

**2022 DECEMBER V-15.4 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY**  
**APPROVED DRAFT**

**THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF THE UPPER MIDWEST  
OF THE  
ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA**



**CONSTITUTION AND CANONS**

Approved June 2013, Anglican Church in North America, Provincial Council

Amended October 2015, Anglican Diocese of the Upper Midwest, Diocesan Assembly

Amended December 2022, Anglican Diocese of the Upper Midwest, Diocesan Assembly,  
pending ratification in 2023

Changes proposed by the AAC Task Force in red

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Constitution of the Anglican Diocese of the Upper Midwest

Preamble	<a href="#">24</a>
Article I: Fundamental Declarations of the Diocese	<a href="#">24</a>
Article II: Structure, Order, Governance and Discipline	<a href="#">24</a>
Article III: <b>Standing Committee</b>	<a href="#">Error! Bookmark not defined.</a>
Article IV: <b>Deaneries</b>	3
Article V: <b>Diocesan Council</b>	3
Article VI: <b>Ecclesiastical Court</b>	3
Article VII: <b>Synod</b>	3
Article VIII: Office of the Bishop	3
Section 1. The Calling to the Episcopate – 1 Timothy 3	3
Section 2. Criteria for selecting a Bishop	3
Section 3. Process for Selecting a Bishop	3
Article IX: Vacancy in the Office of the Bishop	4
Section 1. Death, Retirement, or Removal of the Bishop	4
Section 2. Disability or Impermissible Absence of the Bishop	4
Section 3. Succession in Case of Death, Retirement, or Removal of the Bishop	4
Article X: Holy Orders	4
Article XI: The Officers of the Diocese	5
Article XII: Concerning Property of Congregations and Missions	5
Article XIII: Concerning Diocesan Property	5
Article XIV: Incorporation	5
Article XV: Vision, Mission and Values	5
Article XVI: Amendment	6

The Table of Contents and the Canons of the Anglican Diocese of the Upper Midwest begin at the Conclusion of its Constitution.

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF THE UPPER MIDWEST OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

## **PREAMBLE**

*In the name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

As followers of Jesus Christ and Anglicans in the Upper Midwest, concerned for the proclamation of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the mission of the Church in the world, the salvation of all people, and the worship of Almighty God, we prayerfully establish this Diocese of the Upper Midwest of the Anglican Church in North America and ask God's blessing in order that the mission of the Church in the Upper Midwest might be promoted and congregations multiplied through a revival of Word and Sacrament infused by the power of the Holy Spirit and through greater unity, fellowship, prayer, and cooperation in the ministry to which God has called us.

The Diocese of the Upper Midwest ("the Diocese"), a member of the Anglican Church in North America ("the Province") and thereby a member of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, solemnly ordains and establishes this Constitution.

## **ARTICLE I: FUNDAMENTAL DECLARATIONS OF THE DIOCESE**

The Diocese hereby subscribes to the Fundamental Declarations of the Anglican Church in North America as set forth in Article I of the Provincial Constitution. The Diocese acknowledges the authority of the Province as set forth in the Provincial Constitution and Canons and adopts this Diocesan Constitution to be in conformance with them. All powers not granted to the Province are reserved to the Diocese.

## **ARTICLE II: STRUCTURE, ORDER, GOVERNANCE AND DISCIPLINE**

The Diocese is composed of Anglican congregations in the Upper Midwest and congregations located outside the Upper Midwest with which these congregations maintain close relational connections, and for which they are the primary point of contact with the greater Church and is currently organized into ~~four~~ three deaneries: Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Greater Chicago, ~~and the Greenhouse Net~~. It is envisioned that additional deaneries may be formed and that some deaneries may grow into new dioceses as the number of communicants and congregations in an area grows, subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the Province and of the Diocese.

The fundamental agency of mission is the local congregation gathered under the authority of the Bishop. The order, governance, and discipline of the Diocese shall be vested in the Bishop as the Ecclesiastical Authority in conformity with this Constitution.

### ARTICLE III: STANDING COMMITTEE

There shall be a Standing Committee of the Diocese to function as the Diocesan Board of Directors, presided over by the Bishop and serving as a legislative, consultative and oversight body, with such composition, membership selection, responsibilities, powers and authority as set forth in the Diocesan Canons.

### ARTICLE IV: DIOCESAN COUNCIL

There shall be a Diocesan Council, presided over by the Bishop, to serve in an executive, consultative and advisory capacity, including acting on behalf of the Synod between meetings of that body, with such composition, membership selection, responsibilities, powers and authority as set forth in the Diocesan Canons.

