

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



CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

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Amended and Restated December 2023, Diocesan Assembly

Amended October 2025, Diocesan Synod

The proposed constitutional amendments marked in red were approved by Synod delegates on October 24, 2025. These amendments will become effective upon ratification by delegates at the October 2026 Synod.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Constitution of the Anglican Diocese of the Upper Midwest

PREAMBLE	1
ARTICLE I: FUNDAMENTAL DECLARATIONS OF THE DIOCESE	1
ARTICLE II: STRUCTURE, ORDER, GOVERNANCE AND DISCIPLINE	1
ARTICLE III: STANDING COMMITTEE	2
ARTICLE IV: DIOCESAN COUNCIL	2
ARTICLE V: ECCLESIASTICAL COURT	2
ARTICLE VI: THE SYNOD	2
ARTICLE VII: THE DEANERIES	2
ARTICLE VIII: OFFICE OF THE BISHOP	3
ARTICLE IX: VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP	3
ARTICLE X: HOLY ORDERS	4
ARTICLE XI: THE OFFICERS OF THE DIOCESE	4
ARTICLE XII: CONCERNING PROPERTY OF CONGREGATIONS AND MISSIONS	4
ARTICLE XIII: CONCERNING DIOCESAN PROPERTY	4
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 the Constitution.

NOTE: The proposed amendments marked in red were approved by Synod delegates on October 24, 2025. These amendments will become effective upon ratification by delegates at the October 2026 Synod.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF THE UPPER MIDWEST

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~~ The congregations of the Diocese will be organized into ~~three such~~ deaneries as the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may deem appropriate from time to time: ~~Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Greater Chicago~~. 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, all in conformity with ~~this the~~ Provincial and Diocesan Constitution and Canons, acting in conjunction with the Standing Committee.

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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~~ may be a Diocesan Council, presided over by the Bishop, ~~or the Standing Committee of the Diocese shall exercise the powers of such Diocesan Council, all as established by the Diocesan Canons. If the Diocesan Canons establish a Diocesan Council, the Diocesan Council shall 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), t~~The Ecclesiastical Court of the Diocese shall operate in accordance with the ~~rules of court as adopted and maintained by the Ecclesiastical Court of the Diocese or, in the absence of such rules, by the Rules of Court (Procedural and Evidentiary) as adopted and utilized by of the ACNA Provincial Ecclesiastical Court (the “Upper Midwest Diocese Rules of 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, ~~including but not limited to And the sole power to approve amendments to the Diocesan Constitution or~~ and Canons.

ARTICLE VII: THE DEANERIES

There shall be Deaneries of the Diocese ~~(currently including Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Greater Chicago,~~ 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.

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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, following consultation with the Archbishop, also request the ~~College of Bishops~~ Archbishop to appoint an Acting Bishop ~~to be in charge of~~ for the Diocese until a Bishop can be elected. Prior to such appointment, the Standing Committee and the Archbishop shall agree upon the scope of ecclesiastical authority to be assumed by such Acting Bishop. ~~Such~~ The Acting Bishop shall exercise such designated ~~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~~ in accordance with 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

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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, **acting in conjunction with the Standing Committee**, 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 **the Diocesan Canons** 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.

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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 **the Diocesan eCanons** 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 *Multipling 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.

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ARTICLE XVI: AMENDMENT

No amendment to this Constitution may be adopted until it has **first** 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 two-thirds vote of the total delegates 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~~ 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 Standing Committee and its recommendation has been given to the 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.~~

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Canons of the Anglican Diocese of the Upper Midwest

Preamble	3
TITLE I	3
Organization and Administration	3
Canon 1	3
Structure and Authority	3
Canon 2	3
Of the Synod	3
Canon 3	5
Of the Standing Committee	5
Canon 5	7
Of the Diocesan Council	7
Canon 6	8
Of the Ecclesiastical Court; Authority, Composition, and Organization	8
Canon 7	8
Officers of the Diocese	8
Canon 8	10
Committees of the Diocese	10
Canon 9	11
Of Congregations and Missions	11
Section 1. Congregation Defined	11
Canon 10	14
The Rector and the Pastoral Relationship	14
Canon 11	15
Congregation and Diocesan Property	15
Canon 12	15
Financial Affairs of Congregations and the Diocese	15
Canon 13	16
Cathedral Church of the Diocese	16
TITLE II	17
Worship and Administration of the Sacraments	17
Canon 1	17
Conformity with Provincial Canons	17
Canon 2	17
Of Authorized Translations of the Bible	17
Canon 3	17
Of Authorized Forms of Public Worship and Editions of the Book of Common Prayer	17
Canon 4	17

Of Christian Marriage _____	17
Canon 5 _____	17
Of Standards of Morality and Ethics _____	17
TITLE III _____	19
Of Ministers, Their Recruitment, Preparation, _____	19
Ordination, Office, Practice and Transfer _____	19
Canon 1 _____	19
Of Holy Orders in this Diocese _____	19
Canon 2 _____	19
Concerning Ordination and Reception of Clergy _____	19
TITLE IV _____	22
Ecclesiastical Discipline _____	22
Canon 1 _____	22
Church Discipline _____	22
Canon 2 _____	22
The Ecclesiastical Court _____	22
Canon 3 Court Rules and Procedures _____	22
Canon 4 _____	23
Convictions and Sentences _____	23
TITLE V _____	24
Enactment, Amendment, and Repeal of Canons _____	24
Canon 1 _____	24
Action on Agenda Items _____	24
Canon 2 _____	24
Consideration of and Action on Off-Agenda Items _____	24

THE CANONS OF THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF THE UPPER MIDWEST

Preamble

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Anglican Church in North America (hereinafter referred to as “the Province”), the Canons thereof (“Provincial Canons”), and the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of the Anglican Diocese of the Upper Midwest (hereinafter referred to as “the Diocese”), the Diocese hereby adopts these Canons for the purpose of establishing and maintaining its own governance.

