

## STANDING COMMISSION ON MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT

### MEMBERSHIP

The Rt. Rev. John P. Croneberger, <i>Chair</i>	Newark II, 2006
Ms. Ellen Bruckner, <i>Vice-Chair</i>	Iowa VI, 2006
The Rev. Jen Adams	Western Michigan V, 2006
Mr. Aldin Barnes	Montana VI, 2009
Ms. Heidi Clark	Missouri V, 2006
The Rev. Warren Frelund	Iowa VI, 2006
Dr. Rosemary Gooden	Chicago V, 2009
The Ven. Joyce Hardy	Arkansas VII, 2009
The Rt. Rev. James A. Kelsey	Northern Michigan V, 2006
Dr. Donn F. Morgan	California VIII, 2009
Mr. Bruce T. Swan	Connecticut I, 2009
Ms. Eve Van Sice	Missouri V, 2006
The Rev. Winnie S. Varghese	New York II, 2009
Mr. Timothy D. Wittlinger, Esq.	Michigan V, <i>resigned</i>
The Rt. Rev. Keith B. Whitmore	Eau Claire V, 2009

### Provincial Representatives

The Rev. Ellen Tillotson	Province I
Ms. Janet B. Farnsworth	Province II
The Rev. David Lovelace	Province III
Ms. Stephanie Cheney	Province IV
The Rev. Canon John Keydel, Jr.	Province V
The Rev. Roy Walworth	Province VI
Ms. Thurma Hilton	Province VII
The Rev. Canon Jenny Vervynck	Province VIII
The Rev. Canon Emily Morales	Province IX

### Invited Participants

The Rev. Brian Prior	Executive Council liaison
The Rev. Patricia Collier	Church Pension Fund
The Rev. Gay Jennings	CREDO
The Rev. Ken Beason	National Network of Episcopal Clergy Association
The Rev. Rebecca McClain	Church Deployment Office
Mr. Howard Ross	National Network of Lay Professionals
The Very Rev. Ward Ewing	Council of Deans, 2003-2005
The Very Rev. William Stafford	Council of Deans, 2005-2006
The Rev. Dr. Ann Hallisey	Episcopal Church Foundation

### Office for Ministry Development Staff

The Rev. Dr. Melford E. Holland
The Rev. Lynne Griffo
Ms. Margaret Stevens, 2003–2005
Mr. Martin Tsien, 2005–2006

### COMMISSION STRUCTURE

The Commission structure of the Standing Commission on Ministry Development (SCMD) was created at the 72nd General Convention by combining the Council for the Development of Ministry (CDM) and the Board for

Theological Education (BTE). From its inception, this Standing Commission has included two major foci—the development of the ministry of all the baptized and theological education. The Commission retained the CDM practice of including provincial representatives in its membership, recognizing the necessity of being tied to the Church through the provinces and dioceses. SCMD invites representatives from various Church organizations so that it can include as many voices as possible in its discussions.

Appointed members are appointed by the Presiding Officers for six years. Provincial Representatives are appointed by the president of each province for six years. Invited participants are invited by the SCMD as a whole and pay their own expenses to attend SCMD meetings. The SCMD is grateful to the organizations that have accepted its invitation to send participants and thereby increased the number voices at its table. Office for Ministry Development staff is invaluable in maintaining continuity and supporting the work of the Commission.

## **SUMMARY OF WORK**

The SCMD invigorates and equips the baptized for living out the Baptismal Covenant. In the 2004-2006 triennium, the SCMD organized into work groups which produced the reports that follow this summary of its work:

- Complete Title III revisions;
- Articulate and support the Church's understanding of "Ministry in Daily Life;"
- Continue its systemic study at leadership development in the Church;
- Strengthen and support the network of Commissions on Ministry (COM) in the Church;
- Implement and facilitate an in-depth study of Theological Education in the Church.

The SCMD also responded to these resolutions referred by the 74th General Convention:

2003–A060: Recommended Multilingual and Cross-cultural Competency for Those Preparing for Ordination

2003–A063: Encouraged Diversity in Diocesan Leadership

2003–A064: Convened a Partnership to Address the Issue of Seminarian Debt

2003–A110: Complete Title III Revisions

2003–A119: Continued Study on the Role of Deacons in the Church

2003–A120: Convened a Strategic Planning Committee for Theological Education

2003–A121: Developed a Continuing Education Plan for Clergy and Lay Professionals in All Dioceses

2003–D060: Developed Resources on Ordained and Licensed Ministries

### **Work Group: Title III Revisions**

A SCMD work group focused on completing the revision of the Title III ministry canons which was started by the 73rd General Convention in 2000. Using information gathered from provincial gatherings of Commissions on Ministry, and an interactive survey of dioceses, the SCMD concludes its work on Title III by proposing the canonical revisions that are attached to this report and summarized below.

### **Summary of the Title III Revisions**

#### **Title III Canon 5 Of General Provisions Respecting Ordination**

- A Bishop of another Church in full communion with the Episcopal Church may exercise canonical authority with regard to the ordination process when requested to do so by an ordinand's Bishop.

#### **Title III Canons 6 and 8 Of the Ordination of Deacons and Priests**

- Significant editing has been done to bring more symmetry to the parallel processes for nomination, postulancy, candidacy, and ordination of Priests and Deacons.
- Clarifies: "Preparation" for ordination involves education, study and formation experiences. "Formation" is understood to engage the whole person including but not limited to intellectual study.
- Bishops and Standing Committees will establish criteria for background checks.
- Training is mandated regarding legal requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
- "Doctrinal" is removed from the criteria considered by the Standing Committees in making recommendations about ordination

### **Title III Canon 6 Of the Ordination of Deacons**

- Nominee personal information rather than the nominating congregation.
- Meeting of nominee with Bishop or designee and COM or designated committee happens before rather than during Postulancy.

### **Title III Canon 7 Of the Life and Work of Deacons**

- Letters of Agreement for Deacons to be renegotiated with the Vestry or Bishop's Committee after the resignation of a Rector or a Priest-in-Charge.
- For two years following ordination, new Deacons shall pursue a process of ongoing formation authorized by the Bishop.
- Each new Deacon will be assigned a Mentor Deacon—as it is for Priests and Bishops—who will meet regularly with the new Deacon for at least one year.
- New section, III.7.4(e): “Deacons may participate in the governance of the Church.” This change was made after receiving and discussing position papers regarding the role of deacons in the Councils of the Church, collected pursuant to GC Resolution 2003–A119.
- Replace the term, “resignation” with “retirement” because clergy do not retire from their Order, but resign from active service at age 72, with mechanisms in place for a Bishop to assign continued responsibilities on an annual basis.
- Renunciation Canons added (from existing III.13)

### **Title III Canon 8 Of the Ordination of Priests**

- Nomination process now parallels the process in the Canons pertaining to Deacons.
- Removed the provision for the Bishop to consult with nominees regarding financial planning.
- Postulancy: no time requirements for length of Postulancy; parallels canon pertaining to Deacons.
- Candidacy: One year minimum instead of six months; parallels canon pertaining to Deacons.
- COM certifies “proficiency in the required areas of study” prior to ordination as a Priest.

### **Title III Canon 9 Of the Life and Work of Priests**

- Removes phrase, “shall serve at the pleasure of the Rector,” with regard to an Assistant Priest—recognizing that the canons state that Assistants serve “under the authority and direction of the Rector.”
- Replace the term, “retirement” with the term, “resignation;” mandatory age remains at age 72.
- Renunciation Canons added from existing III.13.
- New section: “Any priest who is offered a position in another Church may accept the position, with the permission of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the priest is canonically resident.”
- Existing Canons III.14 and III.15 (Of the Reconciliation of Disagreements Affecting the Pastoral Relation, and Of the Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation) are unchanged, but are moved to become sections of this Canon.

### **Title III Canon 10 Of Reception of Clergy from Other Churches**

- Former Canons III.10, III.11, and III.12 are folded into a single canon which includes: clarification of requirements for background checks, sexual misconduct prevention training, Title IV training, anti-racism training, and medical and psychological examinations; same requirements as for all other ordinands.
- Six-month waiting period is removed for Clergy being received from Churches in the Historic Succession but Not in Communion with This Church.
- Five-year requirement for a track record in another denomination is now removed for clergy being received from Churches not in Communion or Historic Succession and from Churches not in Communion, but in Historic Succession.
- Age 24 is the minimum age for receiving all clergy; presently it is age 21 for Deacons and age 24 for Priests.
- Reading of prescribed preface before a liturgy is now required.

### **Title III Canon 11 Of the Ordination of Bishops**

- Canons pertaining to Bishops are to be organized into two canons: “Of the Ordination of Bishops” and “Of the Life and Work of Bishops;” will parallel the canons pertaining to Deacons and Priests.
- Proposed for consideration: All Consents to Episcopal Elections are to be made by Standing Committees and Bishops with Jurisdiction; the General Convention will no longer be required to give consent to Episcopal elections, even if an election occurs within 120 days of a General Convention. This proposal will require amendments to the Constitution and to the Canons.
- The Election and Ordination of Bishops Diocesan, Bishops Coadjutor, Bishops Suffragan and Missionary Bishops are to be covered in the Ordination Canon (III.11).
- Appointment of Assistant Bishops is covered in Canon III.12: “Life and Work of Bishops.”
- Appointment of Assisting Bishops is covered in Canon III.13: “Of Dioceses Without Bishops.”

### **Title III Canon 12 Of the Life and Work of Bishops**

- Formation to be required for all new Bishops; will parallel the canons pertaining to Deacons and Priests. Proposed text:
- “Following election and continuing for three years following ordination, new Bishops shall pursue the process of formation authorized by the House of Bishops. This process of formation shall provide a mentor for each newly ordained Bishop.”
- Continuing Education to be required for all Bishops; will parallel the canons pertaining to Deacons and Priests. Proposed text:
- “Thereafter, the House of Bishops shall require and provide for the continuing education of Bishops and shall keep a record of the same.”
- Replace the term, “retirement” with the term, “resignation” throughout; mandatory age stays at 72.
- Resigned bishops over age 72 may accept appointments for up to a twelve-month term which may be renewed on an annual basis.
- Section added concerning Missionary Bishops.
- Renunciation Canons added from existing III.13.

**Title III Canon 13 Of Dioceses without Bishops**

- Bishops serving as Assisting Bishops in Dioceses without Bishops may have a letter of agreement, including a stated time frame.

**Resolution A082 Amend Canons III.5–III.23<sup>1</sup>**

1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That Canons III.5 through III.23 be deleted and be replaced by the  
 2 following proposed Canons III.5 through III.13:

3  
 4 **CANON 5: Of General Provisions Respecting Ordination**  
 5 **Sec. 1. (a)** The canonical authority assigned to the Bishop Diocesan by this Title may be exercised by a Bishop  
 6 Coadjutor, when so empowered under Canon III.19, and at the request of the Bishop Diocesan, by a Bishop  
 7 Suffragan, or by any other Bishop of a Church in full communion with this Church who was ordained in the  
 8 historic succession, at the request of the ordinand's Bishop.

9 **(b)** The Council of Advice of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe, and the board appointed  
 10 by a Bishop having jurisdiction in an Area Mission in accordance with the provisions of Canon I.11.2(c), shall,  
 11 for the purpose of this and other Canons of Title III, have the same powers as the Standing Committee of a  
 12 Diocese.

13 **(c)** In case of a vacancy in the episcopate in a Diocese, the Ecclesiastical Authority may authorize and request  
 14 the President of the House of Bishops of the Province to take order for an ordination.

15 **Sec. 2. (a)** No Nominee, Applicant, Postulant, or Candidate for ordination shall sign any of the certificates  
 16 required by this Title.

17 **(b)** Testimonials required of the Standing Committee by this Title must be signed by a majority of the whole  
 18 Committee, at a meeting duly convened, except that testimonials may be executed in counterparts, each of  
 19 which shall be deemed an original.

20 **(c)** Whenever the letter of support of a Vestry is required, the letter must be signed and dated by at least  
 21 two-thirds of all of the members of the Vestry, at a meeting duly convened, and by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge  
 22 of the Parish, and attested by the Clerk of the Vestry. Should there be no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the letter  
 23 shall be signed by a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the nominee and the Parish, the reason for the  
 24 substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

25 **(d)** If the congregation or other discernment community of which the nominee is a member is not a Parish,  
 26 the letter of support required by Canon III.6 or Canon III.8 shall be signed and dated by the Member of the  
 27 Clergy and the council of the congregation or other community of faith, and shall be attested by the secretary  
 28 of the meeting at which the letter was approved. Should there be no Member of the Clergy, the letter shall be  
 29 signed and dated by a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the nominee and the congregation or other  
 30 community of faith, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

31 **(e)** If the applicant is a member of a Religious Order or Christian Community recognized by Canon III.24,  
 32 the letters of support referred to in Canon III.5 or Canon III.6 and any other requirements imposed on a  
 33 congregation or Member of the Clergy may be given by the Superior or person in charge, and Chapter, or  
 34 other comparable body of the Order or Community.

35 **Sec. 3.** An application for any dispensation permitted by this Title from any of the requirements for ordination  
 36 must first be made to the Bishop, and if approved, referred to the Standing Committee for its advice and  
 37 consent.

38

39 **CANON 6: Of the Ordination of Deacons**

40 **Sec. 1.** Selection

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<sup>1</sup>This proposed canonical change would replace in its entirety Canon III.5–23. Please refer to the 2003 *Constitution and Canons* for the original text that this resolution proposes to replace (p.61–101).

1 The Bishop, in consultation with the Commission, shall establish procedures to identify and select persons  
 2 with evident gifts and fitness for ordination to the Diaconate.

3 **Sec. 2. Nomination**

4 A confirmed adult communicant in good standing, may be nominated for ordination to the diaconate by the  
 5 person's congregation or other community of faith.

6 **(a)** The Nomination shall be in writing and shall include a letter of support by the nominee's congregation or  
 7 other community of faith committing the community to involve itself in the nominee's preparation for  
 8 ordination to the Diaconate. If it be a congregation, the letter shall be signed by two-thirds of the Vestry or  
 9 comparable body, and by the Member of the Clergy or leader exercising oversight.

10 **(b)** The nominee, if agreeing, shall accept the nomination in writing and provide to the Bishop the following:

- 11 (1) Full name and date of birth.
- 12 (2) The length of time resident in the Diocese.
- 13 (3) Evidence of Baptism and Confirmation.
- 14 (4) Whether an application has been made previously for Postulancy or the person has been nominated in  
 15 any diocese.
- 16 (5) A description of the process of discernment by which the nominee has been identified for ordination  
 17 to the Diaconate.
- 18 (6) The level of education attained and, if any, the degrees earned, official transcripts, and areas of  
 19 specialization.

20 **Sec. 3. Postulancy**

21 Postulancy is the time between nomination and candidacy and may initiate the formal preparation for ordination.

22 Postulancy involves continued exploration of and decision about the Postulant's call to the Diaconate.

23 **(a)** Before granting admission as a Postulant, the Bishop shall

- 24 (1) determine that the nominee is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing, and
- 25 (2) confer in person with the nominee,

26 **(b)** If the Bishop approves proceeding, the Commission, or a committee of the Commission, shall meet with  
 27 the nominee to review the application and prepare an evaluation of the nominee's qualifications to pursue a  
 28 course of preparation for ordination to the Diaconate. The Commission shall present its evaluation and  
 29 recommendations to the Bishop.

30 **(c)** No Bishop shall consider accepting as a Postulant any person who has been refused admission as a Candidate  
 31 for ordination to the Diaconate in any other Diocese, or who, having been admitted, has afterwards ceased  
 32 to be a Candidate, until receipt of a letter from the Bishop of the Diocese refusing admission, or in which the  
 33 person has been a Candidate, declaring the cause of refusal or of cessation.

34 **(d)** The Bishop may admit the nominee as a Postulant for ordination to the Diaconate. The Bishop shall  
 35 record the Postulant's name and date of admission in a Register kept for that purpose. The Bishop shall inform  
 36 the Postulant, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Postulant's congregation  
 37 or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the director of the Postulant's  
 38 program of preparation, of the fact and date of such admission.

39 **(e)** Each Postulant for ordination to the Diaconate shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter,  
 40 four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the Postulant's academic, diaconal, human, spiritual, and  
 41 practical development.

42 **(f)** Any Postulant may be removed as a Postulant at the sole discretion of the Bishop. The Bishop shall give  
 43 written notice of the removal to the Postulant and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight  
 44 of the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and  
 45 the director of the program of preparation.

46 **Sec. 4. Candidacy**

47 Candidacy is a time of education and formation, no less than one year in length, in preparation for ordination  
 48 to the Diaconate, established by a formal commitment by the Candidate, the Bishop, the Commission, and  
 49 the congregation or other community of faith.

1 (a) Upon compliance with Section 3 of this Canon, the Bishop may admit the Postulant as a Candidate,  
 2 informing the Candidate and the Member of the Clergy or other leader of the Candidate's discernment  
 3 community in writing.

4 (b) Any Candidate may be removed as a Candidate, at the sole discretion of the Bishop. The Bishop shall give  
 5 written notice of the removal to the Candidate and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising  
 6 oversight of the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing  
 7 Committee, and the director of the program of preparation..

8 **Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination**

9 (a) The Bishop and the Commission shall work with the Candidate to develop and monitor a program of  
 10 preparation for ordination to the Diaconate in accordance with this canon to ensure that pastoral guidance is  
 11 provided throughout the period of preparation.

12 (b) The Bishop may assign the Candidate to any congregation of the diocese or other community of faith  
 13 after consultation with the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight.

14 (c) Formation shall take into account the local culture and each Candidate's background, age, occupation, and  
 15 ministry.

16 (d) Prior education and learning from life experience may be considered as part of the formation required for  
 17 ordination.

18 (e) Wherever possible, formation for the Diaconate shall take place in community, including other persons  
 19 in preparation for the diaconate, or others preparing for ministry.

