INTRODUCTION
to the Proposed Revised Constitution and Canons for the Governance of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis

08-19-2026

INTRODUCTION

In the course of developing a draft Constitution and Canons for a possible reunified Diocese of Indiana, it became apparent that parts of the current Constitution and Canons for the Diocese of Indianapolis were in need of revision. It is now clear that the two dioceses will not be reunifying at this time. In January 2026, the Executive Council authorized work on a revision of the Constitution and Canons for the Diocese of Indianapolis.

At the January 31, 2026 meeting of the Executive Council, the Council put forward the following motion to commission a task force (Team) to draft a revision of the current Constitution and Canons of our Diocese.

> *"Motion to authorize work to review and revise for clarity and relevance the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Indianapolis, subject to approval at the Convention consistent with the existing Constitution and Canons. Motion was approved."*

The following clergy and lay leaders of our Diocese agreed to fulfill the request of the Executive Council.

The Rev. Allen D. Rutherford (Rector, St. John's, Mount Vernon; Executive Council, Diocese of Indianapolis; Reunification Discernment Committee)
Todd Relue (Trinity Episcopal Church, Indianapolis; Chancellor, Diocese of Indianapolis; Reunification Discernment Committee C&C Visioning Team)
The Rev. Hilary Cooke (Chaplain, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, West Lafayette; Reunification Discernment Committee)
Laurel L. Cornell (Christ Church Cathedral, Indianapolis; Treasurer, Diocese of Indianapolis)
Joyce Krauser (St. Paul's, Indianapolis; C&C Committee, Diocese of Indianapolis; Reunification Discernment Committee C&C Visioning Team)
Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale (All Saint's, Indianapolis; Canon to the Ordinary for Administration and Evangelism, Diocese of Indianapolis)
Mike Staubitz (St. Stephen's New Harmony; Executive Council for the Diocese of Indianapolis)

THE CONSTITUTION

The proposed revision of the Constitution mirrors that created by the Reunification Discernment Committee. The revised Constitution contains all the necessary elements of a Constitution of an Episcopal diocese. Some items have been moved into the proposed revision of the Canons, both to provide clarity and to allow for more flexibility when revisions are needed.

THE CANONS

The proposed revision to the Canons now contains the relevant information formerly found in the Constitution regarding Bishops, Convention, Standing Committee, etc. so that timely amendments may be made in the future when necessary.

The proposed revision refers often to the "the Governing Law," which includes not only our diocesan Constitution and Canons but also those of The Episcopal Church. Using this term allows our diocesan Canons to remain consistent with any changes made by the General

Convention without requiring amendments at our diocesan Conventions. This inclusive terminology means that several of our current Canons that duplicate the General Convention Canon wordings are no longer needed in our diocesan Canons.

Some of the language of the current Canons sounds legalistic and antiquated. The revised Canons, to the best of our ability, reflect more modern language in order to allow for more clarity.

Aware of the changing nature of the Church, the revised Canons contain multiple options for forming new Episcopal congregations. These options allow for more flexibility with regard to how they function as beacons of Christ in their distinct communities. Inspired by the example of the Diocese of Northern Indiana, we are proposing easier processes to form new congregations and for missions to progress to parish status.

We are aware that there are a number of important committees and commissions serving Christ in distinctive ways in our Diocese. We intentionally did not list or codify all of those entities so that they may modify their mission and governance as needed in order to adapt to change.

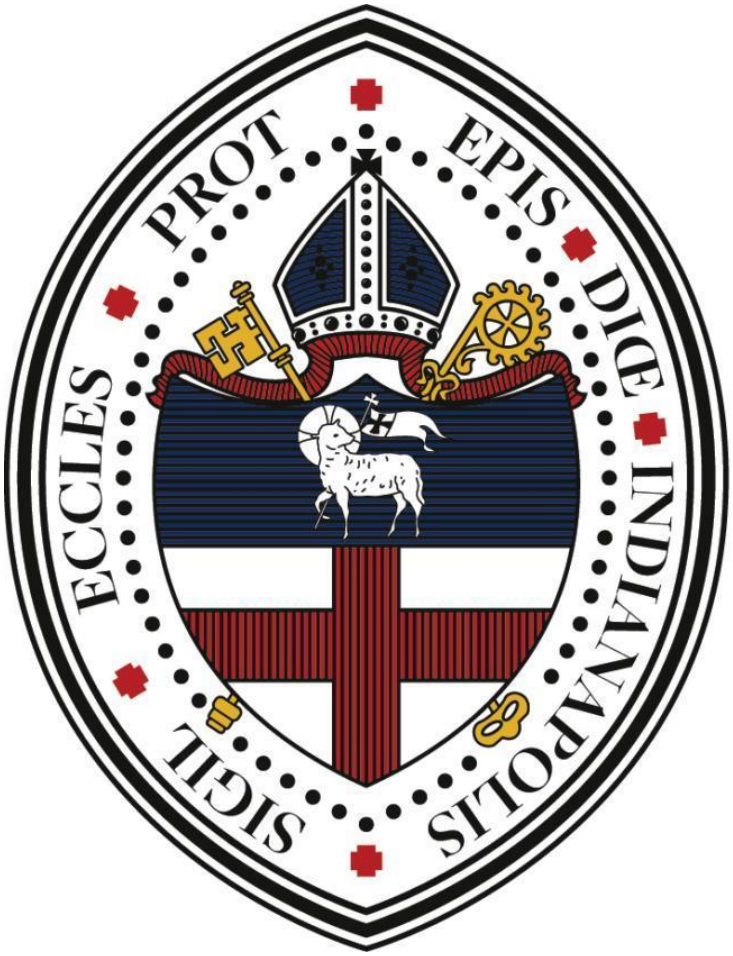
One new Canon has been added that is found in the Canons of several other dioceses. It is entitled “Communities of Faith in Covenant Relationship.” In Canon 15 Section 1 “Coalitions” are similar to what used to be called “yoked” congregations. Coalitions are two to three congregations that wish to form a relationship while retaining autonomous governance. Section 2 “Constellations" is exemplified in the Northwest part of Indiana (EDNIN) where six congregations have created a covenant relationship to share resources under a single governance structure and to be served by one or two priests and/or deacons.

The Cathedral Canon remains relatively unchanged. Christ Church Cathedral remains a Pro-Cathedral but will be commonly referred to as “the Cathedral” of the Diocese. One new requirement can be found in Section 6, which creates a line item in the diocesan Budget to compensate the Cathedral for diocesan events held at Christ Church Cathedral.

IMPLEMENTATION
The revised Canons, if approved at Convention, will take effect immediately. The revised Constitution, if approved at Convention, will not take effect until it is ratified at a second consecutive Convention.

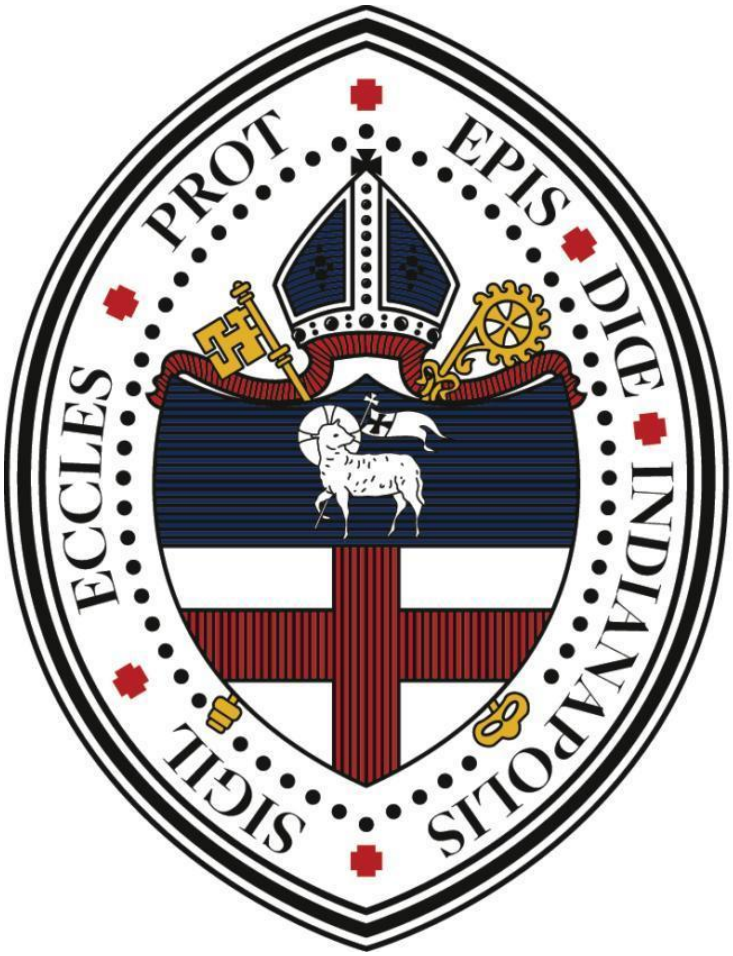
SUMMARY
As stated above, in response to the Executive Council’s commissioning, the revised Constitution and Canons arise from the work of the Reunification Discernment Committee in drafting a Constitution and Canons for the Reunified Diocese of Indiana. By adopting the proposed revision of the Constitution and Canons, we as a Diocese are better aligning our governing laws with other Dioceses, particularly the Diocese of Northern Indiana in the event that reunification becomes a consideration in the future.

The Proposed Revised Constitution and Canons for the Governance of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis



Final Draft
08-19-2026

The Proposed Revised Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis



Final Draft
08-19-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Constitution

Article		Page
I	CORPORATE NAME, JURISDICTION, AND CORPORATE SEAL	07
II	GOVERNING LAW	07
III	DIOCESAN CONVENTION	07
IV	OFFICERS	07
V	STANDING COMMITTEE, THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	07
VI	ADMISSION OF MISSIONS AND PARISHES	08
VII	PROVISION OF REVENUE, PROPERTY, INSURANCE	08
VIII	CERTIFICATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND CANONS	08
IX	PROCESS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION	09

The Constitution

ARTICLE I

Corporate Name

The name of this diocesan corporation is “the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis.” It may be referred to as “the Diocese of Indianapolis” or, herein, as “the Diocese.” It is created and constituted as a body corporate and political for religious, educational, and charitable purposes in compliance within the nonprofit laws of the state of Indiana.

Jurisdiction

The jurisdiction of this Diocese extends from that part of the state of Indiana lying south of the northern line of Warren, Tippecanoe, Clinton, Tipton, Madison, Delaware, and Randolph counties.

Corporate Seal

The Diocese will adopt an official corporate seal in such form as the Bishop will determine in consultation with the Standing Committee.

ARTICLE II

the Governing Law

The Governing Law of the Diocese is the Constitution and Canons for the government of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church of America, otherwise known as The Episcopal Church, and the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Indianapolis.

ARTICLE III

Diocesan Convention

The legislative power of the Diocese is vested in a Convention that will conduct its proceedings and exercise its authority consistent with the provisions of Article II.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

The officers of the diocesan corporation are the Bishop Diocesan, hereafter referred to as “the Bishop” who is the President, along with a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Chancellor, all of whom will exercise their authority consistent with the provisions of Article II.

ARTICLE V

Standing Committee

The diocesan Convention will elect a Standing Committee consisting of clerical and lay members in accordance with the Canons. The Standing Committee will perform such duties as are prescribed by the Governing Law.

The Executive Council
An Executive Council of the Diocese will function as an interim legislative authority of the diocesan Convention and will perform such specific functions as are delegated to it by the diocesan Convention or by the Governing Law.

ARTICLE VI

Admission of Missions and Parishes
The diocesan Convention will admit missions and parishes into union with it consistent with provisions of Article II.

ARTICLE VII

Provision of Revenue
The diocesan Convention will provide for the raising of such revenue as is necessary for the support of the Episcopate and maintenance of other activities and works authorized by the Convention.

Property
All real and personal property held by or for the benefit of any parish, mission, or congregation is held in trust for The Episcopal Church and this Diocese in which such parish, mission or congregation is located. The existence of this trust, however, will in no way limit the power and authority of the parish, mission, or congregation over such property so long as the particular parish, mission, or congregation remains a part of and subject to this Church and its the Governing Law.

Insurance
Each parish, mission, and congregation is required to procure and keep in force adequate property and liability insurance and to conduct its financial affairs in accordance with the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and the Governing Law.

ARTICLE VIII

Certification and Preservation of the Constitution and Canons
The Secretary of the Diocese will procure and keep a suitable electronic file entitled "Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Indianapolis." In it will be recorded: 1) the applicable laws of the state of Indiana constituting the Charter of the Diocese of Indianapolis, 2) the laws of the state of Indiana governing the organization and powers of parish corporations, 3) this Constitution with the certificate of its adoption, and 4) all duly adopted Canons of the Diocese with the certificate of their adoption. All new, amended, or repealed Articles of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese hereafter adopted by the diocesan Convention will be certified by the Bishop and the Secretary of the Diocese as having been duly adopted and will, with the certificate of adoption, be recorded in the same electronic file. This file will be taken and regarded as prima facie evidence of the due adoption and correctness of all documents recorded therein. The Secretary of the Diocese will ensure that a current backup copy of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese is stored separately from the original copy in the event of corruption or loss of the original file.

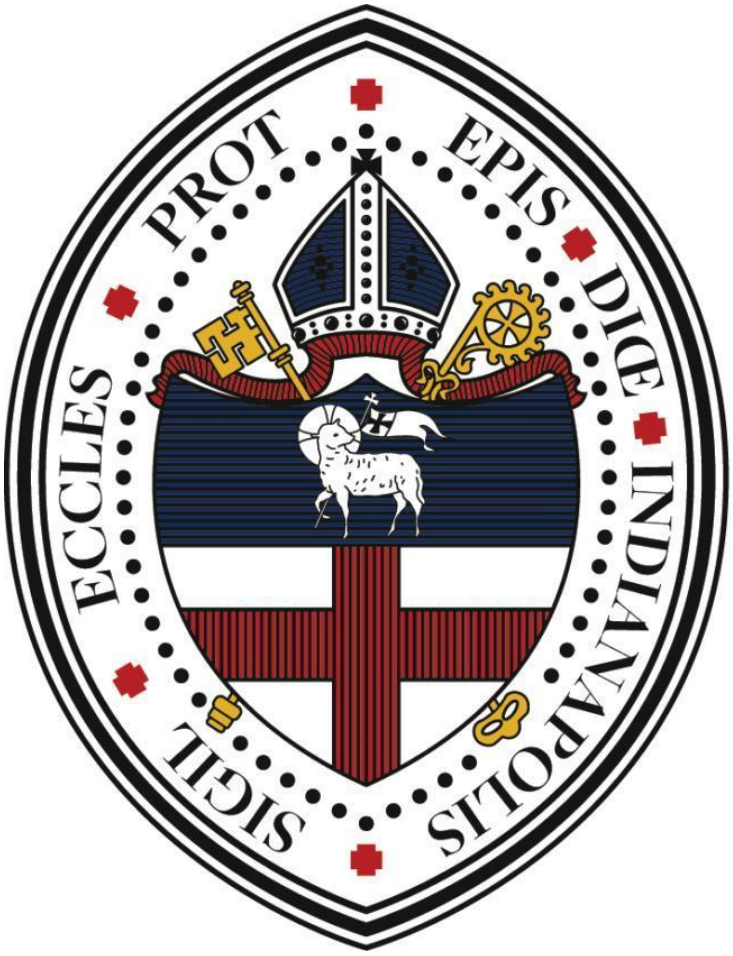
The Secretary of the Diocese will provide an electronic copy of the "Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Indianapolis" to the diocesan website manager for upload and to be made available to the diocesan household.

ARTICLE IX

Process to Amend the Constitution

Any proposal to alter or amend this Constitution that has been submitted to the Committee on Constitution, Canons, and Resolutions and submitted in writing and duly considered and approved by a majority vote at an annual meeting of the diocesan Convention will be referred to the next annual meeting of the diocesan Convention for final consideration and action, and, if approved and adopted at the next annual meeting by two-thirds vote of each Order and concurred by the Bishop, such amendment will become effective at the time designated in the resolution of adoption. The Convention in its Rules of Order may make specific provisions for the consideration of such proposals when introduced from the floor, provided that the Committee on Constitution, Canons, and Resolutions certifies that it has had sufficient time to review and report on the proposals.