TITLE I

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Canon 1

Structure and Authority

The Diocese is composed of Anglican Congregations in the Upper Midwest (including, but not limited to, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and the greater Chicago area) which are organized into Deaneries.

1. A Congregation, as defined by the Canons of the Diocese, is the fundamental unit of mission.
2. Congregations are assigned to Deaneries and led by Deans who are selected by each respective Deanery according to a procedure(s) established by the Standing Committee, with final appointments subject to the Bishop’s approval,
3. The Diocese shall be represented in the Provincial Council and Provincial Assembly by delegates selected by the Standing Committee, subject to the requirements of the Constitution and Canons of the Province and of the Diocese.
4. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall be vested in the Bishop and, in the absence of the Bishop, in the Standing Committee as provided by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.
5. The Diocesan Constitution and Canons recognize the right of each member Congregation to establish and maintain its own governance consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the Province and of the Diocese.

Canon 2

Of the Synod

Section 1. Powers and Duties

We believe that mission flows from worship. The Synod shall therefore meet at least annually for prayer, study of the Scriptures, mutual encouragement, and the furtherance of common mission.

The Synod shall be the primary legislative body of the Diocese, and it shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Under the leadership of the Bishop, further the spread of the gospel through the work of the Diocese;
2. Approve the annual budget;
3. Adopt and amend the Constitution and Canons;
4. Elect members of the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council (when required), and the Ecclesiastical Court;
5. Approve the admission of Congregations to the Diocese;
6. Perform other duties as required by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and
7. Exercise authority not otherwise delegated under the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

In order to attain a quorum for the transaction of business at Synod, at least two-thirds of the Congregations must be represented by one (1) or more representatives, two-thirds of the Lay Delegates must be present, and two-thirds of the active Clergy must be present. The affirmative vote of a majority of all delegates present and eligible to vote is required for approval of all actions, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

Section 2. Membership

The Synod shall be composed of Clergy Delegates and Lay Delegates as defined below.

A. Clergy Delegates

The Clergy Delegates shall include the Bishop and any Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishops and all of the active Presbyters and Deacons under the authority of the Bishop of the Diocese; provided, however, that no member of the Clergy under ecclesiastical discipline or suspension shall be included in the Synod.

An official list of all active and duly ordained Presbyters and Deacons under the authority of the Bishop shall be maintained by the Ecclesiastical Authority, kept current by the Registrar, and maintained on file in the central office of the Diocese. The list shall contain the positions of the active Clergy and shall be published at least 30 days in advance of any meeting of the Synod. Any active member of the Clergy whose name is not on the published list who wishes to vote at the Synod may bring the omission to the attention of the Registrar, and the Ecclesiastical Authority shall determine voting status. The final list shall be available to the Synod on the first day of its meeting.

Every active member of the Clergy who is (1) under the authority of the Bishop and (2) not under ecclesiastical discipline or suspension shall attend every meeting of the Synod unless excused in writing by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

B. Elected Lay Delegates

Congregations are entitled to Lay Delegates to the Synod as provided below. Lay Delegates shall be members in good standing in a Congregation in the Diocese and shall be elected by the Vestry of each Congregation or, if provided in the bylaws of a Congregation, by a meeting of the Congregation. The first delegate from each Congregation shall be the Senior Warden or a person elected in the place of the Senior Warden.

The number of delegates for each Congregation shall be determined on the basis of the Congregation's average Sunday attendance for the previous calendar year, as follows:

- 1-99: two (2) delegates
- 100-199: three (3) delegates
- 200-299: four (4) delegates
- 300-399: five (5) delegates
- 400-499: six (6) delegates
- More than 499: seven (7) delegates

Each Congregation shall also elect such number of alternate delegates as it deems necessary and certify in writing the names and contact information for each delegate and alternate on a form prepared by the Registrar of the Diocese, no fewer than 45 days prior to Synod.

The lay members of the Standing Committee shall be non-voting Lay Delegates to the Synod and, additionally, each may serve as a voting Delegate of his or her Congregation if so elected.

Section 3. Meetings of the Synod

The Synod shall meet regularly once a year and may also meet in a special meeting or meetings called for a specific purpose.

The Bishop, with the advice of the Standing Committee, shall determine the date, time, and place of all meetings of the Synod. The Secretary of the Diocese shall give notice of regular meetings at least 90 days in advance, and no fewer than 15 days prior to any special meeting, except for good cause as determined by the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

The agenda for any regular Synod meeting, including the proposed rules of order and the proposed annual budget, shall be provided to delegates no fewer than 15 days prior to the meeting. No business shall be transacted at a regular or special meeting other than that stated in the agenda, unless two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote at the meeting authorize the transaction of such other business.