20 (f) Before ordination each Candidate shall be prepared in and demonstrate basic competence in five general  
 21 areas:

- 22 (1) Academic studies including, The Holy Scriptures, theology, and the tradition of the Church.
- 23 (2) Diakonia and the diaconate.
- 24 (3) Human awareness and understanding.
- 25 (4) Spiritual development and discipline.
- 26 (5) Practical training and experience.

27 (g) Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding

- 28 (1) prevention of sexual misconduct.
- 29 (2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
- 30 (3) the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.
- 31 (4) the Church's teaching on racism.

32 (h) Each Candidate for ordination to the Diaconate shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter,  
 33 four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the Candidate's academic, diaconal, human, spiritual, and  
 34 practical development.

35 (i) During Candidacy each Candidate's progress shall be evaluated from time to time, and there shall be a  
 36 written report of the evaluation by those authorized by the Commission to be in charge of the evaluation  
 37 program. Upon certification by those in charge of the Candidate's program of preparation that the Candidate  
 38 has successfully completed preparation and is ready for ordination, a final written assessment of readiness for  
 39 ordination to the Diaconate shall be prepared as determined by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission.  
 40 This report shall include a recommendation from the Commission regarding the readiness of the Candidate  
 41 for ordination. Records shall be kept of all evaluations, assessments, and the recommendation, and shall be  
 42 made available to the Standing Committee.

43 (j) Within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Deacon, the following must be accomplished

- 44 (1) a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee.
- 45 (2) medical and psychological evaluation by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms prepared  
 46 for the purpose by The Church Pension Fund, and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral.

47 (k) Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain  
 48 a part of the permanent diocesan record.

49 **Sec. 6. Ordination to the Diaconate**

- 1 (a) Before ordination each Candidate must have reached the age of twenty-four, and made application for  
 2 ordination.  
 3 (b) Upon certification in writing by the Standing Committee that all Canonical requirements have been met  
 4 and that there is no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds and that they  
 5 recommend ordination, the Bishop may ordain the Candidate a Deacon.

6  
 7 **CANON 7: Of the Life and Work of Deacons**

8  
 9 **Sec. 1.** Deacons serve directly under the authority of and are accountable to the Bishop, or in the absence of  
 10 the Bishop, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

11 **Sec. 2.** Deacons canonically resident in each Diocese constitute a Community of Deacons, which shall meet  
 12 from time to time. The Bishop may appoint one or more of such Deacons as Archdeacon(s) to assist the  
 13 Bishop in the formation, deployment, supervision, and support of the Deacons or those in preparation to be  
 14 Deacons, and in the implementation of this canon.

15 **Sec. 3.** The Bishop may establish a Council on Deacons to oversee, study, and promote the Diaconate.

16 **Sec. 4.** The Bishop, after consultation with the Deacon and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising  
 17 oversight, may assign a Deacon to one or more congregations, other communities of faith or non-parochial  
 18 ministries. Deacons assigned to a congregation or other community of faith act under the authority of the  
 19 Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight in all matters concerning the congregation.

20 (a) Subject to the Bishop's approval, deacons may have a letter of agreement setting forth mutual responsibilities  
 21 in the assignment, and, if such a letter exists, it is subject to renegotiation with the Vestry/Bishop's Committee  
 22 after the resignation of the Rector or the Priest-in-Charge.

23 (b) Deacons shall report annually to the Bishop or the Bishop's designee on their life and work.

24 (c) Deacons may serve as administrators of congregations or other communities of faith, but no Deacon shall  
 25 be in charge of a congregation or other community of faith.

26 (d) Deacons may accept chaplaincies in any hospital, prison, or other institution.

27 (e) Deacons may participate in the governance of the Church.

28 (f) For two years following ordination, new Deacons shall continue a process of formation authorized by the  
 29 Bishop.

30 (g) The Bishop or the Bishop's designee, in consultation with the Commission, shall assign each newly ordained  
 31 deacon a mentor Deacon where a suitable mentor Deacon is available. The mentor and Deacon shall meet  
 32 regularly for at least one year to provide guidance, information, and a sustained dialogue about diaconal ministry.

33 **Sec. 5.** The Bishop and Commission shall require and provide for the continuing education of Deacons and  
 34 keep a record of such education.

35 **Sec. 6 (a).** A Deacon may not serve as Deacon for more than two months in any Diocese other than the  
 36 Diocese in which the Deacon is canonically resident unless the Bishop of the other Diocese shall have granted  
 37 a license to the Deacon to serve in that Diocese.

38 (b)

39 (1) A Deacon desiring to become canonically resident within a Diocese shall request a testimonial from  
 40 the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Deacon is canonically resident to present to the  
 41 receiving Diocese, which testimonial, if granted, shall be given by the Ecclesiastical Authority to the  
 42 applicant, and a duplicate thereof may be sent to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese to which  
 43 transfer is proposed. The testimonial shall be in the following words:

44 **I hereby certify that A.B., who has signified to me the desire to be transferred to the Ecclesiastical**  
 45 **Authority of \_\_\_\_\_, is a Deacon of \_\_\_\_\_ in good standing, and has not, so far as I know**  
 46 **or believe, been justly liable to evil report for error in religion or for viciousness of life, for the last**  
 47 **three years.**

48 **(Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_**

49 (2) Such testimonial shall be called Letters Dimissory. If the Ecclesiastical Authority accepts the Letters  
 50 Dimissory, the canonical residence of the Deacon so transferred shall date from the acceptance of the



1 Letters Dimissory, of which prompt notice shall be given both to the applicant and to the Ecclesiastical  
 2 Authority from which it came.

3 (3) Letters Dimissory not presented within six months from the date of transmission to the applicant shall  
 4 become void.

5 (4) A statement of the record of payments to The Church Pension Fund by or on behalf of the Deacon  
 6 concerned shall accompany Letters Dimissory.

7 **Sec. 7.** On reaching the age of seventy-two years, a Deacon shall resign from all positions of active service in  
 8 this church, and the resignation shall be accepted. A Deacon may resign for reasons of infirmity with the  
 9 consent of the Bishop at any time and shall resign for reasons of infirmity at the request of the Bishop. The  
 10 Bishop may, with the consent of the Deacon, assign a resigned Deacon to any congregation, other community  
 11 of faith or ministry in another setting, for a term not to exceed twelve months, and this term may be renewed.

12 **Sec. 8.** If any Deacon of this Church not subject to the provisions of Canon IV.8 shall declare, in writing, to  
 13 the Bishop of the Diocese in which such Deacon is canonically resident, a renunciation of the ordained Ministry  
 14 of this Church, and a desire to be removed therefrom, it shall be the duty of the Bishop to record the declaration  
 15 and request so made. The Bishop, being satisfied that the person so declaring is not subject to the provision  
 16 of Canon IV.8 but is acting voluntarily and for causes, assigned or known, which do not affect the Deacon's  
 17 moral character, shall lay the matter before the clerical members of the Standing Committee, and with the  
 18 advice and consent of a majority of such members the Bishop may pronounce that such renunciation is  
 19 accepted, and that the Deacon is released from the obligations of the Ministerial office, and is deprived of the  
 20 right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority as a Minister of God's Word and Sacraments conferred in  
 21 Ordination. The Bishop shall also declare in pronouncing and recording such action that it was for causes  
 22 which do not affect the person's moral character, and shall, if desired, give a certificate to this effect to the  
 23 person so removed from the ordained Ministry.

24 **Sec. 9.** If a Deacon making the aforesaid declaration of renunciation of the ordained Ministry be under  
 25 Presentment for any Offense, or shall have been placed on Trial for the same, the Ecclesiastical Authority to  
 26 whom such declaration is made shall not consider or act upon such declaration until after the said Presentment  
 27 shall have been dismissed or the said Trial shall have been concluded and the Deacon judged not to have  
 28 committed an Offense.

29 **Sec. 10.** In the case of the renunciation of the ordained Ministry by a Deacon as provided in this Canon, a  
 30 declaration of removal shall be pronounced by the Bishop in the presence of two or more Members of the  
 31 Clergy, and shall be entered in the official records of the Diocese in which the Deacon being removed is  
 32 canonically resident. The Bishop who pronounces the declaration of removal as provided in this Canon shall  
 33 give notice thereof in writing to every Member of the Clergy, each Vestry, the Secretary of the Convention  
 34 and the Standing Committee of the Diocese in which the Deacon was canonically resident; and to all Bishops  
 35 of this Church, the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese of this Church, the Presiding Bishop, the Recorder  
 36 of Ordinations, the Secretary of the House of Bishops, the Secretary of the House of Deputies, the Church  
 37 Pension Fund, and the Board for Church Deployment.

38

39 **CANON 8: Of the Ordination of Priests**

40

41 **Sec. 1.** Selection.

42 The Bishop, in consultation with the Commission, shall establish procedures to identify and select persons  
 43 with evident gifts and fitness for ordination to the Priesthood.

44 **Sec. 2.** Nomination.

45 A confirmed adult communicant in good standing may be nominated for ordination to the priesthood by the  
 46 person's congregation or other community of faith.

47 (a) The Nomination shall be in writing and shall include a letter of support by the nominee's congregation or  
 48 other community of faith committing the community to involve itself in the nominee's preparation for  
 49 ordination to the Priesthood. If it be a congregation, the letter shall be signed by two-thirds of the Vestry or  
 50 comparable body, and by the Member of the Clergy or leader exercising oversight.

- 1 **(b)** The nominee, if agreeing, shall accept the nomination in writing, and provide to the Bishop the following:  
 2 (1) Full name and date of birth.  
 3 (2) The length of time resident in the Diocese.  
 4 (3) Evidence of Baptism and Confirmation.  
 5 (4) Whether an application has been made previously for Postulancy or the person has been nominated  
 6 in any diocese.  
 7 (5) A description of the process of discernment by which the nominee has been identified for ordination  
 8 to the Priesthood.  
 9 (6) The level of education attained and, if any, the degrees earned, official transcripts, and areas of  
 10 specialization.

11 **Sec. 3. Postulancy**

12 Postulancy is the time between nomination and candidacy and may initiate the formal preparation for ordination.  
 13 Postulancy involves continued exploration of and decision about the Postulant's call to the Priesthood.

14 **(a)** Before granting admission as a Postulant, the Bishop shall

- 15 (1) determine that the person is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing.  
 16 (2) confer in person with the nominee.

17 **(b)** If the Bishop approves proceeding, the Commission, or a committee of the Commission, shall meet with  
 18 the nominee to review the application and prepare an evaluation of the nominee's qualifications to pursue a  
 19 course of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood. The Commission shall present its evaluation and  
 20 recommendations to the Bishop.

21 **(c)** No Bishop shall consider accepting as a Postulant any person who has been refused admission as a Candidate  
 22 for ordination to the Priesthood in any other Diocese, or who, having been admitted, has afterwards ceased  
 23 to be a Candidate, until receipt of a letter from the Bishop of the Diocese refusing admission, or in which the  
 24 person has been a Candidate, declaring the cause of refusal or of cessation.

25 **(d)** The Bishop may admit the nominee as a Postulant for ordination to the Priesthood. The Bishop shall  
 26 record the Postulant's name and date of admission in a Register kept for that purpose. The Bishop shall inform  
 27 the Postulant, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the Postulant's congregation  
 28 or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and the Dean of the seminary the  
 29 Postulant may be attending or proposes to attend, or the director of Postulant's program of preparation, of  
 30 the fact and date of such admission.

31 **(e)** Each Postulant for ordination to the Priesthood shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter,  
 32 four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the Postulant's academic experience and personal and  
 33 spiritual development.

34 **(f)** Any Postulant may be removed as a Postulant at the sole discretion of the Bishop. The Bishop shall give  
 35 written notice of the removal to the Postulant and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight  
 36 of the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and  
 37 the director of the program of preparation.

38 **Sec. 4. Candidacy**

39 Candidacy is a time of education and formation no less than one year in length in preparation for ordination  
 40 to the Priesthood, established by a formal commitment by the Candidate, the Bishop, the Commission and  
 41 the congregation or other community of faith.

42 **(a)** A person desiring to be considered as a Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood shall apply to the  
 43 Bishop. Such application shall include the following:

- 44 (1) the Postulant's date of admission to Postulancy, and  
 45 (2) a letter of support by the Postulant's congregation or other community of faith. If it be a congregation  
 46 the letter shall be signed and dated by at least two-thirds of the Vestry or comparable body and by the  
 47 Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight.

48 **(b)** Upon compliance with these requirements, and receipt of a statement from the Commission attesting to  
 49 the continuing formation of the Postulant, the Bishop may admit the applicant as a Candidate for ordination  
 50 to the Priesthood. The Bishop shall record the Candidate's name and date of admission in a Register kept for

1 that purpose. The Bishop shall inform the Candidate, the Member of the Clergy or leader exercising oversight  
 2 of the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing Committee, and  
 3 the Dean of the seminary the Candidate may be attending or proposes to attend, or the director of the  
 4 Candidate's program of preparation, of the fact and date of such admission.

5 **(c)** A Candidate must remain in canonical relationship with the Diocese in which admission has been granted  
 6 until ordination to the Diaconate under this canon, except, for reasons acceptable to the Bishop, the Candidate  
 7 may be transferred to another Diocese upon request, provided that the Bishop of the receiving Diocese is  
 8 willing to accept the Candidate.

9 **(d)** Any Candidate may be removed as a Candidate at the sole discretion of the Bishop. The Bishop shall give  
 10 written notice of the removal to the Candidate and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising  
 11 oversight of the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, the Commission, the Standing  
 12 Committee, and the Dean of the seminary the Candidate may be attending or the director of the program of  
 13 preparation.

14 **(e)** If a Bishop has removed the Candidate's name from the list of Candidates, except by transfer, or the  
 15 Candidate's application for ordination has been rejected, no other Bishop may ordain the person without  
 16 readmission to Candidacy for a period of at least twelve months.

17 **Sec. 5. Preparation for Ordination**

18 **(a)** The Bishop and the Commission shall work with the Postulant or Candidate to develop and monitor a  
 19 program of preparation for ordination to the Priesthood and to ensure that pastoral guidance is provided  
 20 throughout the period of preparation.

21 **(b)** If the Postulant has not previously obtained a baccalaureate degree, the Commission, Bishop, and Postulant  
 22 shall design a program of such additional academic work as may be necessary to prepare the Postulant to  
 23 undertake a program of theological education.

24 **(c)** Formation shall take into account the local culture and each Candidate's background, age, occupation, and  
 25 ministry.

26 **(d)** Prior education and learning from life experience may be considered as part of the formation required for  
 27 the Priesthood.

28 **(e)** Whenever possible, formation for the Priesthood shall take place in community, including other persons  
 29 in preparation for the Priesthood, a ministry team, or others preparing for ministry.

30 **(f)** Formation shall include theological training, practical experience, emotional development, and spiritual  
 31 formation.

32 **(g)** Subject areas for study during this program of preparation shall include:

- 33 (1) The Holy Scriptures.
- 34 (2) Church History, including the Ecumenical Movement.
- 35 (3) Christian Theology, including Missionary Theology and Missiology.
- 36 (4) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology.
- 37 (5) Studies in contemporary society, including racial and minority groups.
- 38 (6) Liturgics and Church Music; Christian Worship and Music according to the contents and use of the
- 39 Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal, and authorized supplemental texts.
- 40 (7) Theory and practice of ministry.

41 **(h)** Preparation for ordination shall include training regarding

- 42 (1) prevention of sexual misconduct.
- 43 (2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.
- 44 (3) the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.
- 45 (4) the Church's teaching on racism.

46 **(i)** Each Candidate for ordination to the Priesthood shall communicate with the Bishop in person or by letter,  
 47 four times a year, in the Ember Weeks, reflecting on the Candidate's academic experience and personal and  
 48 spiritual development.

1 (j) The seminary or other formation program shall provide for, monitor, and report on the academic  
 2 performance and personal qualifications of the Candidate or Postulant for ordination. These reports will be  
 3 made upon request of the Bishop and Commission, but at least once per year.

4 (k) Within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Deacon under this Canon, the following must be  
 5 accomplished

- 6 (1) a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee.
- 7 (2) medical and psychological evaluation by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms prepared  
 8 for the purpose by The Church Pension Fund, and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral.

9 (l) Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain  
 10 a part of the permanent diocesan record.

11 **Sec. 6. Ordination to the Diaconate**

12 (a) A Candidate must first be ordained Deacon before being ordained Priest.

13 (b) To be ordained Deacon under this canon, a person must be at least twenty-four years of age.

14 (c) No one shall be ordained Deacon under this canon within one year of admission as a Candidate.

15 (d) The Bishop shall obtain in writing:

- 16 (1) an application from the Candidate requesting ordination as a Deacon under this canon.
- 17 (2) a letter of support from the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith, signed and dated  
 18 by at least two-thirds of the Vestry and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight.
- 19 (3) a certificate from the seminary or other program of preparation showing the Candidate's scholastic  
 20 record in the subjects required by the canons, and giving an evaluation with recommendation as to the  
 21 Candidate's other personal qualifications for ordination together with a recommendation regarding  
 22 ordination to the Diaconate under this canon.

23 (e) The Standing Committee shall obtain:

- 24 (1) the application for ordination to the Diaconate under this canon specified in Canon III.8.6.(d)(1),  
 25 including the accompanying letter of support by the Candidate's congregation or other community of faith  
 26 specified in Canon III.8.6.(d)(2).
- 27 (2) certificates from the Bishop who admitted the Candidate to Postulancy and Candidacy, giving the dates  
 28 of admission.
- 29 (3) a certificate from the Commission giving a recommendation regarding ordination to the Diaconate  
 30 under this canon.

