

The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina Constitution, Canons, and Rules of Order

CONSTITUTION

*[Current through November 2025, as approved by Convention
at its 235rd Annual Convention]*

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THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Recognition of the Authority of The Episcopal Church

The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina accedes to and adopts the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, as they now exist or may hereafter be amended by The Episcopal Church's General Convention and agrees to be permanently and irrevocably governed thereby.

ARTICLE II

Name and Seal of Diocese

Section 1. The Diocese shall be known by the name: The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. The Diocese has also been known as and done business as "The Episcopal Church in South Carolina," "The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina," "The Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina," and "The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of South Carolina."

The Diocese, which was first organized in 1785, is the historic and continuously existing Episcopal Diocese in South Carolina and was originally known as "The Protestant Episcopal Church for the Diocese of South Carolina."

Section 2. The Seal of the Diocese shall be:



ARTICLE III

Jurisdiction

The geographic territory of the Diocese is comprised of the following counties in the State of South Carolina: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter, and Williamsburg.

ARTICLE IV

Diocesan Convention Meetings

Section 1. A diocesan Convention shall be held annually, at such time and place as shall have been determined upon by the preceding Convention.

Section 2. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall have power to call a special meeting of the Convention by giving at least thirty (30) days' notice to every bishop, priest, and deacon entitled to a seat in the Convention, and to every parish and mission in the Diocese in union with the Convention. Such meeting shall be held when and where the authority so calling it shall determine. At such meeting no other business shall be transacted than that specified in the notice so calling said meeting. Whenever a special meeting of Convention is called for the purpose of electing a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, lay delegates from the several parishes and organized missions in union with Convention shall be elected after the call has been issued for such special meeting.

Section 3. If, in the judgment of the Ecclesiastical Authority, there exists sufficient cause to require a change of time or place for the meeting of a Convention either annual or special, the Ecclesiastical Authority may designate another time or place of holding such meeting. Any such meeting shall be held within thirty (30) days after the time originally designated and after notice to every bishop, priest, and deacon, and parish and mission in the Diocese entitled to seat in the Convention.

ARTICLE V

Diocesan Convention Members

Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of laypersons, bishops, priests, and deacons, as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. Each parish and mission in union with the Convention and in good standing shall be entitled to all of the privileges as members of the Convention.

Section 3. Each canonically resident bishop in the Diocese shall be entitled to all of the privileges of a member of the Convention.

Section 4. All canonically resident clergy (priests and deacons) are entitled to all privileges as a member of the Convention, including seat, voice, and vote.

ARTICLE VI

Procedures Pertaining to Conventions

Section 1. Each parish and mission in union with the Convention shall be entitled to lay representation in the Convention. A parish shall be represented by not more than four laypersons and a mission shall be represented by not more than two laypersons. The election of said lay delegates shall take place in each parish and each mission in union with the Convention, by ballot, from among the confirmed adult communicants in good standing, at a meeting of the members thereof. An equal number of lay delegates may be elected to serve as alternates or substitutes for such lay delegates so elected. A parish or mission shall not be entitled to vote if it has not filed its Parochial Reports by the March 1st preceding the Convention, unless they be accorded such privilege by a majority vote of the Convention.

Section 2. Except as otherwise provided, the terms of office of delegates so elected shall continue until their successors are elected. Each parish and mission shall file a report naming the delegates and alternate delegates with the secretary of the Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention.

Section 3. The presiding officer of the Convention shall call on the Credentials Committee for a report of the clerical and lay delegates entitled to seat, voice and vote at the Convention.

Section 4. When the Convention shall have been called to order, the list of the Clergy of the Convention shall be presented to the Convention, and the names of the clerical members shall be called by the Secretary. Immediately thereafter the secretary shall proceed to call the names of the lay delegates. If a quorum is found present, the presiding officer shall declare the Convention duly organized. Provided, however, that if the clerical and lay delegates have been registered on the opening day of the Convention and such registration is then in the hands of the secretary, said roll calls may be dispensed with. If a question be made, the right of any clerical or lay delegates shall be determined according to the provisions of this Constitution.

Section 5. A majority of the clergy, who are serving in a parish or mission, and lay delegates from a majority of the parishes and missions in union with the Convention shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 6. The Bishop of the Diocese shall be the presiding officer of the Convention. In the absence of the Bishop, the next following individual shall be the presiding officer of the Convention:

1. Bishop Coadjutor
2. Bishop Suffragan
3. President of the Standing Committee
4. An individual selected from among the attending priests and lay delegates.

Section 7. The following provisions shall govern voting in Convention.

Section 7.1. On all questions before the Convention, unless otherwise required, the members shall deliberate and vote as one body unless twenty-five (25%) percent of the clerical and twenty-five (25%) percent of the lay delegates shall request a separate vote by Orders. If a separate vote by Orders is requested, the clergy shall vote individually and the lay delegates by churches (a majority from each parish having one vote and each mission having one-half vote). A majority vote of each Order shall, in each case, be necessary for a decision.

Section 7.2. In the election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan, the vote shall be by written or electronic ballot, and by Orders. A majority of each Order casting ballots on the same round of voting is necessary to elect a Bishop. Provided, however, that two-thirds of all the clergy entitled to vote and two-thirds of all the parishes and missions entitled to representation be present; otherwise, two-thirds of the vote of each Order present and casting ballots on the same round of voting shall be necessary to determine a choice.

ARTICLE VII

Officers and Staff of the Diocese

Section 1. The constitutional officers of the Diocese shall be a Chancellor, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Historiographer, and, at the Bishop's discretion, a Vice Chancellor, each of whom shall be a confirmed communicant of the Church, and a member of a parish or mission in union with the Convention, or a priest canonically resident in the Diocese.

Section 1.1. The Chancellor and a Vice Chancellor shall be nominated by the Bishop and shall be elected by a majority vote of the Convention. If a Vice Chancellor is to be nominated by the Bishop, the nomination must be approved by the Chancellor. The term of office of the Vice Chancellor, if so elected, shall run concurrently with the term of the Chancellor. They shall serve for three years and shall continue until their successors are elected. Their duties shall be to act as legal advisors of the Bishop, Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Trustees, Diocesan Convention, and other Diocesan offices and organizations, in matters affecting the interest of the Church. They shall be ex-officio members of the Convention without the right to vote, unless a delegate from a parish or mission in union with the Convention. If the office of the Chancellor or Vice Chancellor becomes vacant during the term of office, the Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee, shall appoint an Acting Chancellor or Acting Vice Chancellor to complete the remainder of the term of the vacant office.

Section 1.2 The Secretary shall be nominated by the Bishop and confirmed at each annual Convention and shall continue in office until his/her successor is elected. The Secretary shall be responsible for the publication of the Journal of the Convention. The Secretary's duties shall be as prescribed by the Constitution, Canons, resolutions, and Rules of Order of both the Convention of

this Diocese and of the General Convention. The Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Convention without the right to vote, unless a delegate from a parish or mission in union with the Convention or a priest canonically resident in the Diocese. If the office of Secretary becomes vacant during the term of office, the Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee, shall appoint an Acting Secretary to complete the remainder of the term of the vacant office.

Section 1.3. The Treasurer shall be elected at each annual Convention and shall continue in office until a successor is elected. The Treasurer's duties shall be as prescribed by the Constitution, Canons, Resolutions, and Rules of Order of both the Convention of this Diocese and of the General Convention. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Convention without the right to vote, unless the Treasurer is a delegate from a parish or mission in union with the Convention or a priest canonically resident in the Diocese. If the office of the Treasurer becomes vacant during the term of office, the Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee, shall appoint an Acting Treasurer to complete the remainder of the term of the vacant office.

Section 1.4. The Historiographer shall be nominated by the Bishop and confirmed by the Convention to serve for three years and until a successor is appointed. The duties of the Historiographer shall be prescribed by Canon.

Section 2. The Bishop may appoint such other officers and staff of the Diocese as the Bishop shall deem appropriate for the operation of the Diocese including, but not limited, to an Archdeacon, Canon to the Ordinary, and other diocesan officers and administrative staff as necessary for the work of the Diocese. They shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop and have such duties as shall be as prescribed by the Bishop, the Constitution, Canons, Resolutions, and Rules of Order of both the Convention of this Diocese and of the General Convention. In case there be no Bishop to act as the Ecclesiastical Authority, then the Standing Committee shall appoint the officers and staff to serve at its pleasure or until there be a Bishop, with ecclesiastical authority.

ARTICLE VIII

Admitting Parishes and Missions Into Union with the Convention

Section 1. Parishes and/or missions, which have been organized as provided by the canons of both The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and The Episcopal Church for not less than one year, may apply for and be admitted into union with the Convention by vote of the Convention, provided that the requirements hereinafter set forth in the canons have been met.

Section 2. At the annual Convention next succeeding the receipt of application for admission to union with the Convention, the Secretary shall communicate the same to the Convention on the first day of its session. After reference to both the Committee on

Admission of New Parishes and the Committee on Constitution and Canons, the application shall be acted upon by the Convention.

Section 3. A parish or mission shall be accorded full privileges of membership in the Convention when it is admitted into union with the Convention, including the right of a voice and vote in the proceedings.

ARTICLE IX

Standing Committee

Section 1. There shall be a Standing Committee consisting of six canonically resident clergy of the Diocese and six laypersons, who are confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church in the Diocese. The Chancellor, unless an elected member of the Standing Committee, shall be an ex-officio member of the Standing Committee without vote. The members of the Standing Committee shall be elected by ballot for a term of three (3) years. At each annual Convention two canonically resident clergy and two laypersons shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. No clergy or layperson whose term has expired shall be eligible for re-election until the passage of one Convention year from the date of said expiration.

Section 2. If there be no Bishop acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. In all decisions as the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Standing Committee shall vote by Orders; and a majority vote of the members present from each Order shall be necessary for a decision.

Section 3. At their first meeting after the election the Standing Committee shall choose one of their body to be their president and another member of their body to be their secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep regular minutes of all the proceedings and business of the committee. The committee shall maintain a written record of all of its activities and preserve the records and minutes of its meetings, and may adopt bylaws.

