies to the General Convention.**

Section 1. At a regular meeting of the Convention held more than one calendar year preceding each regular meeting of the General Convention:

(a) There shall be elected by ballot the full number of Clerical and Lay Deputies to the General Convention to which the Diocese is entitled, and a majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to a choice.

(b) Following the election of the full number of Clerical and Lay Deputies, a ballot shall be taken for a like number of Clerical and Lay Alternate Deputies; and the proper number receiving the highest vote shall be declared Alternates in the order of preference of that ballot.

(c) The Clerical Deputies and Clerical Alternate Deputies to the General Convention shall be Priests or Deacons canonically resident in the Diocese at the time elected and at the time of any meeting of the General Convention at which they serve.

(d) The Lay Deputies and Lay Alternate Deputies to the General Convention shall be persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church in the Diocese at the time elected and at the time of any meeting of the General Convention at which they

Section 2. Each of the Deputies shall signify to the Secretary of the Convention within 30 days after election whether the Deputy accepts the election. The Secretary shall issue to each Deputy who accepts election a certificate of election. Should any Deputy elected decline or fail to signify acceptance, or fail to meet the requirements for election, or should a vacancy occur otherwise, the Secretary of the Convention shall issue the certificate of election to the Alternate Deputy of the same order in which the vacancy occurs, who was first elected, or, if more than one were elected on the same ballot, who received the highest votes; and if there is more than one vacancy the others shall be filled successively in like manner.

### Section 3.

- (a) Within 90 days of the Diocesan Convention electing them, General Convention Deputies must meet (which may be done virtually) to elect a Deputation Chair and Vice-Chair, one of whom must be a Clergy Deputy and one of whom must be a Lay Deputy.
- (b) To the extent reasonably practical, the Deputation Chair and Vice-Chair will, among other duties, help assure that:
  - i. Deputies and Alternates are trained in the most current procedures of the House of Deputies, including Committee procedures;
  - ii. Deputies and Alternates are provided information needed to vote knowledgeably in General Convention elections for members of church-wide bodies;

serve.

- (e) The Deputies so elected shall serve for the regular meeting for which they are chosen and for any special meeting held prior to the next regular meeting of the General Convention, unless other Deputies are elected by the Convention.

Section 2. Each of the Deputies shall signify to the Secretary of the Convention within 30 days after election whether the Deputy accepts the election. The Secretary shall issue to each Deputy who accepts election a certificate of election. Should any Deputy elected decline or fail to signify acceptance, or fail to meet the requirements for election, or should a vacancy occur otherwise, the Secretary of the Convention shall issue the certificate of election to the Alternate Deputy of the same order in which the vacancy occurs, who was first elected, or, if more than one were elected on the same ballot, who received the highest votes; and if there is more than one vacancy the others shall be filled successively in like manner.

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- (b) To the extent reasonably practical, the Deputation Chair and Vice-Chair will, among other duties, help assure that:
  - (1) Deputies and Alternates are trained in the most current procedures of the House of

- iii. The Diocese is fully represented when General Convention votes on measures and elections before it;
  - iv. Alternate Deputies are engaged in the work of General Convention;
  - v. Specific concerns and resolutions offered by Diocesan Convention for consideration by General Convention are addressed;
  - vi. The Diocese, especially the Diocesan Convention, receives timely and informative post-General Convention report
  - vii. A written report summarizing important practices and helpful hints about the work and procedures of the General Convention and the deputation is given to the Secretary of the Diocese promptly after the General Convention to be shared with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of successive General Convention deputations.
- Deputies, including Committee procedures;
  - (2) Deputies and Alternates are provided information needed to vote knowledgeably in General Convention elections for members of church-wide bodies;
  - (3) The Diocese is fully represented when the General Convention votes on measures and elections before it;
  - (4) Alternate Deputies are engaged in the work of the General Convention;
  - (5) Specific concerns and resolutions offered by the Diocesan Convention for consideration by the General Convention are addressed;
  - (6) The Diocese, especially the Diocesan Convention, receives a timely and informative post-General Convention report; and
  - (7) A written report summarizing important practices and helpful hints about the work and procedures of the General Convention and the deputation is given to the Secretary of the Diocese promptly after the General Convention to be shared with the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of successive General Convention deputations.

**Canon 5.  
The Church Pension Fund.**

Section 1. The Diocese of Virginia hereby ratifies and confirms its adoption of the system of the Church Pension Fund.

Section 2. In furtherance of the Church Pension Fund:

- (a) The Secretary of the Diocese shall keep the Clergy and Laity of the

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| <p>Diocese advised of the benefits of the Church Pension Fund for Clergy and qualified Lay employees and shall procure prompt payment of the amounts due the Church Pension Fund, or such other comparable pension fund as may be selected by the Diocese, a Church, Mission, or Related Organization, from the Diocese and the several Churches, Missions, and Related Organizations in the Diocese.</p> <p>(b) The Secretary of the Diocese shall keep the Church Pension Fund informed of the Clergy canonically resident in this Diocese, the qualified Lay employees of this Diocese, the qualified Lay employees of the Churches, Missions, and Related Organizations in this Diocese, and the beneficiaries of the Clergy and qualified Lay employees who may be entitled to receive pensions from the Church Pension Fund.</p> <p>(c) The Secretary of the Diocese shall report to the Executive Board which Churches, Missions, or Related Organizations have failed to pay in full their assessments by the Church Pension Fund and such other matters regarding the operation of the Church Pension Fund as may be appropriate.</p> | <p>Diocese advised of the benefits of the Church Pension Fund for Clergy and qualified Lay employees and shall procure prompt payment of the amounts due the Church Pension Fund, or such other comparable pension fund as may be selected by the Diocese, a Church, Mission, or Related Organization, from the Diocese and the several Churches, Missions, and Related Organizations in the Diocese.</p> <p>(b) The Secretary of the Diocese shall keep the Church Pension Fund informed of the Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, the qualified Lay employees of the Diocese, the qualified Lay employees of the Churches, Missions, and Related Organizations in the Diocese, and the beneficiaries of the Clergy and qualified Lay employees who may be entitled to receive pensions from the Church Pension Fund.</p> <p>(c) The Secretary of the Diocese shall report to the Executive Board which Churches, Missions, or Related Organizations have failed to pay in full their assessments by the Church Pension Fund and such other matters regarding the operation of the Church Pension Fund as may be appropriate.</p> |
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## **Canon 6**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The amendment proposes a substantive change to permit a Priest to serve as Archdean without resigning the Priest's cure (as is permitted for Deans). The other proposed changes are for organization and clarity and are not intended to effect substantive change.

## Proposed amendment:

### Canon 6. Archdeacons, Regional Deans, and Archdeans.

#### Section 1.

- (a) The Bishop, with the consent of the Standing Committee, may appoint not more than three Archdeacons to serve at the Bishop's discretion.
- (b) Archdeacons shall be Deacons and have functional titles. They will assist the Bishop in oversight of Deacons, diaconal formation, and diaconal assignments.
- (c) An Archdeacon may function in other diaconal ministries while being Archdeacon in dialogue with and at the discretion of the Bishop.

#### Section 2.

- (a) The Bishop shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, one Priest in each Region as the Dean thereof. ~~A Dean shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop, but in no event for more than four consecutive years, and shall be the official representative of the Bishop to the Region.~~
- (b) ~~A Priest may~~ Dean shall ~~serve as Dean without resigning at the Priest's pleasure of the Bishop and shall be the official representative of the Bishop to the Region.~~
- (c) The Bishop may appoint an Archdean; with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. The Archdean may be a regional Dean, who may continue to serve as Dean, or another Priest appointed especially for that purpose.
- (d) ~~The An~~ Archdean shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop and shall assist the Bishop in the oversight of the Deans and carry out such other functions as may be assigned.
- (e) Neither a Dean nor an Archdean shall serve more than four consecutive years.
- (f) A Priest may serve as Dean or Archdean without resigning the Priest's cure.

~~The Archdean may be a regional Dean, who may continue to serve as Dean, or another Priest appointed especially for that purpose. An Archdean may serve for a maximum of four consecutive years.~~

## Text side-by-side:

### Current text:

#### Canon 6. Archdeacons, Regional Deans, and Archdeans.

#### Section 1.

- (a) The Bishop, with the consent of the Standing Committee, may

### Text as proposed to be amended:

#### Canon 6. Archdeacons, Regional Deans, and Archdeans.

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- (a) The Bishop, with the consent of the Standing Committee, may

- appoint not more than three Archdeacons to serve at the Bishop's discretion.
- (b) Archdeacons shall be Deacons and have functional titles. They will assist the Bishop in oversight of Deacons, diaconal formation, and diaconal assignments.
  - (c) An Archdeacon may function in other diaconal ministries while being Archdeacon in dialogue with and at the discretion of the Bishop.

## Section 2.

- (a) The Bishop shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, one Priest in each Region as the Dean thereof. A Dean shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop, but in no event for more than four consecutive years, and shall be the official representative of the Bishop to the Region.
- (b) A Priest may serve as Dean without resigning the Priest's cure.
- (c) The Bishop may appoint an Archdean, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.
- (d) The Archdean shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop and shall assist the Bishop in the oversight of the Deans and carry out such other functions as may be assigned.
- (e) The Archdean may be a regional Dean, who may continue to serve as Dean, or another Priest appointed especially for that purpose. An Archdean may serve for a maximum of four consecutive years.

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- (b) Archdeacons shall be Deacons and have functional titles. They will assist the Bishop in oversight of Deacons, diaconal formation, and diaconal assignments.
  - (c) An Archdeacon may function in other diaconal ministries while being Archdeacon in dialogue with and at the discretion of the Bishop.

## Section 2.

- (a) The Bishop shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, one Priest in each Region as the Dean thereof.
- (b) A Dean shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop and shall be the official representative of the Bishop to the Region.
- (c) The Bishop may appoint an Archdean with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. The Archdean may be a regional Dean, who may continue to serve as Dean, or another Priest appointed especially for that purpose.
- (d) An Archdean shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop and shall assist the Bishop in the oversight of the Deans and carry out such other functions as may be assigned.
- (e) Neither a Dean nor an Archdean shall serve more than four consecutive years.
- (f) A Priest may serve as Dean or Archdean without resigning the Priest's cure.



## **Canon 7**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment includes substantial reorganization for clarity, including the importation of some rules from current Canon 8 that pertain to the Executive Board and not properly to the function of a Regional Council. The amendment also clarifies that members of the Standing Committee are not eligible to be named as at-large members of the Executive Board, clarifies what is intended by naming at-large members with the goal of diversity, and clarifies the length of terms.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Canon 7.**

#### **The Executive Board.**

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed as follows:

- (a) One member elected by each Regional Council or, in the absence of the member, an alternate member elected by each such Regional Council pursuant to Section 4(d) of Canon 8.
- (b) The Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor if there is one, and the Bishop Suffragans Bishops Suffragan and Assistant Bishops if there are any.
- (c) ~~To provide for wider diversity and equity that may not always be represented, the Bishop may appoint, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, no~~ Not more than three at-large members ~~(whether, Lay or Clerical) for a one-year term, with the option of reappointment for each at-large member for no more than two additional one-year terms. The, appointed at by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, to provide for wider diversity of representation based on demographics and professional expertise. At-large members shall be:~~
  - (1) chosen from among the Clergy who are on the Official List of the Clergy of the Diocese or from Lay persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church or Vestry Committee of a Mission in the Diocese, ~~and may not be the other than a~~ Dean or President of a Region or any member of the Standing Committee, and
  - (2) appointed for a one-year term, with the option of reappointment for no more than two additional one-year terms.

#### Section 2.

- (a) Members and alternate members elected by a Regional Council shall be either Lay persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church or Vestry Committee of a Mission in the Region, or members of its active Clergy, and may not be the Dean of the Region or a member of the Standing Committee.-
  - (b) The alternate member shall be a member of the same order as the member.
  - (c) Each member and alternate member shall be elected for a term of three years.
- ~~Section 2.~~ Terms of elected members and alternate members shall expire at the end of the ~~appropriate~~ third calendar year ~~- following the date of election.~~

~~Section 3. Any two members of the Executive Board may call for a vote by orders on any motion or in any election; the vote of a Bishop shall be counted among the Clerical order. A motion or an election so called for must succeed concurrently in both orders to be effective.~~

Section 3. The President of the Executive Board shall be the Bishop. The Executive Board shall elect a Lay member as its Vice President and may elect a Secretary, who may be of either order and who need not be a member of the Board. It may elect such other officers as it may desire not in conflict with these Canons. Except for the President, all terms of office for these officers shall be one year.

Section 4. The Bishop may appoint, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, a person to serve as the coordinator of the Board. Such person will function as the Bishop may direct.

Section ~~Section 5~~5.

(a) The Executive Board shall prepare and recommend Diocesan programs, and the proposed funding of such programs, to the Convention for approval. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the execution of all approved programs except as the Convention may specify and between meetings of the Convention shall be responsible for the work of the Church in the Diocese.

(b) The Executive Board shall supervise all financial affairs of the Diocese and the methods prescribed for the conduct of Diocesan business affairs.

Section ~~6~~6. The Executive Board shall meet regularly, at such times and places as it may determine. Special meetings may be called by the President, or by any three members. Written notice of the time and place of any special meeting shall be mailed or otherwise delivered to each member at least seven days in advance of such meeting.

~~Section . The Bishop may appoint, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, a person to serve as the coordinator of the Board. Such person will function as the Bishop may direct.~~

~~Section 7.~~ In the event of the absence of the President and of the Vice--President, the meeting shall be presided over by a member present selected by the members present.

Section 8. One-half of the members of the Clerical order and one-half of the members of the Lay order constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Executive Board. The presence of a quorum is not required for taking a vote to adjourn the meeting.

Section 9. Any two members of the Executive Board may call for a vote by orders on any motion or in any election; the vote of a Bishop shall be counted among the Clerical order. A motion or an election so called for must succeed concurrently in both orders to be effective.

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text:**

**Canon 7.  
The Executive Board.**

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed as follows:

- (a) One member elected by each Regional Council or, in the absence of the member, an alternate member elected by each Regional Council.
- (b) The Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor if there is one, and the Bishop Suffragans and Assistant Bishops if there are any.
- (c) To provide for wider diversity and equity that may not always be represented, the Bishop may appoint, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, no more than three at-large members (whether Lay or Clerical) for a one-year term, with the option of reappointment for each at-large member for no more than two additional one-year terms. The appointed at-large members shall be Clergy who are on the Official List of the Clergy of the Diocese or Lay persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church in the Diocese, and may not be the Dean or President of a Region or a member of the Standing Committee.

Section 2. Terms of elected members and alternate members shall expire at the end of the appropriate calendar year.

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Canon 7.  
The Executive Board.**

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed as follows:

- (a) One member elected by each Regional Council or, in the absence of the member, an alternate member elected by such Regional Council pursuant to Section 4(d) of Canon 8.
- (b) The Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor if there is one, and the Bishops Suffragan and Assistant Bishops if there are any.
- (c) Not more than three at-large members, Lay or Clerical, appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, to provide for wider diversity of representation based on demographics and professional expertise. At-large members shall be:
  - (1) chosen from among the Clergy who are on the Official List of the Clergy of the Diocese or from Lay persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church or Vestry Committee of a Mission in the Diocese, other than a Dean or President of a Region or any member of the Standing Committee, and
  - (2) appointed for a one-year term, with the option of reappointment for no more than two additional one-year terms.

Section 2.  
(a) Members and alternate members elected by a Regional Council shall be

either Lay persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church or Vestry Committee of a Mission in the Region, or members of its active Clergy, and may not be the Dean of the Region or a member of the Standing Committee.

(b) The alternate member shall be a member of the same order as the member.

(c) Each member and alternate member shall be elected for a term of three years. Terms of elected members and alternate members shall expire at the end of the third calendar year following the date of election.

Section 3. Any two members of the Executive Board may call for a vote by orders on any motion or in any election; the vote of a Bishop shall be counted among the Clerical order. A motion or an election so called for must succeed concurrently in both orders to be effective.

Section 4. The President of the Executive Board shall be the Bishop. The Executive Board shall elect a Lay member as its Vice President and may elect a Secretary, who may be of either order and who need not be a member of the Board. It may elect such other officers as it may desire not in conflict with these Canons. Except for the President, all terms of office shall be one year.

Section 5.

(a) The Executive Board shall prepare and recommend Diocesan programs, and the proposed funding of such programs, to the Convention for approval. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the execution of all approved programs except as the Convention may specify and between meetings of the Convention shall be responsible for the work of the

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Section 4. The Bishop may appoint, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, a person to serve as the coordinator of the Board. Such person will function as the Bishop may direct.