31 (f) On the receipt of such certificates, the Standing Committee, a majority of all members consenting, shall  
 32 certify that the canonical requirements for ordination to the Diaconate under this canon have been met and  
 33 there is no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds and that they recommend  
 34 ordination, by a testimonial addressed to the Bishop in the form specified below and signed by the consenting  
 35 members of the Standing Committee.

36 **To the Right Reverend \_\_\_\_\_, Bishop of \_\_\_\_\_ We, the Standing Committee of \_\_\_\_\_,**  
 37 **having been duly convened at \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_, do testify that A.B., desiring to be ordained**  
 38 **to the Diaconate and Priesthood under Canon III.8 has presented to us the certificates as required**  
 39 **by the Canons indicating A.B.'s preparedness for ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.8; and**  
 40 **we certify that all canonical requirements for ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.8 have**  
 41 **been met; and we find no sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we recommend A.B. for**  
 42 **ordination. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year**  
 43 **of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_.**

44 **(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_**

45 (g) The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on medical,  
 46 psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds, the Bishop may ordain the Candidate to the Diaconate under this  
 47 canon; and at the time of ordination the Candidate shall subscribe publicly and make, in the presence of the  
 48 Bishop, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution.

49 **Sec. 7. Ordination to the Priesthood**

50 (a) A person may be ordained Priest:

- 1 (1) after at least six months since ordination as a Deacon under this canon, and
- 2 (2) upon attainment of at least twenty-four years of age, and
- 3 (3) if the medical examination, psychological examination, and background check have taken place or been
- 4 updated within thirty-six months prior to ordination as a Priest.

5 **(b)** The Bishop shall obtain in writing and provide to the Standing Committee:

- 6 (1) an application from the Deacon requesting ordination as a Priest, including the Deacon's dates of
- 7 admission to Postulancy and Candidacy and ordination as a Deacon under this canon,
- 8 (2) a letter of support from the Deacon's congregation or other community of faith, signed by at least
- 9 two-thirds of the Vestry and the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight,
- 10 (3) evidence of admission to Postulancy and Candidacy, including dates of admission, and ordination to
- 11 the Diaconate,
- 12 (4) a certificate from the seminary or other program of preparation, showing the Deacon's scholastic record
- 13 in the subjects required by the canons, and giving an evaluation with recommendation as to the Deacon's
- 14 other personal qualifications for ordination together with a recommendation regarding ordination to the
- 15 Priesthood, and
- 16 (5) a statement from the Commission attesting to the successful completion of the program of formation
- 17 designed during Postulancy under Canon III.8.5, and proficiency in the required areas of study, and
- 18 recommending the Deacon for ordination to the Priesthood.

19 **(c)** On the receipt of such certificates, the Standing Committee, a majority of all the members consenting,  
 20 shall certify that the canonical requirements for ordination to the Priesthood have been met and there is no  
 21 sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds and that they recommend ordination,  
 22 by a testimonial addressed to the Bishop in the form specified below and signed by the consenting members  
 23 of the Standing Committee.

24 **To the Right Reverend \_\_\_\_\_, Bishop of \_\_\_\_\_ We, the Standing Committee of \_\_\_\_\_**  
 25 **, having been duly convened at \_\_\_\_\_, do testify that A.B., desiring to be ordained to the**  
 26 **Priesthood, has presented to us the certificates as required by the Canons indicating A.B.'s**  
 27 **preparedness for ordination to the Priesthood have been met; and we certify that all canonical**  
 28 **requirements for ordination to the Priesthood have been met, and we find no sufficient objection to**  
 29 **ordination. Therefore, we recommend A.B. for ordination. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set**  
 30 **our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_. (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_**

31 **(d)** The testimonial having been presented to the Bishop, and there being no sufficient objection on medical,  
 32 psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds, the Bishop may ordain the Deacon to the Priesthood; and at the  
 33 time of ordination the Deacon shall subscribe publicly and make, in the presence of the Bishop, the declaration  
 34 required in Article VIII of the Constitution.

35 **(e)** No Deacon shall be ordained to the Priesthood until having been appointed to serve in a Parochial Cure  
 36 within the jurisdiction of this Church, or as a Missionary under the Ecclesiastical Authority of a Diocese, or  
 37 as an officer of a Missionary Society recognized by the General Convention, or as a Chaplain of the Armed  
 38 Services of the United States, or as a Chaplain in a recognized hospital or other welfare institution, or as a  
 39 Chaplain or instructor in a school, college, or other seminary, or with other opportunity for the exercise of  
 40 the office of Priest within the Church judged appropriate by the Bishop.

41 **(f)** A person ordained to the Diaconate under Canon III.6 who is subsequently called to the Priesthood shall  
 42 fulfill the Postulancy and Candidacy requirements set forth in this canon. Upon completion of these  
 43 requirements, the Deacon may be ordained to the Priesthood.

44  
 45 **CANON 9: Of the Life and Work of Priests**

46  
 47 **Sec. 1.** The Bishop and Commission shall require and provide for the continuing education of Priests and  
 48 keep a record of such education.

49 **Sec. 2.** Mentoring for Newly Ordained Priests Each newly ordained Priest, whether employed or not, shall  
 50 be assigned a mentor Priest by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry. The mentor and

1 new Priest shall meet regularly for at least a year to provide guidance, information, and a sustained dialogue  
 2 about priestly ministry.

3 **Sec. 3.** The Appointment of Priests

4 **(a)** Rectors.

5 (1) When a Parish is without a Rector, the Wardens or other officers shall promptly notify the Ecclesiastical  
 6 Authority in writing. If the Parish shall for thirty days fail to provide services of public worship, the  
 7 Ecclesiastical Authority shall make provision for such worship.

8 (2) No Parish may elect a Rector until the names of the proposed nominees have been forwarded to the  
 9 Ecclesiastical Authority and a time, not exceeding sixty days, given to the Ecclesiastical Authority to  
 10 communicate with the Vestry, nor until any such communication has been considered by the Vestry at a  
 11 meeting duly called and held for that purpose.

12 (3) Written notice of the election of a Rector, signed by the Wardens, shall be forwarded to the Ecclesiastical  
 13 Authority. If the Ecclesiastical Authority is satisfied that the person so elected is a duly qualified Priest and  
 14 that such Priest has accepted the office to which elected, the notice shall be sent to the Secretary of the  
 15 Convention, who shall record it. Race, color, ethnic origin, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual  
 16 orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by these canons, shall not be a factor in the  
 17 determination of the Ecclesiastical Authority as to whether such person is a duly qualified Priest. The  
 18 recorded notice shall be sufficient evidence of the relationship between the Priest and the Parish.

19 (4) Rectors may have a letter of agreement with the Parish setting forth mutual responsibilities, subject to  
 20 the Bishop's approval.

21 **(b)** Priests-in-Charge.

22 After consultation with the Vestry, the Bishop may appoint a Priest to serve as Priest-in-Charge of any  
 23 congregation in which there is no Rector. In such congregations, the Priest-in-Charge shall exercise the duties  
 24 of Rector outlined in Canon III.9.5 subject to the authority of the Bishop.

25 **(c)** Assistants.

26 A Priest serving as an assistant in a Parish, by whatever title designated, shall be selected by the Rector, and  
 27 when required by the canons of the Diocese, subject to the approval of the Vestry, and shall serve under the  
 28 authority and direction of the Rector. Before the selection of an assistant the name of the Priest proposed for  
 29 selection shall be made known to the Bishop and a time, not exceeding sixty days, given for the Bishop to  
 30 communicate with the Rector and Vestry on the proposed selection. Upon resignation by the Rector, death  
 31 of the Rector, or in the event of the dissolution of a pastoral relationship between the Rector and the Vestry,  
 32 an assistant may continue in the service of the Parish if requested to do so by the Vestry under such conditions  
 33 as the Bishop and Vestry shall determine. An assistant may continue to serve at the request of a new Rector.  
 34 Assistants may have a letter of agreement with the Rector and the Vestry setting forth mutual responsibilities  
 35 and containing a clearly articulated dissolution clause, subject to the Bishop's approval.

36 **(d)** Chaplains.

37 (1) A Priest may be given ecclesiastical endorsement for service as a Chaplain in the Armed Services of the  
 38 United States of America or as a Chaplain for the Veterans' Administration, or in any Federal Correctional  
 39 Institution, by the Office of the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces subject to the approval of the  
 40 Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident.

41 (2) Any Priest serving on active duty with the Armed Services shall retain the Priest's canonical residence  
 42 and shall be subject to the ecclesiastical supervision of the Bishop of the Diocese of which the Priest is  
 43 canonically resident, even though the Priest's work as a Chaplain shall be subject to the general supervision  
 44 of the Office of the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces, or such other Bishop as the Presiding Bishop  
 45 may designate.

46 (3) Any Priest serving on a military installation or at a Veterans' Administration facility or Federal Correctional  
 47 Institution shall not be subject to Canons III.9.3.(e)(1) or III.9.4.(a). When serving other than on a military  
 48 installation or at a Veterans' Administration facility, or Federal Correctional Institution, a Chaplain shall be  
 49 subject to these Sections.

50 **(e)** Employment of Priests in Other Settings

1 Any Priest who has left a position in this Church without having received a call to a new ecclesiastical position  
 2 and who desires to continue the exercise of the office of Priest shall notify the Ecclesiastical Authority of the  
 3 Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident and shall advise the Bishop that reasonable opportunities  
 4 for the exercise of the office of Priest exist and that use will be made of such opportunities. After having  
 5 determined that the person will have and use opportunities for the exercise of the office of Priest, the Bishop,  
 6 with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may approve the Priest's continued exercise of the  
 7 office on condition that the Priest report annually in writing, in a manner prescribed by the Bishop, as provided  
 8 in Canon I.6.2.

9 (2)

10 (i) A Priest not in parochial employment moving to another jurisdiction shall report to the Bishop of  
 11 that jurisdiction within sixty days of such move.

12 (ii) The Priest:

13 (a) May officiate or preach in that jurisdiction only under the terms of Canon III.9.5.(a).

14 (b) Shall provide notice of such move, in writing and within sixty days, to the Ecclesiastical Authority  
 15 of the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident.

16 (c) Shall forward a copy of the report required by Canon I.6.2 to the Ecclesiastical Authority to whose  
 17 jurisdiction the Priest has moved.

18 (iii) Upon receipt of the notice required by Canon III.9.3.(e)(3)(ii)(b), the Ecclesiastical Authority shall  
 19 provide written notice thereof to the Ecclesiastical Authority into whose jurisdiction the person has  
 20 moved.

21 (2) If the Priest fails to comply with the provisions of this canon, the Bishop of the Diocese in which the  
 22 Priest is canonically resident may proceed in accordance with Canon IV.11.

23 **Sec. 4. Letters Dimissory**

24 (a) A Priest desiring to become canonically resident within a Diocese shall present to the Ecclesiastical Authority  
 25 a testimonial from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of current canonical residence, which testimonial  
 26 shall be given by the Ecclesiastical Authority to the applicant, and a duplicate thereof may be sent to the  
 27 Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese to which transfer is proposed. The testimonial shall be accompanied  
 28 by a statement of the record of payments to The Church Pension Fund by or on behalf of the Priest concerned  
 29 and may include a portfolio of training, continuing education and exercise of ministries. The testimonial shall  
 30 be in the following words:

31 **I hereby certify that A.B., who has signified to me the desire to be transferred to the Ecclesiastical**  
 32 **Authority of , is a Priest of in good standing, and has not, so far as I know or believe, been justly**  
 33 **liable to evil report, for error in religion or for viciousness of life, for the last three years.**

34 **(Date) \_\_\_\_\_(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_**

35 (b) Such a testimonial shall be called Letters Dimissory. If the Ecclesiastical Authority accepts the Letters  
 36 Dimissory, the canonical residence of the Priest transferred shall date from such acceptance, and prompt  
 37 notice of acceptance shall be given to the applicant and to the Ecclesiastical Authority issuing the Letters  
 38 Dimissory.

39 (c) Letters Dimissory not presented within six months of their date of receipt by the applicant shall become  
 40 void.

41 (d) If a Priest has been called to a Cure in a congregation in another Diocese, the Priest shall present Letters  
 42 Dimissory. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall accept Letters Dimissory within three months  
 43 of their receipt unless the Bishop or Standing Committee has received credible information concerning the  
 44 character or behavior of the Priest concerned which would form grounds for canonical inquiry and presentment.  
 45 In such a case, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall notify the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which  
 46 the Priest is canonically resident and need not accept the Letters Dimissory unless and until the Priest shall  
 47 be exculpated. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall not refuse to accept Letters Dimissory based on the applicant's  
 48 race, color, ethnic origin, sex, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, disabilities, or age.

49 (e) A Priest shall not be in charge of any congregation in the Diocese to which the person moves until obtaining  
 50 from the Ecclesiastical Authority of that Diocese a certificate in the following words:

1 I hereby certify that A.B. has been canonically transferred to my jurisdiction and is a Priest in good  
 2 standing.

3 (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

4 (f) No person who has been refused ordination or reception as a Candidate in any Diocese, and is thereafter  
 5 ordained in another Diocese, shall be transferred to the Diocese in which such refusal has occurred without  
 6 the consent of its Ecclesiastical Authority.

7 **Sec. 5. Rectors and Priests-in-Charge and Their Duties**

8 (a)

9 (1) The Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall have full authority and responsibility for the conduct of the worship  
 10 and the spiritual jurisdiction of the Parish, subject to the Rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer, the  
 11 Constitution and Canons of this Church, and the pastoral direction of the Bishop.

12 (2) For the purposes of the office and for the full and free discharge of all functions and duties pertaining  
 13 thereto, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall at all times be entitled to the use and control of the Church  
 14 and Parish buildings together with all appurtenances and furniture, and to access to all records and registers  
 15 maintained by or on behalf of the congregation.

16 (b)

17 (1) It shall be the duty of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge to ensure all persons in their charge receive  
 18 Instruction in the Holy Scriptures; in the subjects contained in An Outline of the Faith, commonly called  
 19 the Catechism; in the doctrine, discipline, and worship of this Church; and in the exercise of their ministry  
 20 as baptized persons.

21 (2) It shall be the duty of Rectors or Priests-in-Charge to ensure that all persons in their charge are instructed  
 22 concerning Christian stewardship, including:

- 23 (i) reverence for the creation and the right use of God's gifts;
- 24 (ii) generous and consistent offering of time, talent, and treasure for the mission and ministry of the  
 25 Church at home and abroad;
- 26 (iii) the biblical standard of the tithe for financial stewardship; and
- 27 (iv) the responsibility of all persons to make a will as prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer.

28 (3) It shall be the duty of Rectors or Priests-in-Charge to ensure that persons be prepared for Baptism.  
 29 Before baptizing infants or children, Rectors or Priests-in-Charge shall ensure that sponsors be prepared  
 30 by instructing both the parents and the Godparents concerning the significance of Holy Baptism, the  
 31 responsibilities of parents and Godparents for the Christian training of the baptized child, and how these  
 32 obligations may properly be discharged.

33 (4) It shall be the duty of Rectors or Priests-in-Charge to encourage and ensure the preparation of persons  
 34 for Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, and to be ready to present them  
 35 to the Bishop with a list of their names.

36 (5) On notice being received of the Bishop's intention to visit any congregation, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge  
 37 shall announce the fact to the congregation. At every visitation it shall be the duty of the Rector or  
 38 Priest-in-Charge and the Wardens, Vestry or other officers, to exhibit to the Bishop the Parish Register and  
 39 to give information as to the state of the congregation, spiritual and temporal, in such categories as the  
 40 Bishop shall have previously requested in writing.

41 (6) The Alms and Contributions, not otherwise specifically designated, at the Administration of the Holy  
 42 Communion on one Sunday in each calendar month, and other offerings for the poor, shall be deposited  
 43 with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge or with such Church officer as the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall  
 44 appoint to be applied to such pious and charitable uses as the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall determine.  
 45 When a Parish is without a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry shall designate a member of the Parish  
 46 to fulfill this function.

47 (7) Whenever the House of Bishops shall publish a Pastoral Letter, it shall be the duty of the Rector or  
 48 Priest-in-Charge to read it to the congregation on some occasion of public worship on a Lord's Day, or to  
 49 cause copies of the same to be distributed to the members of the congregation, not later than thirty days  
 50 after receipt.



1 (8) Whenever the House of Bishops shall adopt a Position Paper, and require communication of the content  
 2 of the Paper to the membership of the Church, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall so communicate the  
 3 Paper in the manner set forth in the preceding section of this canon.

4 (c)

5 (1) It shall be the duty of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge to record in the Parish Register all Baptisms,  
 6 Confirmations (including the canonical equivalents in Canon I.17.1(d)), Marriages and Burials.

7 (2) The registry of each Baptism shall be signed by the officiating Member of the Clergy.

8 (3) The Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall record in the Parish Register all persons who have received Holy  
 9 Baptism, all communicants, all persons who have received Confirmation (including the canonical equivalents  
 10 in Canon I.17.1(d)), all persons who have died, and all persons who have been received or removed by letter  
 11 of transfer. The Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall also designate in the Parish Register the names of (1) those  
 12 persons whose domicile is unknown, (2) those persons whose domicile is known but are inactive, and (3)  
 13 those families and persons who are active within the congregation. The Parish Register shall remain with  
 14 the congregation at all times.

15 **Sec. 6. Licenses**

16 (a) No Priest shall preach, minister the Sacraments, or hold any public service, within the limits of any Diocese  
 17 other than the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident for more than two months without a license  
 18 from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Priest desires to so officiate. No Priest shall be  
 19 denied such a license on account of the Priest's race, color, ethnic origin, sex, national origin, marital status,  
 20 sexual orientation, disabilities, or age, except as otherwise provided in these canons. Upon expiration or  
 21 withdrawal of a license, a priest shall cease immediately to officiate.

22 (b) No Priest shall preach, read prayers in public worship, or perform any similar function, in a congregation  
 23 without the consent of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of that congregation, except as follows:

24 (1) In the absence or impairment of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, and if provision has not been made for  
 25 the stated services of the congregation or other community of faith, a Warden may give such consent.