ARTICLE X

Deputies to the General Convention

Section 1. At an Annual Convention during the triennium between General Conventions, but preceding each General Convention, priests, deacons, and laypersons, in the appropriate number and having qualifications established by The Episcopal Church, shall be chosen by ballot to represent the Diocese at the next succeeding General Convention. No more than the requisite number of other priests, deacons, and laypersons, having the same qualifications, shall be chosen by ballot, as alternates for those selected. Such representatives and alternates shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 2. In case any deputy of those first chosen shall decline such election, or be unable to serve as a deputy to the General Convention, the deputy shall forthwith inform the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall thereupon appoint to the General Convention an alternate deputy in the order of the number of votes received at their election to replace any deputy unable to attend the General Convention. In case all of the alternates so elected shall decline to serve, or be unable to attend, the Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint a substitute deputy of like qualifications.

ARTICLE XI

Discipline of a Bishop, Priest or Deacon

A bishop, priest, or deacon shall be subject to discipline for offenses enumerated in both the canons of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and The Episcopal Church and, if found guilty, shall be sentenced in accordance therewith. The action shall be conducted according to both the canons of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and The Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE XII

Amendment of Constitution

No alteration or amendment of, or addition to, this Constitution shall be made unless the same be proposed in writing on the first day of an annual Convention and, after reference to the Committee on Constitution and Canons, is adopted by a majority vote of the Convention at which it is proposed, and further adopted by a two-thirds vote of each Order present at the next annual Convention.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CANONS

Title I Organization and Administration of the Diocese

CANON 1 Clergy

Section 1. During January of each year, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall prepare a list of the clergy canonically resident in the Diocese.

CANON 2 Organization of Missions

Section 1. Whenever not less than ten persons desire to be organized as a mission, they shall make application to the Bishop in writing, expressing their desire and promising conformity to the Constitution and Canons, doctrine, discipline and worship of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese, and to the rules regulating such missions.

Section 2. Missions, which have been organized as provided by canon for not less than one year, may apply for and be admitted into union with the Convention by vote of the Convention, provided that the requirements hereinafter set forth have been met:

Section 2.1. Application for admission is made in writing (and in duplicate) by a majority of the members of the mission seeking admission, to the secretary of the Convention and the secretary receives such application at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Convention at its annual meeting.

Section 2.2. Said application may state such facts as the applicant deems pertinent, but it must state:

- a. The proposed name of the mission.
- b. The facts of applicant's organization in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese and its continued existence thereunder for at least one year.
- c. That its organization has not been dissolved by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

- d. The number of its adult members and the number of its communicants.
- e. The names of its warden, mission council members, secretary, treasurer and proposed lay delegates to Convention.
- f. A proposed annual budget showing anticipated income and expenses for the mission.
- g. The extent of its ability to support its work and its willingness to conform to The Episcopal Church and the Constitution and Canons of the Convention of this Diocese, which are then, or thereafter may be, enacted by the authority of the Diocese.

Section 2.3. Said application must adequately address the following topics:

- a. The application must be accompanied by two certified copies of its corporate charter, and if it has any bylaws, then two certified copies thereof.
- b. If the applicant is within the limits of one or more existing parishes or missions, the application shall also state the reason for its organization, the distance of its place of worship from the other, or from each of the others, together with whatever additional facts may throw light upon the situation.
- c. The application shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese stating that the authority approves the admission of applicant into union with the Convention and that applicant has been for at least one year duly organized under the Canons of the Diocese, and that its organization has not been dissolved.

Section 3. If the Bishop thinks such organization is appropriate, he/she shall require that the applicants form a corporation, the charter of which has been approved by the Chancellor or Vice Chancellor of the Diocese. The charter shall contain the provisions required for the organization of a parish under Canon 3. Upon the incorporation of the mission, the Bishop, or a priest under his/her direction, shall appoint a warden, who shall always be a confirmed communicant, and a secretary and treasurer, from among the members of the mission. These officers shall be appointed annually on the second Monday in each succeeding January and shall continue in office until their successors are appointed. The Bishop may appoint a priest-in-charge of the mission, withdraw the priest so appointed at any time, and may appoint another.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the warden to procure a suitable place for public worship and provide things necessary for the decent and orderly performance of Church services.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to collect or receive all contributions and remit or disburse them under the direction of the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Section 6. Missions so organized shall report to the Bishop through the priest-in-charge, or if there be none, through the warden, in the same form as parishes.

Section 7. Prior to such new application being formally accepted as a mission in communion with Diocese, such applicant mission must, after taking all required corporate and/or Board/Committee action, execute a Commitment of Affirmation (see “Exhibit A”) that the applicant mission will remain in conformity with the Constitution and Canons, doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese, and to the rules regulating such missions. Such Commitment of Affirmation must state that such obligations, commitments, and requirements are irrevocable. The Commitment of Affirmation must be properly executed in duplicate by the officers of the applicant mission and be in the form appropriate for filing in the Office of the Register of Deeds. One executed copy shall be filed in the Office of the Register of Deeds in the applicant’s county. After recording the original, executed, and filed document shall be delivered to the office of the Bishop of the Diocese. The other executed copy shall be retained as part of the permanent records of the applicant.

CANON 3

Organization of Parishes

Section 1. Whenever any organized mission shall desire to become an organized parish, it shall make application to the Bishop in writing, which application may state such facts as the applicant deems pertinent.

Section 2. Parishes, which have been organized as provided by Canon for not less than one year, may apply for and be admitted into union with the Convention by vote of the Convention, provided that the requirements hereinafter set forth have been met.

Section 2.1. Application for admission is made in writing (and in duplicate) by the wardens and vestry to the secretary of the Convention, and the Secretary receives such application at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Convention at its annual meeting.

Section 2.2. Said application may state such facts as the applicant deems pertinent, but it must state:

- a. The facts of the applicant's organization in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese and its continued existence thereunder for at least one year.

- b. That its organization has not been dissolved by the Ecclesiastical Authority.
- c. The number of its adult members and the number of its communicants.
- d. The application must be accompanied by two certified copies of its corporation charter and two certified copies of its bylaws.
- e. The application must be accompanied with the written approval of such charter by the Chancellor or the Vice Chancellor.
- f. The names of its wardens, vestry persons, secretary, treasurer and proposed lay delegates.
- g. Evidence that the parish is self-supporting and its prospects of remaining so, which evidence of self-support shall include its ability to pay the full salary of its priest at or greater than the minimum salary scale approved by the Department of Mission with the approval of the Bishop, and the amount contributed to the Diocese for the preceding year.
- h. A statement of the parish's willingness to conform to The Episcopal Church and the Constitution and Canons of the Convention of this Diocese, which are, or thereafter may be, enacted by the authority of the Diocese.

Section 3. The corporate charter for every parish must contain the provision that the corporation is formed for the purpose of operating a parish organized pursuant and subject to the Canons of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina now in force or as hereafter amended. The corporate charter must also provide that if the corporation is dissolved that the real and personal property of the parish shall become the property of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina.

Section 4. All parishes that hold any real property with reverter clauses to the grantor or other persons in the real property title shall make every effort to remove the possibility of such future reversion. No parish shall acquire real property that contains a reversion clause in the title to the property. Notwithstanding this restriction, if either the Diocese, the Trustees of the Diocese, or an entity controlled by either of them shall convey real property to a parish, then the deed of conveyance shall contain a reverter clause, which shall provide substantially as follows: Provided, however, that if at any time the parish shall dissolve, liquidate, close, become or be declared dormant, attempt to disassociate or otherwise disaffiliate its relationship from this Episcopal Diocese and The Episcopal Church, or otherwise cease to be a functioning Episcopal organization, then and in that event, title to this real property shall immediately and automatically revert to The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, or in default thereof, to The Episcopal Church.

Section 5. If the Bishop is satisfied that the mission, if organized as a parish, will be self-supporting and, that all of the requirements of this Canon have been met, the Bishop shall organize the mission as a parish.

Section 6. Prior to such new applicant being formally accepted as a parish in communion with Diocese, such applicant parish must, after taking all required corporate and/or Board/Vestry action, execute a Commitment of Affirmation (see “Exhibit A”) that the applicant parish will remain in conformity with the Constitution and Canons, doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese, and to the rules regulating such parishes. Such Commitment of Affirmation must state that such obligations, commitments, and requirements are irrevocable. The Commitment of Affirmation must be properly executed in duplicate by the officers of the applicant parish and be in the form appropriate for filing in the Office of the Register of Deeds. One executed copy shall be filed in the Office of the Register of Deeds in the applicant’s county. After recording the original, executed, and filed document shall be delivered to the office of the Bishop of the Diocese. The other executed copy shall be retained as part of the permanent records of the applicant.

CANON 4

Parishes and Missions in Union With Convention

Section 1. It shall be the duty of every parish or mission in union with the Convention to send at least one delegate to every Convention.

Section 2. At its annual meeting, the parish or mission shall elect delegates to the Convention as provided by Article VI of the Diocesan Constitution. In doing so, any member of the parish or mission may nominate as delegates “the senior warden or his/her successor” and/or “the junior warden, or his/her successor.” That title shall appear on the ballot as a nominee and the nomination shall be treated as the nomination of a communicant. If nominated, he/she or they shall be voted on and elected by the members of the meeting as though he/she were a named communicant. If so elected, the name of the person then serving as warden shall be reported as a delegate to the diocesan Convention. In the event that person is unable to serve as delegate, his/her successor as warden shall serve in his/her stead. In no case shall either the senior or junior warden of the parish be designated as a delegate unless he or she has been nominated and elected at the annual meeting of the parish in the manner prescribed herein.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of every vestry to forward to the secretary of the Convention following the annual parish meeting, but no later than thirty (30) days prior to the next annual Convention, a certificate, signed by the rector, the secretary of the vestry, or one of the wardens, in the following form:

The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina.
Parish or Mission of _____
This is to Certify, that at a meeting of the congregation of the parish or mission of _____ held on the _____ day of _____,

20___, the following communicants of the church were elected to represent the same in the Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, to be held on the _____ day of _____, 20___.