The Proposed Revised Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis



Final Draft
08-19-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Canons

Number	Page
CANON 1: CONSTRUAL AND DEFINITIONS	16
Section 1. Construal: Inclusive language.	16
Section 2. Definitions.	16
CANON 2: THE BISHOP	17
Section 1. Offices Vested in the Bishop.	17
Section 2. The Bishop as Ecclesiastical Authority.	18
Section 3. The Bishop as Chief Pastor.	18
Section 4. The Bishop as Ordinary.	18
Section 5. The Bishop as President and Chief Executive Officer.	19
Section 6. The Bishop as Presiding Officer of Diocesan Convention.	19
Section 7. The Bishop as President of the Executive Council.	20
Section 8. Tenure.	20
Section 9. Salaries.	20
CANON 3: DIOCESAN CONVENTION	20
Section 1. Annual Convention.	20
Section 2. Special Conventions.	20
Section 3. Notification of Conventions.	20
Section 4. Powers of Convention.	21
Section 5. Officers of Convention.	21
Section 6. Composition of Convention.	22
Section 7. Qualifications and Election of Delegates, Youth Delegates, and Alternates.	22
Section 8. Divine Services.	23
Section 9. Bishop's Address.	23
Section 10. Quorum for the Election of a Bishop.	23
Section 11. Quorum for the Transaction of Business.	23
Section 12. Rules of Order, Parliamentary Authority.	23
Section 13. Deliberations and Voting.	24
Section 14. Election of Bishops.	24
Section 15. Committees of Convention.	25
Section 16. Journal.	26
CANON 4: EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	26
Section 1. Composition, Qualifications, Elections, Terms of Office, Presiding Officer.	26
Section 2. Temporary Filling of Vacancies.	27
Section 3. Responsibilities and Powers.	27
Section 4. Committees and Task Forces.	28

Section 5. Assistants. 28
Section 6. Agendas and Minutes. 28
Section 7. Frequency of Meetings. 29
Section 8. Annual Report. 29
Section 9. Other Functions and Duties. 29

CANON 5: STANDING COMMITTEE 29
Section 1. Composition, Qualifications, Elections, Terms of Office. 29
Section 2. Standing Committee Officers and their Duties. 29
Section 3. Calling of Meetings and Frequency. 29
Section 4. Temporary Filling of Vacancies. 30
Section 5. Functions, Duties, Report. 30

CANON 6: COMMISSION ON MINISTRY 30
Section 1. Composition, Qualifications, Elections, Terms of Office. 30
Section 2. Function and Duties. 30

CANON 7: OTHER DIOCESAN COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS 31
Section 1. Membership, Establishment. 31
Section 2: Constitution, Canons, and Resolutions Committee. 31
Section 3: Global Missions Committee. 32

CANON 8: REPRESENTATIVES TO PROVINCE 32
Section 1. Election. 32
Section 2. Filling of Vacancies. 33

CANON 9: THE FINANCES AND FUNDS OF THE DIOCESE 33
Section 1. The Treasurer of the Diocese. 33
Section 2. Investment and Finance Committee. 33
Section 3. Budget Formation Committee. 34
Section 4. Designation of Funds. 35
Section 5. Administration and Investment of Funds. 36
Section 6. Adoption of the Budget. 36
Section 7. Apportionments. 36
Section 8. Apportionment Arrearage. 36
Section 9. Applications for Modification of Apportionment 36
Section 10. Administration of Budget after Adoption. 37

CANON 10: REGIONAL STRUCTURE 37
Section 1. Geographical Division of Neighborhoods. 37
Section 2. Redistribution of Congregations within Neighborhoods. 37
Section 3. Neighborhood Board Composition. 38
Section 4. Neighborhood Conveners and their Election. 38
Section 5. Frequency of Neighborhood Meetings, Agendas, Meeting Presiders. 38
Section 6. Notification of Neighborhood Nominations for Election. 39
Section 7. Bishop as Presider of a Neighborhood Board. 39
Section 8. Neighborhood Bylaws. 39

Section 9. Calling of Special Meetings of Neighborhood Leadership. 39

CANON 11: DIOCESAN MISSIONS, CHAPEL MISSIONS, AND MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES 40
Section 1. Creation of a Mission. 40
Section 2. Initial Organization. 40
Section 3. Annual Meeting. 41
Section 4. Bishop's Committee: Composition, Qualifications, Elections. 41
Section 5. Bishop's Committee Meetings. 41
Section 6. Property and Financial Affairs. 41
Section 7. Annual Report and Budget. 42
Section 8. Admission as a Parish. 42
Section 9. Dissolution of a Mission. 42
Section 10. Chapel Missions. 42
Section 11. Missional Communities. 43

CANON 12: PAROCHIAL MISSIONS 44
Section 1. Creation of a Parochial Mission. 44
Section 2. Initial Organization. 44
Section 3. Membership, Annual Meeting. 45
Section 4. Bishop's Committee: Composition, Qualifications, Elections. 45
Section 5. Bishop's Committee Meetings. 45
Section 6. Property, Duties of the Bishop's Committee, Financial Affairs. 45
Section 7. Annual Report and Budget. 46
Section 8. Admission as a Parish. 46
Section 9. Dissolution of a Parochial Mission. 46

CANON 13: RECTORS, PARISHES AND VESTRIES 46
Section 1. Admission of Parishes. 46
Section 2. Amendment of Articles and Bylaws, Encumbrance of Property. 47
Section 3. Annual Meeting. 47
Section 4. Vestry: Composition, Qualifications, Elections. 48
Section 5. Vestry Duties. 48
Section 6. Vestry Meetings. 48
Section 7. Annual Report and Budget. 48
Section 8. Vacancy of Cure, Interim Rector, Appointment of Wardens. 48
Section 9. Election of a Rector, Disputes with Rector. 49
Section 10. Other Parish Clergy and Staff Members. 50
Section 11. Derelict Parishes. 50
Section 12. Dissolution of a Parish. 50

CANON 14: REGISTERS AND PAROCHIAL REPORTS 51
Section 1. The Parish Register. 51
Section 2. The Parochial Report. 51
Section 3. Responsibility for Parish Registry and Reports. 51
Section 4. Parish Registry Upon Dissolution. 51
Section 5. Reporting of Occasional Services. 51

CANON 15: COMMUNITIES OF FAITH IN COVENANT RELATIONSHIP 51
Section 1: Coalitions. 51
Section 2: Constellations. 52
Section 3. Preexisting Relationships. 53

CANON 16: DORMANT PARISHES AND MISSIONS 53
Section 1. Initial Report of Possible Dormancy by the Bishop. 53
Section 2. Securing the Property of a Dormant Parish or Mission. 53
Section 3. Standing Committee is Notified of Potential Dormant Parish or Mission. 53
Section 4. Investigation by Standing Committee. 54
Section 5. Transfer of a Parish to Mission Status. 54
Section 6. Regarding Mergers and Consolidations. 54

CANON 17: MEDIATION BETWEEN RECTORS AND CONGREGATIONS 54
Section 1. Calling for Mediation by the Bishop. 54
Section 2. Seeking Resolution Between the Parties in Dispute. 55
Section 3. Unresolved Mediation Addressed to the Standing Committee. 55
Section 4. Conclusion of Hearing. 55
Section 5. Disregard of the Judgment of Mediation. 55
Section 6. Dissolution of a in Persistent Conflict. 55
Section 7. Calling for Mediation by the Ecclesiastical Authority of Another Diocese. 55

CANON 18: ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE 56
Section 1. Incorporation of Title IV of the Canons of General Convention. 56
Section 2. The Disciplinary Board. 56
Section 3. Intake Officers. 57
Section 4. Investigators. 57
Section 5. Church Attorney. 57
Section 6. Pastoral Response Coordinator. 57
Section 7. Advisors for Complainant and Respondent. 57
Section 8. Disciplinary Board Clerk. 57
Section 9. Publication of Reporting Methods. 57
Section 10. Costs Incurred by the Church. 58
Section 11. Respondents' Costs. 58
Section 12. Records. 58

CANON 19: CATHEDRALS 58
Section 1. Pro-Cathedral. 58
Section 2. The Bishop's Seat in the Cathedral Church. 58
Section 3. The Bishop's Use of the Cathedral Church for Meetings. 58
Section 4. Dean of the Cathedral. 58
Section 5. Annual Dean/Rector Report. 59
Section 6. Compensation for Diocesan-Sanctioned Events. 59

CANON 20: DIOCESAN INSTITUTIONS, COOPERATING MINISTRIES 59
Section 1. Defining a Diocesan Institution. 59
Section 2. Defining a Cooperating Ministry. 59

Section 3. Designation of a Cooperating Ministry. 60
Section 4. Cooperating Ministries of the Diocese. 60
Section 5. Entering into Agreement as a Cooperating Ministry. 60
CANON 21: CHURCH ARCHITECTURE 61
Section 1. Decision-Making Authority. 61
Section 2. Approval of Architectural Plans. 61
Section 3. Seeking Counsel and Advice on Church Architecture. 61
CANON 22: MEETINGS 62
Section 1. Quorums. 62
Section 2. Special Meetings. 62
Section 3. Notice of Meetings. 62
Section 4. Digital Access. 62
CANON 23: AMENDMENT AND REPEAL OF CANONS 63
Section 1. Amendment and Repeal of Canons. 63

The Canons

CANON 1: CONSTRUAL AND DEFINITION

Section 1. Construal: Inclusive Language.

a. Pronouns and other gendered terms in these Canons will be broadly and inclusively construed, without regard to their grammatical gender. The pronoun "they" is used in both the singular and plural numbers, as indicated by context.

b. Titles, headings, subheadings, and similar indices are provided for ease of reference and do not themselves constitute canonical provisions.

Section 2. Definitions.

a. The Church, except where context demands otherwise, refers to The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, otherwise known as The Episcopal Church. The title "Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society" also refers to The Episcopal Church.

b. The Diocese refers to the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis.

c. A congregation is a cathedral parish, parish, diocesan mission, parochial mission, chapel mission, missional community, university chaplaincy, or other canonically recognized local faith community that has acknowledged its conformance with the Governing Law and has placed itself under the authority of the Bishop.

d. An ex officio member of diocesan Convention or any board, committee, commission, or other entity has a right to seat and voice but no vote, is not obligated to attend its meetings, and is not counted in determining the number of members required to constitute the presence of a quorum.

e. The following terms refer to lay members of the Diocese:

i. a member of The Episcopal Church, as provided by the Governing Law, is also a member of a particular congregation in this Diocese if enrolled in the register of that congregation:

a) by reason of baptism, confirmation, reception, or removal from another congregation as provided by the Governing Law or

b) by reason of having joined that congregation at its inception;

ii. a confirmed member is a member who has been confirmed as defined by the Governing Law;

iii. members sixteen years of age and older are to be considered adult members;

iv. a communicant is a member who has received Holy Communion in this Diocese or in some other part of The Episcopal Church or in a church in communion with at least three times in the preceding year unless prevented by good cause;

v. a communicant in good standing is a member who, for the previous year, has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God;

vi. Senior Warden refers to the senior lay member of a Vestry or Bishop's Committee regardless of the title actually used in the congregation's articles of association, bylaws, or other controlling documents. Junior Warden refers to the next most senior lay member of such a body, if such documents provide for one.

f. The following terms refer to clergy:

i. cleric, clergy person, and member of the clergy are used interchangeably to refer to the ordained ministers of The Episcopal Church and, where and to the extent that the Governing Law permits, to any ordained minister of other Christian Churches who may be authorized to exercise their ministry in this Church;
ii. the title Rector, except as otherwise specified in these Canons, refers to the Rector, Interim Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or other member of the clergy in charge;
iii. the title Vicar generally applies to the priest in charge of a mission congregation who serves at the discretion of the Bishop as Rector;
iv. A Curate is a newly ordained assistant priest who serves under the mentorship of a senior parish priest or Rector.
v. canonically resident members of the clergy includes all members of the clergy in this Diocese so designated by the Ecclesiastical Authority;
vi. a Priest-in-Charge is typically a priest who is temporarily or permanently responsible for leading and overseeing a congregation that does not have a settled Rector or Vicar. A Priest-in-Charge holds similar responsibilities to a Rector or Vicar, though the role can sometimes have specific nuances depending on the circumstances and duration of the assignment or contract with a congregation;
vii. the Bishop refers to the Bishop Diocesan who is canonically designated to exercise Ecclesiastical Authority in the Diocese unless otherwise Canonically specified.

g. Governing Instrument: The rules and terms that dictate the use of a restricted fund belonging to the Diocese, the instrument of gift or will under which it was acquired.
h. Neighborhood: A geographical region of the Diocese comprising congregations of that region for the purpose of collaborative governance and mission work as defined in these Canons. The entirety of the Diocese will be grouped into various Neighborhoods through the discretion of the Bishop.
i. Three-Year Staggered Terms: One third of the committee or group will be appointed or elected each year and will serve for a three-year term. Each member may be reappointed or reelected for one consecutive three-year term. After completing two full consecutive terms, the member may not be appointed or elected to the committee or group again until at least one year has passed. Partial terms will not count against this limit. For any new committees or groups, one third of the members will be appointed or elected to one-year terms, one third to two-year terms, and one third to full three-year terms. Any vacancy will be filled for the remainder of the existing term.
j. Voting: A majority of votes cast will determine all questions, legislation, and elections unless otherwise provided in the Governing Law.

CANON 2: THE BISHOP

Section 1. Offices Vested in the Bishop.

The Bishop becomes upon election, consecration, and ordination or, in the case of the election of a person already so ordained upon such other day as may be designated for the beginning of their tenure, the Ecclesiastical Authority, Chief Pastor, Ordinary, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese, and Presiding Officer of diocesan Convention.

Section 2. The Bishop as Ecclesiastical Authority.

a. The Bishop holds jurisdiction in their Diocese, with particular responsibility for the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church.
b. The duties and authority of any Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, or Assistant Bishop will be as prescribed in the Governing Law and any contract or letter of agreement creating the position.
c. In the event of the death, disability, absence, or removal from office of the Bishop Diocesan, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, then the Bishops Suffragan in order of consecration, if there be any, will become the Ecclesiastical Authority. In the absence of canonically authorized Bishops, the Standing Committee will be the Ecclesiastical Authority until such time as a Bishop Diocesan is duly elected, ordained, and consecrated.

Section 3. The Bishop as Chief Pastor.

a. The Bishop may officiate in any of the offices of the Church in any congregation in accordance with the customs and practices of the Church.
b. The Bishop, or another Bishop appointed by the Bishop, will visit each congregation within the Diocese at least once in three years. Interim visits may be as the Bishop so chooses. At every such visitation the Bishop will preside at the Holy Eucharist and the Initiatory Rites as required, preach the Word, examine the records of the congregation, and examine the life and ministry of the clergy and congregation.
c. The Bishop serves as Rector of a mission and has the prerogative to appoint a member of the clergy as Vicar of the mission. The Vicar serves at the discretion of the Bishop as Rector.

Section 4. The Bishop as Ordinary.

a. The Bishop is the Ordinary of all religious or benevolent organizations of the Church within the Diocese and as such may attend and preside at any of their meetings.
b. The Bishop will appoint the members and designate the chairs of diocesan committees and will create other committees as the Bishop will deem necessary to assist in specific work of the Diocese.
c. The Bishop, with confirmation by Convention, will appoint the Officers of Convention.
d. The Bishop will appoint a Historiographer for the Diocese.
e. Whenever a congregation is without a Rector, the Bishop will be the Rector thereof, and any Curate, Vicar, or interim or supply clergy will act in the congregation as the Bishop's deputy.
f. The Bishop may be appealed to for the settlement of any problem or dispute in the administration of the ecclesiastical or lay affairs of any congregation in the Diocese. All controversies between the Rectors of two or more parishes, or between any parish and its Rector, will be referred to the Bishop for settlement and determination as specified in these Canons.
g. The Bishop appoints deputies to the General Convention in the event of a vacancy after election or when no alternate deputies are available to serve.
h. The Bishop groups parishes into Neighborhoods.
i. The Bishop may call a special meeting of any committee, commission, or other group within the Diocese.

j. The Bishop meets at least once a year with the Commission on Ministry to review procedures and meet with candidates for ordination.
k. The Bishop may license lay members for various ministries as stipulated in the Governing Law.
l. The Bishop may call on clergy to perform various tasks.
m. The Bishop may appoint administrative assistants with particular talents for specific purposes.