Canon 3 Of the Standing Committee

Section 1. Powers and Duties

The Standing Committee of the Diocese shall have the following powers and duties:

1. Together with the Bishop and subject to confirmation by the Synod when required, act to accept or deny an application for admission of a Congregation or Mission into the Diocese;
2. Establish committees and subcommittees as necessary to accomplish the work of the Standing Committee and perform such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Bishop;
3. Be a council of advice to the Bishop;
4. Consult with the Bishop regarding ordinations to the diaconate and presbyterate;

5. Nominate individuals to fill vacancies on the Standing Committee, the Ecclesiastical Court, and the Diocesan Council;
6. Appoint individuals to represent the Diocese in the Provincial Council and the Provincial Assembly;
7. Provide advice and consent to the appointment by the Bishop of individuals to serve as officers of the Diocese and as members of the Finance Committee and the Committee on Constitution and Canons;
8. Authorize staff to establish and implement policies and procedures regarding the day-to-day operations of the Diocese;
9. Coordinate and communicate with the Deans in the execution of Diocesan functions;
10. Establish policies and administrative practices governing the operation of the Diocese;
11. Oversee an annual review of the work of the Bishop conducted by a subcommittee designed by the Standing Committee and chaired by the Chair of the Standing Committee;
12. Fulfill the duties of the Diocesan Council until such time as the creation of a Diocesan Council may be deemed necessary;
13. Establish rules, procedures, and notice requirements governing the Standing Committee; and
14. Perform such other duties as required by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

Section 2. Membership and Operation

The Standing Committee shall be composed of seven (7) members, which shall include the Bishop, three (3) Clergy members and three (3) lay members. The three (3) Clergy and three (3) lay members shall be elected by the Synod at its annual meeting, subject to the requirements below.

The Standing Committee shall serve as a nominating committee for Standing Committee candidates. Such nominating committee shall, at a minimum, give notice to all Congregations regarding the opportunity and time to nominate candidates for Standing Committee, determine a slate of nominees to be considered by the Synod, and conduct criminal background checks of all nominees submitted to the Synod. The minimum number of nominees for lay seats shall be the number of open lay seats multiplied by two. The minimum number of nominees for Clergy seats shall be the number of open Clergy seats multiplied by two.

Elected members of the Standing Committee shall be elected at Synod to staggered three-year terms. Each voting Synod delegate may cast as many votes for lay Standing Committee nominees as there are open lay seats. Each voting Synod delegate may cast as many votes for Clergy Standing Committee nominees as there are open Clergy seats. Nominees shall be elected based upon the greatest vote totals within each class of seats.

Each Standing Committee member may serve for two (2) consecutive full terms of three (3) years each (in addition to any partial term). A member who has served the maximum time described above is ineligible for re-election to the Standing Committee for three (3) years from the completion of his or her service. Neither a Dean nor the spouse of a Rector may serve as a Standing Committee member. The Standing Committee shall fill all vacancies in its own body or any elected office that may occur between meetings of the Synod, and such persons shall serve until the next Synod.

A member of the Standing Committee shall certify annually that he or she (1) is a member in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese; (2) submits to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and (3) subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration. Each member of the Standing Committee must be confirmed or commit to pursuing confirmation upon election. The lay members of the Standing Committee shall be entitled to voice in the Synod as Lay Delegates.

The Standing Committee shall render its decisions by a majority vote of its members present at a meeting (including the Bishop) and in compliance with Standing Committee rules, procedures, and notice requirements.

At the first meeting after each Synod, the Bishop, as the presiding officer of the Standing Committee, shall choose a Chair for the Standing Committee from among its members. The Standing Committee shall then choose from among its members a Vice Chair. Except as noted below, the Chair and, in the Chair's absence the Vice Chair, shall preside over all Standing Committee Meetings.

The Bishop shall have a voice but no vote on matters decided by the Standing Committee, except that in the event of a tie the Bishop may vote on that matter to break the tie. When present at a Standing Committee meeting, the Bishop may preside, at his sole discretion, over that meeting in lieu of the Chair or Vice Chair.

Canon 4 Of the Deaneries

A Deanery constitutes a grouping of Congregations led by a Presbyter serving as a "Dean." Each Deanery shall have one (1) Dean who is selected by the Deanery according to a procedure(s) established by the Standing Committee, and whose appointment is subject to the final approval of the Bishop. Deaneries may be formed, modified, or dissolved by the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. The purposes of a Deanery shall be to support and encourage the ministries of the Congregations within the Deanery and to assist with communications regarding Diocesan initiatives; provided, however, that neither Deaneries nor Deans shall have policy-making authority. Deans shall serve at the discretion of the Bishop.

Canon 5 Of the Diocesan Council

Section 1. Powers and Duties

The powers and duties of the Diocesan Council shall be exercised by the Standing Committee until such time as the creation of a Diocesan Council may be deemed necessary, inclusive of the following powers and duties:

1. Implement the decisions made and policies adopted by the Synod;
2. Prepare, under the leadership of the Bishop, an annual report to the Synod regarding the work and mission of the Diocese;
3. Consult with the Treasurer and Finance Committee regarding the annual budget proposed for consideration and adoption by the Synod; and
4. Perform such other duties as required by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

Section 2. Membership [Reserved]**Canon 6****Of the Ecclesiastical Court; Authority, Composition, and Organization**

There shall be a four (4) member Ecclesiastical Court of the Diocese for the application of church discipline in accordance with the Constitution, Canons and Rules of Court (Procedural and Evidentiary), and to resolve such other disputes and controversies which by canon or request of the Bishop be submitted to it. The jurisdiction, composition, and terms of office of the Ecclesiastical Court are established under Title IV of these Canons. Each member of the Ecclesiastical Court shall certify annually that he or she: (1) is a member in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese who is confirmed or commits to pursuing confirmation; (2) submits to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and (3) subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration.

Canon 7**Officers of the Diocese****Section 1. The Bishop**

The Bishop shall serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese and Chair of the Synod and shall have the authority and responsibilities set forth in the Constitution and Canons of the Province and the Diocese.

