

PROPOSED

**THE CANONS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA**

**Last Amended by the 182nd Diocesan Convention
September 2025**

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Combined – all changes, color-coded by category

Color legend: ■ Minor edit ■ Bishop→Ecclesiastical Authority ■ Governance Changes and deletions
■ Deleted (consolidated) ■ Substantive change

~~Strikethrough~~ = removed text Underline = added text

CANON 1

Of Definitions of Terms used throughout these Canons

SECTION 1. Purpose. Unless otherwise defined in these Canons, the terms used herein shall have the same definition as they have in the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church. As used in these Canons, the following words, phrases, and abbreviations have the following definitions:

SECTION 2. Definitions.

1. ADULT. The term “adult” as used throughout these Canons, unless the context dictates otherwise, shall mean and refer to those persons sixteen (16) years or older in accordance with TEC Canon I.17.1.b.
2. CONGREGATIONS. The term “Congregations” shall mean, unless the context dictates otherwise, a parish, a mission, a college center, or a chapel.
3. CURE. The leadership and pastoral responsibility undertaken by clergy within this Diocese. Clergy with cure include: clergy who are heads of congregations, canonically resident or licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority; full and part-time associate and assisting priests, and supply priests, who participate, in this Diocese, in a minimum of twelve (12) Eucharists per year in the Diocese and are canonically resident or licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority; deacons assigned by the Ecclesiastical Authority to diocesan congregations; and military chaplains canonically resident in this Diocese.
4. DIOCESAN CORPORATION. The term “Diocesan Corporation” shall mean and refer to the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida, Inc., a Florida not for profit corporation.
5. DIOCESAN COUNCIL. Diocesan Council is the Board of Directors for this Diocese who shall act in that capacity for this Diocese and act as Diocesan Convention when Diocesan Convention is not in session and shall carry out the duties and responsibilities directed to Diocesan Council.
6. ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY. Pursuant to Article IV of TEC Constitution and Canons, the term “Ecclesiastical Authority” shall, unless the context dictates otherwise, mean (in this order) the Bishop Diocesan, a Bishop Co-Adjutor, a Suffragan Bishop, or the Standing Committee.
7. MISSION. A congregation that relies on diocesan financial support, is under the direct authority of the bishop, and is led by a Vicar (rather than a Rector).
8. PRESIDING OFFICER. The term “Presiding Officer” shall mean and refer to the one presiding at Diocesan Convention, be it the Ecclesiastical Authority or one appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority.
9. REGION. The term “Region” shall mean geographical divisions of this Diocese determined by the Ecclesiastical Authority.
10. REGIONAL CANON. The term “Regional Canon” shall mean and refer to a member of the clergy, appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve a Region and to carry out the duties and responsibilities provided for in Canon 5 of these Canons.
11. SECRETARY OF THIS DIOCESE. The term “Secretary” of this Diocese shall mean and refer to the individual appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority, whose duties and responsibility are as provided for in Canon 6 of these Canons.
12. THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH (hereafter “TEC”). The abbreviation TEC stands for The Domestic and

Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and The Episcopal Church.

13. TREASURER. The term “Treasurer” of this Diocese shall mean and refer to the individual appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority, whose duties and responsibility are as provided for in Canon 7 of these Canons.

CANON 2

Of Organization of Diocese and Convention

SECTION 1. In General. The affairs of this Diocese will be managed by the ~~Bishop-Diocesan of the Diocese, by the Standing Committee, by Diocesan Council, Ecclesiastical Authority~~ and by such other officers and agencies as may be provided by these Canons so long as the same are consistent with the Constitution and Canons of ~~the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, TEC,~~ the laws of the State of Florida and the Articles of Reincorporation of this Diocese. ~~The provisions of these Canons shall be equally applicable to men and women and the use of one gender includes the other whenever the context so admits or implies.~~

SECTION 2. Diocesan Convention. ~~The~~ Diocesan Convention is the legislative authority and chief policy making body for program and finance in ~~the this~~ Diocese and shall be composed of the ~~Bishop, Ecclesiastical Authority,~~ Clergy canonically resident in ~~the this diocese,~~ non-canonically resident clergy having cure in this Diocese, and ~~members-delegates~~ representing each congregation ~~of the in this~~ Diocese. Congregations, who for two (2) successive years, do not file the Annual Parochial Report by the deadline established by General Convention, or do not file the canonically required annual audit, shall have seat and voice, but ~~not no~~ vote at the next ~~Annual Meeting of the~~ Diocesan Convention. Notification will be sent by **April 30** to the Sr. ~~Warden and Priest-in-Charge~~ Warden, Priest-in-Charge, Vicar or Chaplain of any congregation not in compliance with this ~~section.~~ section of Canon 2.

Appeals for exceptions must be made to ~~the Ecclesiastical Authority and~~ Diocesan Council no fewer than ~~60~~ sixty (60) days prior to any ~~annual~~ Diocesan Convention. Lack of notification will not release ~~congregations any congregation~~ from ~~their responsibility.~~ its responsibility required hereunder.

- (a) **Annual Meeting.** There shall be an annual ~~meeting of the~~ Diocesan Convention at such time and place as may be determined by the preceding ~~annual meeting;~~ Diocesan Convention; but, for sufficient cause, the Ecclesiastical Authority ~~of the Diocese~~ shall have power to change the time or place, or both; provided, however, that reasonable notice thereof shall be given to all clergy and congregations entitled to representation.
- (b) **Special Diocesan Convention.** ~~The~~ Diocesan ~~Convention~~ Conventions may be called to a special meeting by the Ecclesiastical Authority at any time on reasonable written ~~notice.~~ notice of at least ninety (90) days. The notice shall state the business to be considered by ~~the Diocesan~~ Convention. No other business shall be considered except upon a three-fourths vote of the ~~members-delegates~~ in attendance at ~~such meeting.~~ any special Diocesan Convention.

- (c) **Quorum.** A quorum ~~of at~~ any Diocesan Convention ~~or any meeting thereof~~ shall be one-half of the Clergy in good standing having cure in ~~the~~this Diocese, and one-half of the duly elected lay delegates, but a ~~less number~~ fewer number, in each order may adjourn from day-to-day.
- (d) ~~Pre-Convention~~ Pre-Diocesan Convention Meetings. ~~Delegates—Upon notice to the clergy and congregations of this Diocese of at least thirty (30) days, delegates to Diocesan Convention shall assemble in pre-convention—pre-Diocesan Convention meetings at such times and in such places as the Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority may call upon reasonable notice to the Clergy and congregations of the Diocese—determine~~ to hear the budget, review proposed amendments to the Canons and to take other actions to prepare for ~~the Convention that the Bishop deems necessary (the “Pre-Convention Meeting”)~~. Diocesan Convention.
- (e) ~~Participation by Communication Means. Delegates eligible to vote at any regular or special Diocesan Convention may participate in and vote at such convention through the use of any means of communication (including telephonic or electronic means then generally recognized, such as Zoom or Teams) by which all delegates participating may simultaneously hear each other during any such meeting. A delegate participating in any such meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person.~~

SECTION 3. ~~Composition. The~~ Composition of Diocesan Convention. Diocesan Convention will be composed of the following who shall have seat, voice and vote unless otherwise prohibited by Section 2 of this ~~canon—~~ Canon 2:

(a) **Clergy Delegates.**

- (1) All Clergy in good standing having cure in ~~the~~this Diocese; and
- (2) Clergy in good standing and canonically resident in ~~the~~this Diocese ~~without cure~~ who would not otherwise qualify as clergy delegates under subsection (a)(1) ~~above because they do not have cure in the Diocese above,~~ may register with the office of this Diocese, as clergy delegates ~~with the diocesan office~~ at least ~~60~~ sixty (60) days in advance of Diocesan ~~Convention.~~ Convention;
- (3) No later than ~~45—forty-five (45)~~ days prior to Diocesan Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall provide notice directly to any canonically resident clergy without cure who have registered but whose registration will not be accepted and shall publish a notice to ~~the~~this Diocese of the same; any such notice shall be accompanied by the justification for such ~~determination—determinations.~~ Clergy whose registration as a clergy ~~delegates—delegate~~ will not be accepted pursuant to that ~~notice—notice,~~ may appeal to the Standing Committee that determination by the Bishop—Diocesan—Ecclesiastical Authority within ~~5—five (5)~~ days of the notice's publication; ~~however, in the absence of a Bishop—Diocesan, such determination shall be final and unappealable upon the publication of a notice by the Ecclesiastical Authority.~~ Any appeal must be concluded, and the Clergy notified in writing of the result of that appeal, no fewer than ~~30—thirty (30)~~ days

prior to Diocesan Convention. Should, at the time of any appeal, the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, such determination shall be final and unappealable.

- (b) **Congregational Lay Delegates.** Congregational lay delegates selected by each congregation on the basis of average Sunday attendance as reported in the last previous parochial report of a congregation according to the following formula: Average Sunday attendance of 1-150, two (2) delegates, with one additional delegate thereafter for each additional 150 (or fraction thereof) in average Sunday attendance.
- (c) **Diocesan Council.** Every member of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council who is not otherwise a member of the delegate to Diocesan Convention.
- (d) **Standing Committee.** Every member of the Standing Committee who is not otherwise a member of the delegate to Diocesan Convention.
- (e) **Deputies to General Convention.** Every—Until a successor to any Deputy or Alternate Deputy elected at Diocesan Convention, every Deputy and Alternate Deputy to General Convention who is not otherwise a member of delegate to Diocesan Convention until a successor to such Deputy or Alternate Deputy is duly elected.. Convention.

~~**SECTION 4. Cure.** For the purposes of this Canon 1, cure refers to the leadership and pastoral responsibility undertaken by clergy within the Diocese. Clergy with cure include: Clergy who are heads of diocesan congregations and ministries who are canonically resident or licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority; full and part-time associate priests who participate in a minimum of 12 Eucharists per year in the Diocese and are canonically resident or licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority; deacons assigned to diocesan congregations and ministries by the Ecclesiastical Authority; and military chaplains canonically resident in this Diocese.~~

SECTION 5-4. Lists. ~~The~~ This Diocese shall maintain lists of clergy who are canonically resident, clergy who have cure, and lay delegates and shall publish such lists at least ninety (90) days prior to any Diocesan Convention. Any corrections, additions or replacements, with any required supporting documentation, shall be provided to the Ecclesiastical Authority ~~not no~~ later than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of any meeting of ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention.