### ARTICLE V: ECCLESIASTICAL COURT

There shall be an Ecclesiastical Court of the Diocese for the application of church discipline in accordance with the Diocesan Constitution, Canons and Rules of Court (Procedural and Evidentiary) The jurisdiction, composition, terms, of office, and procedures of the Ecclesiastical Court shall be established by canon, and it shall be composed of clergy and lay members.

Until the initial adoption of Upper Midwest Diocese Rules of Court (Procedural and Evidentiary), the Ecclesiastical Court of the Diocese shall operate in accordance with the Rules of Court (Procedural and Evidentiary) as adopted and utilized by the ACNA Provincial Ecclesiastical Court.

### ARTICLE VI: THE SYNOD

There shall be a Synod which shall be the primary legislative body of the Diocese, with such composition, membership, responsibilities, powers and authority as set forth in the Diocesan Canons. And the sole power to approve amendments to the Constitution or Canons.

### ARTICLE VII: THE DEANERIES

There shall be Deaneries of the Diocese (currently including Minnesota, Wisconsin and Greater Chicago, and the Greenhouse Net), responsible for encouraging the ministry of congregations and the expansion of the ministry of the Church within their respective areas, **with such composition, membership selection, powers and authority as set forth in the Diocesan Canons.** The formation of new deaneries is encouraged as growth occurs.

~~The formation of a new deanery shall be recommended by the Dean of the existing deanery of which it is part. The formation of a new deanery must be affirmed by the deans and Bishop acting in council, and then confirmed by the Bishop, after consultation with the Bishop's Council.~~ *This paragraph moves to Canons to follow the format of the other Articles in terms of procedure.*

## **ARTICLE VIII: OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

### **Section 1. The Calling to the Episcopate – 1 Timothy 3**

A Bishop is called by God and the Church to be a shepherd who feeds the flock entrusted to his care. A Bishop is an overseer of the flock and as such is called to propagate, to teach, and to uphold and defend the Faith and Order of the Church, willingly and as God directs. He must not be greedy for money but be eager to serve, not lording the authority of his office or position over those entrusted to his care. He must be a humble, wholesome example to the entire flock of Christ. By the tradition of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, Bishops are consecrated for the whole Church and are successors of the Apostles through the grace of the Holy Spirit given to them. They are chief missionaries and chief pastors, guardians and teachers of doctrine, and administrators of godly discipline and governance.

### **Section 2. Criteria for selecting a Bishop**

To be a suitable candidate for Bishop, a person must:

1. Be a man of prayer and strong faith;
2. Be pious, have exemplary morals and exhibit Godly character;
3. Have a zeal for souls;
4. Have demonstrated evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit;
5. Possess the knowledge and gifts that equip him to fulfill the office;
6. Be held in high esteem by the faithful;
7. Be a male Presbyter at least 35 years old;
8. Have significant leadership experience and wisdom in parish life;
9. Have demonstrated the ability to lead and grow the Church.

### **Section 3. Process for Selecting a Bishop**

The process for nominating and electing a bishop shall be established by canon.

## **ARTICLE IX: VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

### **Section 1. Death, Retirement, or Removal of the Bishop**

Upon the death, retirement, or removal of the Bishop, if there is no Bishop Coadjutor, the **Standing Committee** shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. The **Standing Committee** may also request the College of Bishops to appoint an Acting Bishop to be in charge of the Diocese until a Bishop can be elected. Such Acting Bishop shall have full ecclesiastical authority, in conjunction with the **Standing Committee**, with regard to applications for ordination, the discipline of clergy, the admission of clergy and congregations to the Diocese, and other powers and duties established by the Constitution and Canons of the Province and of the Diocese.

### **Section 2. Disability or Impermissible Absence of the Bishop**

If the **Standing Committee** should determine upon careful deliberation that the Bishop is under a disability, or has absented himself without permission from or consultation with the Diocese for more than two months, it may, with the consent of the Archbishop, declare the Office of the Bishop vacant. In such case, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one, shall serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese until the **Standing Committee**, with the consent of the Archbishop, declares the Bishop

restored. If there is no Bishop Coadjutor, the **Standing Committee** shall serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese until the **Standing Committee**, with the consent of the Archbishop, declares the Bishop to be restored.

### **Section 3. Succession in Case of Death, Retirement, or Removal of the Bishop**

A Bishop Coadjutor shall become the Bishop upon the death, retirement, or removal of the Bishop. A Bishop Suffragan may not become the Bishop of the Diocese unless he has been selected in accordance with the Process for Selecting a Bishop provided by canon and his selection is consented to by the College of Bishops.