Section 2. Of the Election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan

The process for nominating and electing a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan shall be as follows:

1. Notice shall be given by the Ecclesiastical Authority to, and consent received from, the College of Bishops for the commencement of an election.
2. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall actively engage all Congregations in the Diocese to participate in a process of prayer, fasting, education, and discernment leading to the selection of candidates for the office of Bishop.
3. Not later than six (6) months prior to the Synod at which a new Bishop may be elected (the "Electing Synod"), the Standing Committee shall appoint one (1) lay representative from each Deanery, and one (1) Deacon within the Diocese, none of whom are on the Standing Committee, to confer with the Deans and the Chair of the Standing Committee in order to discern those qualities sought in individuals to be presented to the Electing Synod as nominees for Bishop, including but not limited to core knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience.
4. Such group shall comprise the Bishop Nominating Committee and shall call for an Electing Synod not fewer than five (5) months from the date of such notice. The Electing Synod may be held separately or in conjunction with the annual Synod meeting.
5. Lay delegates to the Electing Synod shall be the Lay Delegates to the prior annual Synod and all other delegates shall be determined as otherwise set forth under the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.
6. Any delegate to the Electing Synod may submit nominations to the Bishop Nominating Committee no later than four (4) months prior to the Electing Synod.

7. The Bishop Nominating Committee shall make a retreat to pray over, discern, and establish a slate consisting of no fewer than two (2) and no more than five (5) nominees for Bishop, and shall publish the list of such names to the Diocese no later than thirty days prior to the Electing Synod.
8. At the Electing Synod, delegates shall vote by Elected Lay and Clergy Delegate groups, respectively, ("Orders") and may vote for one (1) of the candidates presented or may abstain. If one (1) candidate receives the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the total delegates present in each Order, he is elected and his name shall be sent to the College of Bishops for confirmation. If no candidate is elected, delegates shall revote up to four (4) additional times upon request of any delegate. If no candidate is elected following the initial vote and four (4) additional votes, the number of nominees shall be reduced to the two (2) nominees with the greatest number of votes in the most recent vote. The delegates shall then resume voting by Order and an affirmative vote of a majority of the total delegates present in each Order shall serve to elect one (1) of the nominees as Bishop. If election by majority vote is not attained within both Orders after three (3) additional votes, such nominees' names shall be submitted to the College of Bishops for their choosing.

Section 3. The Bishop Coadjutor

The Bishop and Standing Committee may create the position of Bishop Coadjutor, who shall succeed the Bishop upon the Bishop's retirement, death, or removal. The Bishop Coadjutor shall be elected by an Electing Synod as provided in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. The Bishop shall prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the Bishop Coadjutor during the period in which the Bishop and Bishop Coadjutor concurrently serve.

Section 4. The Bishop Suffragan

The Bishop and Standing Committee may create one (1) or more Bishops Suffragan to assist the Bishop who shall be elected by an Electing Synod as provided in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. The Bishop shall prescribe the duties and responsibilities of a Bishop Suffragan.

Section 5. The Chancellor

The Chancellor of the Diocese, appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, shall, prior to appointment, certify that he or she: (1) is a member in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese who is confirmed or commits to pursuing confirmation; (2) submits to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and (3) subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration. He or she shall be learned in the law and licensed to practice law in one of the jurisdictions encompassed by the Diocese. The Chancellor shall have responsibility for the legal affairs of the Diocese, shall serve the Diocese as counsel to the Bishop and the Standing Committee, and shall be a voting member of the Committee on Constitution and Canons. The Bishop may appoint assistant chancellors as necessary with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.

Section 6. The Secretary

The Secretary of the Diocese, appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, shall, prior to appointment, certify that he or she: (1) is a member in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese who is confirmed or commits to pursuing confirmation; (2) submits to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and (3) subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration. He or she shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council, and the Synod

and shall submit such reports as the Bishop may request. The Bishop may appoint assistant secretaries as necessary with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.

Section 7. The Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Diocese, appointed by the Bishop with advice and consent of the Standing Committee, shall, prior to appointment, certify that he or she: (1) is a member in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese who is confirmed or commits to pursuing confirmation; (2) submits to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and (3) subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration. He or she shall be the custodian for all of the funds of the Diocese. The Treasurer shall prepare the annual diocesan budget and shall make an annual report to the Synod on the financial status of the Diocese, including reports of account for all funds under his or her custody or control, profit and loss statements, and balance sheets. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for the preparation of such periodic financial reports as may be required by the Standing Committee.

Section 8. The Registrar

The Registrar, appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, shall, prior to appointment, certify that he or she (1) is a member in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese who is confirmed or commits to pursuing confirmation; (2) submits to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and (3) subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration. He or she shall be the custodian of official records of the Diocese and shall issue such certification as may be directed by the Bishop or the Standing Committee.

Section 9. Terms of Office, Background Checks, and Synod Representation

The Chancellor, the Secretary, the Registrar, and the Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop, and the certifications made by such officers described in the sections above must remain in effect for the duration of their time as officers. All officers of the Diocese shall be subject to criminal background checks prior to commencement of service. All officers of the Diocese shall attend the Synod but shall not have the right to vote at Synod by virtue of his or her office.

Canon 8

Committees of the Diocese

Section 1. Finance Committee

The Bishop shall appoint a Finance Committee of the Diocese with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. At least one (1) member of the Finance Committee shall be a Standing Committee member. Each member of the Finance Committee shall certify annually that he or she: (1) is a member in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese who is confirmed or commits to pursuing confirmation; (2) submits to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and (3) subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration. The Finance Committee shall consult with the Treasurer. The Finance Committee shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Diocesan Council or Standing Committee.