The following alternates were elected:

Section 4. It shall be the duty of every parish and mission in union with the Convention to have taken all required corporate and/or Board/Vestry/Committee action, necessary to execute a Commitment of Affirmation (see “Exhibit A”) that the parish or mission will remain in conformity with the Constitution and Canons, doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese, and to the rules regulating such parishes and missions. Such Commitment of Affirmation must state that such obligations, commitments, and requirements are irrevocable. The Commitment of Affirmation must be properly executed in duplicate by the officers of the applicant parish or mission and be in the form appropriate for filing in the Office of the Register of Deeds. One executed copy shall be filed in the Office of the Register of Deeds in the parish’s or mission’s county. After recording the original, executed, and filed document, it shall be delivered to the office of the Bishop of the Diocese. The other executed copy shall be retained as part of the permanent records of the parish or mission.

Section 5. A parish or mission may not leave, indicate an attempt to disassociate from, or otherwise disaffiliate its relationship from the Diocese and therefore with The Episcopal Church. Each parish or mission is in a permanent subordinate relationship to this Diocese and The Episcopal Church. This relationship is irrevocable and may not be changed or otherwise modified by a parish or mission.

Section 6. Every parish or mission shall provide in its bylaws, articles of incorporation, and other governing documents a provision that provides for the following: In the event that the parish or mission shall dissolve, liquidate, close, become or be declared dormant, attempt to disassociate or otherwise disaffiliate its relationship from this Episcopal Diocese and The Episcopal Church, or otherwise cease to be a functioning Episcopal organization, then and in that event, its bylaws, articles of incorporation, and other governing documents shall provide that the assets of such parish or mission shall be transferred to the Diocese, or in default thereof to The Episcopal Church. Each parish or mission shall amend their governing documents to comply with the provisions of this section.

Section 7. A parish or mission may not revoke, amend or otherwise alter its bylaws, articles of incorporation, or other governing documents to attempt to disassociate or otherwise disaffiliate its relationship from this Diocese or from The Episcopal Church, and may make no other amendments without the prior written approval of both the Bishop and the Chancellor of the Diocese. Any changes either made or attempted to be made without such prior approvals shall be null and void.

CANON 5

Dormant Parishes and Missions

Section 1. Whenever it shall occur that an organized parish can no longer provide for the support of a priest, the Bishop shall provide for services in the said parish. Such parish, if in union with the Convention, shall forthwith be entitled only to the privileges of a mission in the Convention, but union with the Convention shall not cease.

Section 2. If any parish or mission shall have failed for three successive years to elect a vestry (if a parish), or to send a delegate to the Convention (if in union with the Convention), or to make the reports required by Title 1, Canon 6, Section I of the General Convention, or to make a financial contribution to the program of the Diocese, such parish or mission shall be dormant, and may be dissolved by the Bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese. If any parish or mission shall begin or attempt to disassociate or otherwise disaffiliate its relationship from this Episcopal Diocese and The Episcopal Church, or otherwise cease to be a functioning Episcopal organization, such parish or mission shall be dormant and may be dissolved by the Bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese. When a parish or mission becomes dormant, the Bishop shall issue a Declaration of Dormancy to confirm this fact formally, at which time the Standing Committee shall be deemed to be the Vestry or Council for the dormant parish or mission, with the authority to execute deeds and all other documents necessary to convey title to the Trustees, of the dormant parish's or mission's property.

Section 3. Dormant parishes or missions may not again be in union with the Convention, except under the provisions of Article VIII of the Constitution.

Section 4. When a parish's or mission's assets revert to the Diocese upon the parish's or mission's dormancy, as provided elsewhere in these Canons, it shall be the duty of the Ecclesiastical Authority to determine whether it is in the best interests of the Diocese to preserve or to liquidate the former property of such parishes or missions. If a dormant parish is not dissolved, pursuant to Section 2 of this Article, the Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint a priest-in-charge for such parish if it be without a priest, which priest may be withdrawn at any time.

CANON 6

Annual Parish or Mission Meetings

Section 1. Not less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the next annual Convention each parish or mission shall hold an annual meeting for the purpose of electing wardens, members of the vestry, and lay delegates to the Convention, as provided by the Constitution, and of transacting such other business as may be brought before it. Notice of such annual meeting shall be given by the rector or vicar, or, if there be no rector or vicar, by the vestry with not less than one week's notice. Provided, however, that if the constitution or bylaws of the parish or mission so provide, the wardens may be elected by the parish vestry or mission council, as long as the wardens are so elected at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the next Annual Convention.

Section 2. At least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting, the rector or vicar shall compile and publish a list of the communicants of the parish or mission in good standing as defined by the Canons of this Diocese and of The Episcopal Church, and shall indicate which are confirmed communicants.

Section 3. At these meetings, the rector or vicar shall preside. If there is no rector or vicar, or if the rector or vicar is absent, then a presiding officer shall be chosen and a secretary appointed in accordance with the parish's or mission's bylaws.

Section 4. The elections shall be by ballot, and the qualifications of those who may vote shall be prescribed by the bylaws of the parish. Provided, however, that at such meetings and elections no one shall vote except members who have attained the age of sixteen years.

Section 5. At the Annual Meeting, the vestry or mission council shall provide an annual report of their official acts during the year.

CANON 7

Parish Vestries and Mission Councils

Section 1. In every parish there shall be a vestry composed of two wardens and three (3) to fifteen (15) additional elected vestry members.

Section 1.1. Each parish, in its bylaws, shall establish the method of selecting wardens (election at annual meeting, election by the vestry, or appointment by the rector), and the length of the term of office for wardens, if any.

Section 1.2. Each parish, in its bylaws, shall establish the number of additional elected vestry members and the length of the term of office for additional elected vestry members. No additional elected vestry member shall serve for more than three consecutive years in office. At the completion of a total of three years of service on the vestry, an additional elected vestry shall not be eligible for election to another term as an additional vestry member until one year after the expiration of such member's term. This limitation shall not affect the additional elected vestry member's eligibility to serve as a warden or, if selected to serve as a warden, the length of her or his term as warden, unless otherwise limited by the parish's bylaws.

Section 2. In every mission there shall be a mission council composed of at least one warden and three (3) to fifteen (15) additional elected council members.

Section 2.1. Each mission, in its bylaws, shall establish the number of wardens, the method of selecting wardens (election at annual meeting, election by the council, or appointment by the vicar), and the length of the term of office for wardens, if any.

Section 2.2. Each mission, in its bylaws, shall establish the number of additional elected council members and the length of the term of office for additional elected council members. No additional elected council member shall serve for more than three consecutive years in office. At the completion of a total of three years of service on the council, an additional elected council member shall not be eligible for election to another term as an

additional council member until one year after the expiration of such member's term. This limitation shall not affect the additional elected council member's eligibility to serve as a warden or, if selected to serve as a warden, the length of her or his term as warden, unless otherwise limited by the mission's bylaws.

Section 3. The wardens shall always be confirmed communicants of the parish or mission who have attained the age of 18 years and who have communicated at least three times in the year preceding their election. The additional elected members of the vestry or council shall always be confirmed communicants of the parish or mission who have attained the age of 18 years and who have communicated at least three times in the year preceding their election.

Section 4. With regard to decision-making authority, the Vestry or Council shall have charge of all matters temporal or secular of the parish or mission, and the Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest-in-Charge shall have charge over all spiritual and liturgical matters of the parish or mission. The Vestry or Council shall safeguard the financial integrity of the parish or mission, provide for the prompt payment of all liabilities incurred by the parish or mission, and assist the clergy in carrying out the work of the Church in the parish or mission, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

Section 4.1. Provide for all repairs to parish or mission owned properties and insurance thereof.

Section 4.2. Pay salaries from parish or mission funds to all employees of the parish or mission. The Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest-in-Charge shall have the right and authority to employ, supervise, and terminate all staff employees of the parish or mission. The staff is under the supervision of and accountable to the Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest-in-Charge. The Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest-in-Charge is accountable to the Wardens and Vestry or Council for the performance of the staff. It is the responsibility of the Vestry or Council to see that the parish or mission is adequately staffed and funded. The Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest-in-Charge may seek the advice of the Wardens and Vestry or Council on job descriptions and evaluations.

Section 4.3. The Vestry or Council shall pay approved current expenses that they shall deem necessary to be paid. The Vestry or Council shall pay for administrative services and office support.

Section 4.4. The Vestry or Council shall take all necessary steps to raise funds annually or periodically for the support of the church and its programs.

Section 4.5. The Vestry or Council shall keep a proper account of all monies received by the parish or mission and expended by it and make an annual report of the financial condition of the church at each annual congregational meeting. *Section 4.6.* The Vestry or Council shall execute all duties, which are now or may hereafter be imposed upon them by any Convention of the diocese.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Wardens, with the support of the Vestry, to provide whatever may be necessary for the due celebration of divine worship (as books, vestments, etc.); also for the decency and comfort of the church building and furniture, books for church records, and the elements of the Lord's Supper, and to put down all disorder during public worship. They shall be ready to collect "the alms and other devotions of the people," and in case the parish or mission is without a priest shall disburse them: and also provide for public worship by occasional clerical services, or by lay reading, as circumstances will permit. They shall also, during such vacancy, take

charge of the church plate, records, etc., and shall present to the Bishop, at each annual Convention, a report of the parish or mission. It shall be their further duty to aid the rector or priest in all agencies and efforts for the advancement of the church as Sunday Schools, etc. and they may report to the Bishop any irregularities in the mode of conducting public worship, and all offenses by their priests, or by any other officiating for the priest, against rubrics or canon faith or morals.

Section 6. The pastoral connection shall not be dissolved except as provided for by Title III Canon 9.9 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Section 7. When a parish or mission is without a rector or vicar, it shall be the duty of the vestry or council to notify the Bishop of that fact. The vestry shall elect and invite a priest to be the rector, with the approval of the Bishop but not without due regard to the ascertained wishes of the congregation. The Bishop shall appoint a vicar for any mission without a priest.