26 (2) If there be two or more congregations or Churches in one Cure, as provided by Canon I.13.3(b), consent  
 27 may be given by the majority of the Priests-in-Charge of such congregations, or by the Bishop; *Provided*,  
 28 that nothing in this Section shall prevent any Member of the Clergy of this Church from officiating, with  
 29 the consent of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, in the Church or place of public worship used by the  
 30 congregation of the consenting Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or in private for members of the congregation;  
 31 or in the absence of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, with the consent of the Wardens or Trustees of the  
 32 congregation; *Provided* further, that the license of the Ecclesiastical Authority provided in Canon III.9.5(a),  
 33 if required, be obtained.

34 (3) This canon shall not apply to any Church, Chapel, or Oratory, which is part of the premises of an  
 35 incorporated institution created by legislative authority, *Provided* that such place of worship is designated  
 36 and set apart for the convenience and use of such institution, and not as a place for public or parochial  
 37 worship.

38 (c) No Rector or Priest-in-Charge of any congregation of this Church, or if there be none, no Wardens,  
 39 Members of the Vestry, or Trustees of any congregation, shall permit any person to officiate in the congregation  
 40 without sufficient evidence that such person is duly licensed and ordained and in good standing in this Church;  
 41 *Provided*, nothing in these canons shall prevent:

42 (1) The General Convention, by canon or otherwise, from authorizing persons to officiate in congregations  
 43 in accordance with such terms as it deems appropriate; or

44 (2) The Bishop of any Diocese from giving permission

45 (i) To a Member of the Clergy of this Church, to invite Clergy of another Church to assist in the Book  
 46 of Common Prayer Offices of Holy Matrimony or of the Burial of the Dead, or to read Morning or  
 47 Evening Prayer, in the manner specified in Canon III.9.5; or

48 (ii) To Clergy of any other Church to preach the Gospel, or in ecumenical settings to assist in the  
 49 administration of the sacraments; or

50 (iii) To godly persons who are not Clergy of this Church to address the Church on special occasions.

1 (iv) To the Member of the Clergy or Priest-in-Charge of a congregation or if there be none, to the  
 2 Wardens, to invite Clergy ordained in another Church in communion with this Church to officiate on  
 3 an occasional basis, provided that such clergy are instructed to teach and act in a manner consistent with  
 4 the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of this Church.

5 (d) If any Member of the Clergy or Priest-in-Charge, as a result of impairment or any other cause, shall neglect  
 6 to perform regular services in the congregation, and refuse, without good cause, to consent to any other duly  
 7 qualified Member of the Clergy to perform such services, the Wardens, Vestry, or Trustees of the congregation  
 8 shall, upon providing evidence to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of such neglect or refusal and  
 9 with the written consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority, have the authority to permit any duly qualified Member  
 10 of the Clergy to officiate.

11 (e) Any Priest desiring to officiate temporarily outside the jurisdiction of this Church but in a Church in  
 12 communion with this Church, shall obtain from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the  
 13 person is canonically resident, a testimonial which shall set forth the person's official standing, and which may  
 14 be in the following words:

15 **I hereby certify that A.B., who has signified to me the desire to be permitted to officiate temporarily**  
 16 **in churches not under the jurisdiction of The Episcopal Church, yet in communion with this Church,**  
 17 **is a Priest of \_\_\_\_\_ in good standing, and as such is entitled to the rights and privileges of that**  
 18 **Order.**

19 (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

20 Such testimonial shall be valid for one year and shall be returned to the Ecclesiastical Authority at the end of  
 21 that period. The Ecclesiastical Authority giving such testimonial shall record its issuance, the name of the  
 22 Priest to whom issued, its date and the date of its return.

23 (f) Any priest who is offered a position in another Church may accept the position, with the permission of  
 24 the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the priest is canonically resident.

25 **Sec. 7. Resignation**

26 On reaching the age of seventy-two years, a Priest shall resign from all positions of in this Church, and the  
 27 resignation shall be accepted. A Priest may resign for reasons of impairment with the consent of the Bishop  
 28 at any time and shall resign for reasons of impairment at the request of the Bishop and, in the case of a Rector,  
 29 with the consent of the Vestry. Thereafter, the Priest may accept any position in this Church, including, with  
 30 the permission of the Ecclesiastical Authority, the position or positions from which resignation pursuant to  
 31 this Section has occurred; *Provided,*

32 (a) tenure in the position shall be for a term of not more than twelve months, which term may be renewed  
 33 from time to time,

34 (b) service in the position shall have the express approval of the Bishop of the Diocese in which the service  
 35 is to be performed, acting in consultation with the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the Priest  
 36 is canonically resident.

37 (c) Anything in this canon to the contrary notwithstanding, a Priest who has served in a non-stipendiary  
 38 capacity in a position before resignation may, at the Bishop's request, serve in the same position for a term  
 39 not to exceed twelve months thereafter, and this term may be renewed.

40 **Of the Renunciation of the Ordained Ministry**

41 **Sec. 8.** If any Priest of this Church not subject to the provisions of Canon IV.8 shall declare, in writing, to  
 42 the Bishop of the Diocese in which such Priest is canonically resident, a renunciation of the ordained Ministry  
 43 of this Church, and a desire to be removed therefrom, it shall be the duty of the Bishop to record the declaration  
 44 and request so made. The Bishop, being satisfied that the person so declaring is not subject to the provision  
 45 of Canon IV.8 but is acting voluntarily and for causes, assigned or known, which do not affect the Priests  
 46 moral character, shall lay the matter before the clerical members of the Standing Committee, and with the  
 47 advice and consent of a majority of such members the Bishop may pronounce that such renunciation is  
 48 accepted, and that the Priest is released from the obligations of the Ministerial office, and is deprived of the  
 49 right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority as a Minister of Gods Word and Sacraments conferred in  
 50 Ordination. The Bishop shall also declare in pronouncing and recording such action that it was for causes

1 which do not affect the persons moral character, and shall, if desired, give a certificate to this effect to the  
 2 person so removed from the ordained Ministry.

3 **Sec. 9.** A Priest who would be permitted under this Canon to renounce the exercise of ordained office, who  
 4 desires to enter into other than ecclesiastical employment, may declare in writing to the Ecclesiastical Authority  
 5 of the Diocese in which the Priest is canonically resident a desire to be released from the obligations of the  
 6 office and a desire to be released from the exercise of the office of Priest. Upon receipt of such declaration,  
 7 the Ecclesiastical Authority shall proceed in the same manner as if the declaration was one of renunciation of  
 8 the ordained Priesthood under this Canon.

9 **Sec. 10.** If a Priest making the aforesaid declaration of renunciation of the ordained Ministry be under  
 10 Presentment for any Offense, or shall have been placed on Trial for the same, the Ecclesiastical Authority to  
 11 whom such declaration is made shall not consider or act upon such declaration until after the said Presentment  
 12 shall have been dismissed or the said Trial shall have been concluded and the Priest judged not to have  
 13 committed an Offense.

14 **Sec. 11.** In the case of the renunciation of the ordained Ministry by a Priest as provided in this Canon, a  
 15 declaration of removal shall be pronounced by the Bishop in the presence of two or more Priests, and shall  
 16 be entered in the official records of the Diocese in which the Priest being removed is canonically resident.  
 17 The Bishop who pronounces the declaration of removal as provided in this Canon shall give notice thereof  
 18 in writing to every Member of the Clergy, each Vestry, the Secretary of the Convention and the Standing  
 19 Committee of the Diocese in which the Priest was canonically resident; and to all Bishops of this Church, the  
 20 Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese of this Church, the Presiding Bishop, the Recorder of Ordinations,  
 21 the Secretary of the House of Bishops, the Secretary of the House of Deputies, the Church Pension Fund,  
 22 and the Board for Church Deployment.

23 **Sec. 12. The Reconciliation of Disagreements Affecting the Pastoral Relation**

24 When the pastoral relationship in a parish between a Rector and the Vestry or Congregation is imperiled by  
 25 disagreement or dissension, and the issues are deemed serious by a majority vote of the Vestry or the Rector,  
 26 either party may petition the Ecclesiastical Authority, in writing, to intervene and assist the parties in their  
 27 efforts to resolve the disagreement. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall initiate such proceedings as are deemed  
 28 appropriate under the circumstances for that purpose by the Ecclesiastical Authority, which may include the  
 29 appointment of a consultant. The parties to the disagreement, following the recommendations of the  
 30 Ecclesiastical Authority, shall labor in good faith that the parties may be reconciled. Whenever the Standing  
 31 Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it shall request the Bishop of a neighboring Diocese to perform the  
 32 duties of the Ecclesiastical Authority under this Canon.

33 **Of the Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation**

34 **Sec. 13.** Except upon mandatory resignation by reason of age, a Rector may not resign as Rector of a parish  
 35 without the consent of its Vestry, nor may any Rector canonically or lawfully elected and in charge of a Parish  
 36 be removed therefrom by the Vestry against the Rector's will, except as hereinafter provided.

37 **Sec. 14.** If for any urgent reason a Rector or Vestry desires a dissolution of the pastoral relation, and the parties  
 38 cannot agree, either party may give notice in writing to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. Whenever  
 39 the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, it shall request the Bishop of another  
 40 Diocese to perform the duties of the Bishop under this Canon.

41 **Sec. 15.** Within sixty days of receipt of the written notice the Bishop, as chief pastor of the Diocese, shall  
 42 mediate the differences between Rector and Vestry in every informal way which the Bishop deems proper  
 43 and may appoint a committee of at least one Presbyter and one Lay Person, none of whom may be members  
 44 of the Parish involved, to make a report to the Bishop.

45 **Sec. 16.** If the differences between the parties are not resolved after completion of the mediation, the Bishop  
 46 shall proceed as follows:

47 **(a)** The Bishop shall give notice to the Rector and Vestry that a godly judgment will be rendered in the matter  
 48 after consultation with the Standing Committee and that either party has the right within ten days to request  
 49 in writing an opportunity to confer with the Standing Committee before it consults with the Bishop.

- 1 (b) If a timely request is made, the President of the Standing Committee shall set a date for the conference,  
2 which shall be held within thirty days.
- 3 (c) At the conference each party shall be entitled to representation and to present its position fully.
- 4 (d) Within thirty days after the conference or after the Bishop's notice if no conference is requested, the  
5 Bishop shall confer with and receive the recommendation of the Standing Committee; thereafter the Bishop,  
6 as final arbiter and judge, shall render a godly judgment.
- 7 (e) Upon the request of either party the Bishop shall explain the reasons for the judgment. If the explanation  
8 is in writing, copies shall be delivered to both parties.
- 9 (f) If the pastoral relation is to be continued, the Bishop shall require the parties to agree on definitions of  
10 responsibility and accountability for the Rector and the Vestry.
- 11 (g) If the relation is to be dissolved:
- 12 (1) The Bishop shall direct the Secretary of the Convention to record the dissolution.
- 13 (2) The judgment shall include such terms and conditions including financial settlements as shall seem to  
14 the Bishop just and compassionate.
- 15 **Sec. 17.** In either event the Bishop shall offer appropriate supportive services to the Priest and the Parish.
- 16 **Sec. 18.** In the event of the failure or refusal of either party to comply with the terms of the judgment, the  
17 Bishop may impose such penalties as may be set forth in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and in  
18 default of any provisions for such penalties therein, the Bishop may act as follows:
- 19 (a) In the case of a Rector, suspend the Rector from the exercise of the priestly office until the Priest shall  
20 comply with the judgment.
- 21 (b) In the case of a Vestry, invoke any available sanctions including recommending to the Convention of the  
22 Diocese that the Parish be placed under the supervision of the Bishop as a Mission until it has complied with  
23 the judgment.
- 24 **Sec. 19.** For cause, the Bishop may extend the time periods specified in this Canon, provided that all be done  
25 to expedite these proceedings. All parties shall be notified in writing of the length of any extension.
- 26 **Sec. 20.**
- 27 (a) Statements made during the course of proceedings under this Canon are not discoverable nor admissible  
28 in any proceedings under Title IV provided that this does not require the exclusion of evidence in any proceeding  
29 under the Canons which is otherwise discoverable and admissible.
- 30 (b) In the course of proceedings under this Canon, if a charge is made by the Vestry against the Rector that  
31 could give rise to a disciplinary proceeding under Canon IV.1, all proceedings under this Canon with respect  
32 to such charge shall be suspended until the charge has been resolved or withdrawn.
- 33 **Sec. 21.** Sections 13-20 of this Canon shall not apply in any Diocese which has made a provision on this  
34 subject in its Canons which is consistent with this Canon.

35

36 **Canon 10: Of Reception of Clergy from other Churches**

37

38 **Sec. 1.** Prior to reception or ordination, the following must be provided

39 (a) a background check, according to criteria established by the Bishop and Standing Committee, and

40 (b) medical and psychological evaluation by professionals approved by the Bishop, using forms prepared for  
41 the purpose by The Church Pension Fund, and if desired or necessary, psychiatric referral. If the medical  
42 examination, psychological examination, or background check have taken place more than thirty-six months  
43 prior to reception or ordination they must be updated.

44 (c) evidence of training regarding

45 (1) prevention of sexual misconduct.

46 (2) civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.

47 (3) the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.

48 (4) training regarding the Church's teaching on racism.

49 (d) Reports of all investigations and examinations shall be kept permanently on file by the Bishop and remain  
50 a part of the permanent diocesan record.

**1 Sec. 2. Clergy Ordained by Bishops of Churches in Communion with This Church****2 (a)**

3 (1) A Member of the Clergy, ordained by a Bishop of another Church in communion with this Church, or  
 4 by a Bishop consecrated for a foreign land by Bishops of this Church under Article III of the Constitution,  
 5 shall, before being permitted to officiate in any Congregation of this Church, exhibit to the Member of the  
 6 Clergy in charge, or, if there be no Member of the Clergy in charge, to the Vestry thereof, a certificate of  
 7 recent date, signed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese that the person's letters of Holy Orders  
 8 and other credentials are valid and authentic, and given by a Bishop in communion with this Church, and  
 9 whose authority is acknowledged by this Church; and also that the person has exhibited to the Ecclesiastical  
 10 Authority satisfactory evidence of (i) moral and godly character and of (ii) theological qualifications.

11 (2) Before being permitted to take charge of any Congregation, or being received into any Diocese of this  
 12 Church as a Member of its Clergy, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall receive Letters Dimissory or equivalent  
 13 credentials under the hand and seal of the Bishop with whose Diocese the person has been last connected,  
 14 which letters or credentials shall be delivered within six months from the date thereof. Before receiving the  
 15 Member of the Clergy the Bishop shall require a promise in writing to submit in all things to the Discipline  
 16 of this Church, without recourse to any foreign jurisdiction, civil or ecclesiastical; and shall further require  
 17 the person to subscribe and make in the Bishop's presence, and in the presence of two or more Presbyters,  
 18 the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution. The Bishop and at least one Presbyter shall  
 19 examine the person as to knowledge of the history of this Church, its worship and government. The Bishop  
 20 also being satisfied of the person's theological qualifications, may then receive the person into the Diocese  
 21 as a Member of the Clergy of this Church.

22 (3) A Member of the Clergy ordained by a Bishop of another Church in communion with this Church, or  
 23 by a Bishop consecrated for a foreign land by Bishops of this Church, under Article III of the Constitution,  
 24 shall not be accepted nor shall the Member of the Clergy be placed on the clergy list of this Church until  
 25 having submitted to, and satisfactorily passed, a thorough examination, covering both medical and  
 26 psychological condition by professionals appointed by the Bishop. The forms for medical and psychological  
 27 and psychiatric reports prepared by The Church Pension Fund shall be used for these purposes.

28 (3) The provisions of this Section shall be fully applicable to all Members of the Clergy identified in Canon  
 29 I.20.

30 **(b)** A Member of the Clergy who is a Deacon shall not be ordered Priest until having resided within the  
 31 jurisdiction of this Church at least one year and all the requirements for ordination to the Priesthood as required  
 32 by Canon III.8 have been satisfied.

**33 Sec. 3. Clergy Ordained by Bishops in Churches in the Historic Succession but Not in Communion**  
**34 with This Church**

35 **(a)** When a Priest or Deacon ordained in a Church by a Bishop in the Historic Succession but not in communion  
 36 with this Church, the regularity of whose ordination is approved by the Presiding Bishop as permitted by  
 37 I.16.3, desires to be received as a Member of the Clergy in this Church, the person shall apply in writing to a  
 38 Bishop, attaching the following:

39 (1) Evidence that the person is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing in a Congregation of this  
 40 Church.

41 (2) Evidence of previous Ministry and that all other credentials are valid and authentic.

42 (3) Evidence of moral and godly character; and that the person is free from any vows or other engagements  
 43 inconsistent with the exercise of Holy Orders in this Church.

44 (4) Transcripts of all academic and theological studies.

45 (5) A certificate from at least two Presbyters of this Church stating that, from personal examination or from  
 46 satisfactory evidence presented to them, they believe that the departure of the person from the Communion  
 47 to which the person has belonged has not arisen from any circumstance unfavorable to moral or religious  
 48 character, or on account of which it may not be expedient to admit the person to Holy Orders in this  
 49 Church.