Section 2. Committee on Constitution and Canons

The Bishop shall appoint a Committee on Constitution and Canons with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. The Committee shall consist of the Diocesan Chancellor, three (3) Clergy, and three (3) lay persons, who shall serve three-year staggered terms, at least one (1) member of which shall

be a practicing or retired attorney (in addition to the Chancellor). Each member of the Committee on Constitution and Canons shall certify annually that he or she: (1) is a member in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese who is confirmed or commits to pursuing confirmation; (2) submits to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and (3) subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration. No member who has served for two (2) consecutive three-year terms shall be eligible for reappointment until one (1) year after his or her term has expired. The Committee shall elect a Chair amongst its members and shall recommend, in consultation with the Diocesan Council (if applicable) and with the consent of the Standing Committee, amendments to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese to the Synod. Proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons shall be provided to the delegates to Synod no fewer than 30 days in advance for comment, with final versions provided no fewer than 15 days in advance.

Section 3. Other Committees

Other Diocesan committees may be established by Canon, and the Bishop may appoint other Committees as necessary with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. Each member of a Diocesan Committee shall certify annually that he or she (1) is a member in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese who is confirmed or commits to pursuing confirmation; (2) submits to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and (3) subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration.

Canon 9

Of Congregations and Missions

Section 1. Congregation Defined

1. Any group may seek to affiliate with the Diocese as a Congregation as provided in this Canon. A Congregation is a community of worshippers that meets the following criteria:
 - a. Meets the requirement for a “congregation” under the Provincial Canons;
 - b. Has a Vestry under the authority of the Bishop;
 - c. Conducts weekly worship in a public space in accordance with the doctrine and forms of worship recognized as Anglican in form and substance by the Anglican Communion and as permitted by the Bishop;
 - d. Has enabled ministries for prayer, evangelism, discipleship, service, fellowship, and Bible study;
 - e. Is financially self-supporting, meaning it maintains adequate insurance, has the ability to fund its own operations, and contributes to the support of the Diocese;
 - f. Complies with applicable Diocesan standards and policies, including but not limited to any Diocesan child protection policy standards and all mandatory reporter training required thereunder; and
 - g. Is organized in accordance with these Canons.
2. Any group not meeting the above requirements that wishes to be recognized as a Congregation may apply to the Standing Committee for (a) a waiver or modification of one or more of these requirements, and/or (b) approval subject to any conditions established by the Standing Committee. Any such Standing Committee waiver, modification or approval subject to conditions must be disclosed to the Synod prior to the Synod vote to approve admission of such Congregation to the Diocese.

3. Any group not meeting the requirements for a Congregation may apply to be recognized as a Mission.

Section 2. Mission Defined

Any group of Christians worshipping or planning to worship on a regular basis separately from a Congregation who wish to be associated with the Diocese, and who are not recognized as a Congregation, may be recognized as a “Mission” under the following circumstances: 1) a church-plant or similar undertaking, the goal of which is to become a Congregation; or 2) an innovative outreach designed to provide opportunity for full participation in the Diocese outside of a Congregation’s regular worship service(s). All Missions must be affiliated with a Congregation and under the exclusive supervision of such Congregation’s Rector and Vestry. A Mission’s affiliation with a Congregation shall be subject to Diocesan approval as set forth in Section 4 below. For Diocesan purposes, a Mission’s attendance at regular worship services shall be included in the Average Sunday Attendance of the Congregation with which the Mission is affiliated.

Section 3. Designations upon Enactment of Canons [Reserved]

Section 4. Establishing New Missions and Congregations

The Diocese encourages the establishment of new Missions and Congregations. The establishment of a new Mission or Congregation is a significant undertaking to be pursued only with a foundation of prayer and planning.

Any group of the faithful seeking to affiliate as a Congregation, or a Congregation desiring to establish a Mission, shall submit a request to the Bishop, who shall consult with the Standing Committee. Upon the approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee, a new Mission or Congregation may be recognized by the Diocese, provided that the admittance of a new Congregation is subject to final confirmation at the next Synod. A Congregation joining the Diocese shall agree in writing to become subject to the authority of the Bishop and the Constitution and Canons of the Province and the Diocese, and shall be assigned to a Deanery.

Section 5. Accepting Congregations from Other Dioceses

A Congregation attached to another Diocese of the Province, which desires to become a Congregation of this Diocese, shall follow the procedure outlined above in Section 4 of this Canon. Prior to such application, the Congregation must receive the consent of the Bishop of the diocese to which it has been attached.

Section 6. Disassociation from the Diocese

1. A Congregation may disassociate from the Diocese either upon the action of a Congregation or upon the joint action of the Bishop and the Standing Committee. The term disassociation includes, but is not limited to, the transfer of a Congregation to another ACNA Diocese.
2. If a Congregation desires to disassociate from the Diocese, the Rector and Senior Warden shall first meet with the Bishop and the Chair of the Standing Committee for the purpose of resolving pending concerns. If such concerns are not resolved, the Congregation may adopt a “Resolution of Concern” by a majority vote of its Vestry. The Resolution of

Concern shall be addressed to the Bishop and must contain a brief statement of the reasons for the proposed disassociation; such resolution shall also contain a request that the Bishop consult with the Vestry and Rector of a Congregation. Upon receipt of a Resolution of Concern, the Bishop shall transmit the resolution to the Standing Committee. The Bishop and the Chair of the Standing Committee shall then promptly meet in-person with the Vestry and Rector of the Congregation. If the Congregation does not withdraw the Resolution of Concern within 15 days of such conference, the relationship between the Diocese and the Congregation may be dissolved at the election of either the Diocese or the Congregation.³ The Diocese may, following notice to the Rector and Vestry and opportunity to be heard, choose to expel a Congregation by a two-thirds vote of the Standing Committee and approval by the Bishop.