CANON 3

Of Attendance of Clergy and Lay Delegates

SECTION 1. Duty of Clergy. It shall be the duty of every member of the clergy ~~delegate to the Diocesan Convention~~ to attend every meeting thereof—Diocesan Convention.

SECTION 2. List of ~~Clergy Entitled—Clergy.~~ Prior to Seats. ~~At the opening of each meeting of the~~ Diocesan Convention, a list of the clergy entitled—required to ~~delegate seats therein attend~~ Diocesan Convention shall be prepared by the Ecclesiastical Authority ~~of the Diocese~~ and certified by the Secretary, and the number of those present shall be reported to ~~the~~

~~Convention,~~ Diocesan Convention and to Diocesan Council, with absentees noted.

SECTION 3. Expenses of Clergy. The expense of clergy attending ~~a meeting of the~~ Diocesan Convention shall be paid by their respective ~~congregations-~~ congregation(s).

SECTION 4. Selection of Lay Delegates. Lay delegates and alternates shall be selected at a meeting of each congregation. Each lay delegate and lay alternate shall serve until a successor is duly selected. The expense of lay delegates attending Diocesan Convention, at the option of each such congregation and if so elected to do so, shall be paid by their respective congregation

SECTION 5. Certification of Lay Delegates. The selection of lay delegates and alternates shall be certified according to the form herein provided, ~~signed-~~ signed, as applicable, by the ~~rector or priest-in-charge~~ rector, priest-in-charge, vicar, chaplain or one of the wardens or by the clerk or secretary of the selecting ~~body-~~ congregation, which such ~~delegates-~~ delegate or ~~alternates represent-~~ alternate represents. Each such delegate or alternate shall be not ~~less than under the age of~~ sixteen (16) years of age and ~~an adult~~ a confirmed communicant in good standing of the congregation with which he or she is affiliated and a regular attendant at public worship of ~~this-~~ the Episcopal Church. The form of said certificate is as follows:

I do hereby certify that at a meeting of [Congregation] held on the day of , A.D., were duly selected to represent said congregation in the next annual Diocesan Convention of ~~the-~~ this Diocese of Florida, and that they are adult confirmed communicants in good standing and regular attendants at public worship of this Church.

Signed

CANON 4

Of Elections by ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention, Vacancies

SECTION 1. Elections. All deputies and alternates to ~~the~~ General Convention, all members at large of Diocesan Council and all members of the Standing Committee shall be elected by ballot. Unless otherwise provided in the rules adopted by ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention, all other elections ~~by the~~ at Diocesan Convention shall be by ballot.

SECTION 2. ~~Vacancies in Elected Agencies. All agencies-~~ Vacancies, Diocesan Council, as to those elected pursuant to Section 1 of this Canon 4 shall have the power to fill any vacancies ~~within its membership~~ between ~~annual~~ Diocesan Conventions.

SECTION 3. ~~Vacancies in appointments-~~ Appointments. If any person appointed to perform a duty dies or ~~removes from the~~ leaves this Diocese or for any other cause cannot perform that person's duties, the Ecclesiastical Authority ~~shall-~~ shall, unless otherwise provided for in these Canons, appoint a successor for as long as may be ~~necessary, unless otherwise provided in the Canons-~~ necessary.

SECTION 4. Nominating Committee. ~~A Nominating Committee-~~ nominating committee of clergy and laity, (the "Nominating Committee") consisting of one person from each ~~Region and~~ Region, including a mix of clergy and ~~laity-~~ laity shall be appointed annually by the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority to serve during ~~that year-~~ the year appointed. The ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority shall designate one member to ~~be-~~ chair of the Nominating

Committee. The Nominating Committee shall, ~~no fewer than 21 at least~~ twenty-one (21) days prior to any ~~annual~~ Diocesan Convention, furnish, in writing, to the delegates to ~~the annual~~ Diocesan ~~Convention~~ Convention, a list of nominees to fill the offices of members at large to ~~the~~ Diocesan Council, ~~members of to~~ the Standing Committee, ~~to the~~ Disciplinary Board, deputies to General Convention and of such other offices as may be requested of the Nominating Committee by the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority or ~~by~~ Diocesan Council.

CANON 5

Of Regions and Regional Canons

SECTION 1. Regions. For the purposes provided in these Canons, ~~the this~~ Diocese shall be divided into ~~such~~ regions ~~(“Regions”)~~ (the “Regions”) with such territorial limits as shall be fixed from time to time by the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority with the advice and consent of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council.

SECTION ~~3-2~~ 2. Regional Canons.

- (a) For each ~~region~~ Region, a member of the clergy, canonically resident in this Diocese will be appointed by the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority to be the ~~canon to Canon for~~ the ~~Region (the “Regional Canon”)~~ Region. The Regional Canon shall be the ~~Bishop’s~~ Ecclesiastical Authority’s representative to the ~~region~~ Region and at the ~~Bishop’s~~ request of the Ecclesiastical Authority shall assist the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority in providing pastoral ministry for clergy and their families and in fulfilling the ~~Bishop’s~~ Ecclesiastical Authority’s pastoral care and ecclesiastical responsibilities.
- (b) The Regional Canon will represent the Region on Diocesan Council.
- (c) ~~The~~ Diocesan Convention Council shall provide for compensation for ~~the~~ Regional ~~Canon~~ Canons based upon the recommendation of the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority.
- (d) The Regional Canons will be accountable to the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority and to Diocesan Council.

SECTION ~~2-3~~ 3. Purpose. The purposes of ~~the Regions are: To provide A Regional Canon in each Region~~ is for:

- (a) Providing an effective flow of communication between the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority, Diocesan Council, committees and ~~congregations; congregations and To assist member congregations each Region; and~~
- (b) Assisting Congregations in all possible ways to ~~insure~~ ensure the maintenance of strong and effective congregations.

SECTION 4. Meetings.

- (a) The Regional Canon may call any meeting of any persons within the Region for any purpose and at any time.
- (b) ~~Pre-Convention Pre-Diocesan Convention~~ Meetings may be held in combination of two (2) or more Regions, as determined and called by the ~~Bishop~~ In accordance with Canon 1, clergy and lay Convention delegates are participants in the Pre-Convention Meetings. Alternate delegates should attend these meetings whenever possible in order to be prepared for Convention. Ecclesiastical Authority.

CANON 6

Of the Secretary

SECTION 1. Election. The Secretary of ~~the~~this Diocese shall be nominated by the Ecclesiastical Authority, elected by ~~the~~ Diocesan Council and shall hold office at the pleasure of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council.

SECTION 2. Duties.

- (a) The records of ~~the~~this Diocese shall be kept and maintained by the Secretary.
- (b) The Secretary shall serve as Secretary of ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention, shall keep a record of the proceedings of ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention in a minute book maintained for that purpose and such record shall be the official record of the proceedings (the "Journal") when signed by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary, if any, and approved by the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ or ~~other Presiding Officer~~the Chairperson of the Convention if not the Ecclesiastical Authority.
- (c) The Secretary shall transmit to the ~~secretaries~~secretary of ~~the~~ General Convention a copy of the Journal and will make a copy of the Journal electronically available to ~~the~~all communicants in this Diocese.
- (d) The Secretary shall file such documents as may be sent to the ~~Secretary~~secretary of General Convention and deliver them to the Historiographer to be preserved for ~~the use of the~~by this Diocese.
- (e) The Secretary shall perform such other duties as prescribed by ~~the~~ Diocesan Council.
- (f) The ~~Secretary~~Secretary, at Diocesan Convention or at meetings of Diocesan Council, shall have seat and voice but no vote ~~in the Diocesan Convention and in the Diocesan Council at either~~.

~~**SECTION 3. Assistant Secretaries.** The Ecclesiastical Authority may nominate and the Diocesan Council elect additional Assistant Secretaries and prescribe their duties. These Assistant Secretaries shall also have seat and voice in the Diocesan Convention and in the Diocesan Council.~~

CANON 7

Of the Treasurer

SECTION 1. Election. The ~~Treasurer~~treasurer of ~~the~~this Diocese (the "Treasurer") shall be elected by Diocesan Council acting in its capacity as the Board of Directors of ~~the~~this Diocese and shall hold office ~~during at~~ the pleasure of Diocesan Council.

SECTION 2. Duties.

- (a) The Treasurer as directed by Diocesan Council, shall receive and disburse all ~~moneys~~monies collected under the authority of ~~the~~this Diocese and not otherwise regulated. The Treasurer shall ~~forward, in due time, forward~~ to the ~~Treasurer~~treasurer of General Convention the amount assessed upon this Diocese by the Diocese Canons of TEC, for the contingent expenses of General Convention.
- (b) Property. The Treasurer shall oversee custody of all deeds, mortgages, insurance policies, and other documents pertaining to the property of ~~the~~this Diocese, together with such additional duties with respect thereto as Diocesan Council shall from time to time ~~specify. Requisition specify, which shall be maintained at the~~

- office of Information. The this Diocese.
- (c) Information as to Real Property of this Diocese. For the purpose of confirming certain information as to any real property owned by this Diocese, the Treasurer is authorized and directed to prepare a form of requisition that outlines information required as to real property owned by this Diocese, or held for information pertaining to all property the benefit of the Diocese mission and ministry of each congregation, parish, mission or agency thereof. The information called for in such requisition shall this diocese including, to the extent it can be full and complete for determined, the purpose of maintaining an inventory assessed value of such real property, of determining the fair market value therefore, value, the insurance covering the real property and such other information sought by this Diocese (the "Property Report Form"). Each congregation, upon receipt of determining its insurable value, the. Property Report Form is required to complete the same and submit the same to the Treasurer within thirty (30) days of receipt. The Treasurer's annual report to Diocesan Council shall include information pertaining to all property owned. owned by this Diocese.
 - (d) Diocesan Council shall specify additional duties of the Treasurer.
 - (e) ~~The At any Diocesan Convention or meeting of Diocesan Council, the~~ Treasurer shall have a seat and voice but no ~~vote at any Diocesan Convention and at any meetings of Diocesan Council. vote.~~

SECTION 4. Audits and Reports. The accounts of the Treasurer shall be audited ~~not less frequently than~~ at least once each year, or at other times as ~~the~~ Diocesan Council may direct. The Treasurer shall submit an annual report to ~~the~~ Diocesan Council, and, when approved by ~~the~~ Diocesan Council, it shall be submitted to ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention.