Section 8. All parish or mission buildings and the personal property contained therein shall be insured in a reliable insurance company or companies for an amount to be determined by the vestry or other governing body having ownership or supervision of the property.

CANON 8

Calling and Organization of Conventions

Section 1. Notice of the meeting of any Convention shall be given by the secretary to every canonically resident member of the clergy and parish and mission in the diocese at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening thereof. Such notice shall contain a notice of the time and place of holding the Convention, and, if it be a Special Convention called as provided in the Constitution for a particular purpose, the notice shall specify that purpose. The notice to the clergy shall also contain the form of Parochial Reports. The notice to the parishes and missions shall contain the form for the certification of delegates, and such extracts from the Constitution and Canons as relate to their appointments.

Section 2. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall appoint, at least sixty (60) days before the convening of each annual Convention, a nominating committee composed of one (1) priest and one (1) layperson from each deanery and shall designate the chairman of the committee. The committee shall nominate two persons for each vacancy to be filled at the next annual Convention of the Diocese, excepting deputies to an upcoming General Convention. The names of all qualified persons who have been properly submitted for the General Convention shall be placed on the ballot. Before any person is nominated by the committee, the committee shall secure the consent of such person to serve if elected.

Section 3. Resolutions for consideration at a Convention shall be submitted in accordance with the following procedures:

Section 3.1. Proposed resolutions may be presented prior to an upcoming Convention in accordance with this procedure. No proposed resolution

shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention unless one or more of the authors of the proposed resolution have presented it in person or in writing to each deanery convocation (clergy and lay gathering) of the Diocese. The proposed resolution shall then be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention not less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Convention.

Section 3.2. Proposed resolutions presented after the time specified in Section 3.1 above shall be presented in accordance with this procedure. Any proposed resolution submitted after the time of Pre-convention Meeting presentations will not be received by the Convention secretary unless such proposed resolution or resolutions are submitted in typewritten form with sufficient copies to provide one (1) copy to each of the officers of the Convention, one (1) copy to every clerical delegate seated in the Convention, and one (1) copy for each delegation of lay delegates from every parish and mission seated in the Convention.

Section 3.3. Any proposed resolution not submitted in accordance with this section shall not be considered by the Convention unless permission of the Convention is granted by a majority vote of the Convention.

Section 4. Holy Eucharist and other services shall be celebrated as the Ecclesiastical Authority may direct. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall direct the order of service. The Ecclesiastical Authority may choose to appoint the preacher for the liturgy.

Section 5. Immediately after the Convention is duly organized, two committees on credentials shall be appointed. One committee shall consist of three members of the clergy to whom the roll of the clergy shall be referred. The other committee shall consist of at least three laypersons to whom shall be referred the roll of the delegates, together with the certificates of their appointment. The committee reports shall certify the names of clergy and lay delegates entitled to vote at the Convention. Should the committee have considered any certificates unsatisfactory, the question shall be referred to and settled by the Convention.

CANON 9

Secretary

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of the Convention, to attest its acts, and to preserve its records. The Secretary shall maintain the permanent records in the office of the diocese and deliver to the Secretary's successor all books and papers belonging to the diocese or appertaining to the Secretary's business.

Section 2. The annual Journal of the diocese shall contain the topics customarily contained in a diocesan journal, including but not limited to the following items:

- a. Current version of the Constitution and Canons.
- b. Record of any conventions held during the year.
- c. Reports of each parish and mission.

- d. Report on the financial condition of the diocese
- e. Relevant statistics of the parishes, missions, and diocese.
- f. Reports from and official acts of the Bishop.
- g. A memorial record of each deceased member of the clergy.

The annual Journal table of contents shall include, but not be limited to, the following sections:

- a. Diocesan Officers
- b. Boards and Commissions
- c. Clergy
- d. Parishes and Missions
- e. Proceedings of the previous Annual Convention

The annual Journal may be maintained and distributed in either printed or electronic form.

Section 3. The Secretary shall transmit to each Bishop of The Episcopal Church, to the secretary of the House of Deputies of the General Convention, and to the Secretary of every diocesan convention, when desired, either a written or electronic copy of the Journals of the Convention of this diocese. The Secretary shall send either a written or electronic copy of the Journal to each delegate of the annual convention who requests a copy, a copy of the Journal after it has been prepared and available for distribution. The Secretary shall send to every General Convention a certified list of the clergy of the diocese. The Secretary shall perform all other duties required of the secretary by the canons of The Episcopal Church.

Section 4. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of Secretary, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a successor Secretary, who shall serve until the next annual Convention.

CANON 10

Treasurer

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect and disburse all monies collected under the authority of the Convention, and of which the collection and distribution are not otherwise regulated. The Treasurer shall keep regular accounts of all transactions to be annually presented to the Convention. The Treasurer shall deliver to a successor treasurer all books, papers and funds relative or belonging to the Convention, which may be in the treasurer's charge. The Treasurer shall maintain permanent records in the office of the diocese.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall give bond for the faithful performance of his/her duties in the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from an insurance company to be approved by the finance department. The premium on the bond shall be paid from the diocesan budget.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall keep in force at diocesan expense a blanket fidelity bond of not less than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) on all parish and mission treasurers and treasurers of all other diocesan organizations as designated by the finance department.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall place and keep on deposit the funds and securities in the Treasurer's control, in depository(ies) to be selected and designated by the finance department.

Section 5. If the office of Treasurer should become vacant, the Ecclesiastical Authority, after consulting with the Standing Committee, shall appoint a successor Treasurer, who shall serve until the next annual Convention.

CANON 11

Historiographer

It shall be the duty of the Historiographer to collect and take charge of all documents and papers pertaining to the history of this diocese and to collect and keep for reference a set of Journals of this diocese, and of the General Convention. The Historiographer shall report to the annual Convention the important events in the life of the church during the preceding year and the important events in the life of the several congregations of the diocese.

CANON 12

Trustees of the Diocese

Introduction: The Trust referred to in this Canon is a trust created by Act #222 of Acts of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, approved February 20, 1880, as amended by Act # 612 of the Acts of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, approved February 20, 1902. The title of this Trust is "The Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina." The beneficiary of this Trust is this Episcopal Diocese.

Section 1. There shall be a Board of Trustees duly elected by the Convention of the Diocese comprising six members, three shall be clergy who are canonically resident in the diocese and three laypersons who are all communicants in good standing of a parish or mission of the Diocese. The Bishop shall serve as an ex-officio member with a vote and as President of the Trustees. The Chancellor of the Diocese shall serve as advisor to the Trustees.

In each even numbered calendar year at the Annual Convention, the Convention shall elect one member of the clergy and one lay member to be a Trustee, each for a term of six years. A Trustee shall be eligible for reelection to one additional six-year

term after the initial term and shall not be eligible to serve thereafter for two years following the expiration of the previous term served. Any Trustee, who shall serve less than a half of a full six-year term, shall be eligible to be elected for a maximum of two additional six-year terms. In the event that a vacancy shall occur during any Trustee's term, then the Bishop shall nominate to the Trustees and the Trustees, by majority vote, shall confirm a replacement Trustee to serve until the next Annual Convention. At that next Annual Convention, a replacement Trustee shall be elected by the Convention to serve for the remainder of the term of the vacancy. The replacement Trustee for a lay person shall be a lay person of the Diocese. The replacement Trustee for a member of the clergy shall be another member of the clergy of the Diocese.

Section 2. The Trustees shall elect a Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer at its first meeting in each calendar year who shall serve, with the Bishop as President, until their successors are duly elected.

Section 3. The Trustees shall meet quarterly in each calendar year and at other times as necessary upon due notice of any special meetings to the Trustees.

Section 4. The Trustees shall be responsible for the management of all the assets of the Diocese that are entrusted to its care and ownership.

The Trustees shall hold the legal title to all of the real property of the diocese, and all real property acquired hereafter by the Diocese shall be conveyed to the Trustees at the time of its acquisition. Provided, however, that title to real property obtained by the Diocese in the settlement of litigation that the Diocese ultimately plans to distribute to a parish or mission may be retained by the Diocese until it is to be distributed out to a parish or mission. The Trustees shall be responsible for the management of all property of the Diocese including investment accounts, trusts, and other assets that are bequeathed to it or otherwise by the Trustees.

The Trustees shall, in accordance with all generally accepted investment standards, manage all the funds entrusted to it in accordance with any and all restrictions and other terms and conditions impressed on such funds.

Section 5. The net income and other cash assets from investments and other assets of the Trustees shall be available annually or at other times as requested by the Diocesan Council, in consultation with the Finance Committee of the Diocese, to support the various operations and special projects of the Diocese that are approved by the Council, and disburse funds to it as appropriate.

Section 6. The Trustees shall present a report of all its activities during the preceding year at each annual Convention of the Diocese.

CANON 13

Institutions of the Diocese

Section 1. These Institutions are hereby recognized and adopted as institutions of this Diocese for the purpose of furthering Christian principles and needs:

York Place
Porter Gaud School
Camp St. Christopher
The Canterbury House
Bishop Gadsden
The University of the South (Sewanee)
Voorhees College
The South Carolina Episcopal Home At Still Hopes
Kanuga Conferences

Section 2. The Diocese shall appoint board members to each institution in a manner specified in their respective bylaws.

CANON 14 Pension Fund

Section 1. The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina adopts the system of the Church Pension Fund as established by The Episcopal Church in Title I, Section 8 of its canons. The diocese subscribes to and adopts its rules and regulations.

CANON 15 Diocesan Council

Section 1. The Diocesan Council shall administer and carry out the missionary, educational, and social work of this diocese and such other work as may be committed to it by the diocesan Convention. In addition, the Diocesan Council may initiate and develop new work between meetings of Convention, as it may deem necessary. Further, the Diocesan Council shall receive and administer all funds raised for the purpose of diocesan mission and ministry, subject to the provisions of the constitution and canons of this diocese.