Section 5. The Bishop as President and Chief Executive Officer.

a. The Bishop is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese and acts for and on behalf of the Diocese pursuant to the authority vested in that office by the Governing Law and by action of the diocesan Convention.
b. The Bishop serves as President of the Executive Council.
c. The Bishop is a member ex officio of all diocesan committees (other than the Standing Committee, the Disciplinary Board, or any committee appointed to search for or nominate the Bishop's successor), commissions, or other organized groups and may at any time act as chair of any such committee, commission, or organized group. A Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, or Assistant Bishop may, at the Bishop's request, act on behalf of the Bishop on any such committee, commission, or organized group.
d. The Bishop may from time to time fill by appointment any vacancies in a diocesan committee caused by resignation, death, or inability to act unless otherwise specified by the Governing Law. The Bishop may appoint members of diocesan staff as ex officio members of a committee.
e. The Bishop receives statistical and financial reports from parishes and missions and reports from committees.
f. The Bishop works with the fiduciary committees of the Diocese to recommend loans, indebtedness, expenditures, budgets, and other financial matters of the Diocese.
g. The Bishop may from time to time, with the consent of the Executive Council, appoint one or more Assistant Secretaries, Assistant Treasurers, or Vice Chancellors, each of whom will meet all the provisions of the Governing Law applying to the Officers they assist.

Section 6. The Bishop as Presiding Officer of Diocesan Convention.

a. The Chief Presiding Officer:
   i. directs Divine Service;
   ii. delivers an annual address on the state of the Diocese;
   iii. certifies and keeps the list of clergy who are canonically resident in the Diocese;
   iv. has seat, voice, and vote;
   v. appoints the Officers and Committees of Convention as needed and fills by appointment any vacancies that may occur, in accordance with the Governing Law;
   vi. approves amendments to the Constitution and Canons; and
   vii. reports on any congregations newly organized or dissolved since the last meeting of Convention.

Section 7. The Bishop as President of the Executive Council.

The Bishop is President of the Executive Council of the Diocese. A Bishop Coadjutor will be the First Vice President, and the Assistant and Bishops Suffragan will be Vice Presidents in order of their consecration.

Section 8. Tenure.

In accordance with the Governing Law, the Bishop holds office until retirement or resignation and will not exercise jurisdiction beyond the age specified in the Governing Law.

Section 9. Salaries.

a. The salary of a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, or Assistant Bishop will be established before their election or appointment, and the Convention must agree and provide for it.

b. The salary of the Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, or Assistant Bishop originally negotiated by the Standing Committee will take effect at the time of ordination and consecration, or, in the case of a person already so ordained, at such other time as may be designated for the beginning of their tenure. The amount of the salary may be increased or decreased from time to time if the parties agree. Due notice of any such increase or decrease will be given to the Bishop or Bishops and to the Church Pension Group by the Executive Council.

c. If there is a deficit in the funds for the salary of the Bishop or Bishops, it will be the duty of the Diocese to borrow such money as may be necessary for the prompt payment of the salary or salaries, and the salary as accruing will be acknowledged debt, recoverable by process of law, if necessary.

CANON 3: DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Section 1. Annual Convention.

a. A meeting of the diocesan Convention will be held each year, the date and place to be determined before the previous annual meeting by the Bishop.

b. The Standing Committee will call the Convention if the Bishop refuses or is unable to do so.

Section 2. Special Conventions.

a. Special meetings of the Convention may be called by the Bishop, provided that the time, place, and purpose of any such special meeting will be designated, and no business will be transacted at any special meeting other than that stated in the call except upon unanimous consent of that Special Convention.

b. The Standing Committee may call a Special Convention if it deems such a Convention is warranted and the Bishop refuses to do so.

Section 3. Notification of Conventions.

At least thirty days prior written notice will be given by the Secretary of the Diocese of every annual meeting of the diocesan Convention, and a copy of such written notice will be delivered to each Rector, Priest-in-Charge, and Clerk of the Vestry or Bishop's

Committee in the Diocese. At least thirty days prior written notice of a Special Convention, with the time, place, and purpose, will be delivered to each person noted above.

Section 4. Powers of Convention.

In addition to the general and inherent powers of the diocesan Convention according to the Governing Law, the Convention will be empowered:

a. To legislate for the continuance and welfare of in this Diocese;
b. To adopt the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and to alter, amend, or repeal the same from time to time;
c. To determine the status of congregations;
d. To authorize, create, and appoint such committees, bodies, or officers, in addition to those designated in the Governing Law, as the diocesan Convention may deem necessary from time to time in order to carry on the work of the Church, and to define the powers and duties of all such committees, bodies, or officers;
e. To apportion to the congregations of the Diocese, by Canon or by special resolution, responsibility for payment of the funds needed to carry on the work of the Church in the Diocese;
f. To adopt a Budget, appropriate funds thereunder, and provide for the expenditure of funds so appropriated; and
g. To provide ways and means for raising funds to carry on the work of the Church.

Section 5. Officers of Convention.

a. The Bishop, if present, or the Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, or Assistant Bishop will preside at all meetings of the Convention of the Diocese or may delegate this responsibility to some other member of Convention, provided that, should the Bishop presiding leave the Chair in order to take part in the debate on a question, the Bishop will not resume the Chair until the question is resolved.
b. Should Convention meet during the incapacity of a Bishop or during a vacancy in the Episcopate, the President of the Standing Committee (or, in the absence of the President, the senior clerical member, by date of election, of the Standing Committee present) will call the Convention to order and preside until such time as the Convention may elect another presiding officer.
c. The Bishop will appoint a Secretary of Convention who, having been confirmed by Convention, will continue in office until the earlier of the following Convention or when their successor has been appointed and confirmed. The Secretary of Convention is Secretary of the Diocese.
d. The Bishop will appoint a Treasurer of Convention who, having been confirmed by Convention, will continue in office until the earlier of the following Convention or when their successor has been appointed and confirmed. The same will serve as Treasurer of the Diocese. The Treasurer of Convention is Treasurer of the Executive Council.
e. The Bishop will appoint a Chancellor of Convention who, having been confirmed by Convention, will continue in office until the earlier of the following Convention or when their successor has been appointed and confirmed. The same will serve as Chancellor of the Diocese. The Chancellor of Convention is the Chancellor of the Executive Council.

Section 6. Composition of Convention.

Each diocesan Convention will be composed of certified clerical and lay members.

a. Clerical membership:

i. the Bishop will report eligible members of the clergy to the Secretary of Convention no later than one week prior to each Convention, to be recorded in the Journal;

ii. the Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, Assistant Bishop, Bishops Suffragan, Assistant Bishop, and all priests and deacons of the Diocese who are canonically resident in the Diocese and not under ecclesiastical censure will be entitled to seat, voice, and vote during Convention. The voting rights of any such members of the clergy will, in event of dispute, be determined by the Convention.

b. Lay membership:

i. each parish and mission will be entitled to representation by lay delegates at any such Convention with seat, voice, and vote, the number to be based on communicant strength as defined in the current parochial report in accordance with the table below, and in accordance with such method of selection as the by-laws or custom of such parishes and missions will provide:

Any number not to exceed 150,	2 delegates
151-300,	3 delegates
301-450,	4 delegates
451-600,	5 delegates
over 600,	6 delegates

plus one delegate for every 200 communicants in excess of 600;

ii. additionally, one youth delegate elected from each Neighborhood will be entitled to seat, voice and vote at the Convention;

iii. one representative of each Neighborhood, lay deputies (not including alternate deputies) to the General Convention and to the Province during their term of office, lay members of Standing Committee and Executive Council during their term of office, the Chancellor(s), and members of the Constitution, Canons, and Resolutions Committee of the Diocese will be ex officio members of diocesan Convention;

iv. alternate delegates, alternate representatives, one alternate youth delegate elected from each Neighborhood, two alternate at-large youth delegates appointed by the Bishop, and alternate deputies to the General Convention and to the Province during their term of office will be entitled to seat but neither voice nor vote in the business aspect of the diocesan Convention, unless such alternate delegate, representative, or youth alternate be called upon to fill a vacancy in a delegation;

v. terms will commence upon election, and each term will continue until the member's successor has been elected.

Section 7. Qualifications and Election of Delegates, Youth Delegates, and Alternates.

a. A delegate or representative or alternate delegate or alternate representative will be an adult communicant in good standing of such parish, diocesan mission, missional community, or chapel mission as the delegate or representative may represent.

b. Delegates, representatives, and alternates will be elected by each parish entitled to representation, by the Bishop’s Committee of each diocesan mission or missional community entitled to representation, or by the Chapel Council of each chapel mission in such manner as the bylaws of the congregation may provide. Each congregation will

deliver to the Secretary of Convention no later than May 1st of each year a written list of delegates, certified by the Rector, Vicar, or Priest-in-Charge, or Clerk of the Vestry or Bishop's Committee. If an elected delegate cannot attend and no alternate is available, the Rector, Vicar, or Priest-in-Charge may appoint a replacement for such vacancy by certificate to the Secretary of Convention.

c. The Committee on Credentials will receive from the Secretary of Convention, examine, and report on the credentials of all delegates to the diocesan Convention, and the chair of Credentials will consider and report to the Convention on any dispute over the voting rights of any delegate or canonically resident member of the clergy. The Convention will resolve the reported disputes, and each disputed or contested delegate or member of the clergy may speak but not vote on the matter.

Section 8. Divine Services.

Every diocesan Convention will make provision for Divine Services to be held during the Convention under the direction of the Bishop, including a celebration of the Holy Eucharist or any other Service of this Church as the Bishop may deem appropriate.

Section 9. Bishop's Address.

The Bishop will, at a business session or at the Holy Eucharist (or other appointed Service) during the Convention, deliver an address on the state of the Diocese.

Section 10. Quorum for the Election of a Bishop.

A quorum for the election of a Bishop will consist of a two-thirds majority of the lay delegates having seat, voice, and vote representing at least two-thirds of the congregations and a two-thirds majority of those clergy who:

a. are entitled to vote;

b. are determined as canonically resident by the Bishop and physically resident within the geographic boundaries of the Diocese; and

c. have neither vacated their cure, nor retired.

Section 11. Quorum for the Transaction of Business.

A quorum for the transaction of business other than the election of a Bishop will consist of one half of the lay delegates having seat, voice, and vote representing at least one half of the congregations and one half of the clergy who:

a. are entitled to vote;

b. are determined as canonically resident by the Bishop and physically resident within the geographic boundaries of the Diocese; and

c. have neither vacated their cure nor retired nor are currently under censure.

Section 12. Rules of Order; Parliamentary Authority.

After a quorum has been verified, the first order of diocesan Convention business will be adoption of the Rules of Order established by the diocesan Chancellor, which Rules will have equal authority with the Governing Law when not in conflict with it. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order will be the Parliamentary Authority for all matters not covered by the Governing Law or the Rules of Order.

Section 13. Deliberations and Voting.

a. In all matters that will come before Convention the clergy and lay delegates will deliberate in one body.

b. Except where a vote by Orders is required under the provisions of the Governing Law, all votes of Convention will be by the entire membership.

c. Voting: Provisions for non-electoral motions:

i. if any member calls for a vote by Yea and Nays, the Secretary of the Convention will call the roll of the Convention, and members will then announce their votes as their names are called;

ii. any three voting members representing three different congregations may call for a vote by Orders, in which case a majority of votes in each Order will be necessary for an affirmative decision.

d. Voting: Provisions for Elections:

i. all diocesan Convention elections, other than elections for Bishops, must be held by ballot unless the Convention unanimously agrees otherwise;

ii. after the report of the Nominating Committee will have been presented to the Convention, opportunity will be provided in sequence for nominations from the floor for each open position. When nominations have been closed for all positions, a first ballot will be cast;

iii. Election of lay and clergy deputies to the General Convention shall require a majority vote in both Orders. Election of deputies to the General Convention must be completed prior to voting on alternate deputies. Candidates who appeared on the deputy ballot and were not elected shall be offered the option to appear on the ballot for alternate deputy. Candidates may be nominated to appear on the ballot for alternate deputy without also appearing on the ballot for deputy. Election as an alternate deputy shall require a majority vote in both Orders;

iv. in each run-off election the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes will be dropped.

e. Voting: General Provisions:

i. voting by proxy is not permitted at Convention;

ii. the convention will provide for voting to include the use of any electronic means as it deems proper.

Section 14. Election of Bishops.

a. Standing Committee's Role in the Election of a Bishop:

The Standing Committee will have oversight of and responsibility for any search, nomination, election process, transition, and letter of agreement for a Bishop.

b. Time of Election of the Bishop:

If the office of the Bishop of the Diocese becomes vacant because of the death or resignation of the Bishop, the Ecclesiastical Authority, within fourteen days after the vacancy has occurred, will initiate the process of electing a new Bishop.

c. Election of Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan:

Subject to obtaining any consents required by the Governing Law, a Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan may be elected at either an Annual or a Special Convention, provided that written notice of such an election, together with a copy of the written concurrence of the Bishop, be included in the call of such Convention.

d. Appointment of Assistant Bishop:
The Bishop may appoint an Assistant Bishop after receiving the consent of the Standing Committee and diocesan Convention.

e. Manner of Election of Bishops:
The diocesan Convention will sit with closed doors to receive and consider nominations. After the Standing Committee, or any committee specially appointed by the Standing Committee to make nominations for that particular occasion, delivers its report, any clerical or lay voting member of the Convention may further nominate from the floor any fit and qualified Bishop or priest duly ordained in or received into for the office. Once a majority vote to call for the nominations to be closed has taken place, the names of those persons duly nominated will be placed on a ballot. A vote will take place by Orders, and the person receiving a concurrent majority of the votes cast in each Order will be declared duly elected.

Section 15. Committees of Convention.

The Bishop appoints, at each Annual Convention, the following Committees with the compositions specified, designating a member of each as the chair. The Committees will continue until the conclusion of the next Annual Convention and may meet and act during and between Conventions. The Bishop may fill any vacancies that may occur. The Committees will have such duties that may be specifically assigned to them by the Bishop, by Convention, or in the Governing Law or the Rules of Order. These Committees help ensure that the Annual Convention runs smoothly, efficiently, and with integrity.

a. The Committee on Credentials.

i. Committee Composition:
primarily consisting of diocesan staff, but may include other clergy and lay members;

ii. Role and Function:
The Committee on Credentials is responsible for ensuring that all individuals attending the Convention are properly authorized to do so. This includes verifying the credentials of clergy, delegates, and other participants.
This Committee typically works before and during the opening of the Convention.

iii. Key Responsibilities:
a) ensure that only eligible persons are seated and able to vote.
b) helps to confirm whether delegates and clergy are in good standing within the Diocese.

b. The Committee on Dispatch of Business.

i. Committee Composition:
Primarily managed by diocesan staff, but may consist of other clergy and lay members.

ii. Role and Function:
The Committee on Dispatch of Business is responsible for managing the flow of the Convention, ensuring that the meeting follows a proper agenda, runs smoothly, and stays on schedule.
This Committee works closely with the Bishop to organize the business of the Convention. It provides guidance on the order of business and ensures that all necessary documents and reports are available.

It may also assist in managing the presentation and discussion of resolutions, nominations, elections, and other agenda items, helping to keep proceedings efficient.

iii. Key Responsibilities:

a) creating and distributing the Convention's agenda;
b) coordinating the sequence of events and business items during the Convention;
c) assisting the Bishop in ensuring all matters are addressed in a timely manner; and
d) managing time limits for discussions and speeches.

c. The Committee on Nominations.

i. Committee Composition.

One clergy and one lay member from each Neighborhood appointed to the position at a Neighborhood Board meeting.

ii. Role and Function:

The Committee on Nominations is responsible for presenting candidates for elected positions within the Diocese.

The Committee works in advance of the Convention to solicit nominations and prepare a slate of candidates. This process may involve reviewing the qualifications of potential candidates and ensuring that there is diversity and representation from around the Diocese within the slate.

Nominations may be for positions within diocesan governance as well as other leadership roles within the broader Church structure.

iii. Key Responsibilities:

a) soliciting nominations and preparing a list of candidates for elections; and
b) verifying the qualifications and eligibility of nominees.

Section 16. Journal.

The Secretary of Convention will keep a journal of its proceedings and will publish the same promptly following each meeting, making it available electronically to the congregations.