~~**SECTION 5. Bond by the Treasurer.** The Treasurer shall be bonded in a sum and with security satisfactory to the Diocesan Council.~~

~~**SECTION 6. Assistant Treasurer.** The Diocesan Council may elect an Assistant Treasurer and shall prescribe the duties for this office.~~

CANON 8 Of the Chancellor

SECTION 1. Election. The Chancellor of ~~the this~~ Diocese shall be elected by ~~the~~ Diocesan Council, upon nomination of the ~~Bishop,~~ Ecclesiastical Authority, and shall serve at the pleasure of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council.

SECTION 2. Qualifications. The Chancellor shall be a lay person learned in the law, duly admitted and licensed to practice law in the State of Florida. The Chancellor ~~shall be an adult shall be a~~ confirmed communicant in good ~~standing.~~ standing in this Diocese.

SECTION 3. Duties. The Chancellor shall be the legal adviser of ~~the this~~ Diocese and of each office, committee and agency thereof, and of the parishes ~~thereof, except as otherwise in these~~ Canons expressly provided, thereof and an ex officio member of the Diocesan Convention Committee on Charter and Canons. The Chancellor shall have such other duties as may be prescribed by ~~the~~ Diocesan Council.

SECTION 4. Reports. The Chancellor may submit reports to ~~the~~ Diocesan Council which shall be transmitted by ~~the~~ Diocesan Council to ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention. The Chancellor shall

make such recommendations as may seem to the Chancellor to be in the best interest of ~~the~~ this Diocese.

SECTION 5. Seat and Voice in the Diocesan Convention. ~~The At Diocesan Convention, other than as a delegate to Diocesan Convention, and at meetings of Diocesan Council, the~~ Chancellor shall have a seat and voice but no ~~vote in the Diocesan Convention and in the Diocesan Council.~~ vote.

SECTION 6. Vice Chancellors. The ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ may appoint, with the advice ~~and~~ consent of the Chancellor, Vice Chancellors to assist the Chancellor in the performance of the Chancellor's duties in any area of the ~~law-law, or in the regions of the Diocese as to any~~ Region as the Chancellor may deem desirable or necessary. ~~The A Vice Chancellors Chancellor~~ shall be qualified in accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of this Canon 7, ~~but they but, except as a Vice Chancellor may otherwise be a delegate to Diocesan Convention~~ shall have neither voice nor seat ~~in Convention (unless otherwise elected thereto) and are dispensed from having to report to at~~ Diocesan Convention.

CANON 9 Of the Historiographer

SECTION 1. Election. The Historiographer of ~~the this~~ Diocese shall be elected by ~~the~~ Diocesan Council, upon nomination of the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ and shall serve at the pleasure of ~~the Diocesan~~ Council. The Historiographer may enlist ~~the assistance of counsel and advice from~~ others interested in assisting with ~~these duties.~~ the duties of the Historiographer.

SECTION 2. Qualifications. The Historiographer shall be a person familiar with archival procedures, experienced in historiography and an adult confirmed communicant in good ~~standing.~~ standing in this Diocese.

SECTION 3. Duties.

- (a) It shall be the duty of the Historiographer to receive from the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority, Diocesan Council~~ or the Secretary the manuscript minutes of the proceedings of ~~the Diocesan Convention; Convention and of Diocesan Council;~~ original reports; files; ~~parish,~~ congregation ~~and mission~~ histories ~~and other as well as~~ records of defunct ~~parishes, congregations;~~ records of Episcopal ~~consecrations;~~ consecrations and all other documentary papers and articles, which may aid in preserving an accurate history of this Diocese.
- (b) Subject to such rules and regulations established by Diocesan Council, the ~~Diocese. The~~ Historiographer shall provide for the safe and orderly keeping of the records entrusted to the Historiographer's ~~care, subject to such rules and regulations as the Diocesan Council may establish.~~ care.
- (c) The Historiographer may issue a proper certificate of any ~~fact of record in his the~~ Historiographer's charge.
- (d) The Historiographer shall perform such other duties as prescribed by the ~~Bishop or Diocesan Council.~~ Ecclesiastical Authority.

SECTION 4. History of ~~the this~~ Diocese. ~~The~~ Diocesan Council ~~may may, from time-to-time~~ provide for the preparation and publication of ~~the a~~ history of ~~the this~~ Diocese.

CANON 10

Of the Standing Committee

SECTION 1. Establishment. The Standing Committee shall be a council of advice to the Bishop. ~~If there is no Bishop, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.~~

SECTION 2. Composition. The Standing Committee shall be composed of three (3) clerical and three (3) lay persons elected by ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention for terms of three years. ~~The Diocesan Convention, at each annual meeting, shall elect one member of the appropriate Order to fill each vacancy. (3) years each.~~

SECTION 3. Officers. The Standing Committee shall elect from its membership a ~~President~~ president and a ~~Secretary~~ secretary. The President, ~~who must be a priest, shall have a~~ has seat and voice at meetings of Diocesan Council but no ~~vote in the Diocesan Council except that, vote.~~ Provided however, if there is no Bishop and the Standing Committee is acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the this Diocese, the President will president shall have a vote in the at meetings of Diocesan Council.

SECTION 4. Meetings. The Standing Committee shall meet ~~no at least once each calendar quarter. On reasonable notice, being not less often than once per quarter. The ten (10) days notice, the~~ president may call a special meeting whenever the president shall deem it ~~necessary on reasonable notice. The necessary.~~ When applicable, the Standing Committee shall meet on at the call of the Bishop, whenever the Bishop shall desire their advice, request advice from the Standing Committee, and they the Standing Committee may meet on their its own accord and agree to their its own rules when they the Standing Committee may be disposed to so advise the Bishop.

SECTION 5. Vacancies. Diocesan Convention, when required, at each Diocesan Convention, shall elect one person of the appropriate order to fill any vacancy that exists. Any vacancy in the membership of the Standing Committee occurring between ~~annual meetings of the Diocesan Convention-Conventions,~~ shall be filled with a person of the appropriate ~~Order~~ order nominated and elected by ~~the~~ Diocesan Council. Such persons shall serve until the next ~~annual Diocesan~~ Diocesan Convention. The Nominating Committee shall present nominees to the next ~~annual Diocesan~~ Diocesan Convention for election to fill any unexpired term.

SECTION 6. Report to Diocesan Convention. The Standing Committee shall report its proceedings to ~~each annual meeting of the~~ Diocesan Convention, except those proceedings held in the exercise of its function as a council of advice to the ~~Bishop. Ecclesiastical Authority and the Standing Committee not acting at that time as the Ecclesiastical Authority.~~

CANON 11

Of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council

SECTION 1. Statement of Purpose. Diocesan Council shall be an executive body, representative of the Episcopal Church in this Diocese with power and authority to implement and carry into effect the policies and programs adopted by Diocesan Convention and to act for Diocesan Convention between meetings thereof. Diocesan Council shall have overall responsibility for Diocesan program and finances and shall provide for the efficient management of the

business of ~~the~~ this Diocese. It shall be an agency to relieve the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ Diocesan of ~~the~~ this Diocese insofar as practicable from the necessity of the detailed management of the business affairs of ~~the~~ this Diocese.

SECTION 2. Composition. ~~The~~ Diocesan Council shall be composed of:

- (a) the Bishop (seat, voice and vote on Diocesan Council),
- (b) the Regional Canons appointed by the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ (seat, voice and no vote on Diocesan Council),
- (c) five (5) lay members at-large ~~elected~~ selected by ~~the~~ sortition at Diocesan Convention (seat, voice and vote on Diocesan Council),
- (d) two clergy members-at-large ~~elected~~ selected by ~~the~~ sortition at Diocesan Convention (seat, voice and vote on Diocesan Council),
- (e) one youth member at-large (aged 16-17) ~~elected~~ selected by sortition at Diocesan Council (seat, voice, and vote on Diocesan Council),
- (f) the Secretary of ~~the~~ this Diocese (seat, voice, no vote on Diocesan Council),
- (g) the Treasurer of ~~the~~ this Diocese (seat, voice, no vote on Diocesan Council),
- (h) the Chancellor of ~~the~~ this Diocese (seat, voice, no vote on Diocesan ~~Council~~ Council), and
- (i) the President of the Standing Committee (seat, voice, no vote unless the Standing Committee is acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese, at which time the ~~Diocese, then president of the Standing Committee shall have~~ vote on Diocesan Council).

SECTION 3. Terms and ~~Election~~ Selection of Members.

- (a) Each at-large member of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council shall ~~be elected~~ selected by sortition for a term of three (3) years and shall serve until the member's successor is installed.
- (b) The youth member at-large of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council shall ~~be elected~~ selected by sortition for a term of one year and shall serve until the youth member's successor is elected.
- (c) The Regional Canons shall serve as members of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council during their period of appointment as Regional Canons.
- (d) The Secretary of ~~the~~ this Diocese, the Treasurer of ~~the~~ this Diocese, the Chancellor of ~~the~~ this Diocese and the President of the Standing Committee will serve as members of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council for the period of time they fill their respective positions.
- (e) For purposes of election, the lay members shall be slated by each Region but ~~elected~~ selected by ~~the entire~~ sortition at Diocesan Convention. One at-large lay member shall be a member of a parish in each ~~Region of the Diocese.~~ Region. Each at-large lay member shall be continuously throughout their term of ~~office~~ office, a member of a parish in the Region from which ~~they were elected.~~ that member was selected.
- (f) The Standing Committee shall establish a procedure for selection by sortition for Diocesan Council and publish it no later than ninety (90) days prior to Diocesan Convention.

SECTION 4. Limitation on Successive Terms. A member-at-large shall not be elected a member of Diocesan Council for more than two (2) consecutive terms.