Section 2. The Diocesan Council shall be composed of these members:

- a. The Bishop of the Diocese shall be an ex-officio member with seat, voice, and vote, and shall serve as both the president of the Diocesan Council and the executive head of all such work. The Bishop may appoint a vice-president to serve on the Diocesan Council.
- b. In addition to the Bishop of the Diocese, any assistant bishops of the diocese, if there be such, the Canon to the Ordinary, the Treasurer of the diocese, and the regional deans of the diocese shall serve ex-officio, with no vote.
- c. Each deanery convocation shall elect two members per deanery, to serve as members of Diocesan Council. One of the elected members shall be a canonically resident clergy who is currently serving, other than a dean, from each deanery. The second member shall be a layperson, who is a member in good standing of a parish or mission in union with the Convention.

Section 3. Terms for elected members are to be three years or until a successor is elected by a special deanery convocation. After serving for a full term, the elected members of Diocesan Council shall be ineligible for membership for the following year.

Section 4. Elected members of Council who were elected by Diocesan Convention prior to 2025 shall continue serving until their three-year term ends, after which their successors shall be elected by their respective deanery convocations prior to or at the annual Diocesan Conventions, in staggered, three-year terms, per an established schedule, and according to the procedures set forth above.

Section 5. The Diocesan Council may enact all necessary bylaws for its governance subject to the provisions of this canon.

Section 6. The Diocesan Council shall meet for organization at such place and time as the Bishop may designate, following the annual Convention. It shall hold other fixed meetings as it may appoint. The Bishop may call additional special meetings as may deem necessary. A majority of the elected members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7. The Diocesan Council shall submit to each annual meeting of the diocesan Convention a report of the work done under its supervision during the preceding year, and a proposed operating budget necessary to implement the programs of the Diocese. The proposed operating budget of the diocese shall be approved by the Diocesan Council before submission to the Convention.

CANON 16

Deaneries

Section 1. The Diocese shall be divided into deaneries, as determined annually by the Ecclesiastical Authority and announced at Convention. At the annual Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall announce a member of the clergy, canonically resident within each deanery as Dean, who shall serve as the presiding officer of her or his deanery.

Section 2. Each deanery shall hold at least two regular convocations per year, as scheduled by the presiding officer. All canonically resident clergy and all elected members of Diocesan Council shall attend these convocations. All adult communicants of the Diocese have the right to attend deanery convocations. Deaneries may hold additional convocations as scheduled by the presiding officer.

Section 3: A majority of clergy and a majority of the most recently elected lay delegates within each deanery shall constitute a quorum in regular convocations and in additional scheduled convocations. All voting members of Convention within each deanery in attendance shall be entitled to vote on matters that require a vote in convocations.

Section 4: The deanery convocations shall: i) discuss affairs of diocesan and regional concern, and ii) other matters that will strengthen collegiality and further the work of the church.

CANON 17

Establishment of a Cathedral Church

Section 1. Concept of a Cathedral Church

Section 1.1. The Bishop and Convention of this Diocese adopt the concept of a cathedral church for the Episcopal Church in South Carolina to serve as a central or focal point for the administration and strengthening of the Diocese, and the Convention empowers the Bishop to designate Grace Church, Charleston, South Carolina, of this Diocese to be constituted a cathedral parish, in accordance with the provisions and requirements as set forth in this Canon. Upon such designation, said parish church shall become the cathedral church of the Diocese in accordance herewith.

Section 1.2. Grace Church, Charleston, when designated by the Bishop and constituted the cathedral church, shall be known as the "Grace Church Cathedral."

Section 2. Grace Church Cathedral

Section 2.1. Grace Church, Charleston, herein designated as the cathedral parish wherein shall be located the cathedral church, shall not be deprived of any of the rights and privileges as provided by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and under the charter and Bylaws of Grace Church nor shall it be relieved of any of its obligations and responsibilities as a parish unless specifically set forth in this Canon. The cathedral parish as a parish of the Diocese and as a corporate body shall retain title to all parish property with full authority over and responsibility therefor, and as a cathedral parish shall have the same rights, representations, participation, obligations and responsibilities both in the parish and in the Diocese as a parish without cathedral status.

Section 2.2. The vestry of the cathedral parish shall be elected and function as a parish vestry in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina and The Episcopal Church, with the exception that the Dean of the cathedral shall be the Rector of the cathedral parish and the proper title of the cathedral parish shall be "Grace Church Cathedral" or "The Dean, Wardens and Vestry of Grace Church Cathedral."

Section 2.3. When the office of Dean of Grace Church Cathedral is vacant, it shall be the duty of the Vestry to notify the Bishop of the fact, and also to elect and invite a Dean in accordance with and pursuant to the Bylaws of Grace Church but not without due regard to the opinion and advice of the Bishop.

Section 3. The Diocese and the Cathedral

Section 3.1. The Bishop and Diocesan Council, or a committee thereof, shall meet with the Vestry of the Grace Church Cathedral in the event it is necessary at any time to resolve any questions which may have arisen between the Diocese and Grace Church Cathedral.

Section 3.2. The Bishop and Diocesan Council shall not have any power or jurisdiction over the administration of Grace Church Cathedral, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution and Canons.

Section 3.3. The Diocese shall be responsible for the expenses in connection with Diocesan functions, and for those portions of Diocesan or cathedral properties regularly occupied as Diocesan offices and any other extra expenses incurred by the Grace Church Cathedral by reason of its serving as the cathedral parish of the Diocese which are beyond the normal expenses of a church without cathedral status.

Section 4. Services in the Cathedral

Section 4.1. The Bishop, upon due notice to and in consultation with the Dean, shall have the right to conduct services in the cathedral church and set the norm of ceremony and ritual to be observed on such occasions.

Section 5. Canons of the Cathedral

Section 5.1. The number of Canons resident on the staff of Grace Church Cathedral may be determined by the Vestry. Their titular designation may be determined by the Bishop after consultation with the Dean.

Section 5.2. Honorary Canons may be appointed at the discretion of the Bishop.

Section 6. Termination Of Cathedral Designation

Section 6.1. The designation of a cathedral parish and the consent and acceptance by the Vestry of a parish of such designation are intended and expected to continue so long as both the Diocese and parish exist. Nevertheless, either the Diocese or the parish shall have the right to terminate this designation and to return said cathedral parish to parish status through formal action of either the Bishop and Convention of the Diocese or the Vestry of the cathedral parish by giving one year's written notice thereof through formal action of either of said bodies.

Section 7. Amendment

Section 7.1. This Canon may be amended just as other Canons of the Diocese are amended except as to any matter affecting the authority, rights, representation, participation, obligations and/or responsibilities of the cathedral

parish in the Diocese and in the general church, which amendments must be ratified and accepted by the Grace Church Cathedral acting through its duly authorized body before same shall become effective.

CANON 18

Commission on Architecture and Construction

Section 1. The Bishop may appoint annually a Commission on Architecture and Construction, consisting of two priests and three laypersons.

Section 2. All parishes in the diocese are requested to consult with this commission when any construction or renovation of buildings is contemplated.

Section 3. All missions in the diocese and institutions owned exclusively by this diocese shall be required to have the approval of this commission when any construction or renovation of buildings is contemplated.

CANON 19

Elections

Section 1. No person shall hold elected membership at the same time on more than one of the following boards of the diocese:

Diocesan Council
Standing
Committee
Board of Trustees of the Diocese

Section 2. In the elections, which shall be by ballot, for election to the Diocesan Council, Board of Trustees, and the Standing Committee, the vote necessary for election shall be by a majority of those present and voting. In all other elections the vote necessary for election shall be by a plurality.

CANON 20

Church Register and Reports

Section 1. Each member of the clergy shall keep a register of all baptisms, marriages and burials solemnized by that member of the clergy or in the priest's parish or mission by another minister; and if he/she has a cure of souls, a list of persons confirmed in his/her parish or mission; and of communicants, and baptized persons not communicants belonging to the same.

Section 2. The register shall specify the name and date of birth of the person baptized, the names of the parents and sponsors in the case of an adult the name, and those of the witnesses and the names of persons married or buried with the date of every rite performed.

Section 3. In every parish and mission these entries shall be made by the minister in a book provided by the parish wardens or the mission for that purpose. In case there is no minister, the wardens themselves shall see that such registry be made. This book shall be known as the parish register, and preserved as a part of the record of the parish. It shall be the duty of every minister, in case of removal from a parish, to deposit this register with the parish wardens or mission.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of every minister of this church in charge of a parish or mission, or if there be no minister in charge, of the parish wardens or other proper officer, to prepare upon the blank form adopted by the General Convention a report for the year ending December 31 preceding, and to deliver the same to the Bishop of the Diocese, or where there is no Bishop, to the secretary of the Diocese, not later than March 1. This report shall include the information required by the canons of The Episcopal Church. Every priest not in charge of any parish or mission shall also report his/her occasional services, and if there have been none, the causes or reasons which have prevented the same. These reports, or such parts of them as the Bishop may deem proper, shall be entered in the Journal.

Section 5. The fiscal year shall begin January 1.

CANON 21
Prohibiting the Desecration of Consecrated
Buildings and Alienation of Church Property
Without Consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority
and the Standing Committee

Section 1. It shall not be lawful for any vestry, trustees or other body authorized by laws of any state or territory to hold property for any diocese, parish or mission, to encumber or alienate any dedicated and consecrated church or chapel, or any church or chapel which has been used solely for divine service, belonging to the parish or mission which they represent, without the previous consent of the Bishop, acting with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

Section 2. No vestry, trustee, or other body authorized by civil or canon law to hold, manage, or administer property for any parish, mission, or institution, shall encumber or alienate the same or any part thereof without the written consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee of this Diocese; provided, however, that these restrictions on the sale, mortgaging and leasing of real property other than consecrated churches or chapels shall not apply to leases of less than one (1) year or to real property used for sepulture.

CANON 22
Preservation of Property

All real and personal property held by or for the benefit of any parish, mission, or institution is held in trust for The Episcopal Church and the Diocese. The existence of this trust, however, shall in no way limit the power and authority of the parish, mission, or

institution existing over such property so long as the particular parish, mission, or institution remains a part of, and subject to, The Episcopal Church and the Diocese.