CANON 4: THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1. Composition, Qualifications, Elections, Terms of Office, Presiding Officer.

a. The Executive Council of the Diocese, commonly known as the Council, will consist of:

i. the Bishop;
ii. the Bishop Coadjutor, if any;
iii. the Suffragan Bishop, if any;
iv. the Assistant Bishop, if any;
v. one clergy member elected by each Neighborhood;
vi. one lay member elected by each Neighborhood;
vii. a youth member appointed by the Bishop to serve a one-year term;
viii. the Secretary, Treasurer, and Chancellor of the Diocese ex officio; and
ix. the Bishop may designate members of the Bishop’s staff ex officio.

b. Clergy members of the Council will be canonically resident in the Diocese and, if elected by a Neighborhood, geographically resident therein.

c. Lay members of the Council will be confirmed adult communicants in good standing, and, if elected by a Neighborhood, a member of a congregation therein.

d. Each adult member of the Council will serve a Three-Year Staggered Term. Terms will commence upon election, and each term will continue until the member's successor has been elected.
e. The Bishop is President of the Council. The Bishop Coadjutor, if any, will be first Vice President; the Bishop Suffragan, if any, will be next in line as Vice President; and the Assistant Bishop, if any, will be next in line as Vice President. In the event there is not a subordinate Bishop, at its first meeting each year, Council will elect one of its clerical or lay members to act as Vice President. In those cases when no Bishops are present, the Vice President presides.

Section 2. Temporary Filling of Vacancies.

a. Should a Neighborhood's elected member be unable to complete a term of office on the Council, the co-conveners of the Neighborhood will appoint a successor who will serve the unexpired term unless a regular meeting of the Neighborhood be scheduled within thirty days from the date of the vacancy, in which case the voting members of the Neighborhood will elect a successor at the that meeting.
b. Should an at-large member be unable to complete a term of office on the Council, the Bishop may appoint a successor who will serve the unexpired term.

Section 3. Responsibilities and Powers.

The Bishop and Executive Council will organize and empower the clergy and laity of this Diocese to act on God's mission for in our place and time. The Council will oversee and deploy the shared financial and leadership resources of the Diocese, except where the authority may otherwise be reserved to the Standing Committee, diocesan Convention, or the congregations of the Diocese. The Council will coordinate and periodically evaluate the work of the Neighborhoods. In order to carry out these duties, the Council will, subject to the approval of the Bishop and within the limitations of the Governing Law, have the power to:

a. Sue, be sued, complain, and defend in the name of the Diocese;
b. Purchase, receive, take by gift or device or bequest, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold, improve, use, or otherwise deal with real or personal property or any legal or equitable interest in property wherever located in accordance with the Governing Law;
c. Having submitted the proposed action for review to the Investment and Finance Committee and then received the express written approval of the Standing Committee and the Bishop, sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, and otherwise dispose of all or any part of property titled in the name of the Diocese in accordance with the Governing Law;
d. Receive or otherwise acquire, own, hold, vote, use, sell, or otherwise deal in shares of other interest and/or obligations of any entity;
e. Enter into contracts, incur liabilities, and borrow money;
f. Lend money, invest and reinvest funds of the Diocese, and receive and hold real and personal property as security for repayment in accordance with the Governing Law;
g. Conduct and/or authorize others to conduct the record keeping activities of the Diocese;
h. Pay pensions and establish pension plans, pension trusts, and other benefited incentive plans for the corporation's current or former officers, employees, and agents of the Diocese;

i. Make donations from funds budgeted by the annual diocesan Convention not inconsistent with the Governing Law for the public welfare or for charitable, religious, scientific, or educational purposes and for other purposes that further the diocesan interests;

j. Purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any individual who is or was a director, an officer, employee, or agent of the Diocese or who is or was serving at the request of the Diocese as a director, officer, employee, or agent of another entity against any liability asserted against or incurred by the individual in that capacity or arising from the individual's status as a director, an officer, an employee, or agent, whether or not the Diocese would have power to indemnify the individual against the same liability under this Canon;

k. Expend and allocate funds within the limits of the Budget as may have been adopted by the diocesan Convention;

l. Initiate and establish diocesan programs;

m. Create and approve administrative and financial policies and procedures;

n. In general, exercise the full power and authority of the Diocese and its Convention between sessions of the diocesan Convention, except:

i. in relation to amendments to the Constitution and Canons, the adoption of the Budget, the admission of new parishes, or such other matters as may be reserved by the Governing Law to the diocesan Convention, the Bishop, or the Standing Committee; or

ii. when any such action would be inconsistent with any action or directives of the diocesan Convention; and

o. Perform such specific functions as may be assigned to it by the Convention, the Bishop, or the Governing Law.

Section 4. Committees and Task Forces.

The Bishop and Executive Council may create from time to time such subcommittees and task forces as they deem advisable and may appoint persons not members of the Council to chair and/or serve on such committees or to perform such other services as may be required. There will be appointed to each task force at least one member of the Council. The chairs of task forces do not have to be members of the Council.

Section 5. Assistants.

The Bishop and Executive Council may from time to time appoint administrative assistants with particular talents or for specific purposes as they may deem necessary within the limits of the Budget adopted by the diocesan Convention and for a designated and limited time of service.

Section 6. Agendas and Minutes.

The Secretary of the Diocese will, at least seven days prior to a meeting of the Council, make available electronically a proposed agenda for the next meeting, and will, no more than seven days after each meeting, send the minutes to those currently serving on the Council.

Section 7. Frequency of Meetings.

The Council will hold regular meetings at least quarterly. Special meetings of the Council may be held upon the call of the President and will be called by the President with the written request of any five members after five days' written notice, which notice will state the date of the meeting and the purpose of such meeting.

Section 8. Annual Report.

The Bishop and Executive Council will submit to each diocesan Convention a report of the work done under their supervision for the preceding calendar year, including the agendas, minutes of each meeting, and financial activity. This report will be sent to all the members of the diocesan Convention not later than one week before to the annual meeting of the Convention.

Section 9. Other Functions and Duties.

The Executive Council will exercise all other functions and duties prescribed elsewhere in the Canons of this Diocese that are not specifically listed in this Canon.

CANON 5: THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition, Qualifications, Elections, Terms of Office.

a. The Standing Committee will consist of six members elected by diocesan Convention: three members of the clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, and three confirmed adult communicants in good standing. Each member of the Committee will serve a Three-Year Staggered Term.

b. Terms will commence upon election, and each term will continue until the member's successor has been elected.

c. No Bishop nor any person serving as a member of the Bishop's staff or diocesan officer will be eligible to be elected to or serve as a member of the Standing Committee.

Section 2. Standing Committee Officers and their Duties.

At the first meeting of the Standing Committee following each diocesan Convention, the Standing Committee will elect from its own members a President who may be either a lay member or a member of the clergy, a Vice President who will not be of the same Order as the President, and a Secretary. When the President is a lay member, the Vice President, or another clergy person, will perform any function that requires that a member of the clergy act for the Standing Committee. The Secretary will keep a record of all the proceedings of the Standing Committee that will be subject at all times to inspection by the Bishop or anyone delegated by the Bishop.

Section 3. Calling of Meetings and Frequency.

The President will call a meeting of the Committee:

a. At least quarterly;

b. Whenever the President may deem it advisable;

c. Whenever required to do so by the Bishop or requested by any three members of the Committee; and

d. Within thirty days after knowledge of a vacancy in the Episcopate to call for a Special Convention to elect a new Bishop.

Section 4. Temporary Filling of Vacancies.

Any vacancy occurring in the Standing Committee may be filled by the remaining members electing a person to serve until the next annual meeting of the diocesan Convention. Such election will be by the majority vote of the remaining members present and qualified to vote at any regular or special meeting of the Standing Committee. The elected member will meet the eligibility requirements contained in this Canon and be of the same Order as the person replaced.

Section 5. Functions, Duties, Report.

The Standing Committee will exercise those functions and duties prescribed in the Governing Law and will make a full report of its actions to each annual meeting of diocesan Convention.

CANON 6: COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Section 1. Composition, Qualifications, Elections, Terms of Office.

a. Members of the Commission on Ministry will be selected as follows:

i. at each Annual Convention, two persons canonically resident in the Diocese, one a clergy member and one lay confirmed adult communicant in good standing, will be elected for Three-Year Staggered Terms;

ii. the Bishop of the Diocese will annually at each Annual Convention appoint one clergy member for a Three-Year Staggered Term;

iii. the Standing Committee will each year at a meeting to be held following the diocesan Convention and on or prior to the 31st day of December in such year elect one lay confirmed adult communicant in good standing for a Three-Year Staggered Term, said term to commence upon the date of such election;

iv. the terms of office of the members designated in this Canon will commence immediately following the diocesan Convention at which elected or appointed;

v. any vacancy occurring among the members will be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the authority making the original selection;

vi. the elected and appointed members may by majority vote of the members present at any meeting elect additional members ex officio, not to exceed at any time six such additional members. Such additional members will hold office for a term of one year from the date of their election and may be re-elected for an additional one-year terms; and

vii. the Bishop annually appoints a chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

Section 2. Function and Duties.

a. The Commission on Ministry will:

i. perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities assigned to the diocesan Commission on Ministry under the Governing Law and may, subject to the approval of the Bishop:

a) adopt rules not inconsistent with the Governing Law, and
b) appoint committees or persons not members of the Commission for special duties;

ii. meet at least annually, with the Bishop present, with postulants and candidates to review procedures of the Commission, to elicit suggestions for support and expansion of ministries, and to endorse for nomination to the Standing Committee and Bishop persons whom it recommends for postulancy. A report will be made within ten days after each meeting to the Bishop and Standing Committee, and results of individual interviews will be communicated to each applicant within ten days after each meeting;

iii. meet with all candidates for Holy Orders who have been recommended to the Commission by the Bishop. This duty may be delegated to a sub-committee or sub-committees of the Commission, provided that a majority of the members of any the sub-committee be voting members of the Commission, including at least one clerical and one lay voting member. The Commission will submit to the Bishop the names of those persons whom it recommends for ordination.

CANON 7: OTHER DIOCESAN COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Section 1. Membership; Establishment.

a. The Bishop may act to create such Committees and Commissions as may be deemed necessary from time to time. In addition to the Investment and Finance Committee and the Commission on Ministry, the following Committees and Commissions listed in this Canon will exist in this Diocese at all times.

b. The Bishop has the option to appoint members and designate chairs of diocesan committees and commissions and of all other diocesan organized groups unless otherwise specifically provided by the Governing Law. As a general principle, any committee, board, or council will consist of approximately equal numbers of clergy and lay persons unless otherwise provided in the Governing Law.

Section 2: Constitution, Canons, and Resolutions Committee.

a. The Bishop will appoint, or delegate the duty to appoint, members to the Committee on Constitution, Canons, and Resolutions.

b. The Committee on Constitutions, Canons, and Resolutions will consist of two clergy and two lay members. The diocesan Chancellors and Vice Chancellors will serve as ex officio members.

c. The Committee will:

i. from time to time review the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and recommend to Convention such changes as the Committee may think best;

ii. review and report to Convention any proposals that would have the effect of amending, adding to, or repealing any portion of either the Constitution or the Canons. Any such proposal will be submitted in writing to this Committee at least sixty days prior to the annual meeting of Convention;

iii. the Committee report on each proposal will be submitted in writing to the Bishop and distributed to the clergy and Clerks of the Vestries and Bishop's Committees at least ten days prior to the pre-Convention Neighborhood meetings;

iv. after both the Bishop and Convention have approved amendments, at the close of each regular meeting of the Convention certify the changes made, if any, in the Constitution or Canons and report the same to the Secretary of the Diocese;
v. within sixty days after each regular meeting of the Convention, the Committee will report to the Secretary the remedies (such as correction of typographical or grammatical errors, renumbering, or correction of references to specific parts of the Constitution or Canons) for any technical flaws or inconsistencies introduced by changes to the Constitution and Canons;
vi. carry out other duties that may be assigned by the Bishop and the Governing Law; and
vii. receive and review all resolutions proposed for consideration at Convention that have been submitted in writing to this Committee at least sixty days prior to the annual meeting of Convention. The Committee report on each resolution will be submitted in writing to the Bishop and distributed to the clergy and Clerks of the Vestries and Bishop's Committees at least ten days prior to the pre-Convention Neighborhood meetings;

d. The Convention in its Rules of Order may make specific provisions for the consideration of proposed amendments and resolutions when introduced from the floor of Convention, provided that the Committee on Constitution, Canons, and Resolutions certifies that it has had sufficient time to review and report on the proposal;
e. Courtesy resolutions will be exempt from the requirements of this Section.

Section 3. Global Missions Committee.

a. The Bishop will appoint or delegate the duty to appoint members to the Committee on Global Missions.
b. Members of the Committee will consist of at least two diocesan clergy and two lay members.
c. The Committee will:
i. maintain regular communications with our Companion Dioceses and the diocesan household;
ii. increase awareness within the Diocese of our Global Missions efforts;
iii. encourage and strengthen parish relationships with our Companion Dioceses;
iv. discern with the Bishop how Global Missions funds are distributed and shared between our Companion Dioceses, and educate the Diocese on the Global Missions we support and the Global Episcopal Missions Network;
v. explore new ways to partner with Companion Dioceses;
vi. explore additional opportunities for Global Missions work;
vii. coordinate mission trips/pilgrimages to Companion Dioceses; and
viii. provide a report for the annual diocesan Convention.

CANON 8: REPRESENTATIVES TO PROVINCE

Section 1. Election.

a. At the annual meeting in each year evenly divisible by three, diocesan Convention will elect deputies to represent the Diocese in the Provincial Synod as specified in the Governing Law and by the Province, provided that the Convention may in other years hold elections as needed to fill any vacancies in the delegation as they may occur.

b. Terms will commence upon election, and each term will continue until a successor has been elected.

Section 2. Filling of Vacancies.

Should a vacancy in the deputation occur, the Bishop will appoint a qualified replacement to serve until such time as diocesan Convention fills the vacancy.

CANON 9: THE FINANCES AND FUNDS OF THE DIOCESE

Section 1. The Treasurer of the Diocese.

The Treasurer of the Diocese will be an adult communicant in good standing nominated by the Bishop and elected by diocesan Convention. The Treasurer will serve a one-year renewable term and will:

a. Be a named insured on the diocesan Board and Officers Insurance policy;
b. Receive and disburse all monies collected under the authority of Convention;
c. Cause the diocesan accounts to be audited by independent certified public accountants to be appointed annually by the Executive Council and to submit the Treasurer's report and the financial statements of the Diocese, as audited, to each Annual Convention;
d. Subject to the approval of the Bishop and Executive Council, borrow money when necessary to meet financial obligations of the Diocese; and
e. Submit to each diocesan Convention a report of the work done under their supervision for the preceding calendar year, including:
    i. an itemized statement of all receipts and disbursements;
    ii. a statement of all trust funds and of property in its possession or under its control, with the exception of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund;
    iii. a detailed statement of the salaries, if any, paid to each of the diocesan staff members. This report will be sent to all the members of the diocesan Convention not later than one week prior to the annual meeting of the Convention; and
f. Furnish to the Secretary of the diocesan Convention, prior to the opening of any Annual or Special meeting thereof, a list of all parishes and missions that are delinquent in their apportionment payments.

Section 2. Investment and Finance Committee.

a. The Investment and Finance Committee will consist of the Treasurer of the Diocese who will preside, the chair of the Budget Formation Committee, at least one member chosen by the Executive Council from among its members, and such number of canonically resident clergy members and adult communicants in good standing of this Diocese as are appointed by the Bishop and confirmed by Convention, such appointments being so arranged as to provide for Three-Year Staggered Terms.
b. The Investment and Finance Committee will:
    i. advise the Executive Council and Standing Committee regarding the management of the investment properties of the Diocese. Such advice may include a recommendation that, subject to the approval of the Council, the Diocese hire an independent consultant;

ii. create an Investment Policy Statement to guide management of the investments, including concerns for social responsibility in investments, for review and action by the Executive Council;
iii. meet with the advisors of the investment properties of the Diocese at least once a year to review policies and actions;
iv. work with the advisors to manage the investment funds of the Diocese between Executive Council and Standing Committee meetings using the Investment Policy Statement as a guide;
v. ensure that the Diocese carries out an audit of all its finances annually, and that entities of the Diocese carry out audits annually following the guidelines below. All reports of such audits, including any memoranda issued by such auditors, will be filed with the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority not later than thirty days after the date of such report;
vi. develop Gift Acceptance Policies for the Diocese, to be approved by the Executive Council, and evaluate proposed gifts to be made to the Diocese on request of the Bishop;
vii. report at least annually to the Executive Council the compliance with the audit requirements of each mission, parish, and institution;
viii. evaluate all applications for modification of apportionment and make recommendations to the Executive Council;
ix. serve as a resource to the missions, parishes, and institutions of the Diocese on investment and gift acceptance policies;
x. administer the Revolving Loan and Grant Program;
xi. manage any property owned by the Diocese other than that already managed by other entities of the Diocese such as the Cathedral, parishes, missions, and Waycross, Inc.;
xii. render financial advice to the Bishop, Standing Committee, Executive Council, missions, parishes, institutions, and Cooperating Ministries either on request or on its own initiative, including requests by missions, parishes, and institutions to establish investment accounts in institutions other than those consistent with the Governing Law; and
xiii. monitor compliance by missions, parishes, and institutions with the requirements of Manual of Business Practices for Churches and the Church Pension Fund and report such to the Executive Council at least annually.