SECTION 5. Vacancies. ~~A Diocesan Council shall fill, for the unexpired term of any member elected at large, any vacancy in the membership of the Diocesan Council shall exist in case of the that exists due to death, resignation, removal from the this Diocese, or incapacity incapacity. Vacancy in that of a member. If the vacancy is with respect to a member elected at large Regional Canon shall be filled by the Convention, the Diocesan Council shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term thereof. Ecclesiastical Authority.~~

SECTION 6. Meetings and Quorum. ~~The Diocesan Council shall meet at the call of the Bishop or any six members thereof. The Council shall meet at least once each calendar quarter. quarter, such other times at the call of the Ecclesiastical Authority or at times of the call of any six (6) members of Diocesan Council. One-half of the voting members of the Diocesan Council (excluding the Bishop) Ecclesiastical Authority) shall constitute a quorum.~~

SECTION 7. Rules and Procedures. ~~The Diocesan Council shall have the power and authority to prescribe its own procedural rules for the performance of its duties and for the carrying out of its functions. The procedural rules so adopted shall not be in conflict with the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese. this Diocese or those of TEC.~~

SECTION 8. Officers. ~~The Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority shall be chair of Diocesan Council. Within thirty (30) days from the end of Diocesan Council. The Bishop Convention the Ecclesiastical Authority will nominate and Diocesan Council elect a Vice-Chair from the lay members at large within thirty days after the Diocesan Convention. members-at-large. The Vice-Chair will preside at meetings of the Diocesan Council when the Bishop (Ecclesiastical Authority) Ecclesiastical Authority is absent. The Diocesan Council shall have the authority to elect such other officers as are provided for in these Canons.~~

SECTION 9. Powers. ~~The Diocesan Council shall have the following powers:~~

- (a) **Powers of the Diocesan Council.** Diocesan Council shall have all the powers of Diocesan Convention when Diocesan Convention is not in session, except the power to elect a ~~Bishop, bishop~~, to amend the Articles of Reincorporation or the Canons or to adopt rules of Diocesan Convention.
- (b) **Responsibility for Business Affairs of the this Diocese.** Diocesan Council shall have the responsibility for the business affairs of ~~the this~~ Diocese and of each Board and Committee thereof, which responsibility shall include but shall not be limited to the following:
 - (i) property management;
 - (ii) supervision of investments and the determination of investment policies;
 - (iii) preparation of Diocesan program and budget for submission to Diocesan Convention;
 - (iv) authorizing the expenditure of all funds;

- (v) management of all Diocesan bank accounts, including, but not limited to, selecting banks of deposit, closing bank accounts, and designating those authorized to sign checks for ~~the~~this Diocese;
 - (vi) receipt of all funds of ~~the~~this Diocese. Diocesan Council shall promulgate regulations governing the handling and depositing of such funds and shall name the person or persons responsible therefore; ordering an annual audit of the affairs of ~~the~~this Diocese by an independent certified public accountant and whatever special audits of any Diocesan office or business Diocesan Council may deem appropriate.
- (c) **Electing and Nominating Body.** ~~The Except as otherwise provided by other of the Canons of this Diocese.~~ Diocesan Council shall have the function as the nominating or electing body, as the case may be, for all Trustees and Directors and members of directly controlled Diocesan institutions. In case of the death, resignation, removal from ~~the~~this Diocese, or incapacity of any person elected under this subsection, ~~the Diocesan~~ Council shall fill the vacancy for the unexpired term by election.

SECTION 10. Reports. ~~The~~ Diocesan Council ~~shall provide for~~requires, not less than once each calendar year, reports to be made to it by the officers of ~~the~~this Diocese, and from each board, committee or other agency of ~~the Diocese, and shall require such reports not less frequently than once each calendar year.~~this Diocese.

SECTION 11. Reports to Diocesan Convention. ~~The~~ Diocesan Council shall submit to ~~the annual meeting of each~~ Diocesan Convention a narrative report of the work done under ~~its~~Diocesan Council's supervision during the preceding year with such exhibits and attachments as ~~it~~Diocesan Council shall determine to be appropriate. ~~The~~ Diocesan Council shall make recommendations ~~to at each such~~ Diocesan Convention with respect to the administration of the affairs of ~~the~~this Diocese.

SECTION 12. Salaries. ~~The Other than those fixed by Diocesan Convention,~~ Diocesan Council shall fix the salaries of all persons employed by ~~the Diocese, except those fixed by the Diocesan Convention.~~this Diocese.

SECTION 13. Committees of Diocesan Council. Establishment. Committees may be established by Diocesan Council to perform specified functions. Membership. The Bishop with the concurrence of the Diocesan Council shall appoint the chair of each committee and all committee members. Purpose and Composition. The purpose and composition of each committee shall be prescribed by the resolution establishing the committee. Common Ministry Budget Committee. Diocesan Council will establish a Common Ministry Budget Committee to prepare for submission to Diocesan Convention a budget for the funding of Diocesan programs, with such directions as Diocesan Council may deem reasonable and proper.

SECTION 13. Boards. Supervisory or regulatory boards may be created by Canon and shall be under the supervision of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council pursuant to this Canon.

CANON 12

Of Committees of ~~the~~this Diocese

SECTION 1. Establishment. There are hereby established ~~three~~the following four (4) committees of ~~the Diocese of Florida: this~~ Diocese: (i) Finance and Investment (ii) Congregational Development ~~and~~ (iii) Camp and Conference ~~Center. Such other committees may be established as Diocesan Convention deems necessary or, when applicable, by Diocesan Council.~~ Center, and (iv) Common Ministry Budget.

- (a) **Finance.** ~~The~~ Finance and Investment Committee shall implement all policies relating to the financial affairs of ~~the~~this Diocese and shall have the powers provided for in Canon ~~12-13.~~
- (b) **Congregational Development.** ~~The~~ Congregational Development Committee shall implement all policies relating to the establishment of new congregations and shall assist the ~~Bishop~~Diocesan Ecclesiastical Authority in overseeing the maintenance and growth of all congregations of ~~the~~this Diocese.
- (c) **Camp and Conference Center.** ~~The~~ Camp and Conference Center Committee shall establish and implement all policies regarding the establishment, financing, management and operation for ~~the~~this Diocese's Camp and Conference Center.
- (d) **Common Ministry Budget Committee.** Diocesan Council will establish a Common Ministry Budget Committee to prepare for submission to Diocesan Convention a budget for the funding of Diocesan programs, with such directions as Diocesan Council may deem reasonable and proper.
- (e) Such other committees may be established as Diocesan Convention deems necessary or, when applicable, by Diocesan Council.

SECTION 2. Purpose and Composition. The purpose and composition of each committee shall be prescribed by the resolution establishing a committee. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint the chair and members of each committee ~~subject to with~~ the concurrence advice and consent of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council. Each committee shall be composed of no fewer than five (5) members, one of whom shall be appointed chair and one of whom shall be appointed secretary. Additionally, the Bishop Diocesan, or, in the event of a vacancy in the office of ~~Bishop Diocesan, Bishop,~~ the President of the Standing Committee, shall be an ~~ex officio~~ex-officio member of each committee.

SECTION 3. Terms. Each committee member shall be appointed for a term of up to three (3) years and shall serve until a successor is appointed. The ~~Bishop~~Ecclesiastical Authority shall designate the length of the term of a committee member at the time of appointment. ~~Such~~ Any such committee member may be appointed for two (2) successive terms. Thereafter, one year shall expire before such person may be eligible for reappointment.

SECTION 4. Meetings. Each committee shall meet at the call of its chair ~~of the Bishop~~ at least four (4) times each ~~year.~~year or at the call of the Ecclesiastical Authority.

SECTION 5. Reports. Each committee shall report on its work to the ~~Bishop upon the Bishop's call, annually~~Ecclesiastical Authority, to ~~the~~Diocesan Council and to Diocesan Convention and at such other times as may be required ~~to by~~ the Ecclesiastical Authority or by Diocesan Council.

CANON 13

Of Property Management, Disposition and Encumbrance; of Finance and Investment

SECTION 1. Management. Subject to the provisions of this Canon 12, Diocesan Council shall take charge of, manage, and control all lands, tenements, hereditaments, trusts, money and other things belonging to ~~the~~this Diocese, and authorize the execution of all documents as may be required for such purposes. Further, subject to the provisions of this Canon 12, the ~~Bishop Diocesan Ecclesiastical~~ Authority and the Finance and Investment Committee, together with the Treasurer, shall be authorized to conduct such business matters as Diocesan Council may deem advisable.

SECTION 2. President and Directors. The ~~Bishop Diocesan Ecclesiastical~~ Authority shall be the President of ~~the~~ Diocesan Corporation, and Diocesan Council shall function as the Board of Directors of ~~the~~ Diocesan Corporation.

SECTION 3. Process for selling, disposing or encumbering real property owned by ~~the~~this Diocese. Anything contained herein or in any Canon of ~~the~~this Diocese of Florida to the contrary notwithstanding, any sale, other disposition or encumbrance of any real property owned by ~~the~~this Diocese requires the approval of the Bishop Diocesan and the Standing Committee. In the absence of a Bishop Diocesan such approval is required from the Standing Committee ~~in its role as the Ecclesiastical Authority~~ and from Diocesan ~~Council, each as applicable, an acting authority and hereafter, the “Acting Authority”.~~ Council.

- (a) **Sale or Disposal of Property.** Any proposed sale or disposal of any of the real property owned by ~~the~~this Diocese shall first be presented in writing to the Finance and Investment Committee, explaining the reason for such sale or disposal, the proposed terms, and the proposed disposition of the proceeds of ~~the~~ a sale. Following its receipt and review of any such proposal, the Finance and Investment Committee shall report the same to the ~~Acting Authority, Ecclesiastical Authority and to Diocesan Council~~, with its recommendation, with a copy of that recommendation provided to the individual, parish, mission or other body within ~~the~~this Diocese submitting the proposal. If the recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee is to deny the proposed sale or disposal of property or to approve the same with changes objected by the individual, parish, mission or other body within ~~the~~this Diocese proposing the same, that person, parish, mission or other body has the right to appeal the recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee directly to the ~~Acting Ecclesiastical~~ Authority.
- (b) **Encumbrance.** Any proposed encumbrance of any real property of ~~the~~this Diocese shall be presented in writing to the Finance and Investment Committee, explaining the reason for such encumbrance and the proposed terms. Following receipt and review of any such proposal, the Finance and Investment Committee shall report the same to the ~~Acting Ecclesiastical~~ Authority and to the Standing Committee with its recommendation, with a copy of that recommendation provided to the individual, parish, mission or other body within ~~the~~this Diocese submitting the proposal. If the recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee is to deny the proposed encumbrance or to approve the same with changes objected by the individual, parish, mission or other body within ~~the~~this

Diocese proposing the same, that individual, parish, mission or other body has the right to appeal the recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee directly to the Acting Ecclesiastical Authority.

SECTION 4. Finance and Investment Committee.