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(a) The Executive Board shall prepare and recommend Diocesan programs, and the proposed funding of such programs, to the Convention for approval. The Executive Board shall be responsible for the execution of all approved programs except as the Convention may specify and between meetings of the Convention shall be responsible for the work of the Church in the Diocese.

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Section 6. The Executive Board shall meet regularly, at such times and places as it may determine. Special meetings may be called by the President, or by any three members. Written notice of the time and place of any special meeting shall be mailed or otherwise delivered to each member at least seven days in advance of such meeting.

Section 6. The Executive Board shall meet regularly, at such times and places as it may determine. Special meetings may be called by the President, or by any three members. Written notice of the time and place of any special meeting shall be mailed or otherwise delivered to each member at least seven days in advance of such meeting.

Section 7. The Bishop may appoint, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, a person to serve as the coordinator of the Board. Such person will function as the Bishop may direct.

Section 7. In the event of the absence of the President and of the Vice-President, the meeting shall be presided over by a member present selected by the members present.

Section 8. In the event of the absence of the President and of the Vice President, the meeting shall be presided over by a member present selected by the members present.

Section 8. One-half of the members of the Clerical order and one-half of the members of the Lay order constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Executive Board. The presence of a quorum is not required for taking a vote to adjourn the meeting.

Section 9. One-half of the members of the Clerical order and one-half of the members of the Lay order constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the Executive Board. The presence of a quorum is not required for taking a vote to adjourn the meeting.

Section 9. Any two members of the Executive Board may call for a vote by orders on any motion or in any election; the vote of a Bishop shall be counted among the Clerical order. A motion or an election so called for must succeed concurrently in both orders to be effective.

## **Canon 8**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment strikes the rule relating to Rules of Order as not necessary to mandate for the operation of Regional Councils and clarifies procedures in the case of

churches that are aggrieved by the actions of the Executive Board acting for a Regional Council. Other proposed changes are for clarity.

**Proposed amendment:**

**Canon 8.**

**Regions and Regional Councils.**

Section 1. The Diocese shall be divided into Regions in such a way that every point of the Diocese is in a Region and every Church or Mission ~~shall be~~ is a member unit of some Region. Assignment to a Region shall be by majority vote of all members of the Standing Committee, which may create as many Regions as it wishes, but not fewer than nine nor more than 20. Each Region must contain two or more geographically contiguous Churches.

Section 2. The Vestry or Vestry Committee of any Church or Mission which desires to change to another Region shall petition the Standing Committee for such change, stating reasons, and including with the petition a written statement setting forth the views of both Regional Councils affected by the change. The Standing Committee shall decide the change by majority vote of all its members.

Section 3. The Standing Committee shall promptly notify the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor (if there is one), ~~and the Bishop Suffragans~~ Bishops Suffragan (if there are any), the Executive Board, and the Secretary of the Diocese of any change in the number or composition of Regions and shall annually provide to the Convention a list of the Regions and their member Churches, which shall be published in the Journal of the Convention.

Section 4. In each Region there shall be a Regional Council, subject to the following provisions:

- (a) Each Church and Mission of the Region shall be represented by its active Clergy and as many Lay persons, elected by its Vestry or Vestry Committee, as it has Lay Delegates to the Convention. Qualifications for election to Regional Councils shall be the same as for election to a Vestry.
- (b) In any Region where no elected Officers exist or for any newly established Regions, the Dean shall call the first meeting of a Regional Council, which shall then organize itself, electing a President and then a Vice-President from among the Lay members. Each ~~Region~~ Regional Council shall elect such other officers as it desires and establish a schedule of regular meetings. Special meetings may be called by any Bishop, the Dean or the President, or at the request of the representatives of any two constituent Churches.
- (c) All terms of office shall be determined by each Regional Council and shall expire at the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Convention in the appropriate year. Notice of the results of any election shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Diocese within 30 days of the election.
- (d) Each Regional Council shall elect one member and one alternate member to

serve on the Executive Board- for terms set forth in Section 2 of Canon 7. The positions shall alternate between Lay and Clerical incumbents. The rotation of members shall be established by the Standing Committee from time to time so that as nearly as possible one ~~third thereof shall be elected each year. The member and alternate member must be either Lay persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church or Vestry Committee of a Mission in the Region, or members of its active Clergy, and may not be the Dean of the Region or a member of the Standing Committee. The member and alternate member shall be elected for a term of three years and shall both be of the same order. third~~ third thereof shall be elected each year. Vacancies shall be filled by the appropriate Regional Council for the unexpired term, with due regard as to order, except that, when the unexpired term is for three months or less, the replacement member may be of either order. Regional Council representatives on the Executive Board shall become *ex officio* members of their own Regional Council.

- ~~(e) A Regional Council shall be governed by the Rules of Order of the next preceding regular meeting of the Convention of the Diocese, unless the Regional Council decides otherwise.~~

#### Section 5.

- (a) Each Regional Council shall be responsible for seeing that the ministrations of The Episcopal Church are made available to every person living within the boundaries of such Region and shall exercise authority for the Region as a whole in safeguarding the interests and extending the ministrations of the Church throughout its borders, so that the Region may function as a unit in matters of common concern and responsibility. A Regional Council may, for these and other purposes, ~~and subject to the approval of the Executive Board,~~ adopt and administer a budget.
- (b) Any proposal to found a Mission or a Church must, as provided in Canon 10 (Churches and Missions), have the approval of the Regional Council of the Region in which such Mission or Church is to be established.
- (c) In any case when a Church is aggrieved by an action of its Regional Council, or by the Executive Board acting on behalf of a Regional Council pursuant to subsection (d), its Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge, with the advice and consent of its Vestry or Vestry Committee, may appeal the matter to the Standing Committee. The decision of the Standing Committee on the matter shall be final.
- (d) If the Ecclesiastical Authority requests any action of a Dean of a Region and the Regional Council of such Region fails to meet and act upon ~~athe~~ request ~~made to the Dean of the Region by the Ecclesiastical Authority~~ within 60 days ~~of the request~~, the Executive Board of the Diocese shall have the authority to act on ~~the request on~~ behalf of the Regional Council. ~~A Church aggrieved by the Executive Board's exercise of authority pursuant to this Section shall have the right of appeal set forth in Section 5(c) of this Canon.~~ Any exercise of authority by the Executive Board pursuant to this Section shall be reported within one month of its exercise to the Standing Committee and shall also be reported in full to the next meeting of the Convention.

## **Text side-by-side:**

### **Current text:**

#### **Canon 8. Regions and Regional Councils.**

Section 1. The Diocese shall be divided into Regions in such a way that every point of the Diocese is in a Region and every Church or Mission shall be a member unit of some Region. Assignment to a Region shall be by majority vote of all members of the Standing Committee, which may create as many Regions as it wishes, but not fewer than nine nor more than 20. Each Region must contain two or more geographically contiguous Churches.

Section 2. The Vestry or Vestry Committee of any Church or Mission which desires to change to another Region shall petition the Standing Committee for such change, stating reasons, and including with the petition a written statement setting forth the views of both Regional Councils affected by the change. The Standing Committee shall decide the change by majority vote of all its members.

Section 3. The Standing Committee shall promptly notify the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor (if there is one), and the Bishop Suffragans (if there are any), the Executive Board, and the Secretary of the Diocese of any change in the number or composition of Regions and shall annually provide to the Convention a list of the Regions and their member Churches, which shall be published in the Journal of the Convention.

Section 4. In each Region there shall be a Regional Council, subject to the following

### **Text as proposed to be amended:**

#### **Canon 8. Regions and Regional Councils.**

Section 1. The Diocese shall be divided into Regions in such a way that every point of the Diocese is in a Region and every Church or Mission is a member unit of some Region. Assignment to a Region shall be by majority vote of all members of the Standing Committee, which may create as many Regions as it wishes, but not fewer than nine nor more than 20. Each Region must contain two or more geographically contiguous Churches.

Section 2. The Vestry or Vestry Committee of any Church or Mission which desires to change to another Region shall petition the Standing Committee for such change, stating reasons, and including with the petition a written statement setting forth the views of both Regional Councils affected by the change. The Standing Committee shall decide the change by majority vote of all its members.

Section 3. The Standing Committee shall promptly notify the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor (if there is one), the Bishops Suffragan (if there are any), the Executive Board, and the Secretary of the Diocese of any change in the number or composition of Regions and shall annually provide to the Convention a list of the Regions and their member Churches, which shall be published in the Journal of the Convention.

Section 4. In each Region there shall be a Regional Council, subject to the following



provisions:

- (a) Each Church and Mission of the Region shall be represented by its active Clergy and as many Lay persons, elected by its Vestry or Vestry Committee, as it has Lay Delegates to the Convention. Qualifications for election to Regional Councils shall be the same as for election to a Vestry.
- (b) In any Region where no elected Officers exist or for any newly established Regions, the Dean shall call the first meeting of a Regional Council, which shall then organize itself, electing a President and then a Vice-President from among the Lay members. Each Region Council shall elect such other officers as it desires and establish a schedule of regular meetings. Special meetings may be called by any Bishop, the Dean or the President, or at the request of the representatives of any two constituent Churches.
- (c) All terms of office shall be determined by each Regional Council and shall expire at the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Convention in the appropriate year. Notice of the results of any election shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Diocese within 30 days of the election.
- (d) Each Regional Council shall elect one member and one alternate member to serve on the Executive Board. The positions shall alternate between Lay and Clerical incumbents. The rotation of members shall be established by the Standing Committee from time to time so that as nearly as possible one-third thereof shall be

provisions:

- (a) Each Church and Mission of the Region shall be represented by its active Clergy and as many Lay persons, elected by its Vestry or Vestry Committee, as it has Lay Delegates to the Convention. Qualifications for election to Regional Councils shall be the same as for election to a Vestry.
- (b) In any Region where no elected Officers exist or for any newly established Regions, the Dean shall call the first meeting of a Regional Council, which shall then organize itself, electing a President and then a Vice-President from among the Lay members. Each Regional Council shall elect such other officers as it desires and establish a schedule of regular meetings. Special meetings may be called by any Bishop, the Dean or the President, or at the request of the representatives of any two constituent Churches.
- (c) All terms of office shall be determined by each Regional Council and shall expire at the conclusion of the regular meeting of the Convention in the appropriate year. Notice of the results of any election shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Diocese within 30 days of the election.
- (d) Each Regional Council shall elect one member and one alternate member to serve on the Executive Board for terms set forth in Section 2 of Canon 7. The positions shall alternate between Lay and Clerical incumbents. The rotation of members shall be established by the Standing Committee from time to time so that as nearly as

elected each year. The member and alternate member must be either Lay persons eligible for election to the Vestry of a Church or Vestry Committee of a Mission in the Region, or members of its active Clergy, and may not be the Dean of the Region or a member of the Standing Committee. The member and alternate member shall be elected for a term of three years and shall both be of the same order. Vacancies shall be filled by the appropriate Regional Council for the unexpired term, with due regard as to order, except that, when the unexpired term is for three months or less, the replacement member may be of either order. Regional Council representatives on the Executive Board shall become *ex officio* members of their own Regional Council.

- (e) A Regional Council shall be governed by the Rules of Order of the next preceding regular meeting of the Convention of the Diocese, unless the Regional Council decides otherwise.

#### Section 5.

- (a) Each Regional Council shall be responsible for seeing that the ministrations of The Episcopal Church are made available to every person living within the boundaries of such Region and shall exercise authority for the Region as a whole in safeguarding the interests and extending the ministrations of the Church throughout its borders, so that the Region may function as a unit in matters of common concern and responsibility. A Regional Council may, for these and other

possible one third thereof shall be elected each year. Vacancies shall be filled by the appropriate Regional Council for the unexpired term, with due regard as to order, except that, when the unexpired term is for three months or less, the replacement member may be of either order. Regional Council representatives on the Executive Board shall become *ex officio* members of their own Regional Council.

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- purposes, and subject to the approval of the Executive Board, adopt and administer a budget.
- (b) Any proposal to found a Mission or a Church must, as provided in Canon 10 (Churches), have the approval of the Regional Council of the Region in which such Mission or Church is to be established.
  - (c) In any case when a Church is aggrieved by an action of its Regional Council, its Rector or Vicar, with the advice and consent of its Vestry or Vestry Committee, may appeal the matter to the Standing Committee. The decision of the Standing Committee on the matter shall be final.
  - (d) If a Regional Council fails to meet and act upon a request made to the Dean of the Region by the Ecclesiastical Authority within 60 days of the request, the Executive Board of the Diocese shall have the authority to act on the request on behalf of the Regional Council. A Church aggrieved by the Executive Board's exercise of authority pursuant to this Section shall have the right of appeal set forth in Section 5(c) of this Canon. Any exercise of authority by the Executive Board pursuant to this Section shall be reported within one month of its exercise to the Standing Committee and shall also be reported in full to the next meeting of the Convention.
- budget.
  - (b) Any proposal to found a Mission or a Church must, as provided in Canon 10 (Churches and Missions), have the approval of the Regional Council of the Region in which such Mission or Church is to be established.
  - (c) In any case when a Church is aggrieved by an action of its Regional Council, or by the Executive Board acting on behalf of a Regional Council pursuant to subsection (d), its Rector or Priest-in-Charge, with the advice and consent of its Vestry or Vestry Committee, may appeal the matter to the Standing Committee. The decision of the Standing Committee on the matter shall be final.
  - (d) If the Ecclesiastical Authority requests any action of a Dean of a Region and the Regional Council of such Region fails to meet and act upon the request within 60 days, the Executive Board of the Diocese shall have the authority to act on behalf of the Regional Council. Any exercise of authority by the Executive Board pursuant to this Section shall be reported within one month of its exercise to the Standing Committee and shall also be reported in full to the next meeting of the Convention.

## **Canon 9**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment removes reference to the jurisdiction of Churches and Missions within a Region, as this concept appears to be outdated.

**Proposed amendment:**

**Canon 9.  
Boundaries.**

~~Section 1.~~ The historical Parishes of the Diocese and their boundaries, having been fixed as of January 23, 1972, shall not be changed henceforth.

~~Section 2. In every Region, the Rector and Vestry of each Church and the Vicar and the Vestry Committee of each Mission shall have and exercise concurrent jurisdiction within the boundaries of the Region, and shall have equal responsibility for the extension and welfare of the Church and ministration to people within the Region.~~

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text:**

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Boundaries.**

Section 1. The historical Parishes of the Diocese and their boundaries, having been fixed as of January 23, 1972, shall not be changed henceforth.

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**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Canon 9.  
Boundaries.**

The historical Parishes of the Diocese and their boundaries, having been fixed as of January 23, 1972, shall not be changed henceforth.

**Canon 10**

**Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment clarifies procedures for becoming a Church or a Mission, creates a process for the merger of two or more Churches, and more clearly establishes three types of Missions of the Diocese: a Diocesan Mission (formerly referred to as just a "Mission"), a Mission of a Founding Church, and a Mission of a Theological Seminary,

to avoid confusion in using an umbrella term that sometimes refers to just one type of Mission and sometimes to all three. The term "Vicar" is also removed from the Canons, as such term is not used in the Canons of the General Convention, and replaced with "Priest-in-Charge" (see also explanation for Canon 11). The requirement for Vestries to elect representatives to the Regional Council is moved to Canon 12. Other proposed changes are for clarity and organization.

### Proposed amendment:

#### Canon 10. Churches and Missions.

##### Section 1.

(a) A group of people-:  
(1) which acknowledges the jurisdiction of the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of Virginia,  
(2) among whom there is a regular program of identifiable Episcopal services (including regular celebration of the Holy Communion) at a designated place or places of worship,  
(3) which, as a group, shares in the support of the Episcopate of the Diocese,  
(4) which makes provision for the pastoral ~~administrations~~ministrations of ~~the church~~The Episcopal Church to its members, and  
(5) which functions under the supervision of a Priest or Deacon,  
shall, upon approval of a petition submitted in accordance with Section 2 of this Canon, be called a Church. ~~A list of all Churches shall be published annually in the Journal of the Convention.~~

(b) All congregations designated as Parish Churches, Parishes, or Separate Congregations ~~on the effective date of this Canon shall be as of January 23, 1972,~~  
are classified as Churches ~~as of such date.~~

(c) A list of all Churches shall be published annually in the Journal of the Convention.

Section 2. A group of people seeking Church status must signify its desire to a regular meeting of the Convention of the Diocese by petitioning the Convention for Church status. Such petition must be submitted for presentation to and approval by the Convention. The petition shall contain the proposed name for the Church, a certification that the requirements of Section 1 of this Canon are being met, the name and address of the supervising Priest, the address or addresses of the place or places of worship, and a copy of the current budget. The petition shall be accompanied by certificates of endorsement from the Regional Council of the Region in which such group provides a place of worship and from the Executive Board.

Section 3. Each Church shall have a Vestry in conformity with Canon 11 (Election and Organization of Vestries, and Call of Congregational Meetings).