Section 3: Budget Formation Committee.

a. The Budget Formation Committee will consist of a Chair of the Budget Formation Committee who will preside, the Treasurer of the Diocese, at least one member chosen by Executive Council from among its members, and such number of canonically resident clergy and adult communicants in good standing of this Diocese that are appointed by the Bishop and confirmed by Convention, such appointments will be arranged to provide for Three-Year Staggered Terms.
b. The Committee will annually create a balanced Budget for the coming year and present it to Executive Council for approval. The approved Budget is then submitted in writing to the Bishop and distributed to the clergy and Clerks of the Vestries and Bishop's Committees at least ten days prior to the pre-Convention Neighborhood meetings and presented for approval by diocesan Convention.

Section 4. Designation of Funds.

The monies and investment properties of the Diocese will be held in one of the following funds:

a. The Unrestricted Fund will contain all monies and investment properties given, devised, or bequeathed to the Diocese without any restriction on the use of principal by terms of the Governing Instrument. It will also contain the excess revenues over expenses, if any, during any fiscal year except as further explained in this Canon.

b. The Donor Restricted Fund will contain all investment property belonging to the Diocese, the principal of which is required to be retained by terms of the instrument of gift or will under which it was acquired or for which the use of the income deriving from the gift is restricted by the terms of the instrument of gift or will under which it was acquired.

c. The Special Investment Fund(s) are any monies held by the Diocese and for the purposes of investment on behalf of a parish, mission, or Diocesan Institution.

d. The Revolving Loan and Grant Fund: The Executive Council may authorize an interest-bearing loan from the Unrestricted Fund to a parish or mission or Diocesan Institution or Cooperating Ministry of the Diocese for the repair, maintenance, and construction of physical facilities. These disbursements will be made by the Investment and Finance Committee following policies and procedures approved by the Council. In addition, in order to reduce the indebtedness of a parish or mission that is unable to carry its debt service or to avoid the incurring of additional indebtedness for an essential expense that would put the parish or mission in that position, indebtedness of a parish or mission may be deferred, reduced, or forgiven if the Council, after investigation and upon recommendation of the Investment and Finance Committee, will determine that such action is required in order to preserve or promote the viability of such parish or mission. The rate of interest and term of the loans are to be determined by the Council in consultation with the Treasurer. Loans will not exceed $100,000 aggregate per entity, and the outstanding total loan balance of all such loans will never exceed $500,000.

e. The Bishop's Discretionary Fund will contain the offerings received in the parishes and missions at the time of the Bishop's Visitation and any other offerings, contributions, or gifts designated for such. The Fund will be administered by the Bishop personally and will be used for such purpose and in such manner as the Bishop deems necessary or desirable for the welfare of the Diocese and of the members of the Church or as otherwise determined at the Bishop's discretion. The administration of the Bishop's Discretionary Fund is confidential.

f. The diocesan Checking Account. Funds in this account are transferred monthly from the Unrestricted Fund and Restricted Funds as appropriate and are used for the programs of the Diocese, the salaries of the staff, and other uses as designated by the Convention in the Annual Budget. Additional disbursements to this fund from the Unrestricted and Restricted Funds throughout the year may be made on approval of the Executive Council.

g. The Beloved and Empowered Capital Campaign Fund. Monies in this fund are to be invested for long-term growth as an endowment with a specific Investment Policy to be determined by the Investment and Finance Committee.

h. Pass-through Funds. These funds, such as grants received from entities such as granting agencies and held by the Diocese on behalf of other entities, are to be dispersed by the Diocese on request of the other entities.

i. Additional funds. The Investment and Finance Committee may establish additional funds as it deems necessary.

Section 5. Administration and Investment of Funds.

Subject to the provisions, if any, of the Governing Instruments, the Treasurer of the Diocese or duly authorized agents will have custody and control of the monies and investment properties held in the Funds of the Diocese and will hold, administer, invest, and reinvest the same in accordance with policies established and periodically reviewed by the Executive Council and in accordance with the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs.

Section 6. Adoption of the Budget.

For each fiscal year, a Budget fixing the amounts to be spent from the Unrestricted Fund and the Donor Restricted Fund, the parish apportionments for the operation and program of the Diocese, and appropriating and fixing the source of funds will be adopted by the Convention, subject to the authority delegated in this Canon to the Executive Council to modify or supplement such Budget between meetings of the Convention.

Section 7. Apportionments.

Apportionments to be paid by all congregations will be determined in the following manner:

a. The Executive Council will determine annually a percentage factor to be paid from the Normal Operating Income of each congregation for support of the diocesan mission and ministry.

b. Normal Operating Income is defined in accordance with the procedures and definitions of the current Annual Parochial Report.

c. The apportionment percentage factor for each year will be determined by dividing the proposed total apportionment called for in the diocesan Budget by the three-year average of the total of Normal Operating Income for all congregations. That factor will then be applied to the three-year average of Normal Operating Income of each congregation to determine its individual apportionment.

d. Normal Operating Income will be calculated on an annual basis by each congregation and included in its annual Parochial Report. In the event that any congregation fails to submit to the Secretary of the Diocese an annual Parochial Report, the apportionment with respect to that congregation will be determined by the Budget Committee on such basis as it deems just.

Section 8. Apportionment Arrearage.

If a congregation is in arrears for one quarter on the apportionment, the Treasurer will notify the congregation in writing of that arrearage. Representatives of a congregation in arrears for two quarters will be requested to meet with representatives of the Executive Council to discuss the situation preventing timely payment.

Section 9. Applications for Modification of Apportionment.

The Executive Council, advised by the Investment and Finance Committee, will act as an adjustment committee for all congregational applications for modification of apportionments. All such applications will be presented in writing no less than thirty days

before any Council meeting and will contain a full statement of reasons for a modification.

Section 10. Administration of Budget after Adoption.

Following the adoption of the diocesan Budget by the Convention, the Treasurer of the Diocese will allocate receipts and make disbursements in accordance with such Budget subject to the following powers vested in the Executive Council acting between meetings of the Convention.

a. In the event that actual revenues do not equal the amount of budgeted disbursements, the Executive Council may reduce or eliminate items in the Budget to bring disbursements in balance with actual revenues, or the Council may authorize the transfer of un-appropriated principal of the Unrestricted Fund but not in excess of an aggregate in any one fiscal year of $50,000 or an amount equal to the capital gain earned on unappropriated principal averaged over the previous twelve calendar quarters adjusted for inflation for the same three years but not to exceed $200,000.

b. If the revenues actually received during a fiscal year exceed the amounts appearing in the Budget or if the amounts spent are less than the amounts appearing in the Budget so that there is an excess of amounts received, the Executive Council, prior to the end of the fiscal year and prior to making the transfer to the Unrestricted Fund, may appropriate part or all of the excess to the Revolving Loan Fund or may appropriate part or all of such excess for expenditure before the end of such fiscal year or during the following fiscal year for any item of program or operating expense approved by the Council whether or not included in the Budget for either year.

c. In the event that the Bishop and Treasurer certify to the necessity of an emergency expenditure and that there are not excess revenues, the Executive Council may appropriate funds out of the principal of the Unrestricted Fund, provided that the aggregate of appropriations under this subparagraph (c) do not exceed $50,000 in any fiscal year.

d. Upon request by the Bishop, Treasurer, or Financial Officer, the Executive Council may reallocate funds from one budget item to another budget item. The consent of the Council is not required for reallocations of less than $10,000 unless it materially affects the viability of an existing ministry.

e. The figures stated in this Canon will be reviewed at least every five years by the Investment and Finance Committee, which will recommend any necessary revisions thereof to diocesan Convention.

CANON 10: REGIONAL STRUCTURE

Section 1. Geographical Division of Neighborhoods.

The Bishop will divide the Diocese into Neighborhoods. Each Neighborhood will be designated by a specific name chosen by the Neighborhood and composed of the congregations within that geographical area.

Section 2. Redistribution of congregations within Neighborhoods.

The congregations comprising the various Neighborhoods may be changed from time to time by the Bishop, and any new congregation established will be assigned to one of the

Neighborhoods by the Bishop at the time that congregation is admitted into union with the Convention.

Section 3. Neighborhood Board Composition.

There will be in each Neighborhood a Neighborhood Board composed of the clergy and Wardens in the Neighborhood and the diocesan Convention delegates, including alternate delegates, from each congregation within the Neighborhood.

Section 4. Neighborhood Conveners and their Election.

In each Neighborhood there will be two conveners, one lay member and one clergy, who will be members of different congregations, if possible, within the Neighborhood and who will be elected by the majority vote of a Neighborhood Board. Such election will be held at the regular fall meeting of the Neighborhood Board. The term of office of the co-conveners will be one year. In the event that no clergy members are available or able to serve as a convener in a Neighborhood, a second lay member may be elected by the majority vote of the Neighborhood Board for a one-year term. A member of a congregation within the Neighborhood may be appointed by the Bishop to fill any vacancy in the office of convener. At the fall Board meeting, members of the Executive Council from the particular Neighborhood are also elected to Three-Year Staggered Terms on the Council.

Section 5. Frequency of Neighborhood Meetings, Agendas, and Meeting Presiders.

a. The Neighborhood Board will meet at least twice each year at the call of a convener, once in the spring and once in the fall. In the absence of Neighborhood conveners, a Neighborhood member of the Executive Council will preside over the meeting, or in their absence, the senior clergy member of a mission or parish within the Neighborhood. If both offices of convener are vacant, the senior clergy member by length of tenure in their current position in the Neighborhood will call the meetings.

b. At the spring meeting, the agenda will include time for prayer and spiritual formation, updates on the ministry of the constituent congregations and opportunities for mutual ministry and support, notification of diocesan offices open for election at the upcoming diocesan Convention, reports from Neighborhood representatives to the Executive Council on the Council's activities, and notification of deadlines for submission of nominations, proposed resolutions, proposed changes to the Constitution and Canons for the upcoming diocesan Convention, and any other such matters as may be of interest to the Neighborhood.

c. The fall meeting is to be held prior to and as near as convenient to the diocesan Convention. The agenda will include time for prayer and spiritual formation, updates on the ministry of the constituent congregations and opportunities for mutual ministry and support, reports from Neighborhood representatives to the Executive Council on the Council's activities, election of Neighborhood representatives to the Council, discussion of any proposed resolutions and proposed changes to the Constitution and Canons that have been submitted for consideration at the upcoming diocesan Convention, discussion of the proposed diocesan Budget for consideration at the upcoming diocesan Convention, and any other such matters as may be of interest to the Neighborhood.

i. members of the Bishop's staff, along with a representative of the diocesan Investment and Finance Committee, should be invited to the fall meeting to present and answer inquiries about the diocesan Budget and other matters of concern to diocesan leadership;

ii. members of the Committee on Constitution, Canons, and Resolutions are also invited to speak to proposed resolutions or proposed changes to the Constitution and Canons, if any; and

iii. in any year during which an election to the Executive Council is to occur, written notice of the date, place, and time of the Neighborhood Board meeting will be given to the clergy and Wardens of each congregation in the Neighborhood at least ten days in advance.

d. Special meetings of the Neighborhood Board may be held upon call by the Bishop or by any one of the Neighborhood conveners upon written request signed by at least two members of the Neighborhood Board representing two congregations in such Neighborhood.

e. Two or more Neighborhoods may meet together simultaneously. The Neighborhood conveners of all involved Neighborhoods shall agree on a single individual to chair the joint meeting. All nominations and votes must be taken and recorded separately for each Neighborhood.

f. The Neighborhood members of Executive Council during their term on the Executive Council are ex officio members of the Neighborhood Board, including if they are not a member of Board, and will make regular reports to the Neighborhood Board on the activities of the Council.

Section 6. Notification of Neighborhood Nominations for Election.

Not less than five days before the convening of diocesan Convention, the Neighborhood conveners or other members responsible for convening the meeting for the election of a Neighborhood member of Executive Council will certify to the Secretary of the Diocese any member so nominated.

Section 7. Bishop as Presider of a Neighborhood Board.

The Bishop, if present, may preside at all meetings of the Neighborhood Board.

Section 8. Neighborhood Bylaws.

Each Neighborhood Board may enact bylaws governing the management of the affairs of the Neighborhood in conformity with the Governing Law and subject to the approval of the Bishop.

Section 9. Calling of Special Meetings of Neighborhood Leadership.

The Bishop may from time to time call a meeting of co-conveners of each Neighborhood for their advice and counsel.

CANON 11: DIOCESAN MISSIONS, CHAPEL MISSIONS, AND MISSIONAL COMMUNITIES

Section 1. Creation of a Mission.

a. An organized congregation may be established as a diocesan mission whenever not less than twelve persons, five of whom are adult communicant members in good standing in this Diocese, desirous of establishing services in any village, town, city, or district of this Diocese, make the application to the Bishop and Executive Council. The application will be signed by all the adults who desire to identify themselves with the proposed congregation and will be in the following form:

"We the undersigned, being desirous of obtaining the services of the Church, do hereby request that we may be canonically organized as a mission of the Diocese under the name of _____ in the city of _____ in the county of _____, Indiana. We hereby declare ourselves individually and collectively ready to do what in us lies to establish and sustain the regular worship of the Church and to promote its influence in our Neighborhood. We promise conformity to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church and to the Governing Law. Furthermore, we pledge ourselves to pay such a sum as may be assumed by us for the salary of a priest or deacon and also such other sums as may be apportioned upon us by the Convention of the Diocese. For the first year, we promise to pay not less than the diocesan minimum salary for clergy support."

b. As part of the review of the application, the Vestry or Bishop's Committee of each congregation within the appropriate Neighborhood, and all other congregations within a radius of ten miles of the proposed location of the mission, shall be notified of the application and given an opportunity to comment.

c. The Secretary of the Diocese will give written notice of the Bishop's and Executive Council's decision to the applicants.

Section 2. Initial Organization.

a. The Bishop is the Rector of the mission and appoints a member of the clergy as Vicar of the mission; the Vicar serves under the authority and direction of the Rector. The Vicar will be employed under a letter of agreement approved by the Bishop. The letter will express any special conditions, together with the stipulations with regard to salary or support, and the salary as accruing will be acknowledged debt, recoverable by process of law, if necessary, except that the amount of the salary may be increased or decreased if from time to time the parties so agree. Due notice of any such increase or decrease will be given to the Bishop and to the Church Pension Group by the Clerk of the Bishop's Committee.

b. With the advice of the Vicar, the Bishop will appoint an initial Warden, Secretary, and Treasurer and will determine the size of the Bishop's Committee of the mission until the adoption of bylaws for the mission. The members of the mission will then promptly hold a special meeting to elect adult communicants in good standing to serve as the Bishop's Committee until the first annual meeting of the mission and a confirmed adult communicant in good standing to serve as delegate to diocesan Convention. The initial

Warden will be, and the initial Treasurer and the delegate may be, members of the Bishop's Committee.

c. The Bishop's Committee will create bylaws for the mission for presentation to the first annual meeting of the mission. The bylaws will explicitly state their subordination to the Governing Law. The bylaws will take effect after having been adopted by a two-thirds vote of the annual meeting and approved by the Bishop and Executive Council.

d. The Bishop will report to diocesan Convention concerning missions organized since the last meeting of the Convention, and the Convention may then vote to seat the delegates of such missions.

Section 3. Annual Meeting.

An annual meeting of the mission will be convened on a date after the annual diocesan Convention but not later than February 28 of the year following. At least ten days' written notice will be provided to members of the mission regarding the time and place of the meeting.