Section 7. Appointment of a Rector to an Existing Congregation

1. A Congregation's Vestry shall select the Rector of a Congregation when the need arises.
2. A prayerful process and due diligence shall be undertaken in consultation with the Bishop in the search and calling of a Rector to a Congregation. The Vestry may appoint a search committee to consider appropriate candidates to be considered for election and call as Rector by the Vestry. The names of the candidates shall be submitted to the Bishop for his advice and consent.
3. Before extending an offer to a candidate, the Congregation's Vestry must obtain the written approval of the Bishop.

Section 8. Governance, Organization and Business Affairs of a Congregation

Each Congregation shall have a governing body often referred to as the Vestry or Parish Council, which governing body is referred to as a Vestry in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. Each Congregation shall operate under by-laws approved by the Diocesan Chancellor following consultation with the Bishop.

1. The Rector shall preside over the Vestry in accordance with a Congregation's by-laws. Vestry members shall be chosen by the Congregation under rules that each Congregation may establish for that purpose. In addition to the Rector and a Senior and Junior Warden, a Congregation may select such other officers as allowed by its governing documents.
2. The Vestry shall be responsible for the financial oversight of the Congregation in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, and the Vestry may create a Finance Committee to be responsible for preparation of the annual budget.
3. Each Congregation shall have a Treasurer, who shall be a member of the Finance Committee, if the Congregation has a Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the Congregation and shall perform such other duties as required by the Vestry.
4. Every member of the Vestry shall annually affirm the following declaration and promise: "I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary for salvation and I do yield my hearty consent to the doctrines, discipline and worship of Christ as the Anglican Church in North America has

received them. I promise that I will faithfully lead and serve as I am called as a member of this local Congregation to the best of my ability.”

5. Each member of the Vestry shall certify annually that he or she: (1) is a member in good standing in a Congregation of the Diocese who is confirmed or commits to pursuing confirmation; (2) submits to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and (3) subscribes to the Jerusalem Declaration.

Section 9. The Laity and Membership

The people of God are called to extend the Kingdom of God by so presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people will come to put their trust in God through Him, know Him as Savior, and serve Him as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. The effective ministry of the Church is the responsibility of the Laity no less than it is the responsibility of the Bishop, Presbyters, and Deacons. It is incumbent for every Lay member of a Congregation to become an effective minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, one who is spiritually qualified, gifted, called, and mature in the Faith.

1. The Diocese recognizes that the ministry of the laity is indispensable to the work of the Diocese and that lay ministry originates within each Congregation. It is the responsibility of all Clergy and Congregations of the Diocese to equip the laity for ministries in their communities.
2. Congregations shall establish their own discipleship process designed to prepare people for membership and help members become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who are fully incorporated into the Body of Christ. The discipleship process is encouraged to include instruction of all candidates for membership in the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as the Church has received them.

Canon 10

The Rector and the Pastoral Relationship

Section 1. The Pastoral Relationship

The relationship between the Rector and the Congregation is one of mutual trust and dependence in carrying out the ministry of the Congregation. For the purposes of the Canons of this Diocese, the term “Rector” shall mean a Presbyter who has charge of a Congregation.

Section 2. Other Clergy

The Rector, in consultation with the Vestry, shall select all assistant or associate Clergy and paid staff who shall serve at the pleasure of the Rector. Whenever matters of disagreement develop, it is incumbent on all parties to approach one another with patience, understanding, and Christian charity to avoid having the relationship imperiled or hindered.

Section 3. Procedure When Pastoral Relationship Imperiled or Hindered

Whenever a Rector or a majority of the Vestry believes the pastoral relationship between the Rector and the Congregation to be imperiled or hindered, either or both may present the matter to the Bishop.

1. Upon notification of such imperilment or hindrance by the Rector or the Vestry, the Bishop shall promptly seek reconciliation by whatever means he believes appropriate that is

consistent with Holy Scripture. The Bishop, or his appointee, may hold conferences with the Rector and the Vestry, who shall both participate cooperatively in the process. The Bishop may issue such interim directives appropriate to the cause before issuing a judgment. Prior to issuing a judgment, the Bishop shall consult with the Standing Committee and the Chancellor of the Diocese. The Standing Committee may schedule a conference with the Vestry and the Rector before rendering its advice to the Bishop. At such conference, the parties may be heard and be represented by a person or persons of their choice.

2. The judgment of the Bishop may include: 1) a leave of absence for the Rector; 2) a refusal to dissolve the pastoral relationship; 3) restorative directives; or 4) a dissolution of the pastoral relationship. Such judgment may also include terms and conditions applicable to one (1) or more parties, and may also include financial settlement terms but only if approved by all parties.
3. If at the time of need for the Bishop's intervention in the relationship between a Rector and a Vestry there is no Bishop, or the Bishop refuses to act within thirty days, the Standing Committee or Vestry may appeal to the Archbishop for action.
4. If for any reason either the Vestry or the Rector refuses to comply with the judgment of the Bishop, the Bishop may suspend the Rector from the exercise of the ministry of a Presbyter until he complies with the judgment or, in the case of the Vestry, the Bishop may call a Congregational meeting for the purpose of notifying the Congregation of the Vestry's noncompliance with the judgment. The Bishop may petition the Standing Committee to remove the Congregation from the Diocese in the event of continued noncompliance by the Vestry.

Canon 11

Congregation and Diocesan Property

Section 1. No Denominational or Diocesan Trust in Congregation Property

All real and personal property owned by or held for the benefit of a Congregation shall belong exclusively to that Congregation, free of any trust or other claim by the Diocese or the Province.

Section 2. Diocese Empowered to Own Its Own Property

The Diocese may own its own property to be held in whatever form determined by the Standing Committee, and any such property shall be free of any claim of trust or ownership by the Province.

Canon 12

Financial Affairs of Congregations and the Diocese

The Bishop in consultation with the Standing Committee may develop and maintain a suitable Customary on Guidelines for Financial Affairs of Congregations and the Diocese consistent with the teaching of Holy Scripture, the Constitution of this Diocese, and the Constitution and Canons of the Province.