- (a) **Secretary of ~~the~~ Finance and Investment Committee.** ~~The~~ Finance and Investment Committee shall appoint ~~one a secretary for the purpose of its number to be secretary thereof to keep~~ keeping a record of its meeting and to certify to the ~~same. same to the~~ Ecclesiastical Authority and to Diocesan Council.
- (b) **Power of Finance and Investment Committee.** ~~The~~ Finance and Investment ~~Committee~~ Committee, as directed by Diocesan Council, is authorized: i) to manage and invest Diocesan assets; ii) to review and make recommendations to Diocesan Council on proposals to sell, dispose or encumber Diocesan real property as provided in Section 3 of this Canon 12; iii) subject to Diocesan Council approval, to borrow such sums of money at such rates and upon such terms as may be deemed necessary or expedient in meeting the budget approved by Diocesan Convention or as amended by Diocesan Council; and iv) to authorize the execution of such documents as may be required for such purpose.
- (c) **Limitations on Borrowing Power.** ~~The~~ Finance and Investment Committee, upon approval ~~by of~~ Diocesan Council, and with the consent of the Standing Committee, is authorized to borrow money for the use by ~~the this~~ the this Diocese or for the needs of a parish or mission within ~~the this~~ the this Diocese, requesting the same. Provided:
 - (i) Any ~~parish or mission congregation~~ within ~~the this~~ the this Diocese requesting that money be borrowed for it shall submit to ~~the~~ Finance and Investment Committee, in writing and signed by the constituted authorities of the parish or mission, the amount requested, a detailed reason for the request, and a detailed plan for repayment;
 - (ii) The evidence of the indebtedness of ~~the this~~ the this Diocese for money borrowed shall be its promissory note executed as provided in Section 6 of this Canon 12;
 - (iii) Any parish or mission that requests borrowing and is denied such request, or the request of which is granted with changes to the request, shall have the right to appeal the decision of ~~the~~ Finance and Investment Committee to the Acting Ecclesiastical Authority.

~~SECTION 5. Bishop's Compensation and Contingent Expenses. Diocesan Convention shall annually provide for the payment of the Bishop Diocesan's compensation and contingent expenses. The Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee in consultation with the Vice Chair of the Diocesan Council shall annually review such compensation and contingent expenses and make recommendations to the Budget Committee of the Diocesan Council.~~

SECTION 6-5. Execution of Documents. All deeds, notes, mortgages, and conveyances of property of ~~the this~~ the this Diocese shall be executed by the ~~Bishop Diocesan, or, Ecclesiastical Authority,~~ meaning the Bishop, or if there be no Bishop ~~Diocesan in the event of the disability of the Bishop Diocesan, by the President~~ president of the Standing ~~Committee, and Committee if~~

the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority. Any such execution is to be attested by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the this Diocese. In the event there is no Bishop Diocesan, and the President any of the above are unavailable, the secretary of Standing Committee is unavailable, the vice chair of Diocesan Council may execute deeds, notes, mortgages, and conveyances of property of ~~the this~~ Diocese.

SECTION 7-6. Prohibition on Alienation. Except as otherwise provided in this Canon, no ~~parish is, congregation~~ nor are the corporate officers ~~or of a~~ congregation thereof, are authorized or permitted to encumber, dispose, sell, alienate, transfer, or convey any real property, the title to which is or may be held by or for the use of the ~~parish, congregation,~~ and any such purported encumbrance, disposal, sale, alienation, transfer or conveyance ~~otherwise is~~ void.

CANON 14 Of Commissions

SECTION 1. Establishment. To fulfill the ecclesiastical responsibilities of the ~~Bishop, Ecclesiastical Authority,~~ the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ may establish commissions responsible to the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ for such matters as the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ may deem necessary.

SECTION 2. Officers. The ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ shall appoint the chair of each commission. Each chair may designate a secretary from the membership of the commission. The ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ shall be the ex officio chair of each commission.

SECTION 3. Reports. Each commission shall submit a report to the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ annually and through the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ to the Diocesan Convention.

CANON 15 Of the Commission on Ministry

SECTION 1. Establishment There shall be a Commission on Ministry appointed by the ~~Bishop, Ecclesiastical Authority,~~ to be chaired by the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ or a person designated by the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~. The Commission shall exist to assist the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ in exercising ecclesiastical and pastoral responsibilities for the Ministry of the Episcopal Church in the this Diocese, and to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of ~~The Episcopal Church in the United States of America~~ TEC regarding Commissions on Ministry.

SECTION 2. Licensing of Ministries Before any person shall officiate or serve as Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Evangelist, or Catechist, such person shall comply with the requirements of the Canons of TEC and diocesan requirements for licensure.

CANON 16

Of ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention Committee on Charter and Canons

A Diocesan Convention Committee on Charter and Canons shall be appointed by the ~~Bishop, Ecclesiastical Authority~~, at least one lay member of which shall be an attorney at law. Each member of said committee shall serve for a ~~three-year-three~~ (3) year term. It shall be a continuing committee to sit between sessions of ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention. The Chancellor shall serve ex officio as a member of said committee.

CANON 17

Of the Organization and Admission of ~~Parishes~~ Congregations

SECTION 1. Categories of Congregations. This Diocese recognizes two (2) kinds of congregations: missions and parishes. A mission is a congregation that, due to size of membership, income and defined mission to its area, is either dependent upon the Diocesan budget for support of priestly ministry or is sharing or otherwise providing for limited priestly ministry with or without cost to the budget of this Diocese. A parish is a congregation that, due to size of membership, income and defined mission is not dependent upon the Diocesan budget for support but is able to financially provide for its expenses and support for the rector and its of priestly ministry without cost to the budget of this Diocese.

SECTION 2. Notice to the Ecclesiastical Authority. Notice, in writing, of the desire to organize a congregation as a parish or a mission shall be given to the Ecclesiastical Authority. Said notice shall be signed by the persons who desire to organize and contain such information as may enable the Ecclesiastical Authority to judge the propriety of the proposed request.

~~SECTION 1. Notice to Bishop.~~ Notice of the desire to organize a parish shall be given to the Bishop, or, if none, then to the President of the Standing Committee. Said notice shall be in writing and contain such information as may enable the Bishop or Standing Committee to judge the propriety of the proposed act, which notice shall be signed by the persons who desire to organize.

~~SECTION 2-3. Approval.~~ Approval by the ~~Bishop or Standing Committee~~ Ecclesiastical Authority shall be essential for organization ~~and in this Diocese~~ for the admission of a congregation either as a parish or as a mission. ~~If the parish into union with request to organize a congregation is approved, those requesting the Diocesan Convention, same are required to follow the requirements, as applicable, set forth in Section 4 or Section 5 of this Canon 18.~~

~~SECTION 3. Requirements.~~ For the organization of a parish, 100 adult confirmed communicants shall assemble at the specified time and place, due notice in the manner of typical communication of those gathering, a minimum of two weeks prior to the assembly, and adopt and sign the Articles of Association prescribed by the Diocese in Section 4 of this Canon; provided, however, that no such organization shall be had until a specified annual sum towards the support of the rector and the expenses of the parish and a reasonable provision for the support of the diocese and diocesan expenses shall be assured to the satisfaction of the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

~~SECTION 4. Articles.~~ Requirements for Admission as a Parish. A condition before a time and place is established for the purpose of executing documents evidencing the approval and the

formation, is that a specified annual sum towards the support of the rector and the expenses of the parish and reasonable provisions for the support of this Diocese shall be assured to the satisfaction of the Ecclesiastical Authority. Once this is assured to the satisfaction of the Ecclesiastical Authority, at least 100 adult confirmed communicants shall assemble at the specified time and place established by the Ecclesiastical Authority in order to adopt and sign the Articles of Association prescribed by this Diocese in this Section 4 of this Canon 18.

(a) The Articles of Association (the “Articles”) for admission to this Diocese as a parish shall be as follows:

- (i) We, whose names are hereto subscribed, residents of _____ County, Florida, desirous of enjoying the privileges of religious worship and instruction for ourselves and families, according to the forms and doctrines of ~~The the~~ Episcopal Church in ~~the this~~ Diocese of Florida, and desirous of being admitted to the benefits and privileges of ~~the this~~ Diocese, being assembled in conformity to the Canons prescribed by ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention of ~~said Church this Diocese and the Constitution and Canons of TEC~~ for the ~~government~~ governance of parishes composing ~~the~~ same, under and by virtue of said acts, on this ____ day of ____ Anno ~~Domini, Domini~~ _____, do form ourselves into a Parish and adopt the following Articles of Association, to-wit:
 - (ii) ~~Article I.~~ This ~~Parish-parish~~ shall be known by the name of "The Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of ~~at.~~" ~~Article II.~~ _____ at _____.
 - (iii) This ~~Parish-parish~~, by the act of approval, acknowledges, accedes to, and adopts, and shall at all times adhere to the doctrine, discipline, worship, rites and usages of ~~the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, TEC~~, and likewise the Constitution and Canons of said Episcopal Church, as set forth by the General Convention, and the Charter and Canons of the Episcopal Church in ~~the this~~ Diocese of Florida, as prescribed by ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention.
 - (iv) ~~Article III.~~ When any person uniting with this Association shall disclaim, or refuse, conformity to the authorities mentioned in the preceding article, such person shall cease to be a member of this Parish.
 - (v) ~~Article IV.~~ The Wardens and Vestry of this parish shall be selected as provided in the Canons of ~~the TEC and of this~~ Diocese, and their duties shall be such as are conferred by ~~said Canons. Article V. the Canons of TEC and of this Diocese.~~
 - (vi) Lay Delegates shall be selected to represent the ~~Parish-parish~~ at ~~the meetings of the~~ Diocesan Convention as provided for in the Canons of ~~the this~~ Diocese, and it shall be ~~their~~ the duty of each delegate to attend all such meetings duly called.
 - (vii) ~~Article VI. The title~~ Title to all property, tenements, and other estates, real or personal, given to or purchased on behalf of ~~the Parish a parish~~ or otherwise ~~acquired required~~ by the ~~Parish, is and parish~~, shall be vested in The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida, Inc.
- (b) Any congregation complying with the provisions of Section 5 of this Canon may, upon application in writing accompanied by the Articles of Association or a certified copy thereof, be admitted into this Diocese as a parish.
- (c) Should any parish for the period of two (2) years fail to comply with the conditions required for the organization of a parish as herein above provided, the Ecclesiastical Authority, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may, after due notice and hearing, terminate its Parish status.