- 1 (6) Certificates in the forms provided in Canon III.8.6 and III.8.7 from the Rector or Member of the Clergy  
2 in charge and Vestry of a Parish of this Church.
- 3 (7) A statement of the reasons for seeking to enter Holy Orders in this Church.
- 4 **(b)** The provisions of Canon III.8.5(a) shall be applicable.
- 5 **(c)** If the person has exercised a ministry in the previous Church with good repute and success and if the  
6 person furnishes evidence of satisfactory theological training in the previous Church, then the applicant shall  
7 be examined by the Commission and show proficiency in the following subjects:
- 8 (1) Church History: the history of the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church.
- 9 (2) Doctrine: the Church's teaching as set forth in the Creeds and in An Outline of the Faith, commonly  
10 called the Catechism.
- 11 (3) Liturgics: the principles and history of Anglican worship; the contents of the Book of Common Prayer.
- 12 (4) Practical Theology:
- 13 (i). The office and work of a Deacon and Priest in this Church.
- 14 (ii). The conduct of public worship.
- 15 (iii). The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Diocese in which the applicant  
16 is resident.
- 17 (iv). The use of voice in reading and speaking.
- 18 (5) The points of Doctrine, Discipline, Polity, and Worship in which the Church from which the applicant  
19 has come differ from this Church. This portion of the examinations shall be conducted, in part at least, by  
20 written questions and answers, and the replies kept on file for at least three years.
- 21 **(d)** The Commission may, with the consent of the Bishop, and with notice to the applicant, examine the latter  
22 in any other subject required by Canon III.6.3 or III.8.4.
- 23 **(e)** Prior to being examined pursuant to Sec. 3(c) of this canon, the applicant shall have received certificates  
24 from the Bishop and from the Standing Committee that the applicant is acceptable as a Member of the Clergy  
25 of this Church, subject to the successful completion of the examination;
- 26 **(f)** Before the person may be ordained or received into Holy Orders in this Church, the Bishop shall require  
27 a promise in writing to submit in all things, to the Discipline of this Church without recourse to any other  
28 ecclesiastical jurisdiction or foreign civil jurisdiction, and shall further require the person to subscribe and  
29 make in the presence of the Bishop and two or more Presbyters the declaration required in Article VIII of  
30 the Constitution.
- 31 **(g)** Thereafter the Bishop, being satisfied of the person's theological qualifications and successful completion  
32 of the examination specified in Sec.3(c) of this Canon and soundness in the faith, shall:
- 33 (1) Receive, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, the person into this Church in the  
34 Orders to which already ordained by a Bishop in the historic succession; or
- 35 (2) Confirm and make the person a Deacon and, no sooner than four months thereafter, ordain as Priest,  
36 if the person has not received such ordination; or
- 37 (3) Ordain as a Deacon and (no sooner than six months thereafter, ordain the person a Priest conditionally  
38 (having baptized and confirmed the person conditionally if necessary) if ordained by a Bishop whose  
39 authority to convey such orders has not been recognized by this Church.
- 40 **(h)** In the case of an ordination under this Canon, the Bishop shall, at the time of such ordination, read this  
41 preface to the Service:
- 42 **The Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese is satisfied that A.B. accepts the Doctrine, Discipline,**  
43 **and Worship of this Church and now desires to be ordained a Deacon (or ordained a Priest) in this**  
44 **Church. We are about to confer upon A.B. the grace and authority of Holy Orders as this Church**  
45 **has received them and requires them for the exercise of the ministry of a Deacon (or a Priest).**
- 46 The certificates of ordination in such cases shall contain the words:
- 47 **Acknowledging the ministry which A.B. has already received and hereby adding to that commission**  
48 **the grace and authority of Holy Orders as understood and required by this Church for the exercise**  
49 **of the ministry of a Deacon (or a Priest).**

1 (i) In the case of a conditional ordination pursuant to this Canon, the Bishop shall at the time of such ordination,  
2 read this preface to the service:

3 **The Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese has been satisfied that A.B., who has been ordained**  
4 **by a Bishop whose authority has not been recognized by this Church, accepts the Doctrine,**  
5 **Discipline, and Worship of this Church, and now desires conditional ordination. By this service of**  
6 **ordination, we propose to establish that A.B. is qualified to exercise the ministry of a Deacon (or**  
7 **a Priest).**

8 (j) No one shall be ordained or received as a Deacon or Priest until age twenty-four.

9 (k) A Deacon received under this Canon, desiring to be ordained to the Priesthood must satisfy all the  
10 requirements for ordination as set forth in Canon III.8.

11 **Sec. 4. Clergy Ordained in Churches Not in the Historic Succession**

12 (a) If a person ordained or licensed by other than a Bishop in the Historic Succession to minister in a Church  
13 not in communion with this Church desires to be ordained,

14 (1) The person must first be a confirmed adult communicant in good standing in a Congregation of this  
15 Church;

16 (2) The Commission shall examine the applicant and report to the Bishop with respect to:

17 (i) Whether the applicant has served in the previous Church with diligence and good reputation and the  
18 causes which have impelled the applicant to leave the body and seek ordination in this Church,

19 (ii) The nature and extent of the applicant's education and theological training,

20 (iii) The preparations necessary for ordination to the Order(s) to which the applicant feels called;

21 (3) The provisions of Canon III.5,6, and 8 shall be followed except that the minimum period of Candidacy  
22 need not apply, if the Bishop and the Standing Committee at the recommendation of the Commission judge  
23 the Candidate to be ready for ordination to the Diaconate earlier than twelve months; the applicant shall  
24 be examined by the Commission and show proficiency in the following subjects:

25 (i) Church History: the history of the Anglican Church and the Episcopal Church in the United States  
26 of America,

27 (ii) Doctrine: the Church's teaching as set forth in the Creeds and in An Outline of the Faith, commonly  
28 called the Catechism;

29 (iii) Liturgics: the principles and history of Anglican worship; the contents of the Book of Common  
30 Prayer;

31 (iv) Practical Theology:

32 (a) The office and work of a Deacon and Priest in this Church,

33 (b) The conduct of public worship,

34 (c) The Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, and of the Diocese in which the applicant  
35 is resident,

36 (d) The use of voice in reading and speaking;

37 (v) The points of Doctrine, Discipline, Polity, and Worship in which the Church from which the applicant  
38 has come differs from this Church. This portion of the examinations shall be conducted, in part at least,  
39 by written questions and answers, and the replies kept on file for at least three years.

40 (4) Having fulfilled all the requirements of this Canon, the Bishop may ordain the Candidate a Deacon,  
41 and, no sooner than six months, thereafter, a Priest. At the time of such ordination the Bishop shall read  
42 this preface following the signing of the declaration of conformity:

43 **The Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese is satisfied that A.B. accepts the Doctrine, Discipline,**  
44 **and Worship of this Church and now desires to be ordained a Deacon (or ordained a Priest) in**  
45 **this Church. We are about to confer upon A.B. the grace and authority of Holy Orders as this**  
46 **Church has received them and requires them for the exercise of the ministry of a Deacon (or a**  
47 **Priest).**

48 In such cases, the ordination certificate shall contain the words:

1 Acknowledging the ministry which A.B. has already received and hereby adding to that  
 2 commission the grace and authority of Holy Orders as understood and required by this Church  
 3 for the exercise of the ministry of a Deacon (or a Priest).

4  
 5 **CANON 11: Of the Ordination of Bishops**

6  
 7 **Sec. 1.**

8 (a) Discernment of vocation to be a bishop occurs through a process of election in accordance with the rules  
 9 prescribed by the Convention of the Diocese and pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons  
 10 of this Church. With respect to the election of a Bishop Suffragan, the Diocese shall establish a nominating  
 11 process either by Canon or by the adoption of rules and procedure for the election of the Bishop Suffragan  
 12 at a regular or special Diocesan Convention with sufficient time preceding the election of the Bishop Suffragan.

13 (b) The Convention of a Diocese may request that an election be made on its behalf by the House of Bishops  
 14 of the Province of which the Diocese is a part, subject to confirmation by the Provincial Synod, or it may  
 15 request that an election be made on its behalf by the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church.

16 (1) If either option in Sec. 1(b) is chosen, a special Joint Nominating Committee shall be appointed unless  
 17 the Diocesan Convention has otherwise provided for the nominating process. The Committee shall be  
 18 composed of three persons from the Diocese, appointed by its Standing Committee, and three members  
 19 of the electoral body, appointed by the President of that body. The Joint Nominating Committee shall elect  
 20 its own officers and shall nominate three persons whose names it shall communicate to the Presiding Officer  
 21 of the electoral body. The Presiding Officer shall communicate the names of the nominees to the electoral  
 22 body at least three weeks before the election when the names shall be formally placed in nomination.  
 23 Opportunity for nominations from the floor shall be given.

24 (2) If either option in Sec. 1(b) is chosen, the evidence of the election shall be a certificate signed by the  
 25 Presiding Officer of the electoral body and by its Secretary, with a testimonial signed by a constitutional  
 26 majority of the body, in the form required in Canon III.16.3, which shall be sent to the Standing Committee  
 27 of the Diocese on whose behalf the election was held. The Standing Committee shall thereupon proceed  
 28 as set forth in Canon III.16.3 or 4.

29 (c) The Secretary of the body electing a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, shall inform  
 30 the Presiding Bishop promptly of the name of the person elected. It shall be the duty of the Bishop-elect to  
 31 notify the Presiding Bishop of acceptance or declination of the election, at the same time as the Bishop-elect  
 32 notifies the electing Diocese.

33 (d) No Diocese shall elect a Bishop within thirty days before a meeting of the General Convention.

34 **Sec. 2.** It shall be lawful, within six months prior to the effective date of the resignation of a Diocesan Bishop,  
 35 for the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, to call a special meeting of the  
 36 Convention of the Diocese to elect a successor; *Provided*, that if the Convention is to meet in regular session  
 37 meanwhile, it may hold the election during the regular session. The proceedings incident to reparation for the  
 38 ordination of the successor shall be as provided in this Canon; but the Presiding Bishop shall not take order  
 39 for the ordination to be on any date prior to that upon which the resignation is to become effective.

40 **Sec. 3.**

41 (a) When a Diocese desires the ordination of a Bishop-elect, if the date of the election occurs within ninety  
 42 days before a meeting of the General Convention, the Standing Committee of the Diocese shall, by its President,  
 43 or by some person or persons specially appointed, forward to the Secretary of the House of Deputies evidence  
 44 of the election of the Bishop elect by the Convention of the Diocese, together with evidence that the  
 45 Bishop-elect has been duly ordered Deacon and Priest, evidence of acceptance of election, and a testimonial  
 46 signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention, and a summary of biographical information relating to  
 47 the Bishop-elect; in the following words:

48 **We, whose names are hereunder written, fully sensible of how important it is that the Sacred Order**  
 49 **and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty**  
 50 **to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God,**



1 testify that we know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend A.B. ought not to be  
 2 ordained to that Holy Office. We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we believe the  
 3 Reverend A.B. to have been duly and lawfully elected and to be of such sufficiency in learning, of  
 4 such soundness in the Faith, and of such godly character as to be able to exercise the Office of a  
 5 Bishop to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church, and to be a wholesome example to the  
 6 flock of Christ.

7 (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

8 The Secretary of the Convention shall certify upon this testimonial that it has been signed by a constitutional  
 9 majority of the Convention.

10 (b) The Standing Committee shall also forward to the Secretary of the General Convention, with the testimonial  
 11 and other documents, certificates from a licensed medical doctor and licensed psychiatrist, appointed by the  
 12 Ecclesiastical Authority with the approval of the Presiding Bishop, that they have thoroughly examined the  
 13 Bishop-elect as to that person's medical, psychological and psychiatric condition and have not discovered any  
 14 reason why the person would not be fit to undertake the work for which the person has been chosen. Forms  
 15 and procedures agreed to by the Presiding Bishop and the Church Pension Fund shall be used for this purpose.

16 (c) The Secretary of the House of Deputies shall present the testimonials to the House, and if the House  
 17 consents to the ordination of the Bishop-elect, notice of its consent, certified by the President and the Secretary  
 18 of the House, together with the testimonials, shall be sent to the House of Bishops.

19 (d) If a majority of the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction consent to the ordination, the Presiding  
 20 Bishop shall, without delay, notify the Standing Committee of the Diocese electing and the Bishop-elect of  
 21 the consent.

22 **Sec. 4.**

23 (a) If the date of the election of a Bishop occurs more than one hundred and twenty days before the meeting  
 24 of the General Convention, The Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop has been elected  
 25 shall by its President, or by some person or persons specially appointed, immediately send to the Presiding  
 26 Bishop and to the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses a certificate of the election by the Secretary  
 27 of Convention of the Diocese, bearing a statement that evidence of the Bishop-elect's having been duly ordered  
 28 Deacon and Priest as to the Bishop-elect's medical, psychological and psychiatric examination required in Sec.  
 29 3(b) of this Canon have been received and that a testimonial signed by a constitutional majority of the  
 30 Convention must also be delivered in the following form:

31 **We, whose names are hereunder written, fully sensible of how important it is that the Sacred Order**  
 32 **and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty**  
 33 **to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God,**  
 34 **testify that we know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend A.B. ought not to be**  
 35 **ordained to that Holy Office. We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we believe the**  
 36 **Reverend A.B. to have been duly and lawfully elected and to be of such sufficiency in learning, of**  
 37 **such soundness in the Faith, and of such godly character as to be able to exercise the Office of a**  
 38 **Bishop to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church, and to be a wholesome example to the**  
 39 **flock of Christ.**

40 (Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

41 The Presiding Bishop, without delay, shall notify every Bishop of this Church exercising jurisdiction of the  
 42 Presiding Bishop's receipt of the certificates mentioned in this Section and request a statement of consent or  
 43 withholding of consent. Each Standing Committee, in not more than one hundred and twenty days after the  
 44 sending by the electing body of the certificate of the election, shall respond by sending the Standing Committee  
 45 of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected either the testimonial of consent in the form set out in paragraph  
 46 (b) of this Section or written notice of its refusal to give consent. If a majority of the Standing Committees of  
 47 all the Dioceses consents to the ordination of the Bishop-elect, the Standing Committee of the Diocese for  
 48 which the Bishop is elected shall then forward the evidence of the consent, with the other necessary documents  
 49 described in Sec. 3(a) of this Canon, to the Presiding Bishop. If the Presiding Bishop receives sufficient  
 50 statements to indicate a majority of those Bishops consents to the ordination, the Presiding Bishop shall,

1 without delay, notify the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected and the  
 2 Bishop-elect of the consent.

3 **(b)** Evidence of the consent of each Standing Committee shall be a testimonial in the following words, signed  
 4 by a majority of all the members of the Committee:

5 **We, being a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee of \_\_\_\_\_, and having**  
 6 **been duly convened at \_\_\_\_\_, fully sensible how important it is that the Sacred Order**  
 7 **and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty**  
 8 **to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God,**  
 9 **testify that we know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend A.B. ought not to be**  
 10 **ordained to that Holy Order. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this \_\_\_\_ day**  
 11 **of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_.**

12 **(Signed)** \_\_\_\_\_

13 **Sec. 5.** In case a majority of all the Standing Committees of the Dioceses do not consent to the ordination of  
 14 the Bishop-elect within one hundred and twenty days from the date of the notification of the election by the  
 15 Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop was elected, or in case a majority of all the Bishops  
 16 exercising jurisdiction do not consent within one hundred and twenty days from the date of notification to  
 17 them by the Presiding Bishop of the election, the Presiding Bishop shall declare the election null and void and  
 18 shall give notice to the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop was elected and to the  
 19 Bishop-elect. The Convention of the Diocese may then proceed to a new election.

20 **Sec. 6.** Upon receipt of the consents and assurance of the acceptance of the election by the Bishop-elect, the  
 21 Presiding Bishop shall take order for the ordination of the Bishop-elect either by the Presiding Bishop or the  
 22 President of the House of Bishops of the Province of which the Diocese for which the Bishop was elected is  
 23 part, and two other Bishops of this Church, or by any three Bishops to whom the Presiding Bishop may  
 24 communicate the testimonials.

25 **Sec. 7.** In all particulars the service at the ordination of a Bishop shall be under the direction of the Bishop  
 26 presiding at the ordination.

27 **Sec. 8.** No person shall be ordained Bishop unless the person shall at the time, and in the presence of the  
 28 ordaining Bishops and congregation, subscribe to and make the declaration required in Article VIII of the  
 29 Constitution.

30 **Sec. 9.**

31 **(a)** Within ten days after the election of a Bishop Diocesan, a Bishop Coadjutor, or a Bishop Suffragan by a  
 32 Diocesan Convention, delegates constituting no less than 10% of the number of delegates casting votes on  
 33 the final ballot may file with the Secretary of the Convention written objections to the election process, setting  
 34 forth in detail all alleged irregularities. Within ten days after receipt thereof, the Secretary of the Convention  
 35 shall forward copies of the same to the Bishop Diocesan, the Chancellor and Standing Committee of the  
 36 Diocese, and to the Presiding Bishop, who shall request the Court of Review of the Province in which the  
 37 Diocese is located to investigate the complaint. The Court of Review may invite response by the Bishop  
 38 Diocesan, the Chancellor, the Standing Committee and any other persons within the Diocese for which the  
 39 Bishop was elected. Within thirty days after receipt of the request, the Court of Review shall send a written  
 40 report of its findings to the Presiding Bishop, a copy of which report the Presiding Bishop, within fifteen days,  
 41 shall cause to be sent to the Bishop Diocesan, the Chancellor, the Standing Committee and the Secretary of  
 42 the Convention of the electing Diocese. The Secretary shall send a copy of the report to each of the delegates  
 43 who filed objection to the election process.

44 **(b)** If the election has taken place within one hundred and twenty days before a meeting of the General  
 45 Convention, the report shall be sent with the evidence of election and testimonials as provided in Section 3(a)  
 46 of this Canon.

47 **(c)** If the election has taken place more than one hundred and twenty days before the meeting of the General  
 48 Convention, the report of the Court of Review shall be sent to the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses,  
 49 with the Certificate of the Secretary of the electing Convention relating to consent to ordain. Likewise, the  
 50 Presiding Bishop shall include the report in the communication to the Bishops exercising jurisdiction.

**1 Sec. 10. Other Bishops****2 Bishops Coadjutor**

3 (1) If a diocese discerns a need for another Bishop in order to provide for orderly transition, the diocese  
4 may elect a Bishop Coadjutor who shall have the right of succession. The consent of a majority of the  
5 Bishops exercising jurisdiction and of the several Standing Committees must be obtained. The election will  
6 be in accordance with this canon.