~~Section 4. The Vestry of a Church shall elect, from among those persons eligible to~~

~~serve as Vestry members of that Church, representatives to the Regional Council and the Convention of the Diocese in the number provided by Canon.~~

~~Section 5.~~ The Rector and Vestry of a Church as herein defined are expressly designated as the “Rector and Vestry of a Parish” for purposes of applying the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Section 5.

- (a) Two or more Churches may seek to merge to create a new Church according to the process described in subsection (b) of this Section.
- (b) For two or more Churches to merge:
  - (1) The Vestry of each Church shall give notice to the Bishop in writing of their intention to enter a period of discernment.
  - (2) Each Church shall engage in a period of not less than six months of intentional discernment to consider prayerfully the will, vocational call, and nature of the Church and other related considerations for the merger.
  - (3) At each Church’s annual meeting or congregational meeting called in accordance with Canon 11.13, each Church shall vote on whether to:
    - a. end the mission and ministry of the existing Church, and
    - b. begin a mission and ministry as a merged Church.
  - (4) A two-thirds majority of each Church’s members eligible to vote shall be required to approve the decision to merge.
  - (5) The vestries of the Churches desiring to merge shall jointly petition the Executive Board to endorse the merger and shall demonstrate compliance with this subsection.
  - (6) If endorsed by the Executive Board, the petition for merger shall be submitted to the Convention, and if approved by the Convention, the merged Church shall become a Church within the Diocese.
- (c) Nothing in this Canon shall be construed to deny the ability of two or more Churches that do not seek to merge, or do not meet the requirements for merger, to enter into a written agreement to collaborate in their missions and ministries, with the consent of the Bishop. Such collaborating or historically yoked Churches shall remain distinct Churches within the Diocese.
- (d) Nothing in this Canon shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the rights and responsibilities according to these Canons of the Vestries, Rectors or Priests-in-Charge of collaborating or historically yoked Churches.

Section 6.-

- (a) For purposes of these Canons, a Diocesan Mission, a Mission of a Founding Church, and a Mission of a Theological Seminary are Missions of the Diocese.
- (b) A Mission shall have a Vestry Committee appointed pursuant to Canon 11.14. Further, a Mission shall be entitled to Lay and Clerical representation in the Convention and Regional Council as is afforded Churches.
- (c) A Mission and one or more Churches or Missions may merge or collaborate as set forth in Section 5.

## Section 7.

~~(a)~~ (a) A group of people desiring to organize a Church, but who are unable to meet all the requirements of Section 1 of this Canon, may apply to be constituted as a Mission by the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, or the Standing Committee itself if it is the Ecclesiastical Authority. An application for Mission status shall be accompanied by a certificate of endorsement from the Regional Council of the Region in which such group proposes to worship. A list of all Missions shall be published annually in the Journal of the Convention.

~~Upon the request of any~~ (b) Any Church may petition to become or be remitted to be a Diocesan Mission upon the failure of ~~any such~~ Church to meet all the requirements of Section 1 of this Canon, ~~or upon request by to operate otherwise as a Church for direct aid from of the Diocese. The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry, or if there be no Rector, the Diocesan Budget, Wardens and Vestry of an existing Church, shall unite in a petition to the Bishop or, asking that such Church shall become or be remitted to the status of a Diocesan Mission, stating fully the grounds for such petition. The Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, or the Standing Committee itself if it is the~~ Ecclesiastical Authority ~~with the advice and, may grant or refuse the petition.~~

(c) Upon the failure of any Church to meet all the requirements of Section 1 of this Canon, the Bishop, with the advice or consent of the Standing Committee, or the Standing Committee itself if it is the Ecclesiastical Authority, may change the status of such Church to that of a Mission.

~~(b)~~ (d) Any action taken under this ~~section~~ Section shall be reported in the Journal of the next succeeding Convention as one of the official acts of the authority taking the action.

~~(a) Section 7. — The minister in charge of a Mission shall be called the Vicar. A Mission shall have a Vestry Committee appointed pursuant to Canon 11.14. Further, a Mission shall be entitled to Lay and Clerical representation in the Convention and Regional Council as is afforded other Churches.~~

## Section 8.

(a) — Any Church may, with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Regional Council of the Region in which the Mission is to be located, establish within the boundaries of such Region one or more Missions (each referred to in this Section as a “Mission of a Founding Church”). The ~~minister~~ Priest-in-charge ~~Charge~~ of a Mission of a Founding Church shall be appointed by the Rector of the founding Church with the concurrence of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Vestry of the founding Church shall appoint or allow to be elected a Vestry Committee for the Mission of a Founding Church which shall be composed as provided in Canon 11.14. The Vestry Committee shall be charged with transacting all the ~~temporal business of regular duties and obligations of a Vestry Committee with respect to~~ the Mission of a Founding Church, ~~except that other than any functions which~~ the founding Church may retain to itself ~~such temporal functions as it deems proper and, in any event, The founding Church shall be remain~~ ultimately responsible for the temporal obligations of the Mission of a Founding Church.

(b) The Rector and Vestry of the founding Church may at any time agree with the Ecclesiastical Authority to designate a “Mission of a Founding Church” as a

"Diocesan Mission," and when the change in designation becomes effective, such Mission shall have the status of a Diocesan Mission under these Canons and the provisions of this Section shall no longer apply to such Mission. Any Mission of a Founding Church functioning under this Section shall be so identified in the annual list of Missions.

- (c) A Mission of a Founding Church shall be entitled to Lay and Clerical representation in the Convention and Regional Council as is afforded Churches.

#### Section 9.

- (a) An Episcopal theological seminary located within the bounds of the Diocese may, with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Regional Council of the Region in which the Mission is to be located, establish within the boundaries of such Region one or more Missions (each referred to in this Section as a "Mission of a Theological Seminary"). The ~~minister-Priest-in-charge-Charge~~ of a Mission of a Theological Seminary established pursuant to this Section shall be appointed by the Dean and President of the theological seminary with the concurrence of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Dean and President shall also appoint or allow to be elected a Vestry Committee for the Mission of a Theological Seminary which shall be composed as provided in Canon 11.14. The Vestry Committee shall be charged with ~~transacting all the temporal business of regular duties and obligations of a~~ Vestry Committee with respect to the Mission of a Theological Seminary, ~~except that other than any functions which~~ the theological seminary may retain to itself ~~such temporal functions as it deems proper and, in any event,~~ The theological seminary shall ~~be~~remain ultimately responsible for the temporal obligations of the Mission of a Theological Seminary.
- (b) The Dean and President of the theological seminary may at any time agree with the Ecclesiastical Authority to designate a "Mission of a Theological Seminary" as a "Diocesan Mission". When such designation becomes effective, the Mission will have the status of a Diocesan Mission under these Canons and the provisions of this Section shall no longer apply to the Mission. Any Mission functioning as a Mission of a Theological Seminary under this Section shall be so identified in the annual list of Missions.
- (c) A Mission of a Theological Seminary shall be entitled to Lay and Clerical representation in the Convention and Regional Council as is afforded Churches.

Section 10: An "Inactive Church" is defined as one in which there is no functioning Vestry or Vestry Committee. The authority of an Inactive Church is assigned to the Executive Board, which may delegate this authority in specific cases to a subcommittee composed entirely of members of the Executive Board. The disposition of any property of an Inactive Church that has ceased to be occupied or used is subject to the provisions of Canon 15.3.



## Text side-by-side:

### Current text:

#### **Canon 10. Churches.**

Section 1. A group of people (1) which acknowledges the jurisdiction of the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of Virginia, (2) among whom there is a regular program of identifiable Episcopal services (including regular celebration of the Holy Communion) at a designated place or places of worship, (3) which as a group shares in the support of the Episcopate of the Diocese, (4) which makes provision for the pastoral administrations of the church to its members, and (5) which functions under the supervision of a Priest or Deacon, shall, upon approval of a petition submitted in accordance with Section 2 of this Canon, be called a Church. A list of all Churches shall be published annually in the Journal of the Convention. All congregations designated as Parish Churches, Parishes, or Separate Congregations on the effective date of this Canon shall be classified as Churches.

Section 2. A group of people seeking Church status must signify its desire to a regular meeting of the Convention of the Diocese by petitioning the Convention for Church status. Such petition must contain the proposed name for the Church, a

### Text as proposed to be amended:

#### **Canon 10. Churches and Missions.**

##### Section 1.

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  - (2) among whom there is a regular program of identifiable Episcopal services (including regular celebration of the Holy Communion) at a designated place or places of worship,
  - (3) which, as a group, shares in the support of the Episcopate of the Diocese,
  - (4) which makes provision for the pastoral ministrations of The Episcopal Church to its members, and
  - (5) which functions under the supervision of a Priest or Deacon, shall, upon approval of a petition submitted in accordance with Section 2 of this Canon, be called a Church.
- (b) All congregations designated as Parish Churches, Parishes, or Separate Congregations as of January 23, 1972, are classified as Churches as of such date.
- (c) A list of all Churches shall be published annually in the Journal of the Convention.

Section 2. A group of people seeking Church status must signify its desire to a regular meeting of the Convention of the Diocese by petitioning the Convention for Church status. Such petition must be submitted for presentation to and

certification that the requirements of Section 1 of this Canon are being met, the name and address of the supervising Priest, the address or addresses of the place or places of worship, and a copy of the current budget. The petition shall be accompanied by certificates of endorsement from the Regional Council of the Region in which such group provides a place of worship and from the Executive Board.

Section 3. Each Church shall have a Vestry in conformity with Canon 11 (Election and Organization of Vestries, and Call of Congregational Meetings).

Section 4. The Vestry of a Church shall elect, from among those persons eligible to serve as Vestry members of that Church, representatives to the Regional Council and the Convention of the Diocese in the number provided by Canon.

Section 5. The Rector and Vestry of a Church as herein defined are expressly designated as the "Rector and Vestry of a Parish" for purposes of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

approval by the Convention. The petition shall contain the proposed name for the Church, a certification that the requirements of Section 1 of this Canon are being met, the name and address of the supervising Priest, the address or addresses of the place or places of worship, and a copy of the current budget. The petition shall be accompanied by certificates of endorsement from the Regional Council of the Region in which such group provides a place of worship and from the Executive Board.

Section 3. Each Church shall have a Vestry in conformity with Canon 11 (Election and Organization of Vestries, and Call of Congregational Meetings).

Section 4. The Rector and Vestry of a Church as herein defined are expressly designated as the Rector and Vestry of a Parish for purposes of applying the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Section 5.

(a) Two or more Churches may seek to merge to create a new Church according to the process described in subsection (b) of this Section.

(b) For two or more Churches to merge:

(1) The Vestry of each Church shall give notice to the Bishop in writing of their intention to enter a period of discernment.

(2) Each Church shall engage in a period of not less than six months of intentional discernment to consider prayerfully the will, vocational call, and nature of the Church and other related considerations for the merger.

(3) At each Church's annual meeting

or congregational meeting called in accordance with Canon 11.13, each Church shall vote on whether to:

- a. end the mission and ministry of the existing Church, and
- b. begin a mission and ministry as a merged Church.

(4) A two-thirds majority of each Church's members eligible to vote shall be required to approve the decision to merge.

(5) The vestries of the Churches desiring to merge shall jointly petition the Executive Board to endorse the merger and shall demonstrate compliance with this subsection.

(6) If endorsed by the Executive Board, the petition for merger shall be submitted to the Convention, and if approved by the Convention, the merged Church shall become a Church within the Diocese.

(c) Nothing in this Canon shall be construed to deny the ability of two or more Churches that do not seek to merge, or do not meet the requirements for merger, to enter into a written agreement to collaborate in their missions and ministries, with the consent of the Bishop. Such collaborating or historically yoked Churches shall remain distinct Churches within the Diocese.

(d) Nothing in this Canon shall be construed to alter or otherwise affect the rights and responsibilities according to these Canons of the Vestries, Rectors or Priests-in-Charge of collaborating or historically yoked Churches.

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#### Section 6.

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- (b) Upon the request of any Church or upon the failure of any Church to meet all the requirements of Section 1 of this Canon, or upon request by a Church for direct aid from the Diocesan Budget, the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, or the Standing Committee itself if it is the Ecclesiastical Authority, may change the status of such Church to that of a Mission. Any action taken under this section shall be reported in the Journal of the next succeeding Convention as one of the official acts of the authority taking the action.

Section 7. The minister in charge of a Mission shall be called the Vicar. A Mission shall have a Vestry Committee appointed pursuant to Canon 11.14. Further, a Mission shall be entitled to Lay and Clerical representation in the Convention and Regional Council as is afforded other Churches.

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Section 7.

(a) A group of people desiring to organize a Church, but who are unable to meet all the requirements of Section 1 of this Canon, may apply to be constituted as a Mission by the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, or the Standing Committee itself if it is the Ecclesiastical Authority.

An application for Mission status shall be accompanied by a certificate of endorsement from the Regional Council of the Region in which such group proposes to worship. A list of all Missions shall be published annually in the Journal of the Convention.

(b) Any Church may petition to become or be remitted to be a Diocesan Mission upon the failure of such Church to meet all the requirements of Section 1 of this Canon or to operate otherwise as a Church of the Diocese. The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry, or if there be no Rector, the Wardens and Vestry of an existing Church, shall unite in a petition to the Bishop, asking that such Church shall become or be remitted to the status of a Diocesan Mission, stating fully the grounds for such petition. The Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, or the Standing Committee itself if it is the Ecclesiastical Authority, may grant or refuse the petition.

(c) Upon the failure of any Church to meet all the requirements of Section 1 of this Canon, the Bishop, with the advice or consent of the Standing Committee, or the Standing Committee itself if it is the Ecclesiastical Authority, may change the status of such Church to that of a Mission.

(d) Any action taken under this Section shall be reported in the Journal of the next succeeding Convention as one of the official acts of the authority taking the action.

#### Section 8.

- (a) Any Church may, with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Regional Council of the Region in which the Mission is to be located, establish within the boundaries of such Region one or

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- (a) Any Church may, with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Regional Council of the Region in which the Mission is to be located, establish within the boundaries of such Region one or

- more Missions (each referred to in this Section as a "Mission of a Founding Church"). The minister in charge of a Mission of a Founding Church shall be appointed by the Rector of the founding Church with the concurrence of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Vestry of the founding Church shall appoint or allow to be elected a Vestry Committee for the Mission of a Founding Church which shall be composed as provided in Canon 11.14. The Vestry Committee shall be charged with transacting the temporal business of the Mission of a Founding Church, except that the founding Church may retain to itself such temporal functions as it deems proper and, in any event, shall be ultimately responsible for the temporal obligations of the Mission of a Founding Church.
- (b) The Rector and Vestry of the founding Church may at any time agree with the Ecclesiastical Authority to designate a "Mission of a Founding Church" as a "Mission," and when the change in designation becomes effective, such Mission shall have the status of a Mission under these Canons and the provisions of this Section shall no longer apply to such Mission. Any Mission of a Founding Church functioning under this Section shall be so identified in the annual list of Missions.
- (c) A Mission of a Founding Church shall be entitled to Lay and Clerical representation in the Convention and Regional Council as is afforded Churches.
- more Missions (each referred to in this Section as a "Mission of a Founding Church"). The Priest-in-Charge of a Mission of a Founding Church shall be appointed by the Rector of the founding Church with the concurrence of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Vestry of the founding Church shall appoint or allow to be elected a Vestry Committee for the Mission of a Founding Church which shall be composed as provided in Canon 11.14. The Vestry Committee shall be charged with all the regular duties and obligations of a Vestry Committee with respect to the Mission of a Founding Church other than any functions which the founding Church may retain to itself. The founding Church shall remain ultimately responsible for the temporal obligations of the Mission of a Founding Church.
- (b) The Rector and Vestry of the founding Church may at any time agree with the Ecclesiastical Authority to designate a "Mission of a Founding Church" as a "Diocesan Mission," and when the change in designation becomes effective, such Mission shall have the status of a Diocesan Mission under these Canons and the provisions of this Section shall no longer apply to such Mission. Any Mission of a Founding Church functioning under this Section shall be so identified in the annual list of Missions.
- (c) A Mission of a Founding Church shall be entitled to Lay and Clerical representation in the Convention and Regional Council as is afforded Churches.

Section 9.