Section 4. Bishop's Committee: Composition, Qualifications, Elections.

a. The Bishop's Committee will consist of the Rector, the Vicar, the elected Wardens, and the members of the Committee elected according to the bylaws of the mission not inconsistent with the Governing Law. At the annual meeting a new Warden, Secretary, and Treasurer may be elected to replace the initial officers appointed by the Bishop.

b. Vacancies on the Bishop's Committee will be filled by election at the annual meeting as provided by mission bylaws not inconsistent with the Governing Law. The Bishop's Committee may temporarily fill vacancies of membership between annual meetings of the mission by majority vote, but the vacancy will be filled by election at the next scheduled annual meeting.

c. The Wardens will be elected in such a manner as determined by the mission's bylaws or annual meeting but not contrary to the Governing Law.

Section 5. Bishop's Committee Meetings.

The Bishop's Committee will meet not less than quarterly and as provided by the mission bylaws. The Vicar (or, in case of the Vicar's inability to act, a Warden) may call a special meeting of the Bishop's Committee at any time that they may deem expedient by giving no less than three days' written notice of the meeting. The Vicar or a Warden will call such a special meeting when requested in writing to do so by a majority of the members of the Bishop's Committee. The purpose of any specially called meeting will be declared in the notice of the meeting. The Vicar has the option to preside at all meetings of the Bishop's Committee unless they defer to a Warden. In the absence of a Vicar, the Senior Warden present presides.

Section 6. Property and Financial Affairs.

a. The Bishop's Committee acts as agent for the Diocese to take charge of and care for all property in conformity with the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and the Governing Law. The Bishop's Committee is responsible to the Bishop and Executive Council for the temporal affairs of the mission and approval of its annual budget.

b. No mission will incur any indebtedness, enter into any obligation, encumber its property, or limit the diocesan trust in that property until it will have first submitted the proposed action for review to the Investment and Finance Committee and then received the express written approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee. No mission will make any expenditure except within such limits as may be prescribed from time to time by the Vicar and Bishop's Committee.

c. All funds of a mission, except for checking accounts and insured certificates of deposit in financial institutions approved by the Bishop, will be registered in the name of the Diocese.

Section 7. Annual Report and Budget.

The Bishop's Committee will, at or before the annual meeting, report to the mission as to the temporal and financial state of the mission, which report will be permanently recorded, including presentation of the annual budget as approved. Accounting records will be maintained on a calendar year basis. The mission will adhere to the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and the Governing Law.

Section 8. Admission as a Parish.

After three years' representation in diocesan Convention as a mission, a mission may apply to be admitted into union with the Diocese as a parish in accordance with the Governing Law and the requirements to become a parish.

Section 9. Dissolution of a Mission.

a. No mission that has been admitted into union with the Diocese will leave that union except by dissolution of the mission or as a result of division of the Diocese or its combination with another Diocese of this Church, in accordance with the Governing Law.

b. If the people of a mission fail to fulfill their agreement as stated in the application for organization, the Bishop, with the consent of the Standing Committee, may withdraw the member of the clergy and dissolve the organization, in which case, as well as in case of the temporary abandonment of services, all property of the mission will be placed in the custody of the Bishop and the Diocesan Corporation.

Section 10. Chapel Missions

A congregation may be organized as a chapel mission, or a mission may be converted into a chapel mission subject to the following terms and conditions:

a. The members of a chapel mission or an unorganized congregation, in either case consisting principally of persons who are faculty members or students of a college or university or who are residents of an extended care facility or who are inmates of a correctional institution, may petition the Bishop for consent to their organizing or reorganizing as a chapel mission.

b. If the Bishop consents to such organization, the members will proceed to organize or reorganize as a chapel mission in accordance with, and will be governed by, those provisions of this Canon 11 and the Governing Law that are applicable to a mission except for the following provisions:

i. The persons who are members of the chapel mission will be members of the Church who are associated with such college, university, facility, or institution.

ii. The governing body of a chapel mission will be designated as the Chapel Council, and the priest in charge will be designated as the Chaplain.

Section 11. Missional Communities

The Bishop may approve the organization of communities of faith for which, due to reasons of scale or nature of mission, the governance structures of parishes or missions delineated elsewhere in the Canons of the Diocese are burdensome or impractical. Such a community will be referred to as a "missional community" whose characteristics will be:

a. It serves a population otherwise not being served by the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis or denominations with which is in full communion. It is desirable that a missional community affiliate with an existing congregation or ecumenical partner, with the terms of such affiliation to be negotiated according to the needs and goals of the missional community and its partner(s).

b. It will commit to form a primarily lay-led ministry organized around discipleship, worship, fellowship, service, and care for one another. The exact form and content of the missional community is determined by its particular needs and goals. The Bishop may appoint a priest or deacon to support the missional community for the purposes of teaching, pastoral care, and sacramental oversight.

c. An application will be signed by all the adults who desire to identify themselves with the proposed missional community, with such adaptations as may be necessary to clarify the purpose of the missional community:

"We, the undersigned, being desirous of obtaining the services of the Church, do hereby request that we may be canonically organized as a missional community of the Diocese under the name of _____ in the city of _____ in the County of _____, Indiana. We hereby declare ourselves individually and collectively ready to do what in us lies to establish and sustain the regular worship of the Church and to promote its influence in our community. We promise conformity to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church and to the Governing Law. Furthermore, we pledge ourselves to pay such a sum as may be assumed by us for the assistance of a priest or deacon and also such other sums as may be apportioned upon us by the Convention of the Diocese. We promise to pay not less than the diocesan minimum salary for clergy support."

d. A covenant agreement will be negotiated and approved by both the Bishop and the missional community regarding the details of its purpose and the governance of the community, including such bylaws as may be appropriate. Such a covenant will be reviewed and approved by the Executive Council and Standing Committee.

e. If a missional community should subsequently decide to seek diocesan mission status, that process will follow the steps indicated in this Canon.

f. Two representatives of each missional community may attend diocesan Convention with seat, voice, and vote. Members will have full rights to participate in all volunteer activities and leadership positions of the Diocese, provided they meet all other requirements for service.

CANON 12: PAROCHIAL MISSIONS

Section 1. Creation of a Parochial Mission.

The Wardens and Vestry of a parish may create a parochial mission upon receipt of:

a. Certification by the Bishop and the Rector of the following application signed by at least twelve adult persons, five of whom are adult communicant members in good standing.

> "We the undersigned, being desirous of obtaining the services of the Church, do hereby request that we may be canonically organized as a parochial mission of the Diocese under the name of _____ in the city of _____ in the county of _____, Indiana. We hereby declare ourselves individually and collectively ready to do what in us lies to establish and sustain the regular worship of the Church and to promote its influence in our neighborhood. We promise conformity to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church and to the Governing Law. Furthermore, we pledge ourselves to pay such sum as may be assumed by us for the salary of a priest or deacon and also such other sums as may be apportioned upon us by the Convention of the Diocese. We promise to pay not less than the diocesan minimum salary for clergy support."

b. As part of the review of the application, the Vestry or Bishop's Committee of each congregation within the appropriate Neighborhood, and all other congregations within a radius of ten miles of the proposed location of the mission, shall be notified of the application and given an opportunity to comment.

Section 2. Initial Organization.

a. The Rector of the sponsoring parish will be the Rector of the mission and will, with the approval of a majority of the Vestry, appoint a Vicar of the mission from among members of the clergy approved in writing by the Bishop. The Vicar will serve under the authority and direction of the Rector. The Vicar will be employed under a letter of agreement approved by the Bishop. The letter will express any special conditions, together with the stipulations with regard to salary or support, and the salary as accruing will be acknowledged debt, recoverable by process of law, if necessary, except that the amount of the said salary may be increased or decreased if from time to time the parties agree. Due notice of any such increase or decrease will be given to the Bishop and the Church Pension Group by the Clerk of the Vestry.

b. With the advice of the Vicar and the approval of a majority of the Vestry, the Rector will appoint an initial Warden, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Vestry will determine the size of the Bishop's Committee of the mission until the adoption of bylaws for the mission. The members of the mission will then promptly hold a special meeting to elect no less than five adult communicants in good standing to serve as the Bishop's Committee and a confirmed adult communicant in good standing to serve as initial representative to the diocesan Convention until the first annual meeting of the mission. The initial Warden will be, and the initial Treasurer and Representative may be, members of the Bishop's Committee.

c. The Bishop's Committee will create bylaws for the mission to be prepared for presentation to the first annual meeting of the mission. The bylaws will explicitly state their subordination to the Governing Law and to the bylaws of the sponsoring parish. The

mission bylaws will take effect after having been adopted by a two-thirds vote of the annual meeting of the mission and approved by the Rector, Vestry, Bishop, and Executive Council.

d. The Bishop will report to diocesan Convention concerning parochial missions organized since the last meeting of the Convention, and the Convention may then vote to seat the representatives of such missions.

Section 3. Membership; Annual Meeting.

a. Membership in the mission will constitute membership in the parish, with all the responsibilities and privileges thereof, including seat, voice, and vote in parish meetings on the same terms as any other members of the sponsoring parish.

b. An annual meeting of the mission will be convened on a date after the Annual Convention but not later than February 28 of the year following. At least ten days' written notice will be provided to members of the mission regarding the time and place of the meeting.

Section 4. Bishop's Committee: Composition, Qualifications, Elections.

a. The Bishop's Committee will consist of the Rector, the Vicar, the elected Wardens, and the elected members of the Bishop's Committee. At the annual meeting a new Warden, Secretary, and Treasurer may be elected to replace the initial officers appointed by the Bishop.

b. Wardens are to be confirmed adult communicants in good standing. The confirmation requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Bishop.

c. Vacancies on the Bishop's Committee will be filled by election at the annual meeting as provided by mission bylaws not inconsistent with the Governing Law. The Bishop's Committee may temporarily fill vacancies of membership between annual meetings of the mission by a majority vote, but such vacancy will be filled by election at the next scheduled annual meeting.

d. The Wardens will be elected in such a manner as determined by the mission's bylaws or annual meeting but not contrary to the Governing Law.

Section 5. Bishop's Committee Meetings.

The Bishop's Committee will meet not less than quarterly and as provided by the mission's bylaws. The Rector or the Vicar (or, in case of the Vicar's inability to act, a Warden) may call a special meeting of the Bishop's Committee at any time that they may deem expedient by giving no less than three days' written notice of the meeting. The Rector, the Vicar, or a Warden will call such a special meeting when requested in writing to do so by a majority of the members of the Bishop's Committee. The purpose of any specially called meeting will be declared in the notice of the meeting. The Rector of the sponsoring parish or the Vicar of the parochial mission will preside at all meetings of the Bishop's Committee unless the Rector or Vicar choose to defer to a Warden. In the absence of a Rector or Vicar, the Senior Warden presides.

Section 6. Property; Duties of the Bishop's Committee; Financial Affairs.

a. The Bishop's Committee acts as agent for the parish to take charge of and care for all such property in conformity with the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and the

Governing Law. The Bishop's Committee is responsible to the Rector and Vestry for the temporal affairs of the mission and approval of its annual budget.

b. No parochial mission will incur any indebtedness, enter into any obligation, encumber its property, or limit the diocesan trust in that property until it has first submitted the proposed action for review to the Vestry of the sponsoring parish and the Investment and Finance Committee of the Diocese and then received the express written approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee. No parochial mission will make any expenditure except within such limits as may be prescribed from time to time by the Rector and Vestry.

c. All funds of a parochial mission, except for checking accounts and insured certificates of deposit in financial institutions approved by the Rector, Vestry, and Bishop, will be registered in the name of the parish.

Section 7. Annual Report and Budget.

The Bishop's Committee will, at or before the annual meeting of the mission, report to the mission and to the parish as to the temporal and financial state of the mission. The report will be permanently recorded, including presentation of the annual budget as approved. Accounting records will be maintained on a calendar year basis. The mission will adhere to the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and the Governing Law.

Section 8. Admission as a Parish.

After three years' representation in diocesan Convention as a mission, a mission may apply to be admitted into union with the Diocese as a parish in accordance with the Governing Law and the requirements to become a parish.

Section 9. Dissolution of a Parochial Mission.

a. No parochial mission that has been admitted into union with the Diocese will leave that union except by dissolution of the parochial mission or as a result of division of the Diocese or its combination with another Diocese of this Church, in accordance with the Governing Law.

b. If the people of a parochial mission fail to fulfill their agreement as stated in the application for organization, the Bishop, in consultation with the sponsoring parish and with the consent of the Standing Committee, may withdraw the member of the clergy and dissolve the organization, in which case, as well as in case of the temporary abandonment of services, all property of the mission provided by the sponsoring parish will be returned to the sponsoring parish, and the remainder will be placed in the custody of the Bishop and the Diocesan Corporation.

CANON 13: RECTORS, PARISHES, AND VESTRIES

Section 1. Admission of Parishes.

Diocesan Convention may admit parishes into union with the Diocese when they have no fewer than fifteen confirmed adult communicants in good standing and upon presentation by the applicant congregation of:

a. Certification by the Bishop approving the organization of the parish;

b. Certification by a Chancellor of the Diocese that the parish has been duly organized by

i. the adoption of parish bylaws. The bylaws will explicitly state their subordination to the Governing Law;
ii. the election of the Wardens and Vestry members provided for therein;
iii. incorporation under the law of Indiana as a nonprofit corporation, which Articles of Incorporation will contain the following provision: “This parish acknowledges its allegiance to and to the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and accedes to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church and the Governing Law”; and
iv. assumption of the name under which it will be incorporated.

c. Certification that the Treasurer of the Diocese has approved a statement of its assets and liabilities.
d. The completion and submission of an application signed by all the adults who desire to identify themselves with the proposed congregation in the following form:

"We the undersigned, being desirous of obtaining the services of the Church, do hereby request that we may be canonically organized as a parish of the Diocese under the name of _____ in the city of _____ in the county of _____, Indiana. We hereby declare ourselves individually and collectively ready to do what in us lies to establish and sustain the regular worship of the Church and to promote its influence in our neighborhood. We promise conformity to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Church and to the Governing Law. Furthermore, we pledge ourselves to pay such sum as may be assumed by us for the salary of a priest or deacon and also such other sums as may be apportioned upon us by the Convention of the Diocese. We promise to pay not less than the diocesan minimum salary for clergy support."

Section 2. Amendment of Articles and Bylaws; Encumbrance of Property.

a. No amendment to the Constitution and Canons or Articles of Association or bylaws of the new parish will take effect until it has been submitted for review to a Chancellor of the Diocese and then received the approval of the Bishop.
b. No parish will incur any indebtedness, enter into any obligation, encumber its property or limit the diocesan trust in that property until it has first submitted the proposed action for review to the Investment and Finance Committee and then received the express written approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee. No parish will make any expenditure except within such limits as may be prescribed from time to time by the Rector and Vestry.
c. All funds of a parish, except for checking accounts and insured certificates of deposit in financial institutions approved by the Rector, Vestry, and Bishop, will be registered in the name of the parish.

Section 3. Annual Meeting.

a. An annual parish meeting will be convened on a date after the annual diocesan Convention but not later than February 28 of the year following. At least ten days’ written notice will be provided to members of the parish regarding the time and place of the meeting.
b. Special meetings of the parish may be called by the Rector, or the Vestry if there be no Rector, and will be called by the Rector upon written request signed by a majority of the Vestry. Notice of any special meeting of the parish will be given at all regular services of the parish on at least one Sunday next preceding the day appointed for the special

meeting. The purpose of any specially called meeting will be declared in the notice of the meeting.

Section 4. Vestry: Composition, Qualifications, Elections.

a. The parish Vestry will consist of the Rector, the elected Wardens, and the Vestry members elected in accordance with the parish bylaws and not inconsistent with the Governing Law.
b. Wardens are to be confirmed adult communicants in good standing. The confirmation requirement may be waived at the discretion of the Bishop.
c. The Vestry may temporarily fill vacancies of membership between annual parish meetings by majority vote, but the vacancy will be filled by election at the next scheduled annual parish meeting.
d. The Wardens will be elected in such a manner determined by the parish's bylaws or annual parish meeting but not contrary to the Governing Law.

Section 5. Vestry Duties.

The Vestry will aid and support the Rector and will transact the temporal affairs of the parish and the approval of its annual budget, including all maintenance and provision of funds for operation of the parish.

Section 6. Vestry Meetings.

The Vestry will meet monthly, with the exception of one month per year, if needed, or as provided by the parish bylaws. The Rector (or, in case of the Rector's inability to act, a Warden) may call a special meeting of the Vestry at any time that they may deem expedient by giving no less than three days' written notice of the meeting. The Rector or a Warden will call such a special meeting when requested in writing to do so by at least three members of the Vestry. The purpose of any special meeting will be declared in the notice of the meeting. The Rector presides at all meetings of the Vestry, unless they defer the meeting to a Warden. In the absence of a Rector, the Senior Warden presides.