SECTION 5. Requirements for Admission as a Mission. The requirements for the organization of a mission congregation shall be established by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the advice of the Committee of Congregational Development. Approval by the Ecclesiastical Authority shall be essential for the organization and for the admission of a mission into union with Diocesan Convention. Every application to organize a new mission shall be accompanied by a certificate showing the approval or disapproval of the applicant's Regional Canon and the existing congregations in the general area to be served by the mission.

- (a) The Articles of Association (the "Articles") for admission to this Diocese as a mission shall be as follows:
- (i) Reverend Father in God: We, the undersigned residents of _____, County, Florida, being desirous of obtaining the services of the Episcopal Church, and ready according to our several abilities to sustain the same, do hereby request you to inquire into our estate, and provide for us as you may deem proper and expedient. We do hereby declare ourselves, individually and collectively, ready to establish and sustain the regular worship of the said Episcopal Church and promote its influence in our neighborhood; and we promise conformity to its doctrine, discipline, liturgy, rites, and usages. We put ourselves under your charge and will reverently obey your authority. We promise conformity to the Constitution and Canons of TEC and of this Diocese of Florida, and to the rules and regulations of its Diocesan Convention. In accordance with these obligations and rules, we now ask the privilege of being organized as a mission under the name of _____.
 - (ii) We hereby specifically stipulate and agree to raise among us, and faithfully disburse in accordance with the rules of Diocesan Council every year, such contribution as may be assumed by us as our minimum toward the stated salary of the priest-in-charge who may be sent to us, and a sum towards the support of this Diocese and Diocesan expenses and we now agree for the first year to \$ _____ annually in monthly installments. Remaining obediently yours in the Church of God.
- (b) If the Ecclesiastical Authority consents to the organization of a mission, the Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint a priest-in-charge to have charge of the mission. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall also appoint, on consultation with the priest-in-charge, the following officers for the first year and each year thereafter to wit: two wardens, a secretary, and a treasurer. Such officers and others appointed to the Mission Board shall constitute a mission board whose rights and duties shall be defined by the Ecclesiastical Authority. The number may be increased by the Ecclesiastical Authority as the need of the mission may require.
- (c) Title to all property, tenements, and other estates, real or personal, given to or purchased on behalf of the mission or otherwise acquired by the mission, shall be vested in The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida, Inc.
- (d) The failure of the members of an organized mission to fulfill their obligations under this canon shall warrant the Ecclesiastical Authority in changing the status of that congregation as deemed necessary by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

~~**SECTION 5. Application.** Any congregation complying with the provisions of this Canon may, upon application in writing accompanied by the Articles of Association or a certified copy thereof, be admitted into union with the Diocesan Convention.~~

~~**SECTION 6. Termination.** Should any parish for the period of two years fail to comply with the conditions required for the organization of a parish as hereinabove provided, the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may, after due notice and hearing, terminate its Parish status.~~

CANON 18

Of Congregations and Vestry Meetings Selections and Duties

SECTION 1. Meetings. There may be one or more meetings annually of each congregation on the call of the rector, priest-in-charge, vicar or chaplain, or upon the call of a majority of members of the vestry, mission board, or advisory committee, due notice of which shall be given, to conduct such business as may be brought before it.

- (a) **Meeting After Each Annual Convention.** shall be a meeting of each congregation not later than thirty (30) days after the close of ~~each annual meeting of the~~ Diocesan Convention for the purpose of acquainting the congregation with the work of that meeting of Diocesan Convention. Additionally, there shall be a communication to each congregation following any special meeting of Diocesan Convention acquainting the congregation with its work. Finally, there shall be a meeting of the congregation as necessary to satisfy the requirements of Canon 2, Section 4, regarding the selection of delegates to the next ~~meeting of the~~ Diocesan Convention.
- (b) **Presiding Officer.** At congregational meetings, the rector, priest-in- charge, vicar or chaplain shall preside, or in the absence or at the discretion of such member of the clergy, the senior or junior warden in order shall preside. The secretary of the vestry or mission board shall be the secretary of the congregational meeting.

SECTION 2. Qualifications of Voters. Persons qualified to vote at a congregational meeting shall be as follows, and the qualifications of any voter shall be determined by the presiding officer:

All adult communicants of the parish, mission or chapel who regularly attend services and business sessions of the congregation and are recognized as members of the congregation, and who contribute by subscription or otherwise for the funds or expenses of the congregation and have done so for six (6) months previous to the meeting, and who, if required, declare themselves conscientiously attached to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church.

SECTION 3. Vestries. In every parish there shall be a vestry composed of ~~not less no~~ fewer than five (5) members, to continue in office for the term selected by the congregation and until their successors take office.

- (a) **Selection.** The selection shall be by ballot or by lot, as determined by ~~the each~~ congregation.
- (b) **Qualifications.** Members of the vestry shall be adult confirmed communicants in good standing of the parish for a period of six (6) months last past at the date of their selection.
- (c) **Number.** The number of members of the vestry and their terms of office may be set by resolution at any annual ~~congregation~~ congregational meeting.
- (d) **Vacancies.** Vacancies will be filled in accordance with the written by- laws, policies, or procedures approved by the parish in accordance with Canon 19, Section 7. The selection of a communicant to an unexpired term shall not disqualify that person as a candidate for selection at the next annual congregational

meeting.

SECTION 4. Duties of Vestry. It shall be the duty of the vestry to take charge of the temporal concerns of the parish and to work with the clergy and laity of the congregation for the furtherance of the ~~Church's purpose.~~ purpose of the Episcopal Church. It shall execute all duties imposed by any General Convention, the Constitution and Canons of ~~the Episcopal Church, TEC,~~ any ~~convention of the Diocese~~ Diocesan Convention and these Canons.

- (a) **Officers.** The rector shall be chair of the vestry. The rector shall appoint a member of the vestry senior warden and the members of the vestry shall elect one of their ~~number-number.~~ a junior warden. The vestry shall elect a secretary and treasurer and such other officers as ~~they the vestry~~ may deem necessary.
- (b) **Senior Warden.** The senior warden (or in the absence of the senior warden, the junior warden) shall with the vestry provide for the decent celebration of public worship. In the absence of the rector, the senior warden shall call meetings of the vestry and preside over the same and be in charge of the congregation's discretionary fund.
- (c) **Meetings.** There shall be at least one meeting of the vestry in each quarter of the year; however, the rector, senior warden or junior warden shall call a meeting at any time upon the request of one-third of the members of the vestry. The rector and all members of the vestry shall be given due notice of all meetings of the vestry.

SECTION 5. Vacancy in Office of Rector. When a ~~parish or~~ congregation becomes vacant of clergy, the Church wardens or other proper officers shall notify the ~~Bishop.~~ Ecclesiastical Authority. If the authorities of the parish shall for thirty (30) days have failed to make provision for the services, it shall be the duty of the ~~Bishop.~~ Ecclesiastical Authority to take such measures as the ~~Bishop.~~ Ecclesiastical Authority may deem expedient for the temporary maintenance of divine services therein.

SECTION 6. Election of Clergy. The vestry shall elect (subject to the approval of the ~~Bishop.~~ Ecclesiastical Authority) a rector. Upon the nomination of the rector, it may elect (subject to the approval of the ~~Bishop.~~ Ecclesiastical Authority), assistant or assisting clergy.

SECTION 7. Written By-laws, Policies or Procedures. Every parish shall adopt by a majority vote of qualified voters present at a duly called congregational meeting written by- laws, policies, or procedures consistent with these Canons, the Constitution of ~~the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, TEC,~~ the laws of the State of Florida and the Articles of Reincorporation of this Diocese.

CANON 19

Of ~~the~~ Clergy and ~~Their~~ Duties of Clergy

SECTION 1. Authorization to Officiate. Before any member of the clergy may be allowed to officiate in any church or congregation in this Diocese, such person must first produce the letters of orders or other satisfactory evidence that such person is an authorized minister of the Episcopal Church in good standing. Whenever there is a settled rector or minister, such person shall be the sole judge in the premises, but if the parish is vacant, the wardens and vestry shall require the fulfillment of the above conditions, together with approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority.

SECTION 2. To Record and to Report. Every minister of ~~this-the~~ Episcopal Church in charge of a congregation shall keep a register of baptisms, confirmations, communicants, marriages and ~~burials within the minister's cure,~~ burials, and report the same to the Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority ten ~~(10)~~ days before each ~~annual meeting of the~~ Diocesan Convention, stating the number of services held and official acts performed by or under the supervision of such minister from January 1st through December 31st.

SECTION 3. Membership List. ~~Each~~ As required by the Ecclesiastical Authority, each rector of a parish ~~and or~~ priest-in-charge in charge of a congregation shall send to the Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority each year a list of the communicants or ~~members, as required by the Bishop, or~~ members of the parish or mission, with addresses.

~~**SECTION 4. Of the Conduct of Clergy.** Clergy shall pattern their lives in accordance with the teaching of Christ so that they may be wholesome examples to their people, including, but not limited to, abstaining from sexual relations outside of Holy Matrimony.~~

CANON 20

Of Registers and Reports

SECTION 1. ~~Parish~~ Congregational Registers. In every ~~parish, congregation,~~ the vestry shall provide a Parish-congregational register, in which the rector or priest-in-charge or vicar shall record the name of each person baptized with the date of birth, the name of the parents and sponsors, and date of baptism; and the names of all persons confirmed, married, or buried, with their respective dates. It shall be the duty of each officiating ~~minister-clergy~~ person to sign the record of each entry. The said congregational register shall also contain a list of all the baptized members and confirmed communicants in the ~~parish, congregation.~~ It shall be the responsibility of the ~~Wardens~~ wardens to see that the ~~record-congregational~~ register is maintained in accordance with these Canons. ~~At each organized mission a like register shall be kept by the priest-in-charge or someone appointed by the Bishop.~~

SECTION 2. Reports Required by General Convention. As soon as possible after the first day of January, the ~~rector-rector, priest in charge or vicar~~ of each ~~parish and priest-in-charge of each mission-congregation~~ (or, in the case the ~~parish-congregation~~ is ~~vacant,~~ vacant of clergy, one of the wardens) shall make upon the proper form provided by ~~the~~ General Convention and furnished by the ~~Secretary of the Diocese, Secretary,~~ a complete and accurate report to the Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority and to Diocesan Convention. Such parochial report shall be sent to the ~~office of the~~ Secretary ~~of the Diocese not no~~ later than March ~~1-1~~ of each calendar year. Notification will be sent by March 30 to a ~~Warden~~ warden and the Priest-in-Charge or vicar of any congregation not in compliance with this

section.

