

II. STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

*Pre-Council Report of the
COMMITTEE for CONSTITUTION AND CANONS
to the 169th Council*

(Type of Proposal)	(No. of Proposals)
A - Constitutional proposals, 2nd reading:	2
B - Constitutional proposals, 1st reading:	3
C - Canonical proposals:	5

A. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

(Presented for second reading requiring 2/3rds majority approval from each Order)

**Article 2
THE COUNCIL**

EXISTING:

Section 2.7 Quorum

At the regular Annual Council, one quarter of the Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese and a Lay Delegate from one quarter of the congregations in union with the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but less than a quorum may adjourn from day to day until a quorum is obtained.

PROPOSED:

Section 2.7 Quorum

At the regular Annual Council, one ~~quarter~~ half of the active (non-retired) of the Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese and a Lay Delegate from one ~~quarter~~ half of the congregations in union with the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but less than a quorum may adjourn from day to day until a quorum is obtained.

IF AMENDED:

Section 2.7 Quorum

At the regular Annual Council, one half of the active (non-retired) of the Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese and a Lay Delegate from one half of the congregations in union with the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but less than a quorum may adjourn from day to day until a quorum is obtained.

SUBMITTED BY: The Executive Board

RATIONALE (by The Executive Board): This quorum was originally set in the previous century and provided for the difficulties of travel at that time. There still may be times when conditions, such as inclement weather, may prevent the majority of the delegates for Council from gathering at the designated location where Diocesan Council is to be held in any given year. A one-half quorum will allow for adequate representation to be had for the business of the Diocese to be conducted at Diocesan Council.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS PROPOSAL FOR A SECOND READING.

Article 4 OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

EXISTING:

Section 4.2 (This section has been deleted)

Section 4.3 Officers

The officers of the Diocese shall be as follows: the Standing Committee, the Executive Board, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Registrar, an Archivist, a Historian, a Chancellor, one or more Vice Chancellors, and such other officers as the Council may hereafter create by Canon. All officers shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be confirmed communicants in good standing in some Parish or Mission in union with the Council, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be set forth by Canon.

Section 4.4 Time of Elections – Special Elections

The officers of the Diocese shall be elected at the Council at such time as the Council may direct. The election of the Registrar, Archivist, Historian, Chancellor, and Vice Chancellor shall be upon nomination of the Bishop.

Section 4.5 Terms of Office

The terms of all officers, if not otherwise fixed by the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, shall be for one year and until their successors are elected, unless sooner removed by the Council.

Section 4.6 Duties of Officers

The duties of all officers shall be such as may be incident to their offices and such other duties as may be declared by Canon.

Section 4.7 Deputies to General Convention

The Annual Council next preceding the date which is one year prior to the next regular meeting of the General Convention of the Church shall elect four Clerical Deputies and four Lay

Deputies to represent this Diocese in the said General Convention at any regular or called meeting of the General Convention. The Clerical Deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons, in either case canonically resident in the Diocese. The Lay Deputies shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be confirmed communicants in good standing resident in the Diocese.

- (a) There may be elected at the same time four Clerical Alternates and four Lay Alternates from whom the Bishop may designate one or more as necessary to supply any deficiency in the representation. If there be no Bishop, the power of designation shall be exercised by the Standing Committee.
- (b) To assure a full representation of this Diocese in the General Convention, the Standing Committee, when necessary, shall appoint qualified representatives to supply any deficiency and such appointments shall have the full force and effect of an election by the Council.

Section 4.8 Delegates to Provincial Synod

The Annual Council next preceding the meeting of the Provincial Synod of the Church shall elect four Clergy and four Lay Delegates to represent this Diocese in the meeting of the Synod. The same provisions concerning the election of alternates and the powers of the Bishop and Standing Committee, as well as qualifications of representatives, shall apply in this election as in the choice of deputies to the General Convention.

Section 4.9 System of Voting

In all elections, the voting shall be by voting machines or other mechanical or electronic devices or by ballot unless unanimously dispensed with. To facilitate elections, except in an election to the Episcopate, the Council may adopt and define by Canon some form of the preference system of voting.

PROPOSED:

Section 4.2 (This section has been deleted)

Section ~~4.3~~ 4.2 Officers

The officers of the Diocese shall be as follows: the Standing Committee, the Executive Board, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Registrar, an Archivist, a Historian, a Chancellor, one or more Vice Chancellors, and such other officers as the Council may hereafter create by Canon. