

Proposed Amendments to the Diocesan Canons for 2019

Amendment # 1 to the Canons as proposed by Raymond J. Dague, Chancellor

Title I, Canon 1
Order, Governance, and Discipline of the Diocese

The order and governance of, and discipline within, the Diocese shall be vested in the Bishop, the Standing Committee, the Synod, and the Ecclesiastical Court. The distribution of the authority for the order and governance of, and discipline within, the Diocese shall be as follows:

2. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall be vested in the Bishop and, in the absence of the Bishop, in the ~~Missionary Bishop of CANA~~ and Standing Committee of this Diocese.

Amendment # 2 to the Canons as proposed by Raymond J. Dague, Chancellor

Title I, Canon 2

Section 2. Membership

The Synod shall be composed of the Lay Delegates chosen in accordance with these Canons, the active clergy of the Diocese, and the officers of the diocese as prescribed by canon.

Section 3A. Clergy Delegates

i. An official list of all duly ordained presbyters and deacons under the authority of the Bishop shall be maintained by the Ecclesiastical Authority, kept current by the Registrar, and on file in the central office of the Diocese. The list shall contain the addresses and positions of the clergy and shall be published at least 30 days in advance of any meeting of the Synod. Any active member of the clergy whose name is not on the list who wishes to vote at the Synod shall bring the omission to the attention of the Registrar.

iii. Every active member of the clergy under the authority of the Bishop shall attend every meeting of the Synod unless excused in writing by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Section 4. Meetings of the Synod

B. A quorum of the Synod of the Diocese shall consist of a majority of the active clergy of the diocese whose attendance has not been excused by the Bishop and a majority of the congregations and missions of the diocese.

Title IV, Canon 5
Active and Inactive Clergy

All clergy holding the Bishop's license shall be the active clergy of the diocese, unless,

any such clergy requests that they be designated as inactive, or such clergy is absent from attendance at two consecutive synods of the diocese without having been excused by the Ecclesiastical Authority, or such clergy be under ecclesiastical discipline. Inactive clergy may not function in an ordained capacity without first becoming active. Inactive clergy may become active by notifying the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Registrar and complying with the credentialing requirements for active clergy.

NB: If the above new canon is adopted, the next successive canon shall be amended by being renumbered as Title IV, Canon 6.

**Amendment # 3 to the Canons as proposed by
Raymond J. Dague, Chancellor**

Title I, Canon 4
Officers of the Diocese

Section 1. The Bishop

The Bishop shall serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese and the Presiding Officer of the Standing Committee and the Synod.

Section 2. The Chancellor

The Chancellor of the Diocese, shall be appointed by the Bishop, ~~shall be a member of CANA~~. He or she shall be learned in the law and licensed to practice law in one of the jurisdictions encompassed by the Diocese. The Chancellor shall have responsibility for the legal affairs of the Diocese and shall serve ~~The Missionary the Diocese of CANA East~~ as counsel to the Bishop and the Standing Committee. The Bishop may appoint assistant chancellors as necessary.

Section 3. The Secretary

The Secretary of the Diocese, shall be appointed by the Bishop, ~~shall be a member of CANA~~. He or she shall keep the minutes of the Synod, and shall submit such reports as the Bishop may request. The Bishop may appoint assistant secretaries as necessary.

Section 4. The Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Diocese, shall be appointed by the Bishop, ~~shall be a member of CANA~~. He or she shall be the custodian for all of the funds of the Diocese and shall be learned in financial and accounting matters. The Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount as the Standing Committee from time to time shall deem appropriate; shall prepare the annual diocesan budget; and shall file an annual report to the Synod on the financial status of the Diocese, including reports of account for all funds under his or her custody or control, profit and loss statements, and balance sheets. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for the preparation of such periodic financial reports as may be required by the Standing Committee.

Section 5. The Registrar

The Registrar, shall be appointed by the Bishop, ~~shall be a member of CANA~~. He or she shall be the custodian of official records of the Diocese and shall issue such certification as may be directed by the Bishop or the Standing Committee.