SECTION 3. Failure to File. In case any ~~parish or mission congregation~~ shall fail to send before the first day of March the report required by this section to the ~~Bishop, Ecclesiastical Authority~~, the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ may send a certified accountant to said ~~parish or mission, congregation~~, who shall have access to the books of said ~~parish or mission, congregation~~, and who shall, at the expense of said ~~parish or mission, make up congregation, make-up~~ said report and forward same to the ~~proper person~~ ~~Ecclesiastical Authority~~ for the carrying out of the provisions of this section.

SECTION 4. Reports. A report shall be promptly made to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the selection or appointment of all lay ~~convention~~ ~~Diocesan Convention~~ delegates, vestries and mission Boards, giving their names, addresses, and terms office.

CANON 21

Of College Centers, Chapels, and Chaplains

SECTION 1. College Centers. At any institution of higher learning in ~~the this~~ Diocese, it shall be lawful for ~~the Church this~~ ~~Diocese~~ to establish college centers and for the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ to appoint chaplains thereof, such establishments to be made by vote of ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention acting upon the recommendations of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council. Chapels erected at such centers shall have the status of Chapels of ~~the this~~ Diocese. The congregations of such chapels shall have representation ~~in the at~~ Diocesan ~~convention~~ ~~Convention~~ according to Canon ~~4-1~~, governing representation from congregations. Chaplains so appointed shall have the status of priest-in-charge and shall be subject to the same controls.

SECTION 2. Advisory Committee. To the benefit of college centers and the care of the properties erected and used for their activities, the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ shall annually appoint an advisory committee for each center. Members of the committee shall be nominated by the chaplain and shall have the authority and responsibility under the direction of ~~the~~ Diocesan Council Division for administration and planning of the college center and the ~~Episcopal~~ Church's life and mission to that particular college or university. It shall be the duty of such advisory committee to care for the properties of the center for which they are appointed; to inform ~~the~~ Diocesan ~~Council of the Diocese Council~~, from time to time of needed repairs and improvements; and to aid the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ or the chaplain in the disbursement of such funds and bequests as may be left to the center.

SECTION 3. Salaries and Operating Expenses. ~~The~~ Diocesan Council, acting on the recommendation of the ~~Bishop or the~~ Ecclesiastical Authority, ~~shall shall, as part of the budget process of~~ ~~Diocesan Council~~, provide for the necessary operating expenses of such chaplains. Salaries of chaplains, together with premiums due thereon to the ~~Episcopal~~ Church Pension Fund, shall be provided and fixed in like manner as the salaries and pension premiums of ~~other~~ priest-in-charge clergy.

SECTION 4. Records. The chaplain of a college center shall keep a standard register in which shall be recorded all official acts performed at the chapel as provided ~~for~~ in these Canons. It shall be the special duty of the chaplain to transfer all communicants enrolled upon the said

register at the time of their permanent departure from the institution of learning involved.

SECTION 5. Annual Reports of Chaplains. The chaplain shall make annual reports to the Ecclesiastical Authority and to Diocesan Council as provided in these Canons.

CANON 22

Of the University of the South

SECTION 1. Institution of Diocese. The University of the South is declared to be the institution of higher learning of ~~the~~this Diocese of Florida.

SECTION 2. Election of Trustees. Diocesan Convention shall elect three (3) trustees of the University of the South, consisting of one clerical and two (2) lay trustees, whose terms of office shall be three (3) years and until their successors are elected.

SECTION 3. Reports by Trustees. The trustees shall annually report to ~~the~~Diocesan Council and to the annual meeting of ~~the~~Diocesan Convention.

CANON 23

Of the Judicial System of ~~the~~this Diocese

SECTION 1. Title IV of General Canons. Those provisions of Title IV of the Constitution and Canons of ~~The Episcopal Church~~TEC (the "General Canons") that are applicable to ~~the~~this Diocese are hereby incorporated as part of this Canon. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Canon are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV, the provisions of Title IV shall govern.

SECTION 2. Discipline Structure.

- (a) **Disciplinary Board.** The Disciplinary Board (the "Board") shall consist of ~~not less-no fewer~~ than nine (9) persons, five (5) of whom are members of the Clergy clergy and four (4) of whom are Laity~~laity~~.
- (b) **Clergy Members.** The Clergy~~clergy~~ members of the Board must be canonically resident within ~~the~~this Diocese.
- (c) **Lay Members.** The lay members of the Board shall be adult communicants in good standing at an Episcopal parish or mission-a congregation within ~~the~~this Diocese.
- (d) ~~Election. Commencing with the One Hundred and Sixty Ninth Annual Convention of the Diocese of Florida, the members~~ **Selection. Members** of the Board shall be ~~elected~~selected by ~~the~~sortition by Diocesan Convention. Each member shall be ~~elected~~selected for a three (3) year term. The term of the member shall commence on the first (1st) day of the month following ~~election~~the selectionelection of the member. The terms of office of the Board shall be staggered and arranged into three (3) classes. All persons elected under this section are eligible to be re-elected upon the expiration of their terms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no persons

elected under this section are eligible to be ~~re-elected~~ ~~re-selected~~ for more than two ~~(2)~~ consecutive terms.

(e) **Vacancies.** Vacancies on the Board shall be filled as follows:

- (i) Upon the determination that a vacancy exists, the President of the Board shall notify the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority of the vacancy and request appointment of a replacement member of the same order as the member to be replaced.
- (ii) The ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a replacement Board member in consultation with the Standing ~~Committee~~ Committee or Diocesan Council, should the Standing Committee be the Ecclesiastical Authority.
- (iii) Persons appointed to fill vacancies on the Board shall meet the same eligibility requirements as apply to elected ~~Board members~~ members of the Board.
- (iv) 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~~ Diocesan Convention. 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.

(f) **Preserving Impartiality.** In any proceeding under this Canon, 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 Episcopal 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. The members of the Panel 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.

(g) **President.** Within sixty (60) days following ~~the effective date of this Canon and thereafter within sixty (60) days following~~ each ~~annual~~ Diocesan Convention, the Board shall convene to elect a President to serve for the following calendar year.

(h) **Intake Officer.** The Intake Officer shall be appointed from time to time by the ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority after consultation with the Board. The ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint one or more Intake Officers according to the needs of the ~~Diocese~~ Board. The ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority shall publish the name(s) and contact information of the Intake Officer(s) throughout ~~the~~ this Diocese.

- (i) **Investigator.** The ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ shall appoint an Investigator in consultation with the President of the Board. The Investigator may, but need not, be a member of the Episcopal Church.
- (j) **Church Attorney.** ~~Commencing within sixty (60) days following the effective date of this Canon and thereafter within~~ Within sixty (60) days following each ~~annual-Diocesan~~ Convention, the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ shall appoint an attorney to serve as Church Attorney to serve for the following calendar year. The person so selected must be a member of an Episcopal ~~parish or mission congregation~~ within ~~the this~~ Diocese and a member in good standing of the Florida Bar.
- (k) **Pastoral Response Coordinator.** The ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ may appoint a Pastoral Response Coordinator, to serve at the will of the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ in coordinating the delivery of appropriate pastoral responses provided for in Title IV.8 of the General Canons and this Canon. The Pastoral Response Coordinator may be the Intake Officer, but shall not be a person serving in any other appointed or elected capacity under this Canon.
- (l) **Advisors.** In each proceeding under this Canon, the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ 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 this Diocese or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding.
- (m) **Clerk.** The Board shall appoint a Board Clerk to assist the Board with records management and administrative support. The Clerk may be a member of the ~~Board-Board~~ but shall be a communicant in this Diocese.

SECTION 3. Costs and Expenses.

- (a) **Costs Incurred by ~~the Church- this Diocese~~.** The reasonable costs and expenses of the Board, the Intake Officer, the Investigator, the Church Attorney, the Board Clerk and the Pastoral Response Coordinator shall be the obligation of ~~the this~~ Diocese, subject to budgetary constraints as may be established by Diocesan Council.
- (b) **Costs Incurred by the Respondent.** In the event of a final Order dismissing the ~~complaint-complaint~~, at the discretion of the ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~, the reasonable defense fees and costs incurred by the Respondent may be paid or reimbursed by ~~the this~~ Diocese, subject to budgetary constraints as may be established by Diocesan Council.

SECTION 4. Records.

- (a) **Records of Proceedings.** Records of active proceedings before the Board, including the period of any pending appeal, shall be preserved and maintained by

the Diocesan offices.

- (b) **Permanent Records.** The ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ shall make provision for the permanent storage of records of all proceedings under this Canon in ~~at the~~ Diocese and the Archives of ~~the Episcopal Church, TEC,~~ as prescribed in Title IV of the ~~General Canons. Canons of TEC.~~

~~SECTION 5. Effective Date.~~ The effective date of this Canon shall be July 1, 2011. Except as otherwise provided in this Canon, the predecessor to this Canon shall stand repealed on the effective date of this Canon. Matters which are pending under the predecessor to this Canon on the effective date shall proceed in the manner prescribed in the General Canons.

CANON 24

Of Deputies to General Convention and Provincial Synod

SECTION 1. ~~Election~~ Selection of Deputies. ~~The Diocesan Convention shall elect deputies~~ Deputies and alternate deputies to General Convention shall be selected by sortition at ~~the regular meeting of the~~ Diocesan ~~Convention, Convention~~ which occurs in the year prior to the year in which ~~the~~ General Convention meets is to be held. Diocesan Convention shall select five (5) clerical persons canonically resident in ~~the~~ this Diocese and five (5) lay persons who shall be adult confirmed communicants in good standing ~~shall be elected by majority ballot by sortition.~~ After the five (5) deputies have been selected, sortition will continue until all the names have been selected. Each name selected after the first five (5) will constitute the next alternate deputy to represent this Diocese, in sequence, until the names run out. to represent this Diocese as deputies and alternate deputies ~~in said to~~ General Convention.