7 (2) Before an election of a Bishop Coadjutor, the Bishop Diocesan shall read, or cause to be read, to the  
8 Convention the Bishop's written consent to the election. The consent shall state the duties to be assigned  
9 to the Bishop Coadjutor when ordained. The consent shall form part of the proceedings of the Convention.  
10 The duties assigned by the Diocesan Bishop to the Bishop Coadjutor may be enlarged by mutual consent.

11 (3) In the case of the inability of the Bishop Diocesan to issue the required consent, the Standing Committee  
12 of the Diocese may request the Convention to act without the consent. The request shall be accompanied  
13 by a certificate by at least two licensed medical doctors, psychologists or psychiatrists as to the inability of  
14 the Diocesan Bishop to issue the written consent.

15 (4) When a Diocese desires the ordination of a Bishop Coadjutor, the Standing Committee shall forward to  
16 the Presiding Bishop, in addition to the evidence and testimonials required by Canon III.10, a certificate of  
17 the Presiding Officer and Secretary of the Convention that every requirement of this Section has been  
18 complied with.

19 (5) There shall be only one Bishop Coadjutor in any Diocese.

**20 (b) Bishops Suffragan**

21 (1) If a diocese discerns a need for another Bishop due to the extent of diocesan work, the Diocese may  
22 elect a Bishop Suffragan in accordance with this canon.

23 (2) Before the election of a Bishop Suffragan in a Diocese, the consent of a majority of the Bishops exercising  
24 jurisdiction and of the several Standing Committees must be obtained.

25 (3)

26 (i) A Bishop Suffragan shall act as an assistant to and under the direction of the Bishop Diocesan.

27 (ii) Before the election of Bishop Suffragan in a Diocese, the Bishop Diocesan shall submit a consent  
28 with a description of the role and the duties of the Bishop Suffragan to the Convention of the Diocese.

29 (4) The tenure of office of a Bishop Suffragan shall not be determined by the tenure of office of the Bishop  
30 Diocesan.

31 (5) No Bishop Suffragan, while acting as such, shall be Rector or Member of the Clergy in charge of a Parish  
32 or Congregation.

**33 (c) Missionary Bishops**

34 (1) The election of a person to be a Bishop in a Missionary Diocese shall be held in accordance with the  
35 procedures set forth in the Constitution and Canons of Canon III.11.

36 (2) The Convention of a Missionary Diocese may, in lieu of electing a Bishop, request that such election  
37 be made on its behalf by the Synod of the Province, or the House of Bishops of the Province subject to  
38 confirmation of the Provincial Council, or the Regional Council of Churches in communion with this  
39 Church of which the Diocese is a member. A Certificate of the Election, signed by the presiding officer  
40 and the Secretary of the Synod or Provincial House of Bishops, or Regional Council, and a testimonial in  
41 the form required in Canon III.11 signed by a constitutional majority of the Synod, Provincial House of  
42 Bishops or Regional council, shall be transmitted by its presiding officer to the Standing Committee of the  
43 Missionary Diocese on whose behalf such election was made. The Standing Committee shall thereupon  
44 proceed as set forth in Canon III.11, the above Certification of Election and Testimonial serving in lieu of  
45 evidence of election and testimonial therein required.

46 (3) The Convention of a Missionary Diocese may, in lieu of electing a Bishop, request that such election  
47 may be made on its behalf by the House of Bishops. Such choice shall be subject to confirmation by a  
48 majority of the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses. The medical certificate as required in Canon  
49 III.11 shall also be required of Missionary Bishops-elect.

(i) When the House of Bishops is to elect a Bishop for a Missionary Diocese within a given Province, the President of the Province may convene the Synod of the Province prior to the meeting of the House of Bishops at which a Bishop for such Missionary Diocese is to be elected. The Synod of the Province may thereupon nominate not exceeding three persons to the House of Bishops for that office. It shall be the duty of the President of the Province to transmit such nominations, if any be made, to the Presiding Officer of the House of Bishops, communicate the same to the Bishops, along with other nominations that have been made, in accordance with the Rules of Order of the House. Each Province containing a Missionary Diocese shall, by Ordinance, provide the manner of convening the Synod and making such nomination.

(ii) The evidence of such choice shall be a certificate signed by the Bishop presiding in the House of Bishops and by its Secretary, with a testimonial, or certified copy thereof, signed by a majority of the Bishops of the House, in the form required in Canon III.11, which shall be sent to the Presiding Officer of the House of Deputies, or the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses.

(iii) When the Presiding Bishop shall have received a certificate signed by the Presidents and Secretaries of a majority of the Standing Committees, that the election has been approved, and shall have received notice of the acceptance by the Bishop-elect of the election, the Presiding Bishop shall take order for the consecration of the said Bishop-elect either by the Presiding Bishop and two other Bishops of this Church, or by three Bishops of this Church to whom the Presiding Bishop may communicate the certificates and testimonial.

(4) When a Diocese, entitled to the choice of a Bishop, shall elect as its Bishop Diocesan, or as its Bishop Coadjutor, or as a Bishop Suffragan; a Missionary Bishop of this Church, if such election shall have taken place within one hundred and twenty days before a meeting of the General Convention, evidence thereof shall be laid before each House of the General Convention, and the concurrence of each House, and its express consent, shall be necessary to the validity of said election, and shall complete the same, so that the Bishop thus elected shall be thereafter the Bishop of the Diocese which has elected such Bishop.

(5) If the said election has taken place more than one hundred and twenty days before a meeting of the General Convention, the above process may be adopted, or the following instead thereof, viz: When a Diocese, entitled to the choice of a Bishop, shall elect as its Bishop Diocesan, or as its Bishop Coadjutor, or as a Bishop Suffragan, a Missionary Bishop of this Church the Standing Committee of the Diocese electing shall give duly certified evidence of the election to every Bishop of this Church having jurisdiction, and to the Standing Committee of every Diocese. On receiving notice of the concurrence of a majority of such Bishops and of the Standing Committees in the election, and their express consent thereto, the Standing Committee of the diocese electing shall transmit notice thereof to the Ecclesiastical Authority of every Diocese within the United States; which notice shall state what Bishops and what Standing Committees have consented to the election. On receiving this notice the Presiding Bishop shall certify to the Secretary of the House of Bishops the altered status and style of the Bishop so elected.

(6) The Standing Committee of such Diocese shall transmit to every Congregation thereof, to be publicly read therein, a notice of the election thus completed, and also cause public notice thereof to be given in such other way as they may think proper.

(7) In the event of a vacancy in the episcopate of a Missionary Diocese, on account of death, resignation, or other cause, the Standing Committee shall become the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof until the vacancy is filled.

**CANON 12: Of the Life and Work of a Bishop**

**Sec. 1. Formation**

Following election and continuing for three years following ordination, new Bishops shall pursue the process of formation authorized by the House of Bishops. This process of formation shall provide a mentor for each newly ordained Bishop.

**Sec. 2. Continuing Education**

1 The House of Bishops shall require and provide for the continuing education of Bishops and shall keep a  
 2 record of such education.

3 **Sec. 3. Duties**

4 (a) Each Bishop Diocesan shall visit the Congregations within the Diocese at least once in three years. Interim  
 5 visits may be delegated to another Bishop of this Church.

6 (1) At every such visitation the visiting Bishop shall preside at the Holy Eucharist and at the Initiatory Rites,  
 7 as required, preach the Word, examine the records of the Congregation required by Canon III.9, and examine  
 8 the life and ministry of the Clergy and Congregation according to Canon III.9.

9 (2) If no visitation has occurred in a congregation for three years, the Bishop Diocesan or the Member of  
 10 the Clergy in charge and Vestry or comparable body may apply to the Presiding Bishop to appoint five  
 11 Bishops Diocesan who live nearest to the Diocese in which such Congregation is situated as a Council of  
 12 Conciliation. The Council shall determine all matters of difference between the parties, and each party shall  
 13 conform to the decision of the Council. *Provided*, that, in case of any subsequent trial of either party for  
 14 failure to conform to the decision, any right of the Accused under the Constitutions and Canons of this  
 15 Church or the Diocese holding the trial may be pleaded and established as a sufficient defense,  
 16 notwithstanding the former decision; and *Provided, further*, that, in any case, the Bishop may at any time apply  
 17 for such Council of Conciliation.

18 (b) The Bishop Diocesan may deliver, from time to time, a Charge to the Clergy of the Diocese and a Pastoral  
 19 Letter to the people of the Diocese on points of doctrine, discipline, or worship. The Bishop may require the  
 20 Clergy to read the Pastoral Letter to their Congregations.

21 (c) Each Bishop shall keep a record of all official acts, which record shall be the property of the Diocese and  
 22 shall be transmitted to the Bishop's successor.

23 (d) At each Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Convention the Bishop Diocesan shall make a report of the  
 24 State of the Diocese since the last Annual Meeting of the Convention; including the names of the Congregations  
 25 visited; the number of persons confirmed and received; the names of those who have been admitted as  
 26 Postulants and Candidates for Holy Orders, of those ordained, and of those suspended or deposed from Holy  
 27 Orders; the changes by death, removal, or otherwise, which have taken place among the Clergy; and other  
 28 matters the Bishop desires to present to the Convention; which statement shall be inserted in the Journal.

29 (e) No Bishop shall perform episcopal acts or officiate by preaching, ministering the Sacraments, or holding  
 30 any public service in a Diocese other than that in which the Bishop is canonically resident, without permission  
 31 or a license to perform occasional public services from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which  
 32 the Bishop desires to officiate or perform episcopal acts.

33 (f) **Residency**

34 (1) Each Bishop serving in a Diocese shall reside in that Diocese.

35 (2) The Bishop Diocesan shall not be absent from the Diocese for a period of more than three consecutive  
 36 months without the consent of the Convention or the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

37 (3) A Bishop Diocesan, whenever leaving the Diocese for six consecutive months, shall authorize in writing,  
 38 under hand and seal, the Bishop Coadjutor, the Bishop Suffragan if the Constitution and Canons of the  
 39 Diocese so provide, or, should there be none, the Standing Committee of the Diocese, to act as the  
 40 Ecclesiastical Authority thereof during the absence. The Bishop Coadjutor, or the Bishop Suffragan if the  
 41 Constitution and Canons of the Diocese so provide, or, should there be none, the Standing Committee  
 42 may at any time become the Ecclesiastical Authority upon the written request of the Bishop and continue  
 43 to act as such until the request is revoked by the Bishop Diocesan in writing.

44 **Sec. 4. Assistant Bishops**

45 (a) When a Diocese, in the opinion of its Bishop, requires additional episcopal services, the Bishop may, with  
 46 the consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, ask the Convention of the Diocese to approve the  
 47 creation of the position of Assistant Bishop and to authorize the Bishop to appoint a Bishop for the position,  
 48 with the consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, and under such conditions as the Bishop may  
 49 determine.

50 (b) An Assistant Bishop may be appointed from among the following:

- 1 (1) Bishops Diocesan, Bishops Coadjutor, or Bishops Suffragan, who under the Constitution and Canons  
 2 of this Church would be eligible for election in that Diocese; *Provided*, that at the time of accepting any such  
 3 appointment a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan shall resign that office;  
 4 (2) Bishops of this Church who, having resigned their previous responsibilities, are qualified to perform  
 5 episcopal acts in this Church; and  
 6 (3) Bishops of a Church in communion with this Church, in good standing therein, if they:  
 7 (i) have previously resigned their former responsibilities;  
 8 (ii) have received approval, by a competent authority within the Church of their ordination of their  
 9 appointment to the position of Assistant Bishop;  
 10 (iii) have exhibited satisfactory evidence of moral and godly character and having met theological  
 11 requirements;  
 12 (iv) have promised in a writing submitted to the Bishop making the appointment to submit in all things  
 13 to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of this Church; and thorough examination covering their medical,  
 14 (v) have submitted to and satisfactorily passed a psychological and psychiatric condition by recognized  
 15 and licensed professionals appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese with the approval of  
 16 the Presiding Bishop. The forms for medical, psychological and psychiatric reports prepared by The  
 17 Church Pension Fund shall be used for these purposes.  
 18 (4) Before the appointment of a Bishop who is not otherwise a member of the House of Bishops as an  
 19 Assistant Bishop under the provisions of Secs. 4(b)(2) or 4(b)(3) of this Canon, the consent of the House  
 20 of Bishops or, if the appointment is to be made more than three months prior to a meeting of the House  
 21 of Bishops, the consent of a majority of Bishops exercising jurisdiction must be obtained.
- 22 (c) Before an Assistant Bishop so appointed begins service in this position, the Bishop of the Diocese shall  
 23 give certified evidence of the appointment to the Secretary of the House of Bishops and shall transmit notice  
 24 of the appointment to the Presiding Bishop and to the Ecclesiastical Authority of every Diocese.
- 25 (d) An Assistant Bishop shall serve at the discretion, and under the control and direction of, the Bishop  
 26 Diocesan.
- 27 (e) No person may serve as an Assistant Bishop beyond the termination of the jurisdiction of the appointing  
 28 Bishop or after attaining the age of seventy-two years.

29 **Sec. 5. Missionary Bishops**

- 30 (a) Any Bishop or Bishops elected and consecrated as a Missionary Bishop shall be entitled to a seat, voice  
 31 and vote in the House of Bishops, and shall be eligible for election to the office of Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor  
 32 or Bishop Suffragan in any organized Diocese within the United States; *Provided*, that such Bishop shall not  
 33 be so eligible within five years from the date of consecration, except to the office of Bishop of Diocese formed  
 34 in whole or in part out of such Missionary Diocese.
- 35 (b) In the case of the permanent impairment of the Bishop of a Missionary Diocese, where the said Bishop  
 36 shall not have submitted a resignation of jurisdiction, the Presiding Bishop shall, upon certification of the said  
 37 permanent impairment by at least three reputable physicians, declare the jurisdiction vacant.
- 38 (c) When the Bishop of a Missionary Diocese is unable, by reason of age or other permanent cause of  
 39 impairment, fully to discharge the duties of office, a Bishop Coadjutor may be elected by the said Diocese,  
 40 subject to the provisions of Canon III.11.

41 **Sec. 6. Renunciation of the Ordained Ministry**

- 42 (a) If any Bishop of this Church not subject to the provisions of Canon IV.8 shall declare, in writing, to the  
 43 Presiding Bishop a renunciation of the ordained Ministry of this Church, and a desire to be removed therefrom,  
 44 it shall be the duty of the Presiding Bishop to record the declaration and request so made. The Presiding  
 45 Bishop, being satisfied that the person so declaring is not subject to the provisions of Canon IV.8 but is acting  
 46 voluntarily and for causes, assigned or known, which do not affect the person's moral character, shall lay the  
 47 matter before the Advisory Council to the Presiding Bishop, and with the advice and consent of a majority  
 48 of the members of the Advisory Council the Presiding Bishop may pronounce that such renunciation is  
 49 accepted, and that the Bishop is released from the obligations of all Ministerial offices, and is deprived of the  
 50 right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority as a Minister of God's Word and Sacraments conferred in

1 Ordinations. The Presiding Bishop shall also declare in pronouncing and recording such action that it was for  
 2 causes which do not affect the person's moral character, and shall, if desired, give a certificate to this effect to  
 3 the person so removed.

4 (b) If a Bishop making the aforesaid declaration of the renunciation of the ordained Ministry be under  
 5 Presentment for any canonical Offense, or shall have been placed on Trial for the same, the Presiding Bishop  
 6 shall not consider or act upon such declaration until after the Presentment shall have been dismissed or the  
 7 said Trial shall have been concluded and the Bishop judged not to have committed an Offense.

8 (c) In the case of such renunciation by a Bishop as provided in this Canon, a declaration of removal shall be  
 9 pronounced by the Presiding Bishop in the presence of two or more Bishops, and shall be entered in the  
 10 official records of the House of Bishops and of the Diocese in which the Bishop being removed is canonically  
 11 resident. The Presiding Bishop shall give notice thereof in writing to the Secretary of the Convention and the  
 12 Ecclesiastical Authority and the Standing Committee of the Diocese in which the Bishop was canonically  
 13 resident, to all Bishops of this Church, the Ecclesiastical Authority of each diocese of this Church, the Recorder,  
 14 the Secretary of the House of Bishops, the Secretary of the General Convention, the Church Pension Fund,  
 15 and the Church Deployment Board.

16 **Sec. 7. The Resignation or Incapacity of Bishops**

17 (a) Each Bishop, upon attaining the age of seventy-two years, shall resign as required by Article II, Sec. 9 of  
 18 the Constitution. The resignation shall be sent to the Presiding Bishop, who shall immediately communicate  
 19 it to every Bishop of this Church exercising jurisdiction and shall declare the resignation accepted, effective  
 20 at a designated date not later than three months from the date the resignation was tendered.

21 (b) The Presiding Bishop shall communicate to the resigning Bishop the acceptance of the resignation effective  
 22 as of the date fixed. In the case of a Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor, the Presiding Bishop shall certify  
 23 the resignation to the Standing Committee of the Diocese concerned, and in the case of other Bishops, to the  
 24 Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese concerned. The Presiding Bishop shall also order the Secretary of the  
 25 House of Bishops to record the resignation, effective as of the date fixed, to be incorporated in the Journal  
 26 of the House.

27 (c) If any Bishop, for any reason, fails to resign upon attaining the age of seventy-two years, as provided in  
 28 Sec.6 of this Canon, the Presiding Bishop shall certify that fact to the House of Bishops. The House of Bishops  
 29 shall then declare the Bishop's position terminated, effective at a date not later than three months from the  
 30 date of declaration; and shall order the Presiding Bishop's certificate and its own declaration and action to be  
 31 recorded in its Journal. The Presiding Bishop shall then pronounce the position terminated, effective as of  
 32 the date fixed, and shall communicate the fact to the Bishop Diocesan and Standing Committee of each  
 33 Diocese.