## **ARTICLE X: HOLY ORDERS**

This Diocese encourages the cultivation of spiritual gifts in its members, including the call to Holy Orders, in conformity with the process specified by the Canons of this Diocese. While recognizing that every baptized Christian is a member of a “royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9) and that each member of the Body of Christ—both male and female—has spiritual gifts for ministry and leadership that are to be nurtured, cultivated, and exercised (Romans 12:4-7; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Peter 4:10), we affirm the scriptural teaching and historic tradition of the Church that only males can be admitted to the offices of presbyter and bishop (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

## **ARTICLE XI: THE OFFICERS OF THE DIOCESE**

The Bishop, with the advice and consent of the **Standing Committee**, shall appoint officers to serve as the Secretary, Treasurer, Chancellor, and Registrar of the Diocese. The selection and duties of the Officers of the Diocese shall be prescribed by canon. The Bishop also may appoint other officers, at his discretion, in this same manner.

The Bishop also may appoint a group of personal advisors, at his sole discretion, to aid him in his ministry. Should the Bishop do so, he shall so inform the **Standing Committee**. Likewise, the Bishop shall inform the **Standing Committee** of any change in the membership of this group.

## **ARTICLE XII: CONCERNING PROPERTY OF CONGREGATIONS AND MISSIONS**

All property, real and personal, owned or held by or on behalf of a Congregation of the Diocese is and shall be owned by the Congregation, free of any trust or other claim in favor of the Diocese or the Province. A Congregation may not alienate or encumber its real property except with the consent of a majority of the Congregation by vote taken at a meeting called for that purpose with adequate advance notice.

## **ARTICLE XIII: CONCERNING DIOCESAN PROPERTY**

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

## **ARTICLE XIV: INCORPORATION**

The Diocese may incorporate in accordance with the laws of the State where located or the State where any of its congregations are located. The Bishop shall be the President of the corporation, and

the **Standing Committee** shall be its Board of Directors. Operation of the corporation shall be as provided by canon and applicable state law.

## **ARTICLE XV: VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES**

Consistent with our vision of *A Revival of Word and Sacrament infused by the power of the Holy Spirit in the Upper Midwest*, the mission of the Diocese shall be *Multiplying Churches and Transforming Communities*. Under the oversight of our Bishop, we pledge that we and our congregations will labor joyfully for the spread of the Gospel and the growth of the Church in our communities and around the world.

Further, we rejoice in our common embrace of these values:

### **1. Greater Unity for Greater Mission**

We pray for a kingdom mindset, a collaborative spirit, a common purpose.

### **2. Submission to Godly Authority**

We rejoice in humbling ourselves under Scripture as God's Word revealed, under the Creeds of the Great Tradition and under our Bishop.

### **3. Spirit-Filled Ministry**

We celebrate the gifts of the Spirit and the ministry of all baptized Christians.

### **4. Creative Worship**

We honor our Prayer Book tradition of Word and Sacrament and work imaginatively to blend the three streams of catholic, evangelical, and charismatic Christianity.

### **5. Innovative Mission**

We release multiple models of church planting and mission to reach all types of people for Christ.

### **6. Holistic Transformation**

We value discipleship and healing for the individual and justice and hope for our communities.

### **7. Next Generation Leadership**

We invest deeply in children, youth, and younger leaders.

### **8. Multicultural Competence**

We seek to reach all nations, tribes, and languages in the Upper Midwest and to practice healthy unity-in-diversity in our life together.

### **9. Sacrificial Commitment**

We invite God's strength in our weakness, by fasting, prayer, and generosity.

## **ARTICLE XVI: AMENDMENT**

No amendment to this Constitution may be adopted until it has been reviewed by the Constitution and Canons Committee in consultation with the Diocesan Council, approved by the Standing Committee, and submitted in writing to the **Synod** for consideration. This Constitution may be amended at an annual meeting of the **Synod** by a majority two-thirds vote of the total delegates ~~of each Order~~ present at the meeting. If approved, the amendment shall lie over to the next annual meeting of the **Synod**. If

again approved in the same form by a majority [two-thirds](#) of the total delegates of each Order present at the meeting, this Constitution shall then stand amended as proposed.

No amendment to this Constitution may be adopted until it has been reviewed by the ~~Bishop's Council~~ Standing Committee and its recommendation has been given to the ~~Diocesan Assembly~~ Synod. An amendment to the Constitution must then be approved by a two-thirds majority vote at two consecutive regular annual meetings of the Diocesan Assembly.