CANON 23

Expenses

Section 1. On or before the 15th day of December each year, every parish and mission shall, on a form furnished by the diocese, make a pledge to the support of the program of the diocese for the following calendar year, and forward such pledge to the diocesan treasurer.

Section 2. Net Disposable Budget Income (hereinafter NDBI) shall consist of all undesignated plate and pledge offerings plus all other unrestricted income (including investment and endowment income) but shall not include any income received as aid from the diocese.

Section 3. The form furnished by the diocese shall provide space to indicate the specific percentage of the parish's or mission's NDBI for the following calendar year that is being pledged to the support of the diocesan program, the parish's or mission's anticipated NDBI for the following calendar year, and the dollar amount that the parish or mission anticipates giving to the diocese as a result of the percentage indicated.

Section 4. The pledge of each parish and mission to the support of the program of the diocese shall be payable on a monthly basis.

CANON 24

Business Methods in Church Affairs

In the Diocese and in each parish and mission therein, the following standard business methods shall be observed:

Section 1. Trust and permanent funds and all securities of whatsoever kind shall be deposited with a national or state bank, or a diocesan institution or agency, or with some other agency, including savings and loan associations, approved in writing by the Department of Finance of the Diocese, under either a trust instrument or an agency agreement, providing for at least two signatures on any order of withdrawal of such funds or securities. Securities may be held in a Bank Safe Deposit Box.

Section 2. Records shall be made and kept of all trust and permanent funds showing at least the following:

- (a) Source and date of receipt.
- (b) Terms governing the use of principal and income.
- (c) To whom and how often reports of condition are to be made.
- (d) Any limitation on investment policy.

Section 3. Treasurers and custodians, other than banking institutions, shall be adequately bonded; except Treasurers of funds which do not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) at any one time during the fiscal year.

Section 4. Books of account shall be kept so as to provide the basis for a satisfactory accounting.

Section 5. All accounts shall be audited annually by a professional accountant or by a committee of two (2) persons who are communicants of the mission or parish appointed by the vestry or mission committee, none of whom shall have functioned as treasurer, bookkeeper or held any responsibility for the accounting records during the period under audit.

Section 6. A certificate of audit shall be forwarded to the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority not later than September 1 of each year, covering the financial reports of the previous calendar year.

Section 7. All buildings and their contents shall be insured against property damage, theft and liability.

Section 8. The Department of Finance of the Diocese may require copies of any and all accounts described in this canon to be filed with it, and the Department of Finance shall report annually to the Convention upon its administration of this canon.

Title II **Worship**

CANON 1 **Commission on Ministry**

Section 1. Pursuant to the canon, Title III, Section 2 of The Episcopal Church, there is hereby established a Commission on Ministry in the diocese, consisting of not more than five (5) and not less than three (3) priests, and not more than five (5) and not less than three (3) laypersons, nominated by the Bishop and confirmed by vote of the annual Convention of the diocese. The number of priests and the number of laypersons on the Commission shall be determined by the Bishop. The term of office of each member of the Commission shall be three years and until his or her successor is nominated and confirmed.

Section 2. The Commission on Ministry shall have the duties and powers as prescribed by the canons of The Episcopal Church. The chairman shall be a priest. Both the chairman and a secretary shall be named annually by the Bishop from among the commission.

Title III **Ministry**

CANON 1 **Election of a Bishop**

Section 1. Upon the call for an election of a bishop in accordance with Title III, Canon 11 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church, the Bishop shall delegate to the Standing Committee of the diocese oversight and responsibility for the process unless it already holds this responsibility because of a vacancy in the Episcopate. The process of nomination shall be as follow:

In this role, the Standing Committee shall:

- (a) Give notice in all appropriate publications that The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina is entering an episcopal election process.
- (b) Establish the date for the election.
- (c) Work with Bishop and Diocesan Council to provide financially for the process and ordination.
- (d) Establish the necessary committees for the process.
- (e) Establish a procedure for the obtaining the necessary background checks.
- (f) Seek the necessary Episcopal and Standing Committees or General Convention consents required once the election has been made.
- (g) Provide for the Consecration or Seating of the elected bishop.

Section 2. Once the date for an election has been established in consultation with the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Standing Committee shall appoint two (2) committees to oversee the election process: a Search Committee and a Transition Committee.

Section 2.1 The Search Committee. The Search Committee shall consist of two (2) clergy and two (2) lay persons from each of the deaneries. Not more than one (1) lay member may come from the same parish or mission. Not more than one (1) member of the clergy may come from the same parish or mission. The President of the Standing Committee or another member thereof designated by the Standing Committee shall serve ex-officio as a member. The Chancellor of the diocese, or a vice Chancellor designated by the Chancellor, shall serve ex-officio as a member. The committee shall determine its officers and leadership.

Section 2.2 The Transition Committee. The Transition Committee shall consist of two (2) clergy and two (2) lay persons from each of the deaneries. Not

more than one (1) lay member may come from the same parish or mission. Not more than one (1) member of the clergy may come from the same parish or mission. The President of the Standing Committee or another member thereof designated by the Standing Committee shall serve ex-officio as a member. The Chancellor of the diocese, or a Vice Chancellor, designated by the Chancellor shall serve ex-officio as a member. The committee shall determine its officers and leadership.

Section 3. The Search Committee shall have the following tasks:

- (a) Develop and oversee a process for creating a Diocesan profile.
- (b) Publish the address and other appropriate contact information for the Search Committee.
- (c) Receive nominations.
- (d) Review the qualifications of those being considered.
- (e) Publish to the delegates in writing the names of those persons being recommended to the Standing Committee not less than ninety (90) days before the first day of the convention.
- (f) Receive all petitions to nominate a person for the office of bishop, which must be submitted to the Search Committee no later than forty-five (45) days before the date set for the convening of the convention called to elect a bishop. No petitions shall be received after that date and no other nominations shall be brought before the convention after that date.
- (g) After consultation with the Standing Committee, determine the number of nominees to be considered by the convention. However, at least three (3) qualified nominees, who have consented to stand for election and whose background check has been approved, shall be presented.

Section 4. The Transition Committee shall have the following tasks:

- (a) Publish complete profiles of the nominees and any other educational material deemed helpful.
- (b) Provide for the “walk-about” opportunities for all nominees to meet with as many members of the diocese as possible.
- (c) Provide hospitality for the nominees and their families.
- (d) Help in the planning of the consecration of the new bishop.
- (e) Assist the Bishop in adapting to and being introduced to the diocese.

- (f) Provide for the transition of the retired and/or resigned bishop from office.

Section 5. A person is duly qualified to be on the slate for election as bishop, if that person has met the following criteria:

- (a) He/she has been nominated by the Search Committee.
- (b) He/she has accepted the nomination, in writing.
- (c) he/she has signed a document that states he/she has no known impediment that would prevent him/her from serving.
- (d) He/she has passed a background check.
- (e) They have had and passed the psychiatric exam, administered by the person who has been selected by the Search Committee and Standing Committee.
- (f) He/she accepts the requirement to participate in the walk-about so that delegates have ample opportunity to come to know him/her. No one shall be elected bishop who has not participated in the walk-about.

Section 6. A nominee for bishop may be made to the Search Committee by petition. The petition shall state that the petitioners believe that the person being nominated is duly qualified. The nomination petition must be signed by not less than five (5) members of the clergy of the diocese and five (5) lay delegates elected to participate in the electing convention. The petition must also be signed by the person being nominated and state the following:

- (a) That he or she consents to being nominated and believes that he or she is duly qualified to be nominated for the office of bishop and knows of no impediment to being consecrated.
- (b) That he or she consents to a background check to verify his or her qualification.
- (c) That he or she consents to a medical and licensed psychiatrist examination to verify his or her qualification to undertake the work for which he or she may be chosen.
- (d) That he or she consents to participation in a "walk about" to be scheduled in advance of the convention in order to give delegates to the convention the opportunity to see and talk with the person being nominated.

Section 7. The name and address of the chairperson of the Search Committee will be given in the notice for the calling for the convention to elect a bishop.

Section 8. A petition nominee whose name has been previously submitted to the Search Committee and not included on the list recommended to the Standing Committee may be included by the Standing Committee, at its discretion, as a nominee upon the appeal of at least three (3) clergy and three (3) delegates whose names appear on the petition previously filed with the Search Committee. This appeal and request for inclusion shall be filed with the Standing Committee in writing not less than fifteen (15) days before the convening of the convention in order to allow for participation of all nominees in the "walk about". The decision of the Standing Committee as to the names and number of persons being nominated to the convention shall be final. The "walk about" shall not be scheduled until after the appeal, if any has been concluded.

Section 9. The presiding officer of the electing convention will convene the electing convention and call for nominations. The president of the Standing Committee may propose needed rules of order for the electing convention that are not inconsistent with either the canons or rules of order of the diocese, and he/she shall oversee the election. The Standing Committee will place in nomination the names of all persons whose names were submitted to it by the Search Committee and those who have fulfilled the petition requirements. Seconding speeches will be governed by the rules of order. No nominations from the floor will be permitted. The electing convention shall remain in session until a bishop has been elected.

Section 10. As part of this process the current Bishop and Diocesan Council shall at the appropriate time (a) budget appropriately for the above-outlined process; and (b) authorize the Transition Committee to negotiate with the elected bishop concerning all financial aspects of assuming the office.

CANON 2

Use of Non-Canonical Clergy

No priest, who is not canonically resident in this diocese, shall perform any function of his/her office in this diocese without first having obtained permission to do so from the Bishop of the diocese.

CANON 3

Missionary Work of the Diocese

The Bishop, with the Diocesan Council, shall be responsible for the development of the missionary programs of the diocese. The Bishop shall appoint all missionaries and may suspend or remove them at his/her discretion.

CANON 4

Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Within the Diocese

Section 1. Each parish and mission in union with the diocesan convention of the diocese shall adopt a definition of the terms "sexual misconduct" and "pastoral relationship."