- (a) An Episcopal theological seminary located within the bounds of the Diocese may, with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Regional Council of the Region in which the Mission is to be located, establish within the boundaries of such Region one or more Missions (each referred to in this Section as a "Mission of a Theological Seminary"). The minister in charge of a Mission of a Theological Seminary established pursuant to this Section shall be appointed by the Dean and President of the theological seminary with the concurrence of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Dean and President shall also appoint or allow to be elected a Vestry Committee for the Mission of a Theological Seminary which shall be composed as provided in Canon 11.14. The Vestry Committee shall be charged with transacting the temporal business of the Mission of a Theological Seminary, except that the theological seminary may retain to itself such temporal functions as it deems proper and, in any event, shall be ultimately responsible for the temporal obligations of the Mission of a Theological Seminary.
- (b) The Dean and President of the theological seminary may at any time agree with the Ecclesiastical Authority to designate a "Mission of a Theological Seminary" as a "Mission". When such designation becomes effective, the Mission will have the status of a Mission under these Canons and the provisions of this Section shall no longer apply to the Mission. Any Mission functioning as a Mission of a

Section 9.

- (a) An Episcopal theological seminary located within the bounds of the Diocese may, with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Regional Council of the Region in which the Mission is to be located, establish within the boundaries of such Region one or more Missions (each referred to in this Section as a "Mission of a Theological Seminary"). The Priest-in-Charge of a Mission of a Theological Seminary established pursuant to this Section shall be appointed by the Dean and President of the theological seminary with the concurrence of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Dean and President shall also appoint or allow to be elected a Vestry Committee for the Mission of a Theological Seminary which shall be composed as provided in Canon 11.14. The Vestry Committee shall be charged with all the regular duties and obligations of a Vestry Committee with respect to the Mission of a Theological Seminary other than any functions which the theological seminary may retain to itself. The theological seminary shall remain ultimately responsible for the temporal obligations of the Mission of a Theological Seminary.
- (b) The Dean and President of the theological seminary may at any time agree with the Ecclesiastical Authority to designate a "Mission of a Theological Seminary" as a "Diocesan Mission". When such designation becomes effective, the Mission will have the status of a Diocesan Mission under these Canons and the provisions of this Section shall no longer apply to the

- Theological Seminary under this Section shall be so identified in the annual list of Missions.
- (c) A Mission of a Theological Seminary shall be entitled to Lay and Clerical representation in the Convention and Regional Council as is afforded Churches.

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- (c) A Mission of a Theological Seminary shall be entitled to Lay and Clerical representation in the Convention and Regional Council as is afforded Churches.

Section 10: An "Inactive Church" is defined as one in which there is no functioning Vestry or Vestry Committee. The authority of an Inactive Church is assigned to the Executive Board, which may delegate this authority in specific cases to a subcommittee composed entirely of members of the Executive Board. The disposition of any property of an Inactive Church that has ceased to be occupied or used is subject to the provisions of Canon 15.3.

Section 10: An "Inactive Church" is defined as one in which there is no functioning Vestry or Vestry Committee. The authority of an Inactive Church is assigned to the Executive Board, which may delegate this authority in specific cases to a subcommittee composed entirely of members of the Executive Board. The disposition of any property of an Inactive Church that has ceased to be occupied or used is subject to the provisions of Canon 15.3.

## **Canon 11**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

In Section One of this Canon and in other Sections of the Canons the word "Vicar" is used to refer to a Priest in charge of a Mission. Although "Vicar" has historically been and still is used in this and other dioceses to refer to the Priest in charge of a Mission, it is not a canonical title used anywhere in the Constitution or Canons of the General Convention. Further, it no longer is uniformly used within the Diocese as the title for a Priest in charge of a Mission. Accordingly, in the proposed amendments to this and other Canons the word "Vicar" is deleted and replaced with "Priest-in-Charge", which is a canonical title. See, Canon III.9.3.b of the General Convention. This change is not intended to and does not preclude the use of "Vicar" or another designation as a title for a Priest in charge of a Mission. The proposed amendment to Section 3.a. is for purposes of clarity.

### **Proposed amendment:**

## **Canon 11. Election and Organization of Vestries, and Call of Congregational Meetings.**



Section 1. In this Canon, the term “Rector” refers to a Rector, ~~or Priest-in-Charge, or Vicar~~, and the term “Vestry” refers to a Vestry or Vestry Committee, unless specifically noted otherwise.

Section 2. A Church shall have a Vestry which shall consist of not fewer than three or more than 12 members, except that in any Church having more than 150 confirmed communicants in good standing, one or more additional members may be elected to its Vestry, provided that the total number of elected Vestry members shall not exceed 18, as set forth below:

Communicants in Good Standing	Maximum Number of Vestry Members
0-150	12
151-250	13
251-350	14
351-450	15
451-550	16
551-650	17
651-	18

Section 3.

(a) The election of Vestry members shall be held annually at such time and place as shall be designated by the Vestry or, in the event the Vestry does not act, then by the Rector or, if there is no Rector, then by the Wardens. If the time and place is not so fixed, then the election shall be held on Easter Monday in the church or regular place of worship. At least three calendar days' advance notice of the time and place of each election of Vestry members shall be given in the church on an occasion of public worship or by other adequate means.

(b) Vestry members may be elected for terms not to exceed four years. The congregation shall determine the length of terms, when the terms begin, and the number of Vestry members to be elected for such terms. The Vestry members elected and qualified under this Canon shall serve until their successors are elected and have qualified.

(c) At all meetings of the congregation, the Rector shall preside, except that at the request of the Rector or if the Church is without a Rector the meeting shall be presided over by one of the Wardens or, in their absence, by a Vestry member selected by the Vestry.

Section 4. Only Lay persons who are confirmed adult communicants in good standing of the Church, ~~as defined in General Convention Canon I.17~~, registered in the particular Church, shall be eligible for election as Vestry members of such Church. However, regardless of eligibility of a person for election, no person shall be elected at duly convened congregational meetings to consecutive full terms on a congregation's Vestry or Vestry Committee.

Section 5. All adult communicants in good standing, ~~as defined in General Convention~~

~~Canon I.17~~, registered in the particular Church, shall be entitled to vote at the election of Vestry members of such Church. The voting shall be by ballot in person and, unless otherwise provided by the meeting, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice. There shall be no voting by proxy. No election shall be valid unless the participating qualified voters number at least 10 per cent of the number of active communicants qualified to vote reported for the previous year.

[Sections 6 through 11 omitted; no change proposed]

#### Section 12.

- (a) Any Church having two or more congregations in different locations may apportion to each congregation the number of Vestry members to be chosen as its representation to the Vestry. A separate election shall be held by and for each congregation, at which the number of Vestry members allotted to that congregation shall be chosen in accordance with the procedure presented in the preceding provisions of this Canon. The Vestry members so chosen, together with the Rector, if there is one, shall constitute the Rector and Vestry of the Church.
- (b) The Vestry members chosen by each congregation, together with the Rector, shall have the care and control of the property and transact the local business of the congregation from which elected.
- (c) Each committee of the Church Vestry may appoint one Warden for its congregation, a Treasurer, and a Clerk. If Wardens have been chosen for particular congregations by committees of the Church Vestry, the Senior and Junior Wardens of the Church shall be chosen from among such Wardens.
- (d) The Church Vestry shall meet as a whole at least quarterly. Any matter upon which a majority of the committees of the Church Vestry concur that is recorded by their respective Clerks, and by the Register of the Vestry, shall be the act of the Vestry of the Church unless the Rector or, if there is none, the Senior Warden deems it proper that such matter should be acted upon in a meeting of the Church Vestry as a whole.

Section 13. In addition to the annual meeting of the congregation for the election of Vestry members, other meetings of the congregation may be called by the Vestry or, if they decline to do so, by 10 qualified voters of the congregation after at least three ~~calendar~~ days ~~advance~~ notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting ~~have~~has been given either on an occasion of public worship or by other adequate means to the Rector, each Vestry member, and the congregation. At such meetings only those qualified to vote for Vestry members shall be entitled to vote and such meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as meetings held for the election of Vestries, except that voting by ballot need not be required.

Section 14. The Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall appoint, or else allow a Mission which is not a Mission of a Founding Church to elect, a committee of not fewer than three nor more than 12 Lay persons who are confirmed adult communicants in good standing of that Mission, ~~as defined in General Convention Canon I.17~~, to be called the Vestry Committee.

## Text side-by-side:

### Current text:

#### **Canon 11. Election and Organization of Vestries, and Call of Congregational Meetings.**

Section 1. In this Canon, the term “Rector” refers to a Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Vicar, and the term “Vestry” refers to a Vestry or Vestry Committee, unless specifically noted otherwise.

Section 2. A Church shall have a Vestry which shall consist of not fewer than three or more than 12 members, except that in any Church having more than 150 confirmed communicants in good standing one or more additional members may be elected to its Vestry, provided that the total number of elected Vestry members shall not exceed 18, as set forth below:

Communicants in Good Standing	Maximum Number of Vestry Members
0-150	12
151-250	13
251-350	14
351-450	15
451-550	16
551-650	17
651-	18

Section 3. The election of Vestry members shall be held annually at such time and place as shall be designated by the Vestry or, in the event the Vestry does not act, then by the Rector or, if there is no Rector, then by the Wardens. If the time and place is not so fixed, then the election shall be held on Easter Monday in the church or regular place of worship. At least three days’ notice of the

### Text as proposed to be amended:

#### **Canon 11. Election and Organization of Vestries, and Call of Congregational Meetings.**

Section 1. In this Canon, the term “Rector” refers to a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, and the term “Vestry” refers to a Vestry or Vestry Committee, unless specifically noted otherwise.

Section 2. A Church shall have a Vestry which shall consist of not fewer than three or more than 12 members, except that in any Church having more than 150 confirmed communicants in good standing, one or more additional members may be elected to its Vestry provided that the total number of elected Vestry members shall not exceed 18, as set forth below:

Communicants in Good Standing	Maximum Number of Vestry Members
0-150	12
151-250	13
251-350	14
351-450	15
451-550	16
551-650	17
651-	18

#### Section 3.

- (a) The election of Vestry members shall be held annually at such time and place as shall be designated by the Vestry or, in the event the Vestry does not act, then by the Rector or, if there is no Rector, then by the Wardens. If the time and place is not so fixed, then the election shall be held on Easter

time and place of each election of Vestry members shall be given in the church on an occasion of public worship or by other adequate means.

Vestry members may be elected for terms not to exceed four years. The congregation shall determine the length of terms, when the terms begin, and the number of Vestry members to be elected for such terms. The Vestry members elected and qualified under this Canon shall serve until their successors are elected and have qualified.

At all meetings of the congregation, the Rector shall preside, except that at the request of the Rector or if the Church is without a Rector the meeting shall be presided over by one of the Wardens or, in their absence, by a Vestry member selected by the Vestry.

Section 4. Only Lay persons who are confirmed adult communicants in good standing of the Church, as defined in General Convention Canon I.17, registered in the particular Church, shall be eligible for election as Vestry members of such Church. However, regardless of eligibility of a person for election, no person shall be elected at duly convened congregational meetings to consecutive full terms on a congregation's Vestry or Vestry Committee.

Section 5. All adult communicants in good standing, as defined in General Convention Canon I.17, registered in the particular Church, shall be entitled to vote

Monday in the church or regular place of worship. At least three calendar days' advance notice of the time and place of each election of Vestry members shall be given in the church on an occasion of public worship or by other adequate means.

(b) Vestry members may be elected for terms not to exceed four years. The congregation shall determine the length of terms, when the terms begin, and the number of Vestry members to be elected for such terms. The Vestry members elected and qualified under this Canon shall serve until their successors are elected and have qualified.

(c) At all meetings of the congregation, the Rector shall preside, except that at the request of the Rector or if the Church is without a Rector the meeting shall be presided over by one of the Wardens or, in their absence, by a Vestry member selected by the Vestry.

Section 4. Only Lay persons who are confirmed adult communicants in good standing of the Church, registered in the particular Church, shall be eligible for election as Vestry members of such Church. However, regardless of eligibility of a person for election, no person shall be elected at duly convened congregational meetings to consecutive full terms on a congregation's Vestry or Vestry Committee.

Section 5. All adult communicants in good standing, registered in the particular Church, shall be entitled to vote at the election of Vestry members of such

at the election of Vestry members of such Church. The voting shall be by ballot in person and, unless otherwise provided by the meeting, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice. There shall be no voting by proxy. No election shall be valid unless the participating qualified voters number at least 10 per cent of the number of active communicants qualified to vote reported for the previous year.

[Sections 6-11 omitted]

Section 12. Any Church having two or more congregations in different locations may apportion to each congregation the number of Vestry members to be chosen as its representation to the Vestry. A separate election shall be held by and for each congregation, at which the number of Vestry members allotted to that congregation shall be chosen in accordance with the procedure presented in the preceding provisions of this Canon. The Vestry members so chosen, together with the Rector, if there is one, shall constitute the Rector and Vestry of the Church. The Vestry members chosen by each congregation, together with the Rector, shall have the care and control of the property and transact the local business of the congregation from which elected. Each committee of the Church Vestry may appoint one Warden for its congregation, a Treasurer, and a Clerk. If Wardens have been chosen for particular congregations by committees of the Church Vestry, the Senior and Junior Wardens of the Church shall be chosen from among such Wardens.

The Church Vestry shall meet as a whole at least quarterly. Any matter upon which a majority of the committees of the Church Vestry concur that is recorded by their

Church. The voting shall be by ballot in person and, unless otherwise provided by the meeting, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to a choice. There shall be no voting by proxy. No election shall be valid unless the participating qualified voters number at least 10 per cent of the number of active communicants qualified to vote reported for the previous year.

[Sections 6-11 omitted]

Section 12.

~~(e)~~(a) Any Church having two or more congregations in different locations may apportion to each congregation the number of Vestry members to be chosen as its representation to the Vestry. A separate election shall be held by and for each congregation, at which the number of Vestry members allotted to that congregation shall be chosen in accordance with the procedure presented in the preceding provisions of this Canon. The Vestry members so chosen, together with the Rector, if there is one, shall constitute the Rector and Vestry of the Church.

~~(d)~~(b) The Vestry members chosen by each congregation, together with the Rector, shall have the care and control of the property and transact the local business of the congregation from which elected.

~~(e)~~(c) Each committee of the Church Vestry may appoint one Warden for its congregation, a Treasurer, and a Clerk. If Wardens have been chosen for particular congregations by committees of the Church Vestry, the Senior and Junior

respective Clerks, and by the Register of the Vestry, shall be the act of the Vestry of the Church unless the Rector or, if there is none, the Senior Warden deems it proper that such matter should be acted upon in a meeting of the Church Vestry as a whole.

Wardens of the Church shall be chosen from among such Wardens.  
(d) The Church Vestry shall meet as a whole at least quarterly. Any matter upon which a majority of the committees of the Church Vestry concur that is recorded by their respective Clerks, and by the Register of the Vestry, shall be the act of the Vestry of the Church unless the Rector or, if there is none, the Senior Warden deems it proper that such matter should be acted upon in a meeting of the Church Vestry as a whole.

Section 13. In addition to the annual meeting of the congregation for the election of Vestry members, other meetings of the congregation may be called by the Vestry or, if they decline to do so, by 10 qualified voters of the congregation after at least three days notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting have been given either on an occasion of public worship or by other adequate means to the Rector, each Vestry member, and the congregation. At such meetings only those qualified to vote for Vestry members shall be entitled to vote and such meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as meetings held for the election of Vestries, except that voting by ballot need not be required.

Section 13. In addition to the annual meeting of the congregation for the election of Vestry members, other meetings of the congregation may be called by the Vestry or, if they decline to do so, by 10 qualified voters of the congregation after at least three calendar days advance notice of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting has been given either on an occasion of public worship or by other adequate means to the Rector, each Vestry member, and the congregation. At such meetings only those qualified to vote for Vestry members shall be entitled to vote and such meetings shall be conducted in the same manner as meetings held for the election of Vestries, except that voting by ballot need not be required.

Section 14. The Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall appoint, or else allow a Mission which is not a Mission of a Founding Church to elect, a committee of not fewer than three nor more than 12 Lay persons who are confirmed adult communicants in good standing of that Mission, as defined in General Convention Canon I.17, to be called the Vestry Committee.

Section 14. The Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall appoint, or else allow a Mission which is not a Mission of a Founding Church to elect, a committee of not fewer than three nor more than 12 Lay persons who are confirmed adult communicants in good standing of that Mission to be called the Vestry Committee.