Section 7. Annual Report and Budget.

The Treasurer or Vestry will submit to the congregation, at or before the annual parish meeting, a report as to the temporal and financial state of the parish. The report will be permanently recorded, including presentation of the annual budget as approved. Accounting records will be maintained by the Treasurer on a calendar year basis. The parish will adhere to the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and the Governing Law.

Section 8. Vacancy of Cure; Interim Rector; Appointment of Wardens.

a. The Wardens or other officers will immediately report to, and request the assistance of, the Bishop regarding any vacancy in its pastoral care and consequent need to provide temporary and successor care. The Bishop and/or designated representative will then consult with the Vestry and will assist it in searching for temporary and successor pastoral care.

b. If the Rector (if any) and Vestry of the parish will have failed for thirty days to make provision for services of public worship, it will be the duty of the Bishop to take such measures as they may deem expedient to secure the temporary conduct of public worship.
c. The Bishop may, with the consent of a majority of the Vestry, appoint an interim Rector for the parish.
d. The Bishop may, with the consent of the majority of the Vestry, appoint a Priest-in-Charge for the congregation for a fixed period of time.
e. Should the bylaws of a parish provide for the Rector thereof to appoint one or more of the Wardens without making further provision for such appointment during the vacancy of the cure, the Bishop will, after consultation with the Vestry and the interim Rector (if any), act in the Rector's place.

Section 9. Election of a Rector; Disputes with Rector.

a. Any candidate for election as Rector of a parish will be a duly ordained priest approved in writing by the Bishop, and no election of a Rector will be undertaken until the name of the priest whom it is proposed to elect has been made known to the Bishop and sufficient time, not to exceed thirty days, has been given to the Bishop to give final approval.
b. A parish may, having obtained the assent of the Bishop and by a majority vote of the Vestry of the parish, issue a call. Written notice of the election and call signed by the Wardens will be sent to the Bishop, and if the latter be satisfied that the person so chosen has accepted the office, the notice will be sent to the diocesan Secretary, who will record it. The record will be evidence of the relation between the priest and the parish. A priest can become Rector only upon receiving canonical residence in the Diocese.
c. The Rector-elect will be employed under a letter of agreement approved by the Bishop. The letter will express any special conditions, together with the stipulations with regard to salary or support, and the salary as accruing will be acknowledged debt, recoverable by process of law, if necessary, except that the amount of the salary may be increased or decreased from time to time if the parties agree. Due notice of any such increase or decrease will be given to the Bishop and to the Church Pension Group by the Clerk of the Vestry.
d. Canon 17 will control matters of dispute between a Rector and Vestry.
e. The Rector or Priest-in-charge of a parish, by virtue of that office, has exclusive charge of all sacraments, rites, ceremonies and ordinances of the parish, and the choice of music and ritual accessories, subject only to the authority of the Bishop in such matters. The Rector or Priest-in-charge is entitled at all times to have access to the church buildings, and to open them as deemed necessary for all forms of public worship and religious instruction and for other rites and ceremonies authorized by the Bishop and the Governing Law. The Rector or Priest-in-charge has control of the alms received at Holy Eucharist for pious and charitable purposes, unless an alternative arrangement regarding the funds is agreed upon by both the Rector and Vestry. All sums received will be accounted for at the annual parish meeting. The records of the Discretionary Fund will be audited annually with all other accounts of the parish. The Rector or Priest-in-charge will have the direction and control of any parish school and of all guilds and organizations within the parish.

Section 10. Other Parish Clergy and Staff Members.

a. A Rector may, subject to the approval of the Vestry, call assisting clergy for the parish in accordance with the Governing Law. The Bishop's written consent must be obtained regarding the clergy so named. Such clergy will serve under the authority and direction of the Rector. If the Rector leaves the parish for another call, any assisting clergy may continue to serve the parish only at the invitation of the Vestry. The cleric will be employed under a letter of agreement approved by the Bishop. The letter will express any special conditions, together with the stipulations with regard to salary or support, and the salary as accruing will be acknowledged debt, recoverable by process of law, if necessary, except that the amount of the said salary may be increased or decreased if from time to time the parties so agree. Due notice of any such increase or decrease will be given to the Bishop and to the Church Pension Group by the Clerk of the Vestry.

b. No member of the clergy will be allowed to officiate within the Cure of another clergy without the request or consent of the incumbent, or, if the incumbent is absent or incapacitated, that of the Wardens of the parish.

c. A Rector may designate other paid staff, subject to the approval of the Vestry.

Section 11. Derelict Parishes.

a. The Bishop, or one or more designated agents, will meet with the Vestry and Wardens of any congregation if the congregation is derelict in:
   i. paying the diocesan apportionment for six months;
   ii. making pension payments for any stipendiary member of its clergy for two quarters;
   iii. making any or all insurance payments for two quarters;
   iv. compensating any stipendiary member of its clergy for two months; or
   v. making provision for regular Divine services in a vacant cure during the preceding two years.

b. The Vestry and Wardens, in consultation with the Bishop and/or the designated agent(s), will prepare and implement a plan to address any of the above deficiencies and report progress in implementation of the plan to the Bishop and Standing Committee.

Section 12. Dissolution of a Parish.

a. No parish that has been admitted into union with the Diocese will leave that union except by dissolution of the parish or as a result of division of the Diocese or its combination with another Diocese of this Church, in accordance with the Governing Law.

b. No parish will dissolve except by action of a special parish meeting called for that purpose and only upon the following conditions:
   i. the Bishop will first be consulted and will state agreement or opposition to such dissolution, and the Vestry will transmit the Bishop's response to all parish members at least thirty days before the special parish meeting.
   ii. at least sixty days prior to the special parish meeting the Vestry will consult with the Investment and Finance Committee, providing it with itemized lists of parish assets and liabilities and a written plan for disposition and resolution of the same. All such plans will provide for the transfer to the Diocese of any parish asset remaining after removal of liabilities. The Investment and Finance Committee will report its recommendations to the Standing Committee, and, if the Standing Committee

approves, the Vestry will transmit the Standing Committee's written approval to all parish members at least thirty days before the special parish meeting.

iii. the motion to dissolve will take the form of a motion to adopt the plan as approved by the Standing Committee and presented to the members of the parish prior to the special meeting, and no amendments to the plan will be in order.

iv. should dissolution be effected (contrary to these Canons) without adoption of a plan considered by the Investment and Finance Committee and approved by the Standing Committee, all parish assets will be placed in the custody of the Bishop and the Diocesan Corporation.

c. Diocesan Convention will approve the plan for disposition of any parish asset becoming diocesan property as a result of the dissolution of a parish, provided that the Bishop, Standing Committee, and Executive Council may make recommendations to the Convention as to action to be taken.

CANON 14: PARISH REGISTERS AND PAROCHIAL REPORTS

Section 1. The Parish Register.

Every parish and mission will maintain a parish register in which to record the information required under the provisions of the Governing Law.

Section 2. The Parochial Report.

Each parish and mission will annually prepare and forward to the diocesan office not later than March 1st each year the parochial report required under the provisions of the Governing Law. Filing the parochial report using the website administered by the General Convention Office of satisfies this obligation.

Section 3. Responsibility for Parish Registry and Reports.

The parish register and the annual report will be the responsibility of the priest or deacon in charge. In the absence of a priest or deacon of a parish, it will be the responsibility of the Warden; or in the case of a mission, it will be the responsibility of the chair of the Bishop's Committee.

Section 4. Parish Registry Upon Dissolution.

Upon the dissolution of a parish or mission, the register provided for in Canon 13:3 will immediately become the property of the Diocese, and the Bishop will take charge of it.

Section 5. Reporting of Occasional Services.

Every priest or deacon not in charge of a parish or mission will report any occasional services performed, and, if there have not been any, the cases and reasons that prevented them will be stated.

Canon 15: COMMUNITIES OF FAITH IN COVENANT RELATIONSHIP

Section 1: Coalitions.

a. A Coalition consists of two or more congregations organized under the Governing Law that have entered into a covenant to work together in a regional ministry for a period of at

least three years. Each participating congregation retains its own identity, Vestry or other governing body, budget, property, and representation in the Convention.

b. A Coalition may be formed, with the consent of the Bishop, upon an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the Vestry or other governing body of each participating congregation. Thereafter, a congregation may join the Coalition, with the consent of the Bishop, upon an affirmative vote of three-fourths of its Vestry or other governing body and an affirmative vote of a majority of the Coalition congregations.

c. There will be a Coalition council that meets annually consisting of at least two adult lay members from each participating congregation. The clergy serving participating congregations will be members of the Coalition council as ex officio.

d. The Coalition council may adopt bylaws that include provision for the election of a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer from among those lay members eligible to serve on the Coalition council and will include the establishment of an annual budget. A copy of the bylaws and each amendment adopted by the Coalition council, certified by the Secretary, will be filed within 30 days thereafter with the Bishop for approval.

e. There will be a Coalition ministry team, which will include the clergy serving participating congregations and lay members of the congregations designated by the Coalition council.

f. A participating congregation may withdraw from a Coalition at the end of a calendar year upon a six months' notice, with the consent of the Bishop, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of its Vestry or other governing body, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the Coalition council.

Section 2: Constellations.

a. A constellation is two or more congregations served by the same member of the clergy who choose to enter into a covenant to work together and share governance for a period of at least three years. Each participating congregation retains its own identity and representation in the Convention of the Diocese.

b. A constellation may be formed with the consent of the Bishop upon an affirmative vote at an annual meeting of each congregation. Upon the constellation's formation, each congregation's Vestry will be disbanded, and the authority of each Vestry will be ceded to a constellation committee. The constellation committee will have the authority of a Vestry for all of the congregations of the constellation as described in the Governing Law.

c. There will be a constellation committee consisting of not less than three nor more than six adult lay members from each participating congregation elected at the congregation’s annual meeting. The clergy serving participating congregations will be members of the constellation committee as ex officio.

d. The constellation committee elects one member from each congregation as Warden of that congregation.

e. The constellation committee may adopt bylaws that include provisions for the election of a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer from among those lay members eligible to serve on the constellation committee and for the establishment of an annual budget for the constellation. A copy of the bylaws and each amendment thereto adopted by the constellation committee, certified by the Secretary, will be filed within 30 days with the Bishop for approval.

f. The constellation may have individual congregation annual meetings or a constellation annual meeting. If a constellation annual meeting is chosen as stipulated in its by-laws, it will comply with all of the requirements for congregational annual meetings in the Governing Law. It will be considered the annual meeting for each member congregation.
g. The constellation committee may approve an annual budget covering all the revenues and expenses of all member congregations and present it to the annual meeting of each congregation or constellation annual meeting.
h. A participating congregation may withdraw from a constellation at the end of a calendar year upon a six months' notice, with the consent of the Bishop, an affirmative vote of three-fourths of its Vestry or other governing body, and an affirmative vote of a majority of the constellation council.

Section 3. Preexisting Relationships.

Any two or more congregations already in a covenant relationship and whose relationship agreement or bylaws are currently on file with the Diocese will have the option to continue in that covenant relationship. However, if the preexisting agreement or bylaws of that covenant relationship should change, then the amended, altered, or new relationship will be subject to Sections 1 and 2 of this Canon.

CANON 16: DORMANT PARISHES AND MISSIONS

Section 1. Initial Report of Possible Dormancy by the Bishop.

If any parish or mission fails for two years to elect a Vestry or Bishop's Committee or to make a report as required by Canon, the Bishop may report the fact to diocesan Convention. Its union with Convention may, upon motion and vote of Convention, be dissolved, and it will not be restored until it has complied with such conditions as Convention may prescribe.

Section 2. Securing the Property of a Dormant Parish or Mission.

It is the duty of the Bishop to take any necessary action to secure the property of such parish or mission and place it in the custody of the Bishop and the Diocesan Corporation.

Section 3. Standing Committee is Notified of Potential Dormant Parish or Mission.

At the first meeting of the Standing Committee after the first day of March in each year, the Treasurer of the Diocese will report to the Standing Committee any parish or mission that has failed by that date to accomplish any one of the following:
a. Pay the diocesan apportionment prescribed by diocesan Convention for the preceding calendar year.
b. Compensate any stipendiary member of the clergy for two months.
c. Make pension payments for any stipendiary member of the clergy for the preceding calendar year.
d. Make any or all insurance payments for the preceding calendar year.
e. Make provision for regular Divine Services in a vacant cure during the preceding two years.
f. File its parochial report or other required annual reports during the preceding two years.
g. Elect delegates to diocesan Convention during the preceding two years.

h. Elect a Vestry or Bishop's Committee in conformity with its bylaws and the Governing Law during the preceding calendar year.

Section 4. Investigation by Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee will conduct an investigation into the causes of any reported delinquency or potential dormancy and may call upon any officer or committee of the Diocese for information and assistance in making the investigation. The Vestries or Bishop's Committees and Wardens of dormant congregations, in consultation with the Standing Committee, will prepare and implement a plan to address any of the above deficiencies and report progress in implementation of the plan to the Bishop and/or any other designated agent(s). The Standing Committee may also recommend to Convention the transfer of a parish to mission status.

Section 5. Transfer of a Parish to Mission Status.

a. In the event such delinquent payment(s) have not been paid before the annual meeting of diocesan Convention, the Standing Committee will report this fact to the Convention with the findings of its investigation and will recommend to the Convention whether or not the status of such parish should be changed to that of a mission and any other recommendations that it deems desirable.

b. Diocesan Convention may vote to change the status of such parish to that of a mission or impose conditions on the continued status of such parish as a parish.

c. Restoration to the parish status may be effected at any subsequent meeting of the Convention by majority vote.

Section 6. Regarding Mergers and Consolidations.

Without the written consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee, no congregation may merge or consolidate with each other or with any one or more other congregations, nor may they dissolve, nor may they distribute their assets in anticipation of any merger, consolidation, or dissolution.

CANON 17: MEDIATION BETWEEN RECTORS AND CONGREGATIONS

Section 1. Calling for Mediation by the Bishop.

Whenever there are serious differences between the Rector of any congregation and the congregation, when the parties find themselves unable to reconcile, the Rector or the Vestry or both will, within a reasonable time, apply to the Bishop to mediate between them, stating the facts and agreeing for themselves and for the congregation to submit to the Bishop's decision in the matter and to perform whatever the Bishop may require of them. If such application be made by only one of the parties, notice thereof will be served on the other party. In the event neither party invites the assistance of the Bishop as herein provided, the Bishop may take cognizance of the situation and endeavor to adjust the existing difference as a mediator.

Section 2. Seeking Resolution Between the Parties in Dispute.

It is the duty of the Bishop at all stages of the proceedings to seek to bring the disputing parties to an amicable conclusion; in such case the agreement between the parties will be signed by them and attested by the Bishop.

Section 3. Unresolved Mediation Addressed to the Standing Committee.

If the matter is not amicably settled within a reasonable time, the Bishop will, whether mediation has been at the application of one or both of the parties or as the result of the Bishop's own cognizance of the situation, convene a hearing of the Standing Committee on the matter and will give notice to the parties to appear and present their proofs and arguments at the time and place as the Bishop may appoint. The Bishop may adjourn and continue the hearing in the matter at the discretion of the Bishop.

Section 4. Conclusion of Hearing.

When the hearing is concluded, the Bishop will, with the advice and the concurrence of at least one-half of the Standing Committee, make an order in regard to the matter as the Bishop may think to be just and for the true interests of the Church; and the order may require that (1) the Rector resign the Cure, or (2) that the congregation pay a sum of money to the Rector, or (3) that either party perform such other acts as the Bishop may determine to be just and proper, or (4) any two or more of these requirements; and it will be the duty of the Rector and of the congregation and every member to submit to and abide by the order as the final and conclusive determination of all matters of difference between them.

Section 5. Disregard of the Judgment of Mediation.

If it appears to the Bishop that any agreement made under Section 2 of this Canon has been disregarded by any of the parties concerned, or if any application be made to modify such order, the Bishop may convene the Standing Committee and, after hearing further proof and arguments presented, make such further order in the matter as the Bishop acting with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee may think proper.

Section 6. Dissolution of a Congregation in Persistent Conflict.

If any congregation persistently neglects or refuses to obey any order made under this Canon, it will be the duty of the Bishop to exhort the members of such congregation to submit to the authority and discipline of the Church; and if they will not do so, diocesan Convention by majority vote may proceed to dissolve the union between the congregation so offending and the Convention of this Diocese and may take such other action in the matter as it may think expedient.