Section 2. Each parish and mission in union with the diocesan convention shall adopt a manual (referred to hereafter in this canon as the "manual") that outlines standards of conduct to be maintained and procedures to be followed for the purpose of preventing sexual misconduct by any clergy, employees or volunteers of the parish or mission.

Section 3. The standards and procedures set forth in the manual shall be followed by the parish or mission as long as it is in union with the diocesan convention of the diocese.

Section 4. The manual shall include at a minimum the following:

Section 4.1 The definitions of "sexual misconduct" and "Pastoral relationship" which have been adopted in accordance with Section 1.

Section 4.2 A statement of specific behavioral standards that proscribe such sexual misconduct.

Section 4.3 Requirements of strict prohibition of interaction with children and youth by anyone with a civil or criminal record of child sexual abuse or who has admitted prior sexual abuse or anyone known to have a paraphiliac diagnosis (e.g., pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism) as defined by the American Psychiatric Association.

Section 4.4 Outline of procedures for the investigation of allegations of sexual misconduct that conform to the disciplinary canons of The Episcopal Church and demonstrate sensitivity to the complainant and seek justice for all parties.

Section 4.5 Statement of procedures, commensurate with the offense, for discipline and professional rehabilitation after an evaluation of evidence indicates sexual misconduct, including:

- (a) Consultation between the appropriate institutional executive and appropriate bodies for possible disciplinary action, and
- (b) Professional rehabilitation assessment by a credentialed professional.

Section 5. Each parish and mission shall comply with the following procedures:

Section 5.1 It shall keep on file signed statements by all of its clergy, volunteers who regularly supervise youth activities, vestry members, and employees that each party has received the manual and understands its contents.

Section 5.2 It shall make reasonably thorough background checks of all clergy, volunteers who regularly supervise youth activities (excluding unpaid Sunday School teachers), and employees, within the confines of permissible law, prior to ordination, employment, or acceptance into this diocese (either initial licensing or accepting a letter dimissory) to determine current or historic sexual

misconduct allegations, criminal records or paraphiliac behavior. Such background checks will include inquiries of all bishops having past or present canonical authority over the individual, all schools attended by the individual during the past five years, and all employers of the individual during the past five years. If the individual has had one employer for over five years, then inquiries will be made of the two most recent employers.

Section 5.3 It shall require that, within thirty (30) days of employment, all clergy, employees, teachers, and volunteers must take and successfully complete the Safeguarding Online course offered by the Church Pension Group. In addition, it shall distribute to all of its clergy, volunteers who regularly supervise youth activities, vestry members and employees, a summary (which will have been prepared by the chancellor of the Diocese) of current child abuse statutes and reporting requirements for the South Carolina legal jurisdiction.

Section 5.4 It shall require that, within thirty (30) days of employment, all clergy and employees must receive initial training on issues of sexual harassment in employment, mentor and colleague relationships and sexual exploitation in pastoral relationships.

Section 5.5 It shall require that clergy and other pastoral care providers must have ongoing professional supervision or must refer the individual to professional counseling after six (6) sessions have been held around a given life issue, and fees or donations for pastoral care will be proscribed. Anyone charging fees for counseling outside the scope of church employment must possess appropriate professional credentials and proof of separate professional liability insurance, including coverage for sexual misconduct, in force at all time.

Section 6. Each parish and mission shall adopt and comply with the following procedures whenever an evaluation of evidence indicates sexual misconduct by an individual:

Section 6.1 It shall notify the Bishop of this diocese and the members of its parish vestry or mission council.

Section 6.2 Prior to the individual's being eligible for future or continuing employment by any parish or mission in this diocese, there shall be:

- (a) A professional rehabilitation assessment by a credentialed professional approved by the Bishop of this diocese.
- (b) If the individual in question is ordained clergy, endorsement by the Bishop of this diocese and the Bishop of canonical residence (if different).
- (c) A requirement that the offender make amends to any aggrieved parties to the satisfaction of his or her ecclesiastical superior.

Section 7. Each parish vestry and mission council shall by formal motion adopt its manual and shall certify in writing to the diocesan headquarters that it has done so. No votes at the Convention of this diocese shall be received from any parish or mission which has failed to comply with the requirements of this canon. Failure to comply for more than two (2) years shall be grounds for the diocesan Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority to declare a parish or mission no longer to be in union with the diocesan Convention.

Title IV **Ecclesiastical Discipline**

CANON 1 **Disciplinary Procedures**

Section 1. Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention. The provisions of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church that are applicable to the Diocese are hereby incorporated as a part of this Canon. To the extent that any of the provisions of this Canon are inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV of the General Convention, the provisions of Title IV of the General Convention shall prevail. In the application of this Canon, if at any time there is no Bishop, then the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall exercise all such authority as defined by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

Section 2. Disciplinary Board. The Board shall be composed of five clergy members and four lay members for a total of nine members.

- (a) Clergy Members. The clergy members of the Board shall be canonical residents of the Diocese.
- (b) Lay Members. The lay members of the Board shall be adult communicants in good standing and who are eligible to vote in the proceedings of a Mission or Parish of the Diocese.
- (c) Selection of Members, Officers and a Clerk. The Bishop shall appoint the members of the Disciplinary Board whose appointments shall be confirmed by the Annual Convention of the Diocese. The terms of office of the members of the Disciplinary Board shall be for three years commencing the day after the confirmation of their appointments.¹ Once appointed, the Bishop shall call an organizational meeting of the Disciplinary Board at which meeting a President, a Secretary, and a Clerk of the Board shall be selected by the members to serve in such

¹ The appointments to the Disciplinary Board in the year of the enactment of this Canon shall be for terms as follows: one clergy and one lay for a one-year term, two clergy and one lay for a two-year term, and two clergy and two lay for a three-year term. Thereafter all appointments at the expiration of a term of service shall be for a term of three years.

offices for a term on one year. It shall be the responsibility of the Clerk, who need not be a member of the Board, to assist the Board with administrative support and records management.

- (d) Vacancies. Whenever there is a vacancy on the Disciplinary Board, the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, shall appoint a person to fill such vacancy, and such person shall serve the remainder of the term of the member being replaced.

Section 3. Impartiality to be Preserved in All Proceedings.

- (a) If a member in any proceeding of the Board shall become aware of a conflict of interest, or of the inability to perform the duties of a member of the Proceeding that is convened due to any bias or partiality whatever, such member shall immediately notify the President of the Board, and upon such notice the President of the Board shall assign another member to act in the proceeding.
- (b) The representative of any party or any party to any disciplinary proceeding convened under the authority of this Canon shall have the right to challenge the impartiality of any member of the Board serving in the proceeding, and shall have the right to move for the disqualification of such member. The members of the Board serving in the proceeding who are not subject to the challenge shall promptly decide by majority vote whether such member should be disqualified in the proceeding. If the challenge is upheld, the disqualified member shall immediately withdraw from any further participation.

Section 4. Staff and Personnel for the Work of the Disciplinary Board.

- (a) Intake Officers. The Bishop shall appoint, in consultation with the President of the Disciplinary Board, at least two Intake Officers, one male and one female, whose names shall be widely and prominently published by the Diocese on its website and in other Diocesan publications. All claims of disciplinary offenses shall be initially referred to an Intake Officer whose responsibility it shall be to confidentially report the disciplinary complaints that are received to the Church Attorney.
- (b) Investigator. The Bishop, in consultation with the President of the Disciplinary Board, shall appoint one or more Investigators to investigate the factual aspects of matters referred to the Church Attorney. Each Investigator so appointed shall be subject to the requirements of confidentiality as set forth in Canon IV.11(5) of the General Convention. The Diocese may in its discretion reasonably compensate the Investigator assigned to investigate any matter for fees and costs incurred in any investigation.

- (c) Church Attorney. The Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee shall, within thirty days of the end of each Annual Convention of the Diocese, appoint an attorney to serve until the end of the next Annual Convention as the Church Attorney for all matters required by this Canon and Title IV of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. The Church Attorney must be a member in good standing of the South Carolina Bar. The Church Attorney may be compensated for fees and costs incurred in the performance of his or her responsibilities as agreed.
- (d) Pastoral Response Coordinator. The Bishop may appoint a Pastoral Response Coordinator to serve at the pleasure of the Bishop to plan and coordinate appropriate pastoral responses provided for by Title IV.8 of the Canons of the General Convention. A Pastoral Response Coordinator shall not serve in any other capacity provided for in this Canon.
- (e) Advisors. For each proceeding initiated under the provisions of this Canon, the Bishop shall appoint an Advisor for the Complainant and an Advisor for the Respondent. The Advisor for the Respondent shall be a member of the clergy canonically resident in this Diocese and not otherwise involved in the proceeding. The Bishop, in making such appointments, shall consider and duly consider the opinions of the parties concerning the suitability of such individual appointments. The Chancellor or Vice Chancellor shall not be eligible to serve as an Advisor to any party.
- (f) Fees and Expenses. The Diocese shall reimburse the reasonable expenses incurred by the Disciplinary Board, the Intake Officer(s), and other fees and expenses incurred by other participants in the performance of their responsibilities as required by this Canon or by the provisions of Title IV of the General Convention so long as such expenses are recommended by the Bishop and approved by the Finance Committee of the Diocese.

Section 5. Records of the Disciplinary Board.

- (a) Records of Proceedings. All records of the proceedings of the Disciplinary Board shall be preserved in the custody of and maintained by the Clerk of the Disciplinary Board and shall not be made available to any person not entitled to them under the authority of this Canon or Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention except by the express permission of the Disciplinary Board.
- (b) Permanent Maintenance of Records. The Bishop shall make provisions for the permanent maintenance and storage of all proceedings of the Disciplinary Board at the Archives of The Episcopal Church as prescribed by Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention.

Title V

General Provisions

CANON 1

Rules of Order

The Convention shall have Rules of Order to govern the organization of the Diocese's conventions. The initial Rules of Order are deemed adopted as a part of the adoption of this canon. The Rules of Order may be amended at any subsequent annual Convention in accordance with its provisions.