**Amendment # 4 to the Canons as proposed by
The Rev. Matt Kennedy**

Title II, Canon 1
Congregations and Missions

Section 4. Discontinuing Membership and Disaffiliation from the Diocese

A. A Congregation or Mission may discontinue membership or disaffiliate from the Diocese, either upon the action of the Congregation or Mission, or the action of the Bishop and the Diocese.

B. A Congregation or Mission seeking to discontinue membership or disaffiliate from the Diocese shall adopt a Resolution of Concern by a ~~two-thirds~~ majority vote of its vestry or governing board. The Resolution of Concern shall be addressed to the Bishop, and shall contain a brief statement seeking to consult with the Bishop for termination of membership or affiliation, setting forth the reasons for the proposed action, and shall contain a request to the Bishop to consult with the vestry or other governing board and the clergy in charge of the Congregation or Mission. Upon receipt of any such Resolution of Concern the Bishop shall transmit such resolution to the Standing Committee. If after the consultation with the Bishop the vestry or other governing board desires to terminate membership or disaffiliate, a Resolution of Membership Termination or Resolution of Disaffiliation shall be prepared and adopted by either the vestry or governing board by a two-thirds vote or by the membership of the Congregation or Mission by a two-thirds majority vote. This resolution shall be transmitted to the Bishop and ~~then placed before the Standing Committee for ratification.~~ Upon such ratification by the Standing Committee, all relationship of Membership or Affiliation shall be dissolved.

C. A Congregation or Mission may be removed from membership or disaffiliated from the Diocese. If such action is contemplated, the Bishop shall write a Letter of Concern to the rector or other clergy in charge and its vestry or governing board. The Letter of Concern shall contain a brief statement seeking to commence a discussion with the Congregation or Mission, and setting forth the reasons for the possible need for removal or disaffiliation, and shall contain a request to the vestry or other governing board and the clergy in charge of the Congregation or Mission to consult with the Bishop regarding the need for such action. If after such consultation or the refusal of the Congregation or Mission to consult with the Bishop, the Bishop determines that to discontinue membership or disaffiliate is in the interest of the Congregation or Mission, and in the interest of the Diocese, a Resolution of Membership Discontinuance or a Resolution of Disaffiliation shall be prepared and submitted to the Standing Committee, and transmitted to the rector or other clergy in charge, and the vestry or other governing board. Upon the adoption of the resolution by the Standing Committee, all relationship of Membership or Affiliation shall be dissolved.

**Amendment # 5 to the Canons as proposed by
Raymond J. Dague, Chancellor**

Title II, Canon 2, Section 7
Resolving Conflicts in the Pastoral Relationship

F. If at the time of a need for the Bishop's intervention in the relationship between a Rector and a Congregation there be no Bishop or the Bishop refuses to act within a reasonable time period, the ~~Standing Committee or Vestry~~ may appeal to the ~~Missionary Bishop of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America~~ Standing Committee for action.

**Amendment # 6 to the Canons as proposed by
Raymond J. Dague, Chancellor**

Title IV, Canon 2
Of Candidates for Holy Orders
Section 1. Seeking Holy Orders

A. Any person who has been confirmed or received by a Bishop of ~~CANA~~ the Diocese, or the Province or another province of the Anglican Communion, who believes they are called by Almighty God to ordained ministry in the Church, should seek the discernment of others to confirm that call.

**Amendment # 7 to the Canons as proposed by
Raymond J. Dague, Chancellor**

Title IV, Canon 2, Section 1
Seeking Holy Orders

C. Applicants to be a presbyter must be a man who has been a deacon for not less than twelve months, except such period may be shortened by good cause shown, have made a public commitment of his faith in Christ and have lived his Christian faith, and served as a deacon in an exemplary manner for some time.

Notes on the text for which amendments are here proposed: The text of the existing canons are shown in regular font, with proposed deletions shown with a ~~strikeover~~, and proposed additions shown underlined. Amendments to the canons take effect immediately upon adoption.

Raymond J. Dague, Chancellor
adopted by the Committee on Constitution and Canons at their meeting on April 18, 2019