## **Canon 12**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The following amendments are proposed to Canon 12:

1. Section 7 is a new section addressing the obligation of a Vestry and Vestry Committee to elect Lay representatives to Regional Council and the Convention of the Diocese. The language was moved from Canon 10 because it better aligns with the duties of Vestries and Vestry Committees addressed in Canon 12.
2. Section 8 is a new section added to address the authority of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge to hire and terminate employees of a Church or Mission, a matter not directly addressed in the Diocesan Canons. Consistent with the practice in the Diocese and the general duties of a Rector and Priest-in-Charge found in the Canons of the General Convention, the amended provision provides that the Rector or Priest-in-Charge has the authority to hire and terminate employees after consultation with the Vestry.
3. Section 9.e is amended to clarify that the Rector or Priest-in-Charge has the authority to supervise employees of a Church. The current language states that Wardens are responsible for supervising employees. The proposed language states that Wardens have a duty to support the Rector or Priest-in-Charge in supervising employees.
4. This Canon is also amended to replace the word "Vicar" with "Priest-in-Charge" for the reasons previously addressed.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Canon 12.**

#### **Duties of Vestries, Wardens, and Parish Officers.**

##### **Section 1.**

- (a) ~~The Rector~~Vestry of a Church shall ~~be elected by its Vestry~~elect a Priest to serve as the Rector, with the advice of the Bishop and in compliance with Canon III.9.3(a) of the General Convention~~Canon III.9.3(a). The~~.
- (b) ~~Upon the nomination by the Bishop, the~~ Vestry Committee of ~~every~~a Mission shall elect a ~~Vicar upon nomination by the Bishop; the Vicar will~~Priest to serve as Priest-in-Charge of a Mission. Absent timely election by a Vestry Committee, the Bishop may appoint a Priest to serve as the Priest-in-Charge. In all such congregations the Priest-in-Charge shall exercise the duties of a Rector, outlined in Canon III.9.6 of the General Convention, and serve at the pleasure of the Bishop. ~~In accordance with General Convention Canon III.9.3(b),~~
- (c) ~~The Bishop~~, after consultation with the Vestry, may appoint a Priest to serve as Priest-in-Charge ~~may be appointed by the Bishop for of any congregation~~Church in which there is no Rector. ~~Any assistant ministers of a Church, by whatever name they may be designated, shall be selected by the, in accordance with Canon~~

III.9.3(b) of the General Convention.

(d) The Rector or Priest-in-Charge, subject to the approval of the Vestry and or Vestry Committee, shall select any Priest or other ministers to serve as an assistant, by whatever title designated, in accordance with General Convention Canon III.9.3(c-) of the General Convention.

Section 2. Each Vestry member shall cooperate with the Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge in promoting the spiritual welfare of the congregation and assist the Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge in the duties defined in Canon III.9.6 of the General Convention ~~Canon III.9.6.~~

Section 3. Each Vestry member shall support the programs of the Church through a commitment to service and a biblically based standard of proportional giving. Each Vestry member shall also continuously encourage the members of the congregation to support the programs of the Church and to give generously towards the support of those programs; and each Vestry member shall extend personally a hearty welcome to newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred members of the congregation.

Section 4. Each Vestry shall see that the Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge is properly supported, that the ~~Rector or Vicar's~~Rector's and Priest-in-Charge's salary is paid in full and with regularity, together with the pension premiums and other obligations due from the Church; annually review the compensation of its Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge in keeping with the published guidelines of the Diocese; and make all necessary provision for ~~Church~~church music, with the advice and consent of the Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge, and subject to the control of the Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge.

Section 5. Each Vestry shall commit to the Virginia Plan for Covenantal Giving and remit the resultant sum to the Treasurer of the Diocese in regular monthly installments. It shall be the joint duty of the Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge and Vestry to submit to the Bishop by ~~the first of~~ March 1 of each year a parochial report for the year ending December 31 preceding.

Section 6. Each Vestry, as the constituted agents of the Church, shall transact all its temporal business, e.g.: (a) providing for the appointment of Trustees pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia to hold title to the property of the Church; (b) making and executing all contracts for erecting, furnishing, and preserving the Church edifice and other property; (c) regulating the use of any graveyard or columbarium; (d) establishing a Finance Committee as required by Canon 25 (Finance Committees); and (e) observing Canon 13 (Business Methods in Church Affairs).

Section 7. The Vestry of a Church shall elect, from among those persons eligible to serve as Vestry members of that Church, representatives to the Regional Council and the Convention of the Diocese in the number provided by Canon.

Section 8. After consultation with the Vestry, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of a Church has the authority to hire and terminate employees of the Church. After consultation with



the Vestry Committee, the Priest-in-Charge of a Mission has the authority to hire and terminate employees of the Mission.

Section 9. With the assistance of the other members of the Vestry and the congregation, ~~the~~ Wardens shall have the following duties:

- (a) To oversee the operation and maintenance of the Church property;
- (b) To see that the Church is duly prepared for every occasion of public worship, attend to the accommodations of the congregation with seats, and maintain order and decorum at the time of public worship;
- (c) To collect the offerings of the people;
- (d) To provide out of Church funds, under the direction of the Vestry, a sufficient supply of vestments and books to be used in public worship and also the elements for each celebration of the Holy Eucharist;
- (e) To ~~see that~~support the ~~sexton and other~~Rector or Priest-in-Charge in supervising employees ~~properly discharge their duties~~; and
- (f) To be familiar with the current General Convention and Diocesan Constitutions and Canons for the information and guidance of the Rector, or Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry or Vestry Committee, and the congregation.

Section ~~8~~10. It shall be the duty of the Register of the Vestry to take charge of all records except the Parish Register and keep correct entries of all proceedings of the Vestry in a well-bound book or appropriate digital form to be provided for that purpose and to deliver the records and ~~minute books~~minutes to the Rector, ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge, or Wardens, when the Register's term of office expires.

Section ~~9.~~The 11.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) below, the Treasurer shall take charge of all funds ~~except Communion Alms as provided for in General Convention Canon III.9.6.(b)(6)~~, and disburse the same under the direction of the Vestry, maintaining these accounts in accordance with the canonical requirements for the conduct of business in Church affairs, rendering reports to the Vestry and to the Convention as may be required. When the Treasurer's term of office ends, the Treasurer shall deliver all books and records pertaining to the Treasurer's office to the Wardens.

(b) Communion Alms shall be treated as provided for in Canon III.9.6(b)(6) of the General Convention.

Section ~~10~~12. The provisions of this Canon ~~shall~~are also ~~be~~ applicable to Vestry Committees of Missions to the extent not in conflict with other Canons.

## Text side-by-side:

### Current text:

#### **Canon 12. Duties of Vestries, Wardens, and Parish Officers.**

Section 1. The Rector of a Church shall be elected by its Vestry, with the advice of the Bishop and in compliance with General Convention Canon III.9.3(a). The Vestry Committee of every Mission shall elect a Vicar upon nomination by the Bishop; the Vicar will serve at the pleasure of the Bishop. In accordance with General Convention Canon III.9.3(b), after consultation with the Vestry, a Priest-in-Charge may be appointed by the Bishop for any congregation in which there is no Rector. Any assistant ministers of a Church, by whatever name they may be designated, shall be selected by the Rector subject to the approval of the Vestry and in accordance with General Convention Canon III.9.3(c).

Section 2. Each Vestry shall cooperate with the Rector or Vicar in promoting the spiritual welfare of the congregation and assist the Rector or Vicar in the duties

### Text as proposed to be amended:

#### **Canon 12. Duties of Vestries, Wardens, and Parish Officers.**

##### Section 1.

- (a) The Vestry of a Church shall elect a Priest to serve as the Rector, with the advice of the Bishop and in compliance with Canon III.9.3(a) of the General Convention.
- (b) Upon the nomination by the Bishop, the Vestry Committee of a Mission shall elect a Priest to serve as Priest-in-Charge of a Mission. Absent timely election by a Vestry Committee, the Bishop may appoint a Priest to serve as the Priest-in-Charge. In all such congregations the Priest-in-Charge shall exercise the duties of a Rector, outlined in Canon III.9.6 of the General Convention, and serve at the pleasure of the Bishop.
- (c) The Bishop, after consultation with the Vestry, may appoint a Priest to serve as Priest-in-Charge of any Church in which there is no Rector, in accordance with Canon III.9.3(b) of the General Convention.
- (d) The Rector or Priest-in-Charge, subject to the approval of the Vestry or Vestry Committee, shall select any Priest or other ministers to serve as an assistant, by whatever title designated, in accordance with Canon III.9.3(c) of the General Convention.

Section 2. Each Vestry member shall cooperate with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge in promoting the spiritual welfare of the congregation and assist the Rector

defined in General Convention Canon III.9.6.

Section 3. Each Vestry member shall support the programs of the Church through a commitment to service and a biblically based standard of proportional giving. Each Vestry member shall also continuously encourage the members of the congregation to support the programs of the Church and to give generously towards the support of those programs; and each Vestry member shall extend personally a hearty welcome to newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred members of the congregation.

Section 4. Each Vestry shall see that the Rector or Vicar is properly supported, that the Rector or Vicar's salary is paid in full and with regularity, together with the pension premiums and other obligations due from the Church; annually review the compensation of its Rector or Vicar in keeping with the published guidelines of the Diocese; and make all necessary provision for Church music, with the advice and consent of the Rector or Vicar, and subject to the control of the Rector or Vicar.

Section 5. Each Vestry shall commit to the Virginia Plan for Covenantal Giving and remit the resultant sum to the Treasurer of the Diocese in regular monthly installments. It shall be the joint duty of the Rector or Vicar and Vestry to submit to the Bishop by the first of March of each year a parochial report for the year ending December 31 preceding.

Section 6. Each Vestry, as the constituted agents of the Church, shall transact all its temporal business, e.g.: (a) providing for

or Priest-in-Charge in the duties defined in Canon III.9.6 of the General Convention.

Section 3. Each Vestry member shall support the programs of the Church through a commitment to service and a biblically based standard of proportional giving. Each Vestry member shall also continuously encourage the members of the congregation to support the programs of the Church and to give generously towards the support of those programs; and each Vestry member shall extend personally a hearty welcome to newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred members of the congregation.

Section 4. Each Vestry shall see that the Rector or Priest-in-Charge is properly supported, that the Rector's and Priest-in-Charge's salary is paid in full and with regularity, together with the pension premiums and other obligations due from the Church; annually review the compensation of its Rector or Priest-in-Charge in keeping with the published guidelines of the Diocese; and make all necessary provision for church music, with the advice and consent of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, and subject to the control of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge.

Section 5. Each Vestry shall commit to the Virginia Plan for Covenantal Giving and remit the resultant sum to the Treasurer of the Diocese in regular monthly installments. It shall be the joint duty of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and Vestry to submit to the Bishop by March 1 of each year a parochial report for the year ending December 31 preceding.

Section 6. Each Vestry, as the constituted agents of the Church, shall transact all its temporal business, e.g.: (a) providing for

the appointment of Trustees pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia to hold title to the property of the Church; (b) making and executing all contracts for erecting, furnishing, and preserving the Church edifice and other property; (c) regulating the use of any graveyard or columbarium; (d) establishing a Finance Committee as required by Canon 25 (Finance Committees); and (e) observing Canon 13 (Business Methods in Church Affairs).

Section 7. With the assistance of the other members of the Vestry and congregation, the Wardens shall have the following duties:

- (a) To oversee the operation and maintenance of the Church property;
- (b) To see that the Church is duly prepared for every occasion of public worship, attend to the accommodations of the congregation with seats, and maintain order and decorum at the time of public worship;
- (c) To collect the offerings of the people;
- (d) To provide out of Church funds, under the direction of the Vestry, a sufficient supply of vestments and books to be used in public worship and also the elements for each celebration of the Holy Eucharist;
- (e) To see that the sexton and other employees properly discharge their duties; and
- (f) To be familiar with the current General Convention and Diocesan Constitutions and Canons for the information and guidance of the Rector, Vestry, and congregation.

Section 8. It shall be the duty of the Register of the Vestry to take charge of all

the appointment of Trustees pursuant to the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia to hold title to the property of the Church; (b) making and executing all contracts for erecting, furnishing, and preserving the Church edifice and other property; (c) regulating the use of any graveyard or columbarium; (d) establishing a Finance Committee as required by Canon 25 (Finance Committees); and (e) observing Canon 13 (Business Methods in Church Affairs).

Section 7. The Vestry of a Church shall elect, from among those persons eligible to serve as Vestry members of that Church, representatives to the Regional Council and the Convention of the Diocese in the number provided by Canon.

Section 8. After consultation with the Vestry, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of a Church has the authority to hire and

records except the Parish Register and keep correct entries of all proceedings of the Vestry in a well-bound book to be provided for that purpose and to deliver the records and minute books to the Rector, Vicar, or Wardens, when the Register's term of office expires.

Section 9. The Treasurer shall take charge of all funds except Communion Alms as provided for in General Convention Canon III.9.6.(b)(6), and disburse the same under the direction of the Vestry, maintaining these accounts in accordance with the canonical requirements for the conduct of business in Church affairs, rendering reports to the Vestry and to the Convention as may be required. When the Treasurer's term of office ends, the Treasurer shall deliver all books and records pertaining to the Treasurer's office to the Wardens.

Section 10. The provisions of this Canon shall also be applicable to Vestry Committees to the extent not in conflict with other Canons.

terminate employees of the Church. After consultation with the Vestry Committee, the Priest-in-Charge of a Mission has the authority to hire and terminate employees of the Mission.

Section 9. With the assistance of the other members of the Vestry and the congregation, Wardens shall have the following duties:

- (a) To oversee the operation and maintenance of the Church property;
- (b) To see that the Church is duly prepared for every occasion of public worship, attend to the accommodations of the congregation with seats, and maintain order and decorum at the time of public worship;
- (c) To collect the offerings of the people;
- (d) To provide out of Church funds, under the direction of the Vestry, a sufficient supply of vestments and books to be used in public worship and also the elements for each celebration of the Holy Eucharist;
- (e) To support the Rector or Priest-in-Charge in supervising employees; and
- (f) To be familiar with the current General Convention and Diocesan Constitutions and Canons for the information and guidance of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry or Vestry Committee, and the congregation.

Section 10. It shall be the duty of the Register of the Vestry to take charge of all records except the Parish Register and keep correct entries of all proceedings of the Vestry in a well-bound book or appropriate digital form to be provided for

that purpose and to deliver the records and minutes to the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Wardens, when the Register's term of office expires.

Section 11.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) below, the Treasurer shall take charge of all funds and disburse the same under the direction of the Vestry, maintaining these accounts in accordance with the canonical requirements for the conduct of business in Church affairs, rendering reports to the Vestry and to the Convention as may be required. When the Treasurer's term of office ends, the Treasurer shall deliver all books and records pertaining to the Treasurer's office to the Wardens.

(b) Communion Alms shall be treated as provided for in Canon III.9.6(b)(6) of the General Convention.

Section 12. The provisions of this Canon are also applicable to Vestry Committees of Missions to the extent not in conflict with other Canons.

**Canon 13.**

**Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed revisions to Section 1 and Section 2 are intended to remove ambiguity; they are not substantive. In Section 1, the non-specific reference to "Institution" is replaced with "Related Organization" because Related Organizations are specific entities described in Canon 17.

**Proposed amendment:**

**Canon 13.**

**Business Methods in Church Affairs.**

Section 1. In every Church, Mission, and ~~Institution~~Related Organization connected with the Diocese, business methods shall be observed as contained in Canon 1.7 of the General Convention ~~Canon 1.7~~ and as supplemented herein.

Section 2. All trust, endowment, and other permanent funds, and all securities of whatsoever kind for which a Treasurer is responsible represented by physical evidence of ownership or indebtedness, shall be deposited or invested with due regard for the social responsibility of the Church and the social implications of the Christian faith. These funds shall be (a) deposited in one or more accounts properly earmarked, with one or more national or state banks or trust companies, or one or more savings and loan associations, the accounts of which are insured by an instrumentality of the United States, or with a Diocesan Corporation; or (b) invested in such a manner as is permitted by Title 64.2, Subtitle III, Chapter 7 (Sections 64.2-780 through 64.2-791) of the Code of Virginia (1950) as it may be amended from time to time; or (iii) invested in such manner as approved by the Executive Board. Such accounts shall be approved in writing by the Vestry or ~~its~~the appropriate governing body. This section shall not be deemed to prohibit investments in securities issued in book entry form or other manner that dispenses with delivery of a certificate evidencing the ownership of the securities or the indebtedness of the issuer.

[Sections 3 through 5 omitted; no change proposed]

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text:**

**Canon 13.  
Business Methods in Church Affairs.**

Section 1. In every Church, Mission, and Institution connected with the Diocese, business methods shall be observed as contained in General Convention Canon 1.7 and as supplemented herein.

Section 2. All trust, endowment, and other permanent funds, and all securities of whatsoever kind for which a Treasurer is responsible represented by physical evidence of ownership or indebtedness, shall be deposited or invested with due regard for the social responsibility of the Church and the social implications of the Christian faith. These funds shall be (a) deposited in one or more accounts properly earmarked, with one or more national or state banks or trust companies, or one or more savings and

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Canon 13.  
Business Methods in Church Affairs.**

Section 1. In every Church, Mission, and Related Organization connected with the Diocese, business methods shall be observed as contained in Canon 1.7 of the General Convention and as supplemented herein.