CANON 2

Enactment, Alteration and Repeal of Canons

Section 1. No alteration, amendment of or addition to these canons shall be made unless the same be proposed on the first day of an annual Convention in writing and in duplicate, and, after reference to the Committee on Constitution and Canons, is adopted by a two-thirds vote of both orders present at the annual Convention the proposal is made. Provided, however, if the vote by orders fails to pass either order by the required two-thirds vote, but does pass both orders by a majority vote, then the proposal shall lie over for the consideration of the next annual Convention and only a majority vote of the next annual Convention shall be sufficient for its passage.

Section 2. In all cases of future enactment, the same if by way of amendment, shall be in the following form: "canon (or section of canon) is hereby amended so as to read as follows":

Section 3. All former canons of this Convention not included in these canons are hereby repealed.

This Commitment of Affirmation will be adapted in form to be applicable to new missions, new parishes, and existing missions and parishes.

Exhibit A
Commitment of Affirmation

WHEREAS, (Name of Mission or Parish) is a Parish/Mission in communion with The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina (the “Diocese”) and The Episcopal Church; and,

WHEREAS, this Commitment of Affirmation confirms both our historic, current, and future commitment to our Diocese and to The Episcopal Church.

We, (Name of Mission or Parish), do hereby irrevocably state and affirm that we:

1. Accede to both the Constitution and Canons of the diocese of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and The Episcopal Church.
2. Acknowledge the superior and hierarchical authority of both our Diocese and The Episcopal Church, and agree to be governed thereby. We agree to remain in conformity with the Constitution and Canons, doctrine, discipline and worship of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese, and to the rules regulating such parishes and missions.
3. Are a subordinate entity of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and thereby also of The Episcopal Church.

We agree that we are bound by the Constitution, Canons, and Rules of both our Episcopal Diocese and The Episcopal Church including, but not limited to, the Diocesan Canon Title I, Canon 22 and The Episcopal Church Canon Title 1. Canon 7. Sec. 4, which is commonly known as the “Dennis Canon.”

We acknowledge and state that this Commitment is permanent and irrevocable by us.

We affirm that the execution of this Commitment of Affirmation is made with adequate consideration by all parties and has been duly authorized by the governing board of (Name of Mission or Parish).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, (Name of Mission or Parish), has executed this Commitment of Affirmation this ____ day of _____, 20__.

WITNESSES:

(Name of Mission or Parish)

By: _____
(Print Name) _____, its _____

Attest: _____
(Print Name) _____, its _____

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) ACKNOWLEDGMENT
COUNTY OF _____)

I, _____, do hereby certify that (Name of Mission or Parish) by its duly authorized officers, personally appeared before me this day and acknowledged the due execution of the foregoing instrument.

Witness my hand and official seal this ____ day of _____, 20__.

(SEAL)
Notary Public for South Carolina
My Commission Expires: _____

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

RULES OF ORDER

Rule 1. After the Convention has been declared organized, and the Committee on Credentials appointed, the order of proceedings shall be:

- (1) The initial report of the Committee on Credentials shall be heard.
- (2) The presiding officer shall present an agenda for the Convention, which will be adopted by a majority vote.
- (3) The Secretary of the Convention may appoint an assistant secretary or secretaries.
- (4) The election of a Treasurer.
- (5) The appointment by the presiding officer of the following continuing committees, whose members shall continue in office until their successors be duly appointed:
 - (a) A Committee on Admission of New Parishes and Missions to consist of the Chancellor or the Vice Chancellor, two priests, and two laypersons.
 - (b) A Committee on the Constitution and Canons to consist of three clergy and two laypersons.
 - (c) A Committee on Finance for the Convention to consist of the Treasurer of the Diocese, if the Treasurer is an elected member of the Convention, and if the Treasurer is not an elected member of the Convention, an ex-officio member; two laypersons; and two priests.
 - (d) A Committee on Elections to consist of the host rector and two laypersons whose responsibility it shall be to secure tellers who are not delegates to the Convention.
 - (e) A Committee on the Bishop's Address to consist of one priest and one layperson, whose responsibility it shall be to report on the Bishop's Address to the Convention.
 - (f) A Committee on Resolutions, to consist of two priests and two laypersons.

- (g) All vacancies on such Committees may be filled by the presiding officer.
 - (h) The presiding officer shall appoint such other committees, including continuing committees, and fill vacancies on the additional continuing committees.
 - (i) Any special committees shall be appointed by the presiding officer, unless otherwise ordered by the Convention.
- (6) Applications for parishes and missions to be admitted into union with the Convention shall be called for and referred to Committee.
 - (7) Resolutions to be considered by the Convention must be submitted in accordance with Title I, Canon 8 of the Diocese. All resolutions submitted to the secretary of the Convention thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Convention shall be distributed to the delegates by the secretary prior to the convening of the Convention. All resolutions submitted less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Convention shall be distributed to delegates upon their introduction at the Convention.
 - (8) Preliminary report of Committee on Constitution and Canons.
 - (9) The report of the Committee on the Dispatch of Business.
 - (10) The annual report of the Standing Committee of the Diocese.
 - (11) The annual report of the Trustees of the Diocese.
 - (12) The annual report of the Treasurer of the Diocese.

Rule 2. The service for the opening of the Convention and on every day succeeding the first day shall be at the discretion of the Bishop. Every day's session shall be closed with appropriate prayers, offered by the presiding officer.

When the presiding officer shall have taken the chair, the daily order of proceedings after the first day shall be:

- (1) The second report of the Committee on Credentials shall be heard.
- (2) Elections, in the order called for in the Order of Business previously adopted.
- (3) Reports to be called for in the following order:
 - (a) Committee on Finance for the Convention.
 - (b) Committee on Constitution and Canons.
 - (c) Other business.

- (4) Order of Business as adopted from the report of the Committee on the Dispatch of Business.

Rule 3. The delegation of each parish or mission shall sit together.

Rule 4. Voting shall be governed by the following procedures:

- (1) In voting by ballot the votes shall be deposited with the tellers and no votes shall be received after the tellers begin to count the votes. If the vote is by orders, the presiding officer shall first call for a separate voice vote of the parishes and missions and then the clergy. If the presiding officer cannot determine the outcome of the vote, then the presiding officer shall separately call the roll of the parishes and missions and thereafter the roll of the clergy. In each vote their respective votes shall be deposited with the tellers. When a ballot is used, it may be either a written ballot or electronic ballot. In either case the voting procedure shall not identify the specific parish, mission, or member of the clergy casting the ballot.
- (2) When the votes are collected, they shall be counted by the tellers and the result reported to the presiding officer, who shall announce it to the Convention.
- (3) A majority vote is required for an election of individuals. When no individual receives a majority of the total votes cast, on the second and each succeeding ballot all nominee, except twice the number of individuals needed to be elected, shall be dropped from the ballot. Those individuals receiving the highest number of votes on the preceding ballot (including ties) shall be placed on the next ballot. This rule shall not apply to the election of deputies to an upcoming General Convention.
- (4) The election of deputies to an upcoming General Convention shall be by written or electronic ballot. There shall be separate ballots for the clergy deputies and the lay deputies to elect four (4) clerical deputies and four (4) lay deputies and an equal number of alternates. The four (4) candidates with the highest number of votes shall be designated as the deputies. The four (4) candidates with the next highest number of votes shall be designated as the alternate delegates. If there is a tie vote for either the fourth or eighth position, the presiding officer shall decide the tie by chance. Prior to attending the General Convention the eight (8) attending deputies shall meet and elect one of themselves to serve as the delegations chair.

Rule 5. No motion shall be considered before the Convention unless seconded and reduced to writing, if the presiding officer, or any other member requires it.

Rule 6. Matters pertaining to resolutions shall be handled in accordance with the canons and governed by the following procedures.

- (1) When pre-filed resolutions have been referred to a committee by the presiding officer, then it is presumed that the proper motion has been made and seconded for the adoption of the resolution. If the committee makes its report favorable, then the chair announces that the question is the adoption of the resolution without the necessity of a motion. If the resolution is reported favorable with amendments, then the person making the report must move the adoption of the amendments which are then voted on. After all amendments have been disposed of, then the chair shall, without the necessity of a further motion, state that the question is the adoption of the resolution as amended.
- (2) If the report of the committee is unfavorable, then the presiding officer shall state the question as follows: "The question is on the adoption of the resolution, the report of the committee to the contrary notwithstanding." If No motion is made, the presiding officer may state the question, assuming the proper motion to have been made.

Rule 7. When a question is before the house, no motion shall be received, except a motion to i) adjourn, to lay on the table, ii) postpone indefinitely, iii) postpone to a certain day, iv) commit or amend; which several motions shall have precedence in the order in which they are made. A motion to strike out the word "Resolved" shall have precedence of a motion to amend and if carried shall be equivalent to a rejection of the resolution. Subject to these exceptions, the question first moved shall be first considered.

Rule 8. Motions to table and to postpone indefinitely shall be decided without debate. Passage of such a motion shall be by a two-thirds majority, or a two-thirds majority of each order, if a vote by orders is called for. A motion to take up a matter from the table or to recall it from indefinite postponement shall require a simple majority vote and may be made before the Convention adjourns.

Rule 9. No member shall vote on any question in the event of which the member is immediately and personally interested, or in any case where the member was not present when the question was offered.

Rule 10. Actions taken in Convention shall be final, except upon a motion to reconsider, which may be moved and seconded by any member who voted in the majority.

Rule 11. If any member, in speaking or otherwise, fails to observe the rules of the Convention the presiding officer shall, or any member may, call to order; in which case the member so called to order shall immediately sit down unless permitted to explain. All questions of order shall be determined in the first instance, without debate, by the presiding officer, but any member may appeal from such decision to the Convention and on such appeal no member shall speak more than once, without leave of the Convention.

Rule 12. The presiding officer shall have the right to name a member to perform the duties of the chair, but the substitution shall not extend beyond an adjournment.

Rule 13. Any Rule of Order may be suspended for that Convention by a majority vote of the members present. These Rules of Order may be amended by a majority vote of the members present.

Rule 14. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings for this Convention except as otherwise provided by the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.