Canon 13

Cathedral Church of the Diocese

A Congregation and the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may agree to the designation of that Congregation as the Diocesan Cathedral under such terms as both approve.

TITLE II**WORSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS**

Canon 1**Conformity with Provincial Canons**

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

Canon 2**Of Authorized Translations of the Bible**

The Lessons used in services of public worship shall be read from translations of the Holy Scriptures as authorized by the Bishop of the Diocese.

Canon 3**Of Authorized Forms of Public Worship and Editions of the Book of Common Prayer**

It is the prerogative of the Bishop to determine that the forms used in Public Worship and the Administration of the Sacraments do not contradict the Anglican Faith and Order and that nothing be established that is contrary to the Word of God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

Canon 4**Of Christian Marriage**

The Diocese affirms our Lord's teaching that the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is in its nature a union lifelong and permanent of one man and one woman. Christian marriage in this Diocese shall be in conformity with Title II, Canon 7 of the Provincial Canons. The Bishop shall prescribe:

1. Minimum required preparation for marriage, and
2. Requirements for a person who has received a civil divorce to be married in the Church.

Canon 5**Of Standards of Morality and Ethics****Section 1. Exemplary Style of Life**

Clergy and laity of this Diocese are called to be exemplary in all spheres of morality. This is a condition of being appointed to or remaining in a position or office of leadership.

Section 2. Sanctity of Marriage

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

Section 3. Sanctity of Life

God, and not man, is the creator of human life. The unjustified taking of life is sinful. Therefore, all Clergy and Laity are called to promote and respect the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death.

Section 4. Pastoral Ministry

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

Section 5. Protection of the Vulnerable

Clergy and laity are called upon to show respect for and faithful compliance with all applicable secular laws of the federal, state, and local governments (Romans 13:1-2), provided such laws do not contradict Holy Scripture (Acts 5:29). Mandated reporters must honor applicable mandated reporter obligations and remain current with mandated reporter training requirements, as required by Diocesan policies as amended from time to time.

TITLE III

OF MINISTERS, THEIR RECRUITMENT, PREPARATION, ORDINATION, OFFICE, PRACTICE AND TRANSFER

Canon 1 **Of Holy Orders in this Diocese**

Section 1. Threefold Pastoral Ministry as Described in Scripture

This Diocese affirms what Anglicanism has always held in common, namely the normality and sufficiency of the threefold pastoral ministry of Bishop, Presbyter, and Deacon as described in Holy Scripture. Persons shall be admitted to the office of Bishop, Presbyter, or Deacon in this Church, and allowed to exercise any of these offices, who have been called, examined, and ordained according to an authorized ordinal of this Church or ordained in some church whose orders are recognized and accepted by this Church.

Section 2. Ministerial Offices of Priest and Bishop Affirmation

This Diocese affirms the scriptural teaching and historic tradition of the Church that the Christian ministerial offices of priest (presbyter - πρεσβύτερος) and bishop (ἐπίσκοπος) are male (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

Section 3. Canonical Obedience

Any person who has received authority to be a Presbyter or Deacon in this Church owes canonical obedience in all things lawful and honest to the Bishop having jurisdiction, and the Bishop of this Diocese owes canonical obedience in all things lawful and honest to the Archbishop of the Province.

Section 4. Formulating Requirements Consistent with Scripture

The Deans and the Standing Committee shall assist and advise the Bishop in formulating the needs and requirements for the present and future ministry in the Diocese, regarding the manner of selection of persons for ministry, and regarding the guidance of all postulants and candidates for ordination to Holy Orders. The recruitment, preparation, ordination, office, practice, and transfer of Ministers, shall be consistent with the teaching of Holy Scripture (especially, but not limited to, 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:17; and Titus 1:6-9), the Constitution of this Diocese, and the Constitution and Canons of the Province.

Section 5. Qualifications in Provincial Constitution and Canons

The qualifications for persons seeking ordination into Holy Orders in this Diocese shall, except as provided herein, conform to the standards of ordination for clergy that have already been established in the Constitution and Canons of the Province.

Canon 2 **Concerning Ordination and Reception of Clergy**

Section 1. Applicant Steps

Persons desiring to be ordained in this Diocese, and ministers from other jurisdictions who seek to be received into this Diocese, should seek the discernment of others to confirm that call including the

Rector of the applicant's Congregation. The Rector and the applicant shall follow the process outlined by the Bishop which, at a minimum, shall: (a) call for the applicant to complete an authorization for background checks and, subsequently, an application for Holy Orders, all on forms required by the Bishop; (b) require affiliation of the applicant with a single Congregation in the Diocese for at least one (1) year; (c) subject the call to the decision of the Vestry of the applicant's Congregation (the "Sponsoring Congregation"); (d) subject the call to review by a Diocesan "Ordination Committee" as defined below; and (e) require the applicant to submit to the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, and subscribe in writing to the Jerusalem Declaration prior to ordination and annually thereafter.

Upon the favorable recommendation of the Sponsoring Congregation's Rector, the Sponsoring Congregation's Vestry shall by at least two-thirds vote determine whether to recommend the applicant to the Bishop for admission to aspirancy, and, if it so determines, shall submit its recommendation to the Bishop.

Following the Bishop's receipt of an affirmative recommendation of an applicant for aspirancy from a Sponsoring Congregation, an Ordination Committee appointed by the Standing Committee shall commence its review of the applicant's call and fitness for service with prayer and discernment. Such Ordination Committee shall report the result(s) of its review to the Bishop in writing along with its recommendation regarding the applicant's admission to postulancy. The Ordination Committee(s) shall be comprised of at least two (2) Clergy members, at least one (1) lay person, and the Canon to the Ordinary; the Canon to the Ordinary shall be a non-voting member. At least one member of the Ordination Committee shall be a Standing Committee member and at least one member shall be the Dean of the Sponsoring Congregation's Deanery.