- (a) ~~The four clerical and four lay persons receiving the highest number of votes in their respective orders shall be designated Clergy and Lay Deputies. The clerical and lay persons receiving the fifth highest number of votes in their respective orders shall be the Clergy and Lay Alternates. If a deputy is subsequently unable to serve, the alternate in the same order will move into the deputy position and the next highest vote recipient name in that order shall be offered the alternate position.~~
- (b) ~~The vote count for all deputy nominees shall be retained by the Secretary of Diocesan Convention in the event that an additional clergy or lay deputy will be needed due to the inability of a clergy or lay deputy to remain in office. The next highest vote recipient in the clergy or lay order shall move into the open position.~~ Deputy and alternate deputy terms are ~~3~~ three (3) years or until replaced at the next ~~deputy election cycle~~ selection ~~election~~, at Diocesan Convention of ~~Diocesan~~ deputies to General Convention. Deputies and alternate deputies may be elected to successive terms. No one in the process for ordination, aspirant, postulate or candidate for Holy Orders shall be elected to represent this Diocese as a deputy ~~in~~ to General Convention.
- (c) The ~~Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority~~ shall appoint one chair of the deputation from the four ~~elected~~ selected clergy deputies or the four ~~elected~~ selected lay deputies.

SECTION 2. Certification of Deputies and Alternates.

- (a) Agreement by a candidate to have their name placed into nomination to become a deputy to General Convention ~~deputy~~ shall signify to the Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority their acceptance of the ~~election-selection~~ and intention to perform ~~their~~ the duties in full, including attendance at Province IV Synods as well as at General Convention. If a deputy or alternate is no longer able to fulfill ~~their-the~~ duties, notice shall be immediately given to the Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority and the next alternate shall move up in accordance with Section ~~4(c)~~ 1 above. ~~The persons~~ An alternate deputy so recognized by the Bishop-Ecclesiastical Authority shall have all the power of authority of ~~the deputies-a deputy~~ a deputy duly elected by ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention.
- (b) The deputation chair shall fill out the Testimonial of Deputy Selection and the Alternate Deputy Selection Form and any necessary amendments provided by the office of General ~~Convention Office- Convention~~. Such forms shall be signed and submitted ~~to the General Convention Office by the Secretary of Diocesan Convention~~ in a timely ~~manner. In case~~ manner to the office of a vacancy in the Episcopate or the inability of the Bishop to act, this power of designation shall be exercised-General Convention by the ~~Standing Committee-Secretary~~.

SECTION 3. Vacancy During Convention. If at the meeting of ~~the~~ General Convention any deputy elected by Diocesan Convention or designated by the ~~Bishop or Standing Committee~~ Ecclesiastical Authority shall fail to attend or, after being seated, shall obtain leave of absence for the remainder of the session, such vacancy shall be filled by the next alternate among Clerical or Lay orders who may be in attendance ~~of at~~ said General Convention.

SECTION 4. Expenses. ~~The Diocesan Convention will provide for the payment by the Diocese~~ Payment of the reasonable travel, registration, per diem, housing and other authorized expenses of clerical and lay deputies and the clerical and lay alternate in each order ~~(total of five in each order)~~ to attend ~~the~~ General Convention. ~~The Diocesan Convention will be made by this Diocese. This Diocese~~ will also provide for payment ~~by the Diocese~~ of the reasonable registration, meals and housing and other authorized expenses (but not travel) of clerical and lay deputies and the clergy and lay alternate in each order ~~(total of five in each order)~~ for attendance at Province IV Synods the year preceding and the year of the meeting of ~~the~~ General Convention.

SECTION 5. Provincial Synod. During the year preceding and the year of the meeting of ~~the~~ General Convention, the clerical and lay deputies to General Convention and the alternate in each order shall be deputies to the Province IV Synod. In the case that additional Province IV Synods are conducted, the current deputies and alternate deputies will attend at Diocesan expense with the approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority ~~of the Diocese~~, in accordance with Section 4 above.

SECTION 6. Report to Diocesan Convention. The Deputation Chair will prepare a report to Diocesan Convention regarding General Convention. The report will be for the next Diocesan Convention immediately following General Convention and will be in writing, no more than two (2) pages in length.

CANON 25
Of the Episcopal Church Pension Fund

SECTION 1. Performance. There shall be contributed to the Episcopal Church Pension Fund by each parish and mission in ~~the this~~ Diocese and by ~~the this~~ Diocese, respectively, a sum equal to the percentage of the annual salary to be reckoned according to the rules pre- scribed by the ~~General~~ Canons of TEC and the other proper authority for the administration of the Episcopal Church Pension Fund.

SECTION 2. Assistance. The ~~Bishop of the Diocese~~ Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint a committee of five (5) laymen whose duty it shall be to cooperate with the proper authority of the said Episcopal Church Pension Fund to make effective the plan thereof as established by ~~the~~ General Convention.

CANON 26
Of Rules and Procedure

~~The Diocesan~~ Convention and all Diocesan agencies may adopt such rules of procedure as are not inconsistent with the Articles of Reincorporation of ~~the this~~ Diocese, these Canons, or those as set forth by General Convention; and in all matters of procedure not otherwise provided for, Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, or Robert's Rules of Order as revised shall be followed.

CANON 27
Of a Quorum

In all cases in which a Canon directs a duty to be performed or a power to be exercised by any agency of ~~the this~~ Diocese, a majority of the members, the whole being duly cited to meet, shall be a quorum, and a majority of the quorum so convened shall be competent to act, unless the contrary be expressly prescribed by Canon or some existing Charter, Constitution, or Law.

CANON 28
Of Alterations

SECTION 1. In General. No proposed alteration of, or addition to, these Canons shall be considered by ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention unless:

- (a) such alteration or addition shall have been referred to, and a recommendation made to ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention by, the Diocesan Convention Committee on Charter and Canons; or,
- (b) by unanimous consent of ~~the~~ Diocesan Convention.

Such alterations or additions to the Canons may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the same Convention.

SECTION 2. Additions. Additions to these Canons shall be numbered to precede this Canon.

CANON 29 Of Repealing Canon

Except as expressly provided herein, all former Canons of ~~the this~~ Diocese ~~of Florida~~ not included in these Canons are hereby repealed.

CANONS REMOVED IN THE 2026 REVISION

~~CANON 13 (2025) — Of the Architectural Review Board~~

~~SECTION 1. Statement of Purpose.~~ Subject to the authority and regulations adopted by the Diocesan Council, the Architectural Review Board shall review, offer consultation, and approve all building projects within the Diocese, whether initial projects, capital alterations or additions.

~~SECTION 2. Establishment.~~ There is hereby established the Architectural Review Board of not less than six members to be appointed by the Bishop with the concurrence of the Diocesan Council.

~~SECTION 3. Officers.~~ The Bishop shall designate the chair of the Architectural Review Board and the chair may designate a secretary from the membership. The Bishop is the ex officio chair of the board.

~~SECTION 4. Reports.~~ The Architectural Review Board shall report to the Diocesan Council and through it to the annual Diocesan Convention.

~~CANON 14 (2025) — Of the Diocesan School System and the Board of Regents~~

~~SECTION 1. Statement of Purpose and Mission.~~ The Board of Regents operates under the authority of the Bishop and shall serve, lead and support the schools of the Episcopal Diocese of Florida. In exercising its responsibility to the Diocesan School System, the Board of Regents' mission is to: 1) nurture the teaching of Christian values; 2) promote and strengthen church/school/diocesan relations and 3) promote and develop Episcopal schools.

~~SECTION 2. Officers and Members.~~ Upon recommendation from the Heads of Diocesan Episcopal Schools and Directors of Diocesan Episcopal Early Learning Programs, the Bishop shall designate a Director, Rising Director, Secretary and one or more Diocesan Representatives for the Board of Regents. The Bishop is the ex officio chair of the Board.

CANONS CONSOLIDATED IN THE 2026 REVISION

~~CANON 20 (2025) — Of Organized Missions~~

~~SECTION 1. Categories of Congregations.~~ The Diocese recognizes two kinds of congregations: missions and parishes. Parishes are described in Canons 18 and 19. A mission is a congregation that, due to size of membership, income and defined mission to its area, is either dependent upon the Diocesan budget for support of priestly ministry or is sharing or otherwise providing for limited priestly ministry with or without cost of the diocesan budget.

~~SECTION 2. Mission Congregations.~~ The requirements for the organization of a mission congregation shall be established by the Bishop with the advice of the Committee of Congregational Development. Approval by the Bishop shall be essential for the organization and for the admission of a mission into union with the Diocesan Convention.

~~Every application to organize a new mission shall be accompanied by a certificate showing the approval or disapproval of the applicant's Regional Canon and the existing congregations in the general area to be served by the mission.~~

~~The following application must be adopted and signed by the persons eighteen years of age or over who propose to be members of the mission:~~

~~"Article 1. Reverend Father in God: We, the undersigned residents of _____, County of _____, being desirous of obtaining the services of the Episcopal Church, and ready according to our several abilities to sustain the same, do hereby request you to inquire into our estate, and provide for us as you may deem proper and expedient.~~

~~We do hereby declare ourselves, individually and collectively, ready to establish and sustain the regular~~

worship of the said Church and promote its influence in our neighborhood; and we promise conformity to its doctrine, discipline, liturgy, rites, and usages. We put ourselves under your charge and will reverently obey your authority. We promise conformity to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of the Diocese of Florida, and to the rules and regulations of its Diocesan Convention. In accordance with these obligations and rules, we now ask the privilege of being organized as a Mission under the name of:

Article II. We hereby specifically stipulate and agree to raise among us, and faithfully disburse in accordance with the rules of the Diocesan Council every year, such contribution as may be assumed by us as our minimum toward the stated salary of the priest-in-charge who may be sent to us, and a sum towards the support of the Diocese and Diocesan expenses and we now agree for the first year to _____ annually in monthly installments. Remaining obediently yours in the Church of God."

If the Bishop consents to the organization of a mission, the Bishop may appoint a priest-in-charge to have charge of the mission. The Bishop shall also appoint, on consultation with the priest-in-charge, the following officers for the first year and each year thereafter to wit: two wardens, a secretary, and a treasurer. Such officers and others appointed to the Mission Board shall constitute a mission board whose rights and duties shall be defined by the Bishop. The number may be increased by the Bishop as the need of the mission may require.

The title to all property, tenements, and other estates, real or personal, given to or purchased on behalf of the mission or otherwise

acquired by the Mission, shall be vested in The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida, Inc.

The failure of the members of an organized mission to fulfill their obligations under this canon shall warrant the Bishop in changing the status of that congregation as deemed necessary by the Bishop:

→ Consolidated into Canon 17 (Organization & Admission of Congregations)

CANON 23 (2025) — Of Lay Readers

Before any person shall officiate as lay reader, such person shall comply with the requirements of the Canons of the General Convention:

→ Consolidated into Canon 19 (Clergy) – "Licensing of Ministries"