34 (d) Any Bishop who desires to resign shall send the resignation with the reasons therefore in writing to the  
 35 Presiding Bishop at least thirty days before the date set for a meeting of the House of Bishops. The Presiding  
 36 Bishop shall notify without delay every Bishop of this Church, and the Standing Committee of the Diocese  
 37 of the Bishop desiring to resign, in order that the Standing Committee may be heard on behalf of the Diocese,  
 38 either in person or by correspondence, upon the subject. The House during its session shall accept or refuse  
 39 the resignation by a majority of those present.

40 (e) If a resignation has been tendered more than three months before a meeting of the House of Bishops, the  
 41 Presiding Bishop shall communicate it, together with any statement from the Standing Committee of the  
 42 Diocese concerned, to every Bishop of this Church. If a majority of the Bishops consents to the resignation,  
 43 the Presiding Bishop, without delay, shall notify the resigning Bishop and the Standing Committee of the  
 44 Diocese concerned of the acceptance of the resignation, effective as of the date fixed. The Presiding Bishop  
 45 shall also order the Secretary of the House of Bishops to record the resignation, effective as of the date fixed,  
 46 to be incorporated in the Journal of the House.

47 (f) At each meeting of the General Convention, the Presiding Bishop shall communicate to the House of  
 48 Deputies, when in session, a list of the resignations which have been accepted since the preceding meeting of  
 49 the General Convention.

- 1 **(g)** A resigned Bishop shall be subject in all matters to the Constitution and Canons of this Church and to  
 2 the authority of the General Convention.
- 3 **(h)** A resigned Bishop may only perform any episcopal act at the request of or with the permission of the  
 4 Bishop Diocesan within that Bishop's Diocese. A resigned Bishop may, by vote of the Convention of any  
 5 Diocese and with the consent of the Bishop of that Diocese, be given an honorary seat in the Convention,  
 6 with voice but without vote, or be given an honorary seat in the Cathedral of any Diocese, by and subject to  
 7 the authority competent to grant such seat. The resigned Bishop shall report all official acts to the Bishop  
 8 Diocesan and to the Diocese in which the acts are performed. These provisions shall also be applicable to a  
 9 resigned Bishop of another Church in communion with this Church, subject to the approval of competent  
 10 authority within the other Church, where such approval may be required.
- 11 **(i)** A resigned Bishop may, at the discretion of the Bishop of the Diocese in which the resigned Bishop resides,  
 12 and upon presentation of Letters Dimissory from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the  
 13 resigned Bishop has had canonical residence most recently, be enrolled among the Clergy of the new Diocese,  
 14 and become subject to its Constitution and Canons including being given a seat and vote in the Diocesan  
 15 Convention, in accordance with its canonical provisions for qualification of clergy members.
- 16 **(j)** When a resigned Bishop accepts a pastoral charge or other ministerial post within a Diocese, the Bishop  
 17 Diocesan shall process the Letters Dimissory, and the resigned Bishop shall be enrolled among the Clergy of  
 18 the Diocese and be given seat and vote in the Diocesan Convention in accordance with the canonical provisions  
 19 of the Diocese for qualification of clergy members, and subject to the provisions of paragraph (o) of this  
 20 section.
- 21 **(k)** A resigned Bishop may, with the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese in which the resigned Bishop  
 22 resides, accept a pastoral charge in that Diocese, and, subject to the Diocese's canonical provisions for the  
 23 filling of vacancies, may accept election as the Rector of a Parish therein.
- 24 **(l)** A resigned Bishop may, with the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese in which the resigned Bishop  
 25 resides, accept any position created under the authority of the Diocesan Convention, including that of Assistant  
 26 Bishop and may, at the same time, occupy a pastoral charge.
- 27 **(m)** A resigned bishop over the age of seventy-two may accept an appointment by a Bishop Diocesan for a  
 28 term not to exceed twelve months, and this term may be renewed.
- 29 **(n)** Enrollment among the Clergy of, or acceptance of any position within, a Diocese shall not deprive a  
 30 resigned Bishop of the seat and vote in the House of Bishops to which the Bishop may be entitled under  
 31 Article I, Sec. 2 of the Constitution.
- 32 **(o)** The provisions of this section shall be applicable to a resigned Bishop who continues to reside within the  
 33 limits of the resigned Bishop's former Diocese, except that the resigned Bishop shall not have the right to  
 34 vote in the Diocesan Convention, unless the Canons of the Diocese specifically so provide.
- 35 **(p)** When it is certified to the Presiding Bishop, by at least two licensed medical doctors, psychologists or  
 36 psychiatrists, who have examined the case, that a Bishop Diocesan is incapable of authorizing the Bishop  
 37 Coadjutor, if there is one, or a Bishop Suffragan, if there is one, or the Standing Committee to act as the  
 38 Ecclesiastical Authority, then, upon the advice of five Bishops of neighboring Dioceses selected by the Presiding  
 39 Bishop, the Presiding Bishop shall declare the Bishop Coadjutor, or a Bishop Suffragan, if the Constitution  
 40 and Canons of the Diocese so provide, or the Standing Committee to be the Ecclesiastical Authority for all  
 41 purposes set forth in these Canons and to retain such canonical authority until the Presiding Bishop, acting  
 42 upon a like certificate, declares the Bishop Diocesan competent to resume official duties.
- 43 **(q)** If it is certified to the Ecclesiastical Authority of a Diocese by two licensed medical doctors, psychologists  
 44 or psychiatrists, selected by the Ecclesiastical Authority, that the Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese is permanently  
 45 unable, by reason of medical, psychological or psychiatric condition, to carry out the duties of Bishop Coadjutor,  
 46 the Ecclesiastical Authority, upon the advice of three Bishops of three neighboring Dioceses, may declare that  
 47 the right of succession of the Bishop Coadjutor is terminated and a new Bishop Coadjutor may then be elected  
 48 as provided in Canon III.11.

49

50 **CANON 13: Of Dioceses without Bishops**



- 1  
 2 **Sec. 1.** A Diocese without a Bishop may, by an act of its Convention, and in consultation with the Presiding  
 3 Bishop, be placed under the provisional charge and authority of a Bishop of another Diocese or of a resigned  
 4 Bishop, who shall by that act be authorized to exercise all the duties and offices of the Bishop of the Diocese  
 5 until a Bishop is elected and ordained for that Diocese or until the act of the Convention is revoked.  
 6 **Sec. 2.** Any Bishop may, on the invitation of the Convention or of the Standing Committee of any Diocese  
 7 where there is no Bishop, visit and exercise episcopal offices in that Diocese or any part of it. This invitation  
 8 may include a letter of agreement, shall be for a stated period and may be revoked at any time.  
 9 **Sec. 3.** A Diocese, while under the provisional charge of a Bishop, shall not invite any other Bishop to visit  
 10 and exercise episcopal acts or authority without the consent of the Bishop in charge.

**TITLE III WORK GROUP RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution A083 Clergy Resignation Age**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention authorize the Office for Ministry  
 2 Development to convene a task force to study the optimum mandatory resignation age for clergy and to make  
 3 its report to the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention. Members of the Task Force should include, but not be limited to,  
 4 representatives from The Office for Ministry Development, The Church Pension Group, the Standing  
 5 Commission on Ministry Development, the Church Deployment Office and the Task Force on Aging; and  
 6 be it further  
 7 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Commission on Budget and Finance to  
 8 consider a budget allocation of \$25,000 to implement this resolution.

**Resolution A084 Amend I.11.2(g)**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That Canon III.17.7 is hereby amended and that the deleted sentence  
 2 be moved to Canon I.11.2:  
 3 Sec. 7. In the event of a vacancy in the episcopate of a Missionary Diocese, on account of death, resignation,  
 4 or other cause, the Standing Committee shall become the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof until the vacancy is  
 5 filled.  
 6 ~~In the event of a vacancy in the office of Bishop assigned jurisdiction in an Area Mission, the charge thereof~~  
 7 ~~shall devolve upon the Presiding Bishop, with the power of appointing some other Bishop as his substitute~~  
 8 ~~in such charge, until the vacancy is filled by the House of Bishops.~~  
 9 And be it further  
 10 *Resolved*, That Canon I.11.2 is hereby amended to add a new subsection:  
 11 *(g) In the event of a vacancy in the office of Bishop assigned jurisdiction in an Area Mission, the charge thereof shall devolve upon*  
 12 *the Presiding Bishop, with the power of appointing some other Bishop as his substitute in such charge, until the vacancy is filled*  
 13 *by the House of Bishops.*

EXPLANATION

This paragraph describes the organization of an Area Mission and its Episcopal oversight not the ordination, life or work of bishops, therefore it is better suited for inclusion in Title I, "Organization and Administration."

**Resolution A085 Amend Constitution II.2 [First Reading]**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That Article II.2 of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:  
 2 Sec. 2. No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop until the attainment of thirty years of age; nor without  
 3 the consent of a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses, and the consent of a majority of  
 4 the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction. ~~But if the election shall have taken place within three months~~  
 5 ~~next before the meeting of the General Convention, the consent of the House of Deputies shall be required~~  
 6 ~~in place of that of a majority of the Standing Committees.~~ No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop  
 7 by fewer than three Bishops.

EXPLANATION

By the General Convention of 1808, Standing Committees were appointed in all Dioceses of the Episcopal Church. In the canons of the 1820 General Convention it is clear that the Standing Committee consent process is the norm (White and Dykman, Vol. 2, 1981 Edition, pp. 699-722). Given the state of communication in the modern era, it seems unnecessary to deviate from that norm. The mail system has improved since 1798 and is somewhat more reliable and we have many other forms of communication which could make the consent process more timely and efficient. The Standing Committee has functioned from early in our history (at least since 1808) as “canonical custodian” as well as the body which gave consent, along with Diocesan Bishops, to Episcopal election on behalf of the wider Church. It would appear that the conditions of travel and communications that faced the colonial church are no longer barriers to the consent process in the 21st Century. Establishing a single norm of process would be most helpful to the Church, especially in these times of difficulty and instability.

**Resolution A086 Committee for Pastoral Materials**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, the 75th General Convention authorize the Standing Commission
- 2 on Ministry Development to create a committee that will facilitate the development of training materials for
- 3 clergy regarding legal requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of
- 4 abuse; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That members of the committee will include, but not be limited to, representatives from the Church
- 6 Pension Group, the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, the Standing Commission on Constitution
- 7 and Canons, the Executive Council Committee on the Status of Women, the Task Force on Aging, the Nathan
- 8 Network, and the Institutional Wellness and the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Task Force; and be it further
- 9 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Ministry Development oversee this work and report to the 76th
- 10 General Convention; and be it further
- 11 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget and Finance
- 12 to consider a budget allocation of \$60,000 for implementation of this resolution.

**Resolution A087 Committee on Missionary Dioceses**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 75th General Convention direct the Standing Commission
- 2 on Domestic Mission and Evangelism to create a committee to explore the possibility of a new definition for
- 3 “Missionary Dioceses.” The ten member committee should include, but not be limited to, representatives of
- 4 the Domestic Missionary Partnership, the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, the Office of
- 5 Ethnic Congregational Development, the Office of Congregational Development, the Standing Commission
- 6 on Domestic Mission and Evangelism, and the Office of the Director of Mission; and be it further
- 7 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Domestic Mission and Evangelism report on this work to the 76th
- 8 General Convention; and be it further
- 9 *Resolved*, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Commission on Program, Budget and Finance
- 10 to consider a budget allocation of \$10,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

The term “Missionary Diocese” as it appears in the Constitution is based on a geographic definition of “diocese.” The requirements of the constitution limit the way in which communities of faith can be formed into larger entities unless certain jurisdictional, Anglican Communion-wide, and property requirements have been met. This committee would explore the possibilities of other definitions of “diocese” that would take into account the changing demographic situation in the world and consider new ways in which the Episcopal Church could carry out its mission.

**Work Group: Ministry in Daily Life**

In early 2005, the Ministry in Daily Life work group surveyed COM chairpersons to learn about the intentional work dioceses are doing on this topic. Of the 25 responses, very few indicated an active focus on discernment or support for ministry beyond the Church. A number of dioceses indicated they were studying the subject and all dioceses are encouraged to take advantage of the publications and the web resources of The Episcopal Church.

The Church must define “ministry” as that which engages Christians beyond the Church and the following resolution is one way to meet this goal. It requests that the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to consult with the SCMD and to create liturgies for the *Book of Occasional Services* to recognize and celebrate the ministry of baptized persons beyond the Church. In addition, stories about daily life ministries would be gathered and could be used for teaching in congregations or in seminaries.

**Resolution A088 Daily Life Liturgies**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 75th General Convention direct the Standing Commission
- 2 on Liturgy and Music to develop liturgies which recognize and celebrate ministry in daily life for inclusion in
- 3 the next edition of the “Book of Occasional Services;” and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music carry out this work in collaboration with the
- 5 Standing Commission on Ministry Development and report on this work to the 76th General Convention.

**EXPLANATION**

The ministry of the baptized was affirmed by the 74th General Convention in Canon III.1. The purpose of this liturgy is to equip, support, and affirm the baptized in the world as they live out their baptismal covenant. Including this liturgy in the “Book of Occasional Services” would complement liturgies that are available, for example the resource “Ministry in Daily Life: A Guide to Living the Baptismal Covenant.” This liturgy would more directly enable congregations to support the baptized as they live out their baptismal covenant in their families, their communities, and their work.

**Work Group: Leadership Development**

The Leadership Development work group responded to General Convention Resolutions, 2003–A060 and 2003–A063, which dealt with diversity in ordained leadership and in the ordination process. The work group developed a survey to analyze cultural diversity experiences in dioceses. The results of the survey and some interpretations are on the Office for Ministry Development website. Thirty-one dioceses responded to the survey. In summary, dioceses could identify minority groups in their diocese and knew that the Episcopal Church will need to reach out to these various groups. More specifically, the survey sought information about the ordination process and access to the process for persons of color. There is movement in some dioceses toward a more inclusive approach to recruiting and forming persons of color for ordained ministry. There is room for growth in this area. The survey asked about factors that support and barriers toward minority people in the ordination process. Generalizations indicate systemic and demographic factors may play important parts in the process of recruitment. The survey also asked about people under the age of 25 being recruited for ordained ministry. Again, there are some programs currently in place in some dioceses. There are a variety of descriptions of the programs that are in place and factors that may relate to increased numbers of persons under age 25 in the ordination process. The issues raised in the survey are whole Church issues. Questions that arise from this survey will need a very wide collaborative effort in order to hear the voices that speak to these issues and all the ways they impact congregations. SCMD will continue to explore the results of the survey in collaborative efforts.

The resource, “Cultural Diversity in the Ordination Process,” is being updated with an accompanying video that will be available to COMs. Province VIII began the resource’s update after some Bishops expressed a need for alternative tracks toward ordination. The Province VIII Inter-Cultural Ministry Council, the Province VIII ethnic ministry networks, the Office of Ethnic Congregational Development, the Office for Ministry Development, and the Jubilee Ministries contributed to this work.

In response to Resolution 2003–D060, the work group sought information on the ways that COMs function in the dioceses. An orientation resource for new COM members that will explain the work of diocesan Commissions on Ministry is being developed. It will have appendices that outline resources developed by COMs.

Additionally, this work group sought to connect leadership development resources with those groups or individuals who want to use these types of resources. An example initiative is Pastoral Leadership Search Effort (PLSE). The

focus of PLSE is to identify and recruit younger people for ordained leadership. The SCMD commends their efforts with the following resolution.

**Resolution A089 Pastoral Leadership Search Effort**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_concurring, That the 75th General Convention recognize the importance of the
- 2 intentional presence of the voice and ministry of young adults in the Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the 75th General Convention affirm the work of the Pastoral Leadership Search Effort (PLSE)
- 4 and fund the continuation of PLSE as an integral part of the work of leadership and ministry development in
- 5 the Episcopal Church; and be it further
- 6 *Resolved*, That the 75th General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and
- 7 Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$385,906 for the implementation of this resolution.

**EXPLANATION**

The 74th General Convention (Resolution 2003–A067) affirmed The Episcopal Church as a full partner in PLSE, which works collaboratively to identify, cultivate, and recruit exceptional young leaders. Today the PLSE database and community of 200+ PLSE Leaders and Congregations is a church-wide resource for creating discernment and ordination processes that welcome young and culturally-diverse applicants. Conclusion of the three-year Lilly Endowment/FTE PLSE pilot grant will terminate the Episcopal PLSE unless it is adopted as an ongoing initiative by The Episcopal Church. The initial three-year Lilly/FTE budget for Episcopal PLSE was \$931,128, to which the Episcopal denomination committed \$300,000 in matching funds. The budget allocation proposed in this Resolution for PLSE programmatic initiatives and operations in the next Triennium will accelerate efforts to decrease the average ordination age and increase the cultural diversity of the next generation of young Episcopal Church leaders.