Section 2. All trust, endowment, and other permanent funds, and all securities of whatsoever kind for which a Treasurer is responsible represented by physical evidence of ownership or indebtedness, shall be deposited or invested with due regard for the social responsibility of the Church and the social implications of the Christian faith. These funds shall be (a) deposited in one or more accounts properly earmarked, with one or more national or state banks or trust companies, or one or more savings and

loan associations, the accounts of which are insured by an instrumentality of the United States, or with a Diocesan Corporation; or (b) invested in such a manner as is permitted by Title 64.2, Subtitle III, Chapter 7 (Sections 64.2-780 through 64.2-791) of the Code of Virginia (1950) as it may be amended from time to time; or (iii) invested in such manner as approved by the Executive Board. Such accounts shall be approved in writing by the Vestry or its governing body.

This section shall not be deemed to prohibit investments in securities issued in book entry form or other manner that dispenses with delivery of a certificate evidencing the ownership of the securities or the indebtedness of the issuer.

[Sections 3 through 5 omitted; no change proposed]

loan associations, the accounts of which are insured by an instrumentality of the United States, or with a Diocesan Corporation; or (b) invested in such a manner as is permitted by Title 64.2, Subtitle III, Chapter 7 (Sections 64.2-780 through 64.2-791) of the Code of Virginia (1950) as it may be amended from time to time; or (iii) invested in such manner as approved by the Executive Board. Such accounts shall be approved in writing by the Vestry or the appropriate governing body. This section shall not be deemed to prohibit investments in securities issued in book entry form or other manner that dispenses with delivery of a certificate evidencing the ownership of the securities or the indebtedness of the issuer.

[Sections 3 through 5 omitted; no change proposed]

## **Canon 14**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment adds “Mission” to clarify that the Canon is also applicable to Missions, and the reference to “institution” is replaced with the more specific reference to Related Organizations described in Canon 17.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Canon 14. Creation of Church Debt.**

Section 1. No indebtedness shall be incurred by a Church, Mission or ~~Institution~~Related Organization without the written approval of the Bishop and of the Standing Committee, except:

- (a) where the proposed indebtedness is for permanent improvements, replacements, or additions to real estate or equipment, the proposed indebtedness plus indebtedness of every kind already existing does not exceed 150% of the average annual receipts of such Church or ~~Institution~~Related Organization during the previous three fiscal years; or
- (b) where the proposed indebtedness is for current expenses, the proposed



indebtedness plus all indebtedness theretofore incurred for current expenses and still existing does not exceed 20% of the total current receipts of such Church, Mission or InstitutionRelated Organization during the preceding fiscal year.

[Sections 2 and 3 omitted; no change proposed]

### Text side-by-side:

#### Current text:

##### **Canon 14. Creation of Church Debt**

Section 1.No indebtedness shall be incurred by a Church or Institution without the written approval of the Bishop and of the Standing Committee, except:

- (a) where the proposed indebtedness is for permanent improvements, replacements, or additions to real estate or equipment, the proposed indebtedness plus indebtedness of every kind already existing does not exceed 150% of the average annual receipts of such Church or Institution during the previous three fiscal years; or
- (b) where the proposed indebtedness is for current expenses, the proposed indebtedness plus all indebtedness theretofore incurred for current expenses and still existing does not exceed 20% of the total current receipts of such Church or Institution during the preceding fiscal year.

[Sections 2 and 3 omitted; no change proposed]

#### Text as proposed to be amended:

##### **Canon 14. Creation of Church Debt.**

Section 1.No indebtedness shall be incurred by a Church, Mission or Related Organization without the written approval of the Bishop and of the Standing Committee, except:

- (a) where the proposed indebtedness is for permanent improvements, replacements, or additions to real estate or equipment, the proposed indebtedness plus indebtedness of every kind already existing does not exceed 150% of the average annual receipts of such Church or Related Organization during the previous three fiscal years; or
- (b) where the proposed indebtedness is for current expenses, the proposed indebtedness plus all indebtedness theretofore incurred for current expenses and still existing does not exceed 20% of the total current receipts of such Church, Mission or Related Organization during the preceding fiscal year.

[Sections 2 and 3 omitted; no change proposed]

## **Canon 15**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

Currently, under Section 2, a Church needs the Bishop's consent, acting with the advice of the Standing Committee, to transfer or encumber real property only if the property has been consecrated or is used solely for worship services. By contrast, the Bishop's consent is required before a Mission can "alienate" real property, without regard to whether the property has been consecrated. In addition, the Diocese does not have reliable records regarding what property is consecrated. Under the proposed revisions, the consent of the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, will be required before a Church or a Mission can transfer or encumber real property, without regard to whether the property is consecrated. These revisions are intended to ensure a uniform approval process for the transfer of real property by Churches and Missions and to require the Bishop's approval, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, without regard to how the property is or has been used. The amendment to Section 3 is for purposes of clarity.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Canon 15. Church Property.**

Section 1. All real and personal property held by or for the benefit of any Church or Mission within ~~this~~the Diocese is held in trust for The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Virginia. The Vestry of every Church and, when authorized by the Bishop, the Vestry Committee of a Mission shall elect Trustees for appointment pursuant to law to hold title to such property.

Section 2. No part of the real property of a Church or Mission, except abandoned property, shall be alienated, sold, exchanged, encumbered, or otherwise transferred for any purpose without the consent of the congregation in a meeting called for that purpose pursuant to the provisions of Section 13 of Canon 11 and approval of the appropriate court, if required by law, and, ~~in the case of consecrated property or any Church or Chapel which has been used solely for worship services, the further~~ the consent of the Bishop, acting with the advice and the consent of the Standing Committee. ~~No part of the real property of a Mission under Supervision shall be alienated without the further consent of the Bishop.~~

Section 3. The Executive Board shall take such steps as may be necessary to recover or secure, and take charge and custody of, any property, real or personal, belonging to any Church or bodies heretofore known as a Parish, Separate Congregation, Mission Church, or Mission within ~~this~~the Diocese, the legal title to which is not vested in duly constituted Trustees. Further, whenever any property, real or personal, formerly owned or used by any congregation of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia for any purpose for which religious congregations are authorized to hold property under the

provisions of the Code of Virginia or any amendment thereof, has ceased to be so occupied or used by such congregation; so that the ~~same property~~ may be regarded as abandoned ~~property by~~, the Executive Board, ~~which~~ shall have the authority to declare ~~such the~~ property abandoned and ~~shall have the authority~~ to take charge and custody thereof. Upon taking charge and custody of property pursuant to this Section, the Executive Board shall take such steps as may be necessary to transfer the property to the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority or to sell it.

[Sections 4 through 7 omitted; no change proposed]

### Text side-by-side:

#### Current text:

##### **Canon 15. Church Property.**

Section 1. All real and personal property held by or for the benefit of any Church or Mission within this Diocese is held in trust for The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Virginia. The Vestry of every Church and, when authorized by the Bishop, the Vestry Committee of a Mission shall elect Trustees for appointment pursuant to law to hold title to such property.

Section 2. No part of the real property of a Church, except abandoned property, shall be alienated, sold, exchanged, encumbered, or otherwise transferred for any purpose without the consent of the congregation in a meeting called for that purpose pursuant to the provisions of Section 13 of Canon 11 and approval of the appropriate court, if required by law, and, in the case of consecrated property or any Church or Chapel which has been used solely for worship services, the further consent of the Bishop, acting with the advice and the consent of the Standing Committee. No part of the real property of a Mission under Supervision shall be alienated without the further consent of the Bishop.

#### Text as proposed to be amended:

##### **Canon 15. Church Property.**

Section 1. All real and personal property held by or for the benefit of any Church or Mission within the Diocese is held in trust for The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Virginia. The Vestry of every Church and, when authorized by the Bishop, the Vestry Committee of a Mission shall elect Trustees for appointment pursuant to law to hold title to such property.

Section 2. No part of the real property of a Church or Mission, except abandoned property, shall be alienated, sold, exchanged, encumbered, or otherwise transferred for any purpose without the consent of the congregation in a meeting called for that purpose pursuant to the provisions of Section 13 of Canon 11 and approval of the appropriate court, if required by law, and the consent of the Bishop, acting with the advice and the consent of the Standing Committee.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall take such steps as may be necessary to recover or secure, and take charge and custody of, any property, real or personal, belonging to any Church or bodies heretofore known as a Parish, Separate Congregation, Mission Church, or Mission within this Diocese, the legal title to which is not vested in duly constituted Trustees. Further, whenever any property, real or personal, formerly owned or used by any congregation of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia for any purpose for which religious congregations are authorized to hold property under the provisions of the Code of Virginia or any amendment thereof, has ceased to be so occupied or used by such congregation, so that the same may be regarded as abandoned property by the Executive Board, which shall have the authority to declare such property abandoned and shall have the authority to take charge and custody thereof. Upon taking charge and custody of property pursuant to this Section, the Executive Board shall take such steps as may be necessary to transfer the property to the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority or to sell it.

[Sections 4 through 7 omitted; no change proposed]

Section 3. The Executive Board shall take such steps as may be necessary to recover or secure, and take charge and custody of, any property, real or personal, belonging to any Church or bodies heretofore known as a Parish, Separate Congregation, Mission Church, or Mission within the Diocese, the legal title to which is not vested in duly constituted Trustees. Further, whenever any property, real or personal, formerly owned or used by any congregation of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia for any purpose for which religious congregations are authorized to hold property under the provisions of the Code of Virginia or any amendment thereof, has ceased to be so occupied or used by such congregation so that the property may be regarded as abandoned, the Executive Board shall have the authority to declare the property abandoned and to take charge and custody thereof. Upon taking charge and custody of property pursuant to this Section, the Executive Board shall take such steps as may be necessary to transfer the property to the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority or to sell it.

[Sections 4 through 7 omitted; no change proposed]

## **Canon 16**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment replaces “Vicar” with “Priest-in-Charge” for the reason previously addressed.

## Proposed amendment:

### Canon 16. Parish Registers and Parochial Reports.

Section 1. Every Rector and ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge shall maintain a register of official acts and make the required entries in the Parish Register as required by ~~General Convention Canon I.6.1 of the General Convention~~. These records shall be made in suitable ~~books~~form to constitute collectively the Parish Register, to be provided by the Vestry for that purpose and to remain the property of the Vestry. When a congregation is without a Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge, one of the Wardens shall take charge of the Parish Register and shall make, or cause to be made, all needful entries until the vacancy is filled.

Section 2. Every Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge shall ~~send~~provide to the Bishop or, if there is no Bishop, to the Secretary of the Diocese or the President of the Convention, on or before ~~the first day of~~ March 1 of each year, the report required by ~~General Convention Canon I.6.1 of the General Convention~~ for the year ending ~~the thirty-first day of~~ December 31 preceding, in such form as shall be prescribed by the Bishop or the Convention. If any congregation is without a Rector or ~~Vicar~~Priest-in-Charge, the report shall be sent by the Wardens. The Bishop shall compile a list of those Churches and Clergy whose reports are not sent by ~~the first day of~~ March 1 and, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, take appropriate action.

## Text side-by-side:

### Current text:

#### Canon 16. Parish Registers and Parochial Reports.

Section 1. Every Rector and Vicar shall maintain a register of official acts and make the required entries in the Parish Register as required by General Convention Canon I.6.1. These records shall be made in suitable books to constitute collectively the Parish Register, to be provided by the Vestry for that purpose and to remain the property of the Vestry. When a congregation is without a Rector or Vicar, one of the Wardens shall take charge of the Parish Register and shall make, or cause to be made, all needful entries until the vacancy is filled.

### Text as proposed to be amended:

#### Canon 16. Parish Registers and Parochial Reports.

Section 1. Every Rector and Priest-in-Charge shall maintain a register of official acts and make the required entries in the Parish Register as required by Canon I.6.1 of the General Convention. These records shall be made in suitable form to constitute collectively the Parish Register, to be provided by the Vestry for that purpose and to remain the property of the Vestry. When a congregation is without a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, one of the Wardens shall take charge of the Parish Register and shall make, or cause to be made, all needful entries until the

vacancy is filled.

Section 2. Every Rector or Vicar shall send to the Bishop or, if there is no Bishop, to the Secretary of the Diocese or the President of the Convention, on or before the first day of March of each year, the report required by General Convention Canon I.6.1 for the year ending the thirty-first day of December preceding, in such form as shall be prescribed by the Bishop or the Convention. If any congregation is without a Rector or Vicar, the report shall be sent by the Wardens. The Bishop shall compile a list of those Churches and Clergy whose reports are not sent by the first day of March and, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, take appropriate action.

Section 2. Every Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall provide to the Bishop or, if there is no Bishop, to the Secretary of the Diocese or the President of the Convention, on or before March 1 of each year, the report required by Canon I.6.1 of the General Convention for the year ending December 31 preceding, in such form as shall be prescribed by the Bishop or the Convention. If any congregation is without a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the report shall be sent by the Wardens. The Bishop shall compile a list of those Churches and Clergy whose reports are not sent by March 1 and, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, take appropriate action.

**[Canons 17 through 19 omitted; no change proposed]**

**Canon 20**

**Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment amends Section 1 to clarify that the official records of the Diocese can be maintained in physical or digital format.

**Proposed amendment:**

**Canon 20.**

**The Registrar of the Diocese.**

Section 1. The Registrar shall be responsible to the Bishop and the Convention for the preservation of the official records of the Diocese, which shall include the Journals of the Conventions and the official records of the Bishops-, whether in physical or in digital format. The Registrar shall procure, receive, catalogue, and preserve books, papers, and other documents bearing upon the history of the Church in the Diocese.

[Section 2 omitted; no change proposed]

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text:**

**Canon 20.  
The Registrar of the Diocese.**

Section 1. The Registrar shall be responsible to the Bishop and the Convention for the preservation of the official records of the Diocese, which shall include the Journals of the Conventions and the official records of the Bishops. The Registrar shall procure, receive, catalogue, and preserve books, papers, and other documents bearing upon the history of the Church in the Diocese.

[Section 2 omitted; no change proposed]

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Canon 20.  
The Registrar of the Diocese.**

Section 1. The Registrar shall be responsible to the Bishop and the Convention for the preservation of the official records of the Diocese, which shall include the Journals of the Conventions and the official records of the Bishops, whether in physical or in digital format. The Registrar shall procure, receive, catalogue, and preserve books, papers, and other documents bearing upon the history of the Church in the Diocese.

[Section 2 omitted; no change proposed]

**Canon 21**

**Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment clarifies that a member of the Standing Committee who has completed a full term within the preceding two years is not eligible for reappointment or reelection.

**Proposed amendment:**

**Canon 21.  
The Standing Committee of the Diocese.**

[Sections 1 and 2 omitted; no proposed change]

Section 3. No member of the Standing Committee chosen by the Executive Board or the Convention to fill a vacancy on that Committee as provided by the Constitution shall be ineligible to be elected to a full term, ~~but a~~ A member of the Standing Committee who has completed a full term within the preceding two years ~~a full term~~ shall not be eligible to be chosen by the Executive Board or the Convention to fill a vacancy, nor be eligible to be elected to a full term on that Committee.

## Text side-by-side:

### Current text:

#### **Canon 21. The Standing Committee of the Diocese.**

[Section 1 and 2 omitted; no proposed change]

Section 3.No member of the Standing Committee chosen by the Executive Board or the Convention to fill a vacancy on that Committee as provided by the Constitution shall be ineligible to be elected to a full term, but a member of the Standing Committee who has completed within two years a full term shall not be eligible to be chosen by the Executive Board or the Convention to fill a vacancy, nor be eligible to be elected to a full term on that Committee.

### Text as proposed to be amended:

#### **Canon 21. The Standing Committee of the Diocese.**

[Sections 1 and 2 omitted; no proposed change]

Section 3.No member of the Standing Committee chosen by the Executive Board or the Convention to fill a vacancy on that Committee as provided by the Constitution shall be ineligible to be elected to a full term. A member of the Standing Committee who has completed a full term within the preceding two years shall not be eligible to be chosen by the Executive Board or the Convention to fill a vacancy, nor be eligible to be elected to a full term on that Committee.

## **Canon 22**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendments are solely for accuracy of internal references and increased clarity and are not intended to effect substantive change.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Canon 22. The Commission on Ministry.**

##### **Section 1.Membership.**

- (a) The Convention shall elect six persons, three Clerical and three Lay, to the Commission on Ministry. One in each order will be elected annually to serve for a term of three years. No one so elected shall be eligible for re-election after having served two consecutive terms until after the expiration of one year, providing that nothing herein shall prevent the Bishop from nominating one or more such persons under the provisions of ~~Section 4~~subsection (b) of this ~~Canon~~Section. Lay persons elected to the Commission shall be adult



- communicants in good standing of a Church or Mission in the Diocese.
- (b) The Bishop may annually appoint not more than 10 additional members for a term of one year each. Such appointments shall be subject to confirmation by the Convention. Such appointments of Lay persons shall be communicants in good standing of a Church or Mission in the Diocese.
  - (c) In the case of a vacancy ~~in~~among the members elected pursuant to subsection (a) of this ~~Section 1(a)~~, the Executive Board shall fill the vacancy from the same order and that member shall serve for the balance of that term. In the case of a vacancy in the members appointed pursuant to subsection (b), the Bishop may appoint a member to complete that one-year term.