The ordination or reception process shall, among other requirements, include an independent background check covering the following: the checking of all references and previous employers for the previous ten (10) years, credit reports, the checking of records from Departments of Motor Vehicles, and a comprehensive criminal records check to include the Sexual Predators Directory(ies).

Section 2. Declaration of Belief

No person shall be received as Clergy in this Diocese until they shall have subscribed in writing and agree to annually re-subscribe to the following declaration:

I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary to salvation, and I consequently hold myself bound to conform my life and ministry thereto, and I do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of Christ as this Church has received them. And I do promise, here in the presence of Almighty God and of the Church, that I will pay true and canonical obedience in all things lawful and honest to the Bishop of the Diocese of the Upper Midwest, and his successors, so help me God.

Section 3. Bishop's Satisfaction of Qualifications

The Bishop, being fully satisfied of a person's theological and other qualifications, and soundness in the faith, and upon successful completion of examination as provided in any customaries for ordination, transfer, or reception may, following consultation with the Standing Committee, ordain persons in this

Diocese, or receive Clergy from other churches or jurisdictions into this Diocese as provided in this Canon 2.

Section 4. Active and Inactive Clergy

For the purposes of the Canons of this Diocese, “Active Clergy” shall mean Clergy who: (1) regularly serve at a Congregation or who are serving in an ordained capacity within the Diocese in accordance with the approval of the Bishop; (2) regularly attend Synod meetings unless excused by the Bishop; (3) are not under Ecclesiastical discipline and (4) meet such other requirements as established by the Bishop in consultation with the Standing Committee.

Active Clergy may become inactive upon such Clergy’s written request that he or she be designated as inactive, or upon the Bishop’s determination that such Clergy is no longer Active Clergy under the foregoing criteria.

TITLE IV**ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE**

This Title IV and related Diocesan policies are intended to promote the fair administration of justice, the protection of the vulnerable, and the good order of the Diocese, all in service of His Kingdom.

Canon 1
Church Discipline

All Clergy canonically resident in this Diocese shall be subject to all provisions relating to ecclesiastical discipline under: a) Title IV of the Provincial Canons (excluding Title IV, Canon 3, Section 3) and Provincial Canon Title I, Canon 5, Section 9; b) the Canons of this Diocese; and c) any Diocesan policies. The Diocesan Reports Investigation Committee shall in all cases serve as the canonical investigator under Provincial Canon Title IV. Every member of the laity of this Diocese shall be subject to the disciplinary rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer authorized by the Bishop and in use in the layperson's Congregation. The responsibility for investigating and disciplining members of the laity belongs to the Rector of the affected Congregation.

Canon 2
The Ecclesiastical Court

The Ecclesiastical Court shall consist of two (2) Clergy and two (2) lay members, all nominated by the Standing Committee and elected by the Synod, at least one (1) of whom is a practicing attorney. Such members shall serve three-year terms, subject to the exception below. Within two (2) months of the appointment of the Court, the Court shall elect one (1) person among its members to serve as the presiding judge. An Ecclesiastical Court member involved in pending proceedings whose three-year term is expiring without extension, may, with the consent of the Bishop, remain a member of the Ecclesiastical Court beyond his or her current term for the purpose of completing such pending proceedings; provided, however, that a new member shall still be elected to serve as an Ecclesiastical Court member with respect to all other matters. The Bishop may appoint attorneys at law to advise the Court as to its procedures. The Court shall appoint a recorder of proceedings, which recorder shall be a court reporter not affiliated with the Diocese or shall make an audio recording (including a video recording if so desired) of all court proceedings.

Canon 3
Court Rules and Procedures

The Ecclesiastical Court may adopt and maintain rules and procedures which are consistent with the Canons of the Diocese. If adopted, such rules and procedures shall constitute the "Upper Midwest Diocese Rules of Court", as referenced in Article V of the Constitution. In the absence of such rules and procedures, the Rules of Court (Procedural and Evidentiary) of the ACNA Provincial Ecclesiastical Court shall constitute the "Upper Midwest Diocese Rules of Court". With respect to trial proceedings in the Ecclesiastical Court, the Federal Rules of Evidence shall be persuasive authority regarding the admissibility of evidence. However, the Ecclesiastical Court may establish such rules and procedures as it deems appropriate.

Canon 4**Convictions and Sentences**

Any conviction under this Title requires the affirmative vote of a majority of the Ecclesiastical Court. Upon any conviction, the Bishop shall pronounce sentence in accordance with Title IV of the Provincial Canons.

TITLE V**ENACTMENT, AMENDMENT, AND REPEAL OF CANONS**

Canon 1**Action on Agenda Items**

The Canons of the Diocese may be enacted, amended, or repealed by a majority vote of the Synod at any regular meeting or any Special Meeting called for such purpose(s). No enactment, amendment, or repeal may be approved unless it has first been reviewed by the Committee on Constitution and Canons and approved by the Standing Committee. Notwithstanding the foregoing, modifications made by the Synod to a proposed Canon or amendment previously approved by the Standing Committee may be ratified by the Standing Committee following the Committee on Constitution and Canons' review.

Canon 2**Consideration of and Action on Off-Agenda Items**

Notwithstanding any provision in these Canons to the contrary, the Synod may by two-thirds majority allow the consideration of, and by majority vote approve, the enactment, amendment, or repeal of Canons, subject to ratification by the Standing Committee following the Committee on Constitution and Canons' review.