**Work Group: Theological Education**

This work group concentrated on seven areas during this triennium:

1. The Conant Fund: is a dedicated trust fund held by the Episcopal Church. The fund provides continuing education opportunities to seminary faculty of the eleven seminaries accredited by the Association for Theological Seminaries (ATS). The SCMD’s granting decisions are based in part on the recommendation of a representative screening committee from these seminaries along with a representative from the SCMD. In 2005, the screening committee members were Dr. Rosemary Gooden (Seabury-Western), Ms. Thurma Hilton (SCMD), Dr. Deidre Good (GTS), Dr. Sheryl Kujawa (EDS), and Dr. John Kevern, (Bexley) and \$111,952 were awarded to thirteen faculty members.
2. 1% Plan for Support of Theological Education: The SCMD recommends to the House of Deputies Committee on the State of the Church that congregational contributions to seminaries be included in the Parochial Report, in the hope that it would encourage more congregations towards this goal.
3. The Data-Base project: was created to oversee training mandates, including those for anti-racism training, abuse prevention training, and other Title IV mandates with a goal of creating a website that could host the different training mandates, other resource materials and statistical analysis.
4. Continuing Education for clergy and lay professionals in response to General Convention Resolution 2003–A121: As of December 22, 2005 forty-nine dioceses responded to a survey on continuing education for clergy and lay professionals. The majority of dioceses have an application funding process and a continuing education plan for clergy but most do not have the same for lay professionals. The monitoring of compliance with continuing education plans was minimal. There is a positive movement in many dioceses to advocate for continuing education for both clergy and lay professionals. Several dioceses reported that they were working on new policies that would benefit both clergy and lay professionals. There is a heightened awareness of the need for quality education for leaders in the church.
5. Proclaiming Education for All (PEALL) was in response to General Resolutions 2003–A120 and 2003–B024. PEALL is a task force of educators created by the aforementioned resolutions which called for extensive study and strategic recommendations for theological education and lifelong Christian education and formation. PEALL has a diverse membership and connects with many facets of education in the church. Its goals will be

accomplished by: (1) creating ways for many educational networks, institutions, and individuals to be aware of and in touch with one another; (2) providing suggestions of strategic directions in education to the Executive Council, the General Convention, and stakeholders; and (3) providing a means for the rhetoric and vocabulary of education to be better understood and more common in the life of the church. Additionally, PEALL will share information about education, formation, and lifelong learning with the Episcopal Council of Seminary Deans, other educational networks, and with the wider church during the upcoming triennium. PEALL reports regularly to the Executive Council and the SCMD as well as to the 75th and 76th General Conventions.

6. Seminary Debt, in response to General Convention Resolution 2003-A064: The Society for the Increase of Ministry (SIM) in collaboration with the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) has begun work on this issue with their Fund for Future Leaders initiative. SCMD convened a meeting with all the participants mentioned in the resolution, and discussed all the points mentioned in the resolution. The group spent some time identifying as many initiatives as possible that are already happening around this issue of seminary debt. SCMD commends the work of SIM and ECF that seeks to reduce the debt of seminarians, and will continue to do its part to facilitate a many-faceted response to the issue of seminary debt. There are aspects of this issue that need to be more clearly articulated. It is apparent that there needs to be continued conversation about a variety of ways to reduce seminary debt. The approach to working on this issue could be done in several phases. SCMD is in the process of looking at some of the additional suggestions in order to envision a solution to the problem.
7. Seminary Reports: The SCMD includes in its membership a representative from the Council of Deans because the Board for Theological Education is one of its predecessors. The eleven Episcopal seminaries submit a report to SCMD each triennium:

**Berkeley Divinity School at Yale** has the distinction of being the only Episcopal seminary fully a part of a major university. Through its affiliation with Yale Divinity School, Berkeley offers a theological education that may be said to be “the best of both worlds:” the focused formation in Anglican worship, spirituality, theology and history of a denominational seminary, combined with the breadth of perspective of an ecumenical divinity school.

In the past three years, Berkeley’s affiliation with Yale was renewed, making the seminary fully accountable to university standards and expectations. With the Sterling Divinity Quadrangle fully renovated, Berkeley and Yale Divinity School together are expanding their faculty and curricular offerings in pastoral theology; developing significant connections to the worlds of business and politics through the Center for Faith and Culture; offering an intensive summer term together with the Institute of Sacred Music; and expanding opportunities for spiritual formation. In Berkeley’s own Anglican studies curriculum, a new leadership initiative is bringing the resources of the wider university to bear on the training of articulate, skilled clergy and lay leaders capable of responding to the challenges facing today’s church in a contentious and secularized society.

Like many schools, Berkeley has an immediate need of strengthening its financial base to provide additional scholarship support to students, have the means to make full advantage of the resources of the university, and actively participate in recruiting a new generation of young leadership for the church. It therefore anticipates a joint capital campaign with Yale Divinity School, based on a theme taken from its motto, “Going Beyond ...”

**Bexley Hall** was founded in 1824 as a “frontier seminary” and the first seminary west of the Appalachians. The visionary founder, Bishop Philander Chase of Ohio, intended the seminary to minister to the unique conditions prevailing outside the established East. In 1968, for the same visionary reasons, Bexley Hall removed to Rochester, New York to be part of a proposed theological consortium.

Bexley Hall has now reinvigorated its Ohio “roots” by re-establishing an accredited program with a new partner seminary, Trinity Lutheran, in Columbus, Ohio. This program will train students for ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church. Consistent with the “Call to Common Mission” accord between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which had its beginnings at Trinity, Bexley and Trinity also train ordinands by cross-fertilization, drawing on the respective strengths of each church’s academic and spiritual traditions. The sum is greater than the parts.

Additionally, Bexley maintains a satellite campus in a state-of-the-art facility in Rochester, New York. This venue offers the possibility of the traditional M.Div. degree, but in a radically compact format designed for commuters. Furthermore, the Bexley Institute, based in Rochester, offers continuing education, especially in Spiritual Direction, and creative alliances with diocesan training programs for local ministry formation. The ethos of Bexley Hall is best described as “liberal Anglo-Catholic.” At Bexley, this means a vision of clergy formation that does not force a dichotomy between doctrinal orthodoxy and radical social engagement. The faculty and students of Bexley Hall are committed to a doctrinal orthodoxy, Catholic worship, social progressivism, and the quest for Justice and Spirituality.

**Church Divinity School of the Pacific**, the Episcopal Seminary of the West, is distinguished by our association with the Graduate Theological Union (GTU). Through the combined resources of nine seminaries representing a broad range of Protestant denominations and Roman Catholic orders, and through faculty resources in Jewish, Buddhist, and Orthodox studies, the GTU offers more than 750 courses each year from more than 126 scholars.

In the past three years, we have seen significant growth in our online education programs. The Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership offers twenty-five distinct online classes, as well as short-term seminars and events such as the Epiphany West conference, bringing together international scholars to address critical issues in the church.

CDSP continues to support the work of our faculty, and has funded chairs in Liturgical Leadership, Church Music, and Old Testament, and has completed funding for a chair in Liturgics. We have also funded a significant portion of the St. Margaret’s Chair for Women and Ministry, which will be the first of its kind among seminaries in the Episcopal Church. In addition, we have received a major endowment gift for the work of CALL, allowing for further growth of this innovative program.

We are developing our upper campus as a retreat and conference center— a resource for CDSP, the GTU, and the whole Church. We will continue our faculty development in light of retirements and new visions of theological education, and are committed to remaining a place of dialogue and study for all.

Over the last three years, the **Episcopal Divinity School** has expanded our innovative degree and continuing education programs for clergy and laity committed to justice, compassion, and reconciliation throughout the church and the world. We have experienced marked growth in our lower-residency doctor of ministry program, which allows student the opportunity to study and participate in the life of the seminary during the two-week sessions in January and June. The school has increased its educational reach through online courses and flexible certificate programs. A grant of over \$1.5 million from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. in 2001 has created the Pastoral Excellence Program (PEP), a partnership between the school and the dioceses of northern New England (Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire) to provide services for underserved small congregations in rural areas. During the past year, the PEP program has grown beyond New England and is currently involved in developing online courses with the diocese of Wyoming. A partnership between the school and urban congregations, created through grants from the Barr and Saldiago Foundations in 2005, provides opportunities for urban fellows to organize communities of color around issues related to environmental racism. Resource developing is an important aspect of the school’s ministry and outreach. Recent projects include the “Peace Pins,” and the publication of two booklets by EDS president and dean, Stephen Charleston, *Good News* and the *Middle Way*, and *An Imagined Conversation on the Lambeth Commission*, by Ian T. Douglas. During Fall 2005, the school sponsored a course and lecture series on the Millennium Development Goals. Future plans include additional low-residency degree programs.

The mission of the **Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest** is to prepare lay and ordained leaders who will equip the church to carry out God’s mission in a culturally diverse world, both perceptively and courageously, in the name of Jesus Christ. We are addressing cultural diversity by including an Hispanic Church Studies track within our M. Div. curriculum.

This is a time of transition for ETSS while we search for a new dean and president. We are very pleased to have the Rev. Dr. Philip Turner as our interim. Dean Turner leads with competence, character and pastoral presence.

We have completed funding for the John Hines Chair of Preaching and will be proud to honor the name of our beloved founder, Bishop Hines. Funding for a Chair in Christian Education and Youth Ministry is progressing, and we look forward to filling both of these chairs in the near future. A new curriculum designed for lay chaplaincy in our Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry program has been approved by our faculty and board, and it is already attracting local applicants. Finally, our Online School ([www.etss.edu/OnlineSchool.shtml](http://www.etss.edu/OnlineSchool.shtml)) offers a range of learning opportunities from M.Div. academic credit courses and classes for continuing education units to several life-long learning courses that are offered on a rotating basis. We hope that this is a healthy beginning to our providing theological education to distant learners and continuing education opportunities for clergy.

**The General Theological Seminary**, the first seminary of the Episcopal Church and the only seminary founded by General Convention, is an Episcopal institution called to educate and form leaders for the church in a changing world. General combines a tradition of academic excellence with a strong emphasis on daily worship and a commitment to life in community.

General offers courses of study leading to the Master of Divinity degree, a core program of the Seminary designed primarily for those preparing for ordained ministry, a Master of Arts program specifically designed for lay persons, as well as advanced theological degrees and continuing education programs. Through General's innovative Programa Hispano/Latino, students may earn an M.Div. degree through a part-time program taught in Spanish. Study in New York City provides access to world-renowned educational institutions, museums, and libraries, including the Seminary's own St. Mark's Library, one of the finest theological collections in North America. General's comprehensive plan to redevelop its historic home in the heart of New York City is clearly the Seminary's most exciting initiative in decades. Key to this far-reaching plan is the Desmond Tutu Education Center. With 59 guest rooms and a high-tech conference facility, the complex will significantly enhance our ability to offer short-term and continuing education programs that are so essential to the needs of today's church. As it has for the last 189 years, General looks forward to serving the educational needs of those who minister in Christ's name with commitment, innovation, and enthusiasm.

**Nashotah House** was founded in 1842 as a mission to the American frontier; Nashotah House's mission today is the formation of men and women for ministries of congregational leadership, pastoral care, missions and evangelism, and church growth. Our magnificent, contemplative setting on a 365 acre wooded lake-front campus, our attractive, modern townhouses for married students and families, and our commitment to strong community life provide an excellent environment for preparation for parish ministry.

1. Our distinct emphases are: a disciplined spiritual life centered in the Anglican heritage of daily prayer, corporate worship, and the sacraments; academic discipline in the spirit of classical theological study; preparation for practical ministry as congregational leaders; active attention to contemporary social concerns in light of the Gospel; support for every student and family member in the personal challenges of vocational preparation; continuing education for clergy and lay leaders; and cultivation of a community which embraces all members in God's love.
2. Our major accomplishments during the last three years include: construction of additional married student housing; doubled enrollment since 2001; renovated classroom facilities; established cross-cultural and intensive parish internships for credit; instituted course in "Spanish for Ministry;" established Royal School of Church Music choral program for children of seminarians; and established Lake Country Youth Ministry for youth from Nashotah House and local area parishes with seminary interns serving as youth ministers.
3. Our major goals for the next three years are: establishment of a Doctor of Ministry program; to continue to grow our enrollment through outreach to a broader cross-section of dioceses; to increase our enrollment of women and minority students; to build a larger base of individual and parish contributors; and to continue campus renovation and expansion.

**Seabury-Western Theological Seminary**—Congregational Leadership in the service of God's Mission

Located adjacent to the Northwestern University campus in Evanston, Illinois, Seabury-Western is a seminary uniting the comprehensive traditions of the Episcopal Church. With the entire Chicago metropolitan area and the

resources of the eleven ACTS seminaries available to students and faculty, Seabury frames preparation for ordained and lay ministries in the Episcopal Church in an urban, multicultural, and ecumenical setting.

Seabury offers a course of study unique among Episcopal seminaries. Our curriculum coheres around the idea of “the Gospel Mission”. Because we believe preaching is central to contemporary missional ministry we place particular emphasis on student preaching both in the classroom and in the chapel. And because we believe congregations are the primary places where people engage God’s mission, we emphasize the resources and skills which congregational leaders need.

Seabury is at heart a praying community featuring daily, student-led worship. We understand theological education to be both a formative and transformative process, and we prepare men and women to lead congregations to face creatively into the challenges and opportunities which the 21st century offers. Our curriculum balances attention to leadership education, faith formation, congregational development, and the traditional basics of theological education.

Seabury offers the M.Div. and M.T.S. degrees during the academic year and the D.Min. in Congregational Development as a three-summer residency through the Seabury Institute. The best way to experience what Seabury is about is to come and spend some time with us. You are always welcome.

**The School of Theology of the University of the South: Sewanee.** A residential community of education and formation for ministry serving the broad whole of the Episcopal Church, the School of Theology at Sewanee is intimately related to a first-rate liberal arts college in the setting of an Episcopal university. It is the center of extraordinary programs for the whole church, including EFM, DOCC, and the CMSC. The seminary has small classes, a firm core curriculum corresponding to the church’s canons, a committed, balanced, highly published faculty, a full and rich liturgical life based solidly on the 1979 Book of Common Prayer in a glorious chapel, and commitment to Nicene faith, searching thought, welcome to all, and the mission of the Episcopal Church.

A few of the major accomplishments these past three years include an outstanding Interim Dean and now a new Dean, committed to common mission, scholarship, and spiritual formation for ministry; a renewal of the School of Theology’s sense of shared purpose in community; full enrollment and a dedicated student body; increased endowment for scholarships and a budget in the black; refurbished academic facilities; a highly successful self-study leading to reaffirmation of the accreditation of all programs by the Association of Theological Schools.

Major plans for the next three years include: a comprehensive review of the M. Div. curriculum with the possibility of curriculum revision; creation of a strategic plan for the School of Theology within the Strategic Plan of the University of the South; planning for greater racial and ethnic comprehensiveness; a review of the Programs Center and creative planning for the future of its programs; enhanced communication with dioceses sending students here; possible renovation of Cravens Hall for School of Theology purposes and programs: all to prepare the best leadership possible for the Episcopal Church in the 21st century.

**Trinity School for Ministry**, Ambridge, PA takes pride in a number of distinctive features. Coalesced into these distinctive features are a significant extension program which includes extension sites and online course delivery. Trinity also serves a constituency, which, though classically evangelical in the Anglican meaning of the term, serves not only the evangelical, but the charismatic and Anglo-catholic streams of the church as well. Trinity is located in the urban center of a small borough near a major metropolitan area which allows students a plethora of possibilities for ministerial development.

Within the past three years, Trinity has called a new Dean and President, The Very Rev. Dr. Paul F. M. Zahl, has in place its first full-time Academic Dean, and boasts a full complement of faculty, five of whom were called in 2005. A new Dean of Students and Director of Admissions joined the team, as well as a new Chief Operations Officer. Transition would be the key word to Trinity’s accomplishments recently.

The next three years face Trinity with the demands for advanced online education delivery with a plan to put two complete Master of Arts programs online; the addition of the S.T.M. and the Doctor of Educational Ministries degrees.



**The Virginia Theological Seminary** is pleased to offer full-time, residential theological education for the majority of its M.Div., MTS, and Anglican Studies students. With generous scholarship assistance, students are free to immerse themselves fully in the community's daily round of study, worship, and table fellowship.

The past three years have seen a significant growth of our Doctor of Ministry degree program in ministry development, and the creation of a new Educational Leadership track within the D.Min. program for chaplains, heads of school, and other leaders who work in Episcopal schools. Programs offered through our Lifetime Theological Education department have also expanded with the creation of our popular Fridays at the Seminary, new courses in the Evening School of Theology (formerly the Lay School), and a program for newly-ordained clergy in their first three years, made possible by a grant from the Lilly Endowment. Two new faculty residences were also built on campus.

As the next triennial period unfolds, VTS will engage in another round of strategic planning and visioning for the future, seeking to identify new ways of providing formation for our Church's lay and ordained leaders. Our commitment to overseas links with theological schools in other parts of the world will continue and will be strengthened, as will our commitment to providing cross-cultural immersions and internships for students and faculty. A new initiative offered by our Center for Lifetime Theological Education, and underwritten by the Lilly Endowment, will provide opportunities for continuing education and support of ecumenical clergy, nearing the mid-point of their ordained ministry, who serve small congregations. As always, we value our partnerships with other individuals, congregations, dioceses, and other institutions that serve the Church and the world.

**Resolution A090 Commend PEALL**

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 75th General Convention commend the work of PEALL
- 2 (Proclaiming Education for All) and affirm the continuation of this work as a key part of the future planning
- 3 for integrated, holistic education in the Church.

**EXPLANATION**

The work of PEALL has been representative of the Christian formation efforts across the broad spectrum of the Episcopal Church, and we wish to encourage a continuation of this work. There are no funding implications attached to this resolution.

**COMMISSION'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE**

The SCDME provides leadership in the field of ministry development. Revising the Title III canons allowed the Commission to do the underlying foundational work of articulating a vision of a Church committed to the encouragement and support of the ministry of all people who God has called into service. The Commission's next steps include:

- Continue to strengthen collaborations between all ministry development initiatives in the Church;
- Support the work of the diocesan commissions on ministry;
- Continue cultural diversity efforts in leadership development;
- Support the ongoing focus of theological education for everyone;
- Continue to encourage and support congregations in their support of ministry in daily life;
- Facilitate system-wide collaborations that strengthen the ministry and mission of the Church; and
- Continue evaluating the ways that Church systems promote ministry development.

**Resolution A091 Budget Appropriation for the Standing Commission on Ministry Development**

- 1 *Resolved*, That the 75th General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget
- 2 and Finance consider a budget allocation from the Canonical budget of the General Convention of \$141,000
- 3 for the meeting expenses of the Standing Commission on Ministry Development during the 2007–2009
- 4 triennium.