Section 2. The duties of the Commission on Ministry shall be those prescribed in the Canons of the General Convention, including, but not limited to, advising and assisting the Bishop in:

- (a) ~~in~~ the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons, and
- (b) ~~in~~ the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefore. The Commission may establish committees consisting of members and other persons to report to the Commission or to act on its behalf.

Section 3. The Commission on Ministry shall annually report to the Convention.

#### Text side-by-side:

##### Current text:

#### **Canon 22. The Commission on Ministry.**

##### Section 1. Membership.

- (a) The Convention shall elect six persons, three Clerical and three Lay, to the Commission on Ministry. One in each order will be elected annually to serve for a term of three years. No one so elected shall be eligible for re-election after having served two consecutive terms until after the expiration of one year, providing that nothing herein shall prevent the Bishop from nominating one or more such persons under the provisions of Section 1(b) of this Canon. Lay persons elected to the

##### Text as proposed to be amended:

#### **Canon 22. The Commission on Ministry.**

##### Section 1. Membership.

- (a) The Convention shall elect six persons, three Clerical and three Lay, to the Commission on Ministry. One in each order will be elected annually to serve for a term of three years. No one so elected shall be eligible for re-election after having served two consecutive terms until after the expiration of one year, providing that nothing herein shall prevent the Bishop from nominating one or more such persons under the provisions of subsection (b) of this Section. Lay persons elected to

Commission shall be adult communicants in good standing of a Church or Mission in the Diocese.

- (b) The Bishop may annually appoint not more than 10 additional members for a term of one year each. Such appointments shall be subject to confirmation by the Convention. Such appointments of Lay persons shall be communicants in good standing of a Church or Mission in the Diocese.
- (c) In the case of a vacancy in the members elected pursuant to Section 1(a), the Executive Board shall fill the vacancy from the same order and that member shall serve for the balance of that term. In the case of a vacancy in the members appointed pursuant to Section 1(b), the Bishop may appoint a member to complete that one-year term.

Section 2. The duties of the Commission on Ministry shall be those prescribed in the Canons of General Convention, including, but not limited to, advising and assisting the Bishop (a) in the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons, and (b) in the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefore. The Commission may establish committees consisting of members and other persons to report to the Commission or to act on its behalf.

Section 3. The Commission on Ministry shall annually report to the Convention.

the Commission shall be adult communicants in good standing of a Church or Mission in the Diocese.

- (b) The Bishop may annually appoint not more than 10 additional members for a term of one year each. Such appointments shall be subject to confirmation by the Convention. Such appointments of Lay persons shall be communicants in good standing of a Church or Mission in the Diocese.
- (c) In the case of a vacancy among the members elected pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section, the Executive Board shall fill the vacancy from the same order and that member shall serve for the balance of that term. In the case of a vacancy in the members appointed pursuant to subsection (b), the Bishop may appoint a member to complete that one-year term.

Section 2. The duties of the Commission on Ministry shall be those prescribed in the Canons of the General Convention, including, but not limited to, advising and assisting the Bishop in:

- (a) the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons, and
  - (b) the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefore.
- The Commission may establish committees consisting of members and other persons to report to the Commission or to act on its behalf.

Section 3. The Commission on Ministry shall annually report to the Convention.

**[Canons 23 and 24 omitted; no proposed change]**

**Canon 25**

**Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment removes the term “Vicar” from Section 2 for the reason previously addressed.

**Proposed amendment:**

**Canon 25.  
Finance Committees.**

[Section 1 omitted; no proposed change]

Section 2. Each Church and Mission shall establish a Finance Committee of not fewer than three persons to provide assistance in financial matters to the Rector, ~~or~~ Priest-in-Charge, ~~Vicar~~, Vestry or Vestry Committee, and Treasurer in the implementation of these Canons.

[Section 3 omitted; no proposed change]

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text:**

**Canon 25.  
Finance Committees.**

[Section 1 omitted; no proposed change]

Section 2. Each Church and Mission shall establish a Finance Committee of not fewer than three persons to provide assistance in financial matters to the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, Vicar, Vestry or Vestry Committee, and Treasurer in the implementation of these Canons.

[Section 3 omitted; no proposed change]

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Canon 25.  
Finance Committees.**

[Section 1 omitted; no proposed change]

Section 2. Each Church and Mission shall establish a Finance Committee of not fewer than three persons to provide assistance in financial matters to the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, Vestry or Vestry Committee, and Treasurer in the implementation of these Canons.

[Section 3 omitted; no proposed change]

**[Canon 26 omitted; no proposed change]**

## **Canon 27**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The amendments to this Canon are intended to more closely align the provisions of Canon 27 with the provisions of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention by adding cross-references to applicable sections of Title IV and language that mirrors language found in Title IV.

Section 10 is struck because Title IV does not provide for or refer to the appointment of a “Lay Assessor”.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Canon 27. Ecclesiastical Discipline.**

Section 1. Adoption of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention. Those provisions of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention that are applicable to the Diocese are hereby incorporated as part of this Canon. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Canon are inconsistent with provisions of Title IV, the provisions of Title IV shall govern.

Section 2. Disciplinary Board. The Disciplinary Board shall consist of 11 persons, six of whom are Priests or Deacons and five of whom are Lay persons-, subject to the restrictions set forth in Canon IV.5.3.c of the General Convention. Members of the Standing Committee shall be eligible to serve as members of the Disciplinary Board.

- (a) Priests or Deacons. The Priests or Deacons who are members of the Disciplinary Board shall be canonically resident in ~~this~~the Diocese.
- (b) Lay Members. The Lay members of the Disciplinary Board shall be persons eligible under the Canons for election as Lay Delegates to the Convention.
- (c) Election of Members. The members of the Disciplinary Board shall be nominated by the Standing Committee and elected by the Convention to serve for terms of three years. Members' terms shall be staggered into three classes of two Clerical and two Lay members each, provided that one such class shall have only one Lay member. A Disciplinary Board member who has served two complete three-year terms shall be ineligible to serve again until one year has elapsed.
- (d) Vacancies. Vacancies on the Disciplinary Board shall be filled as follows:
  - (i) Upon the determination that a vacancy exists, the President of the Board shall notify the Bishop of the vacancy and request appointment of a replacement member.
  - (ii) The Bishop shall appoint a replacement Disciplinary Board member in consultation with the Standing Committee.
  - (iii) With respect to a vacancy created for any reason other than pursuant to a disqualification as provided in Section 3 below, the term of any person

selected as a replacement Disciplinary Board member shall expire at the conclusion of the next regular meeting of the Convention, at which Convention a person of the same order as the person whose position was vacated shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. With respect to a vacancy resulting from a challenge, the replacement Disciplinary Board member shall serve only for the proceeding for which the regularly elected Disciplinary Board member is not serving as a result of the challenge.

- (e) President. Within 60 days following the regular meeting of the Convention, the Disciplinary Board shall convene to elect a President to serve until the next regular meeting of the Convention.

Section 3. Preserving Impartiality. In any proceeding under this Canon, if any member of a Conference Panel or Hearing Panel of the Disciplinary Board shall become aware of a conflict of interest or undue bias, that member shall be disqualified from serving and shall immediately notify the President of the Disciplinary Board and request appointment of a replacement member of the Panel. Respondent's Counsel and the Church Attorney shall have the right to challenge any member of a Panel for conflict of interest or undue bias by motion to the Panel for disqualification of the challenged member. The members of the Panel not the subject of the challenge shall promptly consider the motion and determine whether the challenged Panel member shall be disqualified from participating in that proceeding.

Section 4. Intake Officers. The Intake Officers shall be appointed from time to time by the Bishop after consultation with the Disciplinary Board. The Bishop shall appoint at least two Intake Officers according to the needs of the Diocese. Pursuant to Canon IV.2 of the General Convention, the following individuals may not serve as an Intake Officer: (a) any Bishop, and (b) any member of the Standing Committee. The Intake Officers shall not all be of the same gender. The Diocese must have at least one Intake Officer who has no direct employment or compensation relationship with the Diocese. The Bishop shall publish the names and contact information of the Intake Officers throughout the Diocese.

Section 5. Investigator. The A Reference Panel Composed of the Bishop, the President of the Disciplinary Board, and the Intake Officer shall appoint one or more Investigators as needed in consultation with the President of the Disciplinary Board. Every Investigator shall be required to maintain confidentiality subject to must act in accordance with Canon IV.11 of the General Convention (5).

Section 6. Church Attorney. Within 60 days following each regular meeting of the Convention, the Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Church Attorney and one or more Assistant Church Attorneys, if deemed appropriate by the Disciplinary Board, who shall be duly licensed attorneys and who will perform the functions as described in Canon IV.2 of the General Convention. Attorneys appointed to serve as Church Attorney or Assistant Church Attorney shall serve until their successors are appointed. Persons appointed to serve as Church Attorneys or Assistant Church Attorneys shall be persons eligible under the Canons for election as Lay Delegates to the Convention but need not reside within

the Diocese. The Church Attorney may be removed by the Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, for cause. If the Church Attorney and none of the Assistant Church Attorneys are able to act on a specific matter due to a conflict of interest, undue bias, unavailability, or other good reason, the Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Lay or Clergy person with knowledge of Title IV, but not necessarily a duly licensed attorney, from within or outside of the Diocese, to act as Church Attorney for such matter.

Section 7. Pastoral Response Coordinator. The Bishop may ~~appoint~~ designate one or more Pastoral Response Coordinator(s) to serve at the will of the Bishop in coordinating the delivery of appropriate pastoral responses provided for in Canon IV.8 of the General Convention. The Pastoral Response Coordinator ~~may~~ shall not be an Intake Officer ~~but shall not be~~ a person serving in any other appointed or elected capacity under this Canon.

Section 8. Advisors. In each proceeding under this Canon, the Bishop shall appoint an Advisor for the Complainant and an Advisor for the Respondent. Persons serving as Advisors shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Canon and shall not include the Chancellor or any Vice Chancellors, or any person likely to be called as a witness in this proceeding or otherwise involved in the proceeding.

Section 9. Clerk. The Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Board Clerk to assist the Disciplinary Board with records management and administrative support. The Clerk may be a member of the Disciplinary Board.

~~Section 10. — Lay Assessor. The Disciplinary Board may appoint a duly licensed attorney for advice on matters of law, procedure, and evidence affecting proceedings before the Conference and Hearing Panels. The Lay Assessor need not reside in or be a member of the Diocese.~~

~~Section 11~~ Section 10. Costs and Expenses. The reasonable costs and expenses of the Disciplinary Board, the Intake Officer, the Investigator, the Advisors, the Church Attorney, the Assistant Church Attorney, the Disciplinary Board Clerk, and the Pastoral Response Coordinator, ~~and the Lay Assessor, if any,~~ shall be the obligation of the Diocese, subject to budgetary constraints as may be established by the Executive Board.

Section ~~12~~ 11. Records.

- (a) Records of Active Proceedings. The Clerk shall preserve and maintain records of active proceedings before the Disciplinary Board through the period of any pending appeal.
- (b) Permanent Records. The Bishop shall make provision for the permanent storage of records of all proceedings under this Canon at the offices of the Diocese and the Archives of the Episcopal Church, as prescribed in Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention.

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text:**

**Canon 27.  
Ecclesiastical Discipline.**

Section 1. Adoption of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention. Those provisions of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention that are applicable to the Diocese are hereby incorporated as part of this Canon. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Canon are inconsistent with provisions of Title IV, the provisions of Title IV shall govern.

Section 2. Disciplinary Board. The Disciplinary Board shall consist of 11 persons, six of whom are Priests or Deacons and five of whom are Lay persons. Members of the Standing Committee shall be eligible to serve as members of the Disciplinary Board.

- (a) Priests or Deacons. The Priests or Deacons who are members of the Disciplinary Board shall be canonically resident in this Diocese.
- (b) Lay Members. The Lay members of the Disciplinary Board shall be persons eligible under the Canons for election as Lay Delegates to the Convention.
- (c) Election of Members. The members of the Disciplinary Board shall be nominated by the Standing Committee and elected by the Convention to serve for terms of three years. Members' terms shall be staggered into three classes of two Clerical and two Lay members each, provided that one such class shall have only one Lay member. A Disciplinary Board

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Canon 27.  
Ecclesiastical Discipline.**

Section 1. Adoption of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention. Those provisions of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention that are applicable to the Diocese are hereby incorporated as part of this Canon. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Canon are inconsistent with provisions of Title IV, the provisions of Title IV shall govern.

Section 2. Disciplinary Board. The Disciplinary Board shall consist of 11 persons, six of whom are Priests or Deacons and five of whom are Lay persons, subject to the restrictions set forth in Canon IV.5.3.c of the General Convention. Members of the Standing Committee shall be eligible to serve as members of the Disciplinary Board.

- (a) Priests or Deacons. The Priests or Deacons who are members of the Disciplinary Board shall be canonically resident in the Diocese.
- (b) Lay Members. The Lay members of the Disciplinary Board shall be persons eligible under the Canons for election as Lay Delegates to the Convention.
- (c) Election of Members. The members of the Disciplinary Board shall be nominated by the Standing Committee and elected by the Convention to serve for terms of three years. Members' terms shall be staggered into three classes of two Clerical and two Lay members each, provided that one

- member who has served two complete three-year terms shall be ineligible to serve again until one year has elapsed.
- (d) Vacancies. Vacancies on the Disciplinary Board shall be filled as follows:
- (i) Upon the determination that a vacancy exists, the President of the Board shall notify the Bishop of the vacancy and request appointment of a replacement member.
  - (ii) The Bishop shall appoint a replacement Disciplinary Board member in consultation with the Standing Committee.
  - (iii) With respect to a vacancy created for any reason other than pursuant to a disqualification as provided in Section 3 below, the term of any person selected as a replacement Disciplinary Board member shall expire at the conclusion of the next regular meeting of the Convention, at which Convention a person of the same order as the person whose position was vacated shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. With respect to a vacancy resulting from a challenge, the replacement Disciplinary Board member shall serve only for the proceeding for which the regularly elected Disciplinary Board member is not serving as a result of the challenge.
- (e) President. Within 60 days following the regular meeting of the Convention, the Disciplinary Board shall convene to elect a President
- such class shall have only one Lay member. A Disciplinary Board member who has served two complete three-year terms shall be ineligible to serve again until one year has elapsed.
- (d) Vacancies. Vacancies on the Disciplinary Board shall be filled as follows:
- (1) Upon the determination that a vacancy exists, the President of the Board shall notify the Bishop of the vacancy and request appointment of a replacement member.
  - (2) The Bishop shall appoint a replacement Disciplinary Board member in consultation with the Standing Committee.
  - (3) With respect to a vacancy created for any reason other than pursuant to a disqualification as provided in Section 3 below, the term of any person selected as a replacement Disciplinary Board member shall expire at the conclusion of the next regular meeting of the Convention, at which Convention a person of the same order as the person whose position was vacated shall be elected to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term. With respect to a vacancy resulting from a challenge, the replacement Disciplinary Board member shall serve only for the proceeding for which the regularly elected Disciplinary Board member is not serving as a result of the challenge.
- (e) President. Within 60 days following the regular meeting of the



to serve until the next regular meeting of the Convention.

Convention, the Disciplinary Board shall convene to elect a President to serve until the next regular meeting of the Convention.

Section 3. Preserving Impartiality. In any proceeding under this Canon, if any member of a Conference Panel or Hearing Panel of the Disciplinary Board shall become aware of a conflict of interest or undue bias, that member shall be disqualified from serving and shall immediately notify the President of the Disciplinary Board and request appointment of a replacement member of the Panel. Respondent's Counsel and the Church Attorney shall have the right to challenge any member of a Panel for conflict of interest or undue bias by motion to the Panel for disqualification of the challenged member. The members of the Panel not the subject of the challenge shall promptly consider the motion and determine whether the challenged Panel member shall be disqualified from participating in that proceeding.

Section 4. Intake Officers. The Intake Officers shall be appointed from time to time by the Bishop after consultation with the Disciplinary Board. The Bishop shall appoint at least two Intake Officers according to the needs of the Diocese. The Intake Officers shall not all be of the same gender. The Bishop shall publish the names and contact information of the Intake Officers throughout the Diocese.