Section 7. Calling for Mediation by the Ecclesiastical Authority of Another Diocese.

Whenever the Standing Committee is acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, it will perform the duties herein required of the Bishop, and it will request the Bishop of some other Diocese to attend the hearing of the case and will make no order therein but with the Bishop's advice and assistance.

CANON 18: ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE PROCEDURE

Section 1. Incorporation of Title IV of the Canons of General Convention.

Those provisions of Title IV of the Governing Law or any successor Title, including but not limited to the definitions of terms, that are applicable to the Diocese are hereby incorporated as part of this Canon. To the extent that any of the provisions of this Canon are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV, the provisions of Title IV will govern.

Section 2. The Disciplinary Board.

a. The Diocese shall participate in establishing and maintaining, in collaboration with the Diocese of Northern Indiana, a Disciplinary Board and structure as described in this Canon.

b. The Board shall consist of nine persons, five of whom are clergy members (priest or deacons) and four of whom are lay members. Three of the clergy members and two of the lay members shall be elected from the Diocese of Indianapolis and two of the clergy members and two of the lay members shall be elected from the Diocese of Northern Indiana.

c. The clergy members of the Board must be canonically and geographically resident within their respective Dioceses.

d. The lay members of the Board will be confirmed adult communicants in good standing and geographically resident and domiciled in their respective Dioceses.

e. Each Board member will be elected by the Convention of the Diocese in which the member is resident. Each member will be elected for a Three-Year Staggered Term except as provided in paragraphs f and g below. The terms of the members will commence on the first day of the year following election.

f. Upon the determination that a vacancy exists, the President of the Board shall notify the Bishop of the respective Diocese, who will appoint a canonically eligible replacement member of the same Order as the member to be replaced.

g. With respect to a vacancy created for any reason other than pursuant to a challenge as provided below, the term of any person selected as a replacement Board member shall be until the next annual Convention of the respective Diocese. With respect to a vacancy resulting from a challenge, the replacement Board member shall serve only for the proceedings for which the elected Board member is not serving as a result of the challenge.

h. In any proceeding under this Title, if any member of a Conference Panel or Hearing Panel of the Board shall become aware of a personal conflict of interest or undue bias, that member shall immediately notify the President of the Board and request a replacement member of the Panel. Respondent's Counsel and the Church Attorney shall have the right to challenge any member of a Panel for conflict of interest or undue bias by motion to the Panel for disqualification of the challenged member within fourteen days of learning of matters that the respondent believes constitute a conflict of interest or undue bias. The members of the Panel who are not the subjects of the challenge shall promptly consider the motion and determine whether the challenged Panel member shall be disqualified from participating in that proceeding.

i. The Board shall convene annually to elect a President to serve for the following calendar year.

Section 3. Intake Officers.

After consultation with the Board, the Bishop of each participating Diocese will appoint one or more Intake Officers, at least one of whom has no direct employment or compensation relationship with either of the respective Dioceses. The Bishops will publish the name(s) and contact information of the Intake Officer(s) throughout the respective Dioceses as a means of reporting possible offenses.

Section 4. Investigators.

In consultation with the President of the Board, the Reference Panel will appoint and direct one or more Investigator(s). The Investigator(s) may, but need not, be a member of the Church. After referral pursuant to the Governing Law, an Investigator may be appointed by and may be overseen by and report to the Church Attorney.

Section 5. Church Attorney.

In consultation with their respective Standing Committees, the Bishops of the participating dioceses will each year jointly appoint an attorney to serve as Church Attorney for the following calendar year. The person so selected must be a confirmed adult communicant in good standing of their respective Diocese.

Section 6. Pastoral Response Coordinator.

The Bishop of each participating Diocese may appoint a Pastoral Response Coordinator, to serve at the will of the Bishop in coordinating the delivery of appropriate pastoral responses provided for in the Governing Law. The Pastoral Response Coordinator may be an Intake Officer but shall not be a person serving in any other appointed or elected capacity under this Title.

Section 7. Advisors for Complainant and Respondent.

In each proceeding under this Canon, the Bishop of the Diocese from which the proceeding arises shall appoint an Advisor for the Complainant and an Advisor for the Respondent. Persons serving as Advisors shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Canon and shall not include Chancellors or Vice Chancellors of any participating Diocese or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding.

Section 8. Disciplinary Board Clerk.

The Board will appoint a Board Clerk to assist the Board with records management and administrative support. The Clerk may be a member of the Board; if not a member of the Board, the Clerk may, but need not, be a member of the Church.

Section 9. Publication of Reporting Methods.

The Bishop of each participating Diocese will provide for and publicize information concerning the methods and means of reporting Offenses. Such information will be available to both members and the general public.

Section 10. Costs Incurred by the Church.

The reasonable costs and expenses of the Board, the Intake Officer, the Investigator, the Church Attorney, the Board Clerk, the Pastoral Response Coordinator, and any diocesan-appointed Advisors will be the obligation of the respective Diocese. Each diocese will establish its own method of compensation that shall include a per diem rate of compensation for each individual along with travel expenses (i.e., mileage, meals, and lodging).

Section 11. Respondent's Costs.

In the event of a final Order dismissing the complaint, or by provisions of a Covenant approved by the Bishop, the reasonable defense fees and costs incurred by the Respondent(s) may be paid or reimbursed by the respective Diocese.

Section 12. Records.

a. Records of active proceedings before the Board, including the period of any pending appeal, will be preserved and maintained in the custody of the Clerk, if there be one, otherwise by the diocesan offices of the originating Diocese.

b. The Bishop shall make provision for the permanent storage of records of all proceedings under this Canon at the respective Diocese and the Archives of The Episcopal Church.

CANON 19: CATHEDRALS

Section 1. Pro-Cathedral.

Christ Church, situated on Monument Circle in Indianapolis, is hereby designated as the Pro-Cathedral of the Diocese, hereafter referred to in these Canons as Christ Church Cathedral, or the Cathedral.

The Cathedral will function both as a cathedral and as a parish church. It will have the same legal and ecclesiastical jurisdictions, rights, privileges, and obligations as any other parish in union with this Diocese.

Section 2. The Bishop's Seat in the Cathedral Church.

The Bishop has the right to occupy the Bishop's Seat in the Cathedral sanctuary or choir; to preside for all council, diocesan, and other similar services; and to officiate at such other times as may be agreed upon by the Bishop and the Dean. The Bishop has the right to meet and confer with the Vestry at its regular meetings.

Section 3. The Bishop's Use of the Cathedral Church for Meetings.

The Bishop has the right to use the Cathedral and other buildings of the Cathedral for diocesan meetings but will in every case give due notice of such intended use to the Dean of the Cathedral.

Section 4. Dean of the Cathedral.

a. The offices of Dean of a Cathedral and Rector of the cathedral parish are vested in one person. In the event of the need to elect a new Dean/Rector, the committee appointed by the cathedral parish to recommend a candidate will include in its deliberations consultation with the Bishop. The person elected Rector of the cathedral parish by the

Vestry of said cathedral parish will also be appointed Dean of that Cathedral by the Bishop.

b. Upon approval of the Bishop, the Dean/Rector of the Cathedral will have the authority to appoint persons to the position of Canon as may be necessary to carry on the various services of the Cathedral in the Anglican tradition.

c. The stipend of the Dean/Rector and Canons will be paid by the Cathedral.

d. All expenses of maintenance of the structure of the Cathedral, and all other expenses for the regular parish operations of the Cathedral, will be borne by the Cathedral.

Section 5. Annual Dean/Rector Report.

The Dean/Rector of the Cathedral will prepare an annual report on the mission and ministry of the Cathedral to the diocesan Convention.

Section 6. Compensation for Diocesan-Sanctioned Events.

The diocesan Budget will include a line item sufficient to compensate the Cathedral for the cost of hosting diocesan sanctioned events.

CANON 20: DIOCESAN INSTITUTIONS AND COOPERATING MINISTRIES

Section 1. Defining a Diocesan Institution.

A Diocesan Institution is:

a. A separately incorporated ministry wholly owned and operated by the Diocese.

b. Any other organization that may be integrated into the Diocese as a Diocesan Institution by a majority vote of the diocesan Convention at two consecutive Conventions. The purpose and governance of each Diocesan Institution will be set forth in its organizational documents, which will be approved by a majority of Convention as described above. These documents will provide that ownership and control of Diocesan Institutions will remain in the Diocese. Diocesan Institutions will submit detailed annual reports no later than April 15 of each year to the Diocese, including a financial statement that includes an operating statement and a balance sheet for the preceding year. They will also make an annual report to diocesan Convention. The organization will be required to procure and keep in force adequate liability insurance and to conduct its financial affairs in accordance with the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and the Governing Law. The insurance requirements may be accomplished through insurance provided through the Diocese.

c. Waycross, Inc. is declared to be a Diocesan Institution.

Section 2. Defining a Cooperating Ministry.

A Cooperating Ministry is:

a. An organization that is a Federal 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a nonprofit corporation under Indiana law.

~~1.~~ b. In alignment with the overall vision and mission purposes of the Diocese and provides a ministry within the Diocese.

c. A separate organization from the Diocese whose activities are consistent with the mission and purpose of the Diocese.

By the designation as a Cooperating Ministry, the organization receives tangible and intangible benefits from the Diocese, while the Diocese benefits from the mission and ministry possibilities this organization offers.

Section 3. Designation of a Cooperating Ministry.

To be designated a Cooperating Ministry, the organization or representatives must:

a. Receive initial approval by the Bishop.

b. Participate in a discernment process overseen by the Executive Council.

c. Receive approval from the Bishop, Executive Council, and Standing Committee for the Agreement.

d. Following approval by the Executive Council, work with representatives of the Council to reach a Cooperating Ministry Agreement adopted by the Diocese. The purpose of the Agreement is to clarify expectations and accountabilities. It includes such details as financial support, if any, from the diocesan operating Budget, the pattern of reporting, leadership, relationship to the Diocese, staff accountability, the timeframe of the Agreement, and its renewal process.

e. Receive a majority vote of the diocesan Convention at two consecutive Conventions.

Section 4. Cooperating Ministries of the Diocese.

Alternatives, Inc., Damien Center, Dayspring Center, Exodus Refugee Immigration, The Julian Center, St. Richard's School, and Trinity Haven are designated as the Cooperating Ministries of the Diocese that were in existence at the time of adoption of this Canon.

Section 5. Entering into Agreement as a Cooperating Ministry.

If an organization formed or to be formed for religious, educational, or charitable purposes within this Diocese desires to enter into Agreement with the Diocese as a Cooperating Ministry, that organization will file an application with the Diocese on forms approved by the Bishop.

a. The Agreement will become effective upon approval of the Bishop, Executive Council, and Standing Committee, or on a later date specified in the Agreement. The Agreement will have an initial term commencing on the effective date and expiring on March 31st of the second calendar year following the effective date. At the Annual Convention immediately prior to the expiration of the initial term, the designation as a Cooperating Ministry will be subject to the approval of the Convention. Information will be presented to the Convention that demonstrates the organization's compliance with the requirements provided in this Canon. If the Convention votes against approval, the Agreement will be ineligible for renewal, and the organization's Cooperating Ministry designation will lapse on the Agreement's expiration date, or sooner if by mutual agreement. The agreement may be renewed annually upon agreement by the organization and approval by the Council acting upon the recommendation of the Bishop, but only if the organization has been in compliance with the Agreement and if the Bishop determines that the activities of the organization and the continued use of the title Cooperating Ministry by the organization are consistent with the mission and purpose of the Diocese.

b. The Articles and Bylaws of the Corporation will have such provisions relating to its purposes, activities, and governance that are agreed upon, but such provisions will not

vest control of the organization in the Diocese or any officer or committee or commission of the Diocese.

c. The organization is required to procure and keep in force adequate liability insurance and to conduct its financial affairs in accordance with the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and the Governing Law. The insurance requirement may be satisfied by insurance available through the Diocese, but the Diocese is not obligated to offer or provide such insurance.

d. If the organization intends to access any employee benefits or insurance offerings of the Church Pension Group, the organization's governing documents will include the organization's affiliation with the Diocese or one or more of its congregations in sufficient detail to satisfy the Church Pension Group's "Episcopal Organization Checklist" or any successor document the Church Pension Group may designate to test an organization's eligibility to be deemed an Episcopal organization.

e. The organization is required to deliver to the Diocese within sixty days after the end of its fiscal year an annual report describing its activities and presenting a financial statement for such fiscal year, including an operating statement in reasonable detail and a balance sheet.

f. The organization may use the title "Cooperating Ministry" only as long as the Agreement remains in force and effect but will not, by implication or otherwise, state or infer that it is a part of the Diocese or is under control of the Diocese.

g. It is anticipated that some Cooperating Ministries may grow in ways that lead to dissolution of a formal relationship to the Diocese, while others may remain in this relationship indefinitely.

CANON 21: CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

Section 1. Decision-Making Authority.

The authority concerning matters of Church Architecture will be vested in the Bishop, who may appoint a committee or commission of the Diocese to exercise such authority.

Section 2. Approval of Architectural Plans.

It is the duty of every congregation to present to the Bishop, or the person or body to whom the authority under this Canon is delegated, the plans of any new church, chapel, or other church building, and no such building may be erected without the approval in writing of the Bishop or the person or body to whom authority is delegated by the Bishop.

Section 3. Seeking Counsel and Advice on Church Architecture.

It is the duty of every parish, by its Rector, Wardens, and Vestry members, to present to the Bishop or the person or body to whom authority is delegated the plans for proposed major structural changes to an existing building that would significantly alter the aesthetic features of the building for counsel and advice, which counsel and advice will be given in writing within one calendar month after receipt of such plan.

CANON 22: MEETINGS

Section 1. Quorums.

A majority of the members of any committee, commission, council, or other body is a quorum; and a majority of the quorum so convened is competent to act, unless otherwise expressly required by the Governing Law.

Section 2. Special Meetings.

Unless otherwise specified in these Canons, the President or chair of any committee, commission, council, or other body may call a special meeting and will call such a meeting upon the written request of any three voting members of the body.

Section 3. Notice of Meetings.

Notice of meetings of any committee, commission, council, or other body will be given to its members by its Secretary, if any, or by the President or chair, or by their designee by mail, email, telephone, or in person. Such notice will specify the place and time of the meeting and in reasonable detail the business to be transacted. Notice will be given at least five days in advance of the meeting unless it is not reasonably possible to do so.

Section 4. Digital Access.

a. Diocesan Meetings.

Any member entitled to have seat, voice, and/or vote at any and all meetings of the Diocese (to the extent that such a provision may already apply to them), may do so "by or through the use of any means of communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A member participating in a meeting by this means is considered to be present in person at the meeting" for all purposes including determination of a quorum.

b. al Meetings.

i. Each congregation may provide in its Constitution and Canons, Articles of Association, or Bylaws that whenever the Rector (or, in absence of the Rector, the Senior Warden), with the advice and consent of the Vestry, may deem it necessary to do so, the Rector or Senior Warden may direct, for any given meeting of the parish, that any person entitled to have seat, voice, and/or vote at that meeting may do so "by or through the use of any means of communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A member participating in a meeting by this means is considered to be present in person at the meeting" for all purposes including determination of a quorum.

ii. In order to consider amendment of its Constitution and Canons, Articles of Association, or Bylaws, each congregation is authorized to hold a regular or special meeting at which, any contrary provisions of its current Constitution and Canons, Articles of Association, or Bylaws notwithstanding, any person entitled to have seat, voice, and/or vote at such a meeting may do so “by or through the use of any means of communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting. A member participating in a meeting by this means is considered to be present in person at the meeting” for all purposes including determination of a quorum.

CANON 23: AMENDMENT AND REPEAL OF CANONS

Section 1. Amendment and Repeal of Canons.

a. Proposals for amendments to the Canons, new Canons, or the repeal of any Canon concurrently in effect will initially be submitted to the Committee on Constitution, Canons, and Resolutions for its consideration.

b. The Convention in its Rules of Order may make specific provisions for the consideration of proposed amendments when introduced from the floor, provided that the Committee on Constitution, Canons, and Resolutions certifies that it has had sufficient time to review and report on the proposal.

c. These Canons may be amended or repealed, or new ones enacted, duly considered, and approved by a majority vote at an annual meeting of the diocesan Convention.

d. A vote by Orders may be called for in accordance with these Canons and the Convention's Rules of Order.

e. All amended, repealed, or new Canons will take effect at such time designated in the Canon's adoption.