Section 3. Preserving Impartiality. In any proceeding under this Canon, if any member of a Conference Panel or Hearing Panel of the Disciplinary Board shall become aware of a conflict of interest or undue bias, that member shall be disqualified from serving and shall immediately notify the President of the Disciplinary Board and request appointment of a replacement member of the Panel. Respondent's Counsel and the Church Attorney shall have the right to challenge any member of a Panel for conflict of interest or undue bias by motion to the Panel for disqualification of the challenged member. The members of the Panel not the subject of the challenge shall promptly consider the motion and determine whether the challenged Panel member shall be disqualified from participating in that proceeding.

Section 4. Intake Officers. The Intake Officers shall be appointed from time to time by the Bishop after consultation with the Disciplinary Board. The Bishop shall appoint at least two Intake Officers according to the needs of the Diocese. Pursuant to Canon IV.2 of the General Convention, the following individuals may not serve as an Intake Officer: (a) any Bishop, and (b) any member of the Standing Committee. The Intake Officers shall not all be of the same gender. The Diocese must have at least one Intake Officer who has no direct employment or compensation relationship with the Diocese. The Bishop shall publish the names and contact information of the Intake Officers throughout the Diocese.

Section 5. Investigator. The Bishop shall appoint one or more Investigators as needed in consultation with the President of the Disciplinary Board. Every Investigator shall be required to maintain confidentiality subject to General Convention Canon IV.11(5).

Section 6. Church Attorney. Within 60 days following each regular meeting of the Convention, the Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Church Attorney and one or more Assistant Church Attorneys, if deemed appropriate by the Disciplinary Board, who shall be duly licensed attorneys and who will perform the functions as described in General Convention Canon IV.2. Attorneys appointed to serve as Church Attorney or Assistant Church Attorney shall serve until their successors are appointed. Persons appointed to serve as Church Attorneys or Assistant Church Attorneys shall be persons eligible under the Canons for election as Lay Delegates to the Convention but need not reside within the Diocese. The Church Attorney may be removed by the Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, for cause. If the Church Attorney and none of the Assistant Church Attorneys are able to act on a specific matter due to a conflict of interest, undue bias, unavailability, or other good reason, the Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Lay or Clergy person with knowledge of Title IV, but not necessarily a duly licensed attorney, from within or outside of the Diocese, to act as Church Attorney for such matter.

Section 7. Pastoral Response Coordinator. The Bishop may appoint a Pastoral Response Coordinator to serve at the will of the Bishop in coordinating the delivery of appropriate pastoral responses provided for in General

Section 5. Investigator. A Reference Panel Composed of the Bishop, the President of the Disciplinary Board, and the Intake Officer shall appoint one or more Investigators. Every Investigator must act in accordance with Canon IV.11 of the General Convention.

Section 6. Church Attorney. Within 60 days following each regular meeting of the Convention, the Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Church Attorney and one or more Assistant Church Attorneys, if deemed appropriate by the Disciplinary Board, who shall be duly licensed attorneys and who will perform the functions as described in Canon IV.2 of the General Convention. Attorneys appointed to serve as Church Attorney or Assistant Church Attorney shall serve until their successors are appointed. Persons appointed to serve as Church Attorneys or Assistant Church Attorneys shall be persons eligible under the Canons for election as Lay Delegates to the Convention but need not reside within the Diocese. The Church Attorney may be removed by the Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, for cause. If the Church Attorney and none of the Assistant Church Attorneys are able to act on a specific matter due to a conflict of interest, undue bias, unavailability, or other good reason, the Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Lay or Clergy person with knowledge of Title IV, but not necessarily a duly licensed attorney, from within or outside of the Diocese, to act as Church Attorney for such matter.

Section 7. Pastoral Response Coordinator. The Bishop may designate one or more Pastoral Response Coordinator(s) to serve at the will of the Bishop in coordinating the delivery of appropriate pastoral responses provided

Convention Canon IV.8. The Pastoral Response Coordinator may be an Intake Officer but shall not be a person serving in any other appointed or elected capacity under this Canon.

Section 8. Advisors. In each proceeding under this Canon, the Bishop shall appoint an Advisor for the Complainant and an Advisor for the Respondent. Persons serving as Advisors shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Canon and shall not include the Chancellor or any Vice Chancellors, or any person likely to be called as a witness in this proceeding or otherwise involved in the proceeding.

Section 9. Clerk. The Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Board Clerk to assist the Disciplinary Board with records management and administrative support. The Clerk may be a member of the Disciplinary Board.

Section 10. Lay Assessor. The Disciplinary Board may appoint a duly licensed attorney for advice on matters of law, procedure, and evidence affecting proceedings before the Conference and Hearing Panels. The Lay Assessor need not reside in or be a member of the Diocese.

Section 11. Costs and Expenses. The reasonable costs and expenses of the Disciplinary Board, the Intake Officer, the Investigator, the Church Attorney, the Disciplinary Board Clerk, the Pastoral Response Coordinator, and the Lay Assessor, if any, shall be the obligation of the Diocese, subject to budgetary constraints as may be established by the

for in Canon IV.8 of the General Convention. The Pastoral Response Coordinator shall not be an Intake Officer or a person serving in any other appointed or elected capacity under this Canon.

Section 8. Advisors. In each proceeding under this Canon, the Bishop shall appoint an Advisor for the Complainant and an Advisor for the Respondent. Persons serving as Advisors shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Canon and shall not include the Chancellor or any Vice Chancellors, or any person likely to be called as a witness in this proceeding or otherwise involved in the proceeding.

Section 9. Clerk. The Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Board Clerk to assist the Disciplinary Board with records management and administrative support. The Clerk may be a member of the Disciplinary Board.

Section 10. Costs and Expenses. The reasonable costs and expenses of the Disciplinary Board, the Intake Officer, the Investigator, the Advisors, the Church Attorney, the Assistant Church Attorney, the Disciplinary Board Clerk, and the Pastoral Response Coordinator shall be the obligation of the Diocese, subject to budgetary constraints as may be established by the Executive Board.

Section 11. Records.

- (a) Records of Active Proceedings. The Clerk shall preserve and maintain records of active proceedings before the Disciplinary Board through the period of any pending appeal.
- (b) Permanent Records. The Bishop shall make provision for the

Executive Board.

Section 12. Records.

- (a) Records of Active Proceedings. The Clerk shall preserve and maintain records of active proceedings before the Disciplinary Board through the period of any pending appeal.
- (b) Permanent Records. The Bishop shall make provision for the permanent storage of records of all proceedings under this Canon at the offices of the Diocese and the Archives of the Episcopal Church, as prescribed in Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention.

permanent storage of records of all proceedings under this Canon at the offices of the Diocese and the Archives of the Episcopal Church, as prescribed in Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention.

**Canon 28**

**Rationale for amendment:**

This Canon sets forth detailed procedures for addressing conflicts among clergy and congregations and for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, matters which are addressed in more detail in Canon III.9 of the General Convention. To prevent the potential for inconsistency between the Diocesan Canons and the Canons of the General Convention, and the necessity to amend the Diocesan Canons to conform with amendments to the Canons of the General Convention with regard to these matters, the Work Group proposes that the language of Canon 28 be deleted in its entirety and that a cross reference to Canon III.9 be inserted.

**Proposed amendment:**

[Due to the amount of strikethrough text, a blackline of this amendment would not be an aid to understanding. Please see the side-by-side below for the text of the stricken Canon language and the proposed insertion.]

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text:**

**Canon 28.**  
**Relationships Among Clergy and**  
**Congregations.**

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Canon 28.**  
Reserved for Future Use.  
  
[For Reconciliation of Disagreements]

Section 1. Except upon mandatory resignation by reason of age, a Rector may not resign as Rector of a Church without the consent of its Vestry, nor may any Rector canonically or lawfully elected and in charge of a Church be removed by the Vestry against the Rector's will, except as hereinafter provided.

Affecting the Pastoral Relation and Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation, see Canon III.9 of the General Convention.]

Section 2. When a Rector or a majority of any Vestry believe the pastoral relationship between the Rector and the congregation is imperiled by dissension, it shall be the duty of either or both, before contemplating dissolution of the pastoral relationship, to lay the matter before the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority.

Section 3. If for any urgent reason a Rector or Vestry desires a dissolution of the pastoral relationship, and the parties cannot agree, either party may give notice in writing to the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority. Whenever the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it shall request the Bishop Suffragan, if there is one, or the Assistant Bishop, if there is one, or if neither office is filled the Bishop of another Diocese, to perform the duties of the Bishop under this Canon.

Section 4. Whenever a Rector or a Vestry notifies the Bishop under the terms of this Canon, the Bishop shall labor for a reconciliation between the Rector and the congregation, either directly, through the Bishop's designees, or both. The Bishop may require one or more meetings with the Vestry and the Rector, either together or separately, and may require such meetings to be held with the Bishop, the Bishop's designees, or both. No later than 90 days after receiving the original notification for consultation under the provisions of this Canon, the Bishop shall issue a Pastoral Direction in writing to the

Rector and the Vestry outlining a course of action to unify the congregation.

Section 5. If, in the judgment of the Bishop, the Rector, or the Vestry, the terms of the Pastoral Direction issued by the Bishop as specified in Section 4 of this Canon have not been met, or that the purposes for the Pastoral Direction have not been achieved and 90 days have passed since the issuance of the Pastoral Direction, the Rector or the Vestry may request a final judgment on the pastoral relationship from the Bishop or the Bishop may take the initiative to proceed as follows:

- (a) The Bishop shall give notice to the Rector and Vestry that a godly judgment will be rendered in the matter after consultation with the Standing Committee and that either party has the right within 10 days to request in writing an opportunity to confer with the Standing Committee before it consults with the Bishop.
- (b) If a timely request is made, the President of the Standing Committee shall set a date for the conference, which shall be held within 30 days of receiving the request.
- (c) At the conference each party shall be entitled to representation by a third party and to present its position fully.
- (d) Within 30 days after the conference, or after the Bishop's notice if no conference is requested, the Bishop shall confer with and receive the recommendation of the Standing Committee; thereafter the Bishop, as final arbiter and judge, shall render a godly judgment.
- (e) Upon the request of either party, the Bishop shall explain the

reasons for the judgment. If the explanation is in writing, copies shall be delivered to both parties.

- (f) If the pastoral relationship is to be continued, the Bishop shall require the parties to agree on definitions of responsibility and accountability for the Rector and the Vestry.
- (g) If the relationship is to be dissolved:
  - (1) The Bishop shall direct the Secretary of the Convention to record the dissolution; and
  - (2) The judgment shall include such terms and conditions including financial settlements as shall seem to the Bishop just and compassionate.
- (h) In either event, the Bishop shall offer appropriate supportive services to the Priest and the Church.

Section 6. In the event of the failure or refusal of either party to comply with the terms of the judgment, the Bishop may act as follows:

- (a) In the case of a Rector, suspend the Rector from exercising the priestly office until the Priest shall comply with the judgment.
- (b) In the case of a Vestry, recommend to the Convention of the Diocese that the Church be placed under the supervision of the Bishop as a Mission until it has complied with the judgment.

Section 7. For cause, the Bishop may extend the time periods specified in this Canon, provided that all else is done to expedite these proceedings. All parties shall be notified in writing of the length of any extension.

Section 8. Statements made during the course of proceedings under this Canon are not discoverable nor admissible in any proceedings under Title IV of the General Convention Canons or Diocesan Canon 27(Ecclesiastical Discipline), provided that this does not require the exclusion of evidence in any proceeding under the Canons which is otherwise discoverable and admissible.

Section 9. In the course of proceedings under this Canon, if a complaint is made by the Vestry against the Rector under Title IV of the General Convention Canons or Diocesan Canon 27, all proceedings under this Canon shall be suspended until the complaint has been resolved or withdrawn.

**[Canon 29 omitted; no proposed change]**

**Canon 30**

**Rationale for amendment:**

The purpose of the amendments to Section 1 is to provide more detail regarding the procedures to be followed before a proposed amendment to the Canons can be considered by Diocesan Convention. The proposed amendments to Section 2 are for purposes of clarity. The proposed addition of Section 4 and amendment to Section 5 are to conform with proposed amendments to Article XIX of the Constitution (see rationale for amendments to Article XIX of the Constitution).

**Proposed amendment:**

**Canon 30.**

**Amendments to the Canons.**

Section 1. The Canons of ~~this~~the Diocese may be amended by the Convention; but no proposed amendment shall be considered by the Convention unless (a) the proposed amendment was submitted to the Secretary of the Diocese at least one day's notice is given in open seven days before the Convention, ~~nor until~~ convenes, and (b) the proposed amendment shall have been ~~was~~ referred to and reported upon by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.



~~Section of Convention of at least two Priests and two Lay persons. 2.~~ No amendment shall be adopted during the same Convention unless two-thirds of the members present ~~concur therein. vote to approve the amendment.~~ If ~~the~~ majority ~~is of the Convention, but~~ less than two-thirds, votes to approve the proposed amendment, the proposed amendment shall lie over for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Convention. If approved by a majority at the next regular meeting of the Convention, the amendment shall be adopted. Unless otherwise provided for by the Convention, all amendments shall become effective upon the adjournment of the meeting of the Convention at which final action was taken.

Section 23. Whenever a Canon is amended, enacted, or repealed in different respects by two or more independent enactments at the same Convention, including the enactment of an entire Canon, the separate enactments shall be considered as one enactment containing all of the amendments or enactments, whether or not repealed, to the extent that the changes made in separate amendments or enactments are not in conflict with each other. The Chancellor and the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons shall make the determination whether or not there is a conflict and certify the text of the single enactment to the Secretary of the Convention.

Section 4. At the conclusion of each regular meeting of the Convention, the Chancellor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, and the Secretary shall be empowered to correct numbering references in the Canons to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. Any corrections shall be reported to the Secretary of the Diocese.

Section 35. At the conclusion of each regular meeting of General Convention, the Chancellor, ~~and~~ the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons of ~~this the~~ Diocese, and the Secretary shall be empowered to correct numbering references in the ~~Constitution and Canons of this Diocese~~ to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention. Any corrections shall be reported to the Secretary of the Diocese.

#### Text side-by-side:

##### Current text:

##### **Canon 30. Amendments to the Canons.**

Section 1. The Canons of this Diocese may be amended by the Convention; but no proposed amendment shall be considered by the Convention unless at least one day's notice is given in open Convention, nor until the amendment shall have been referred to and reported

##### Text as proposed to be amended:

##### **Canon 30. Amendments to the Canons.**

Section 1. The Canons of the Diocese may be amended by the Convention; but no proposed amendment shall be considered by the Convention unless (a) the proposed amendment was submitted to the Secretary of the Diocese at least seven days before the Convention

upon by a Committee of Convention of at least two Priests and two Lay persons. No amendment shall be adopted during the same Convention unless two-thirds of the members present concur therein. If the majority is less than two-thirds, the proposed amendment shall lie over for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Convention. Unless otherwise provided for by the Convention, all amendments shall become effective upon the adjournment of the meeting of the Convention at which final action was taken.

Section 2. Whenever a Canon is amended, enacted, or repealed in different respects by two or more independent enactments at the same Convention, including the enactment of an entire Canon, the separate enactments shall be considered as one enactment containing all of the amendments or enactments, whether or not repealed, to the extent that the changes made in separate amendments or enactments are not in conflict with each other. The Chancellor and the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons shall make the determination whether or not there is a conflict and certify the text of the single enactment to the Secretary of the Convention.

Section 3. At the conclusion of each regular meeting of General Convention, the Chancellor and the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons of this Diocese shall be empowered to correct numbering references in the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention. Any corrections shall be reported to the Secretary of the Diocese.

convenes, and (b) the proposed amendment was referred to and reported upon by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

Section 2. No amendment shall be adopted during the same Convention unless two-thirds of the members present vote to approve the amendment. If a majority of the Convention, but less than two-thirds, votes to approve the proposed amendment, the proposed amendment shall lie over for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Convention. If approved by a majority at the next regular meeting of the Convention, the amendment shall be adopted. Unless otherwise provided for by the Convention, all amendments shall become effective upon the adjournment of the meeting of the Convention at which final action was taken.

Section 3. Whenever a Canon is amended, enacted, or repealed in different respects by two or more independent enactments at the same Convention, including the enactment of an entire Canon, the separate enactments shall be considered as one enactment containing all of the amendments or enactments, whether or not repealed, to the extent that the changes made in separate amendments or enactments are not in conflict with

each other. The Chancellor and the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons shall make the determination whether or not there is a conflict and certify the text of the single enactment to the Secretary of the Convention.

Section 4. At the conclusion of each regular meeting of the Convention, the Chancellor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, and the Secretary shall be empowered to correct numbering references in the Canons to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. Any corrections shall be reported to the Secretary of the Diocese.

Section 5. At the conclusion of each regular meeting of General Convention, the Chancellor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, and the Secretary shall be empowered to correct numbering references in the Canons to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention. Any corrections shall be reported to the Secretary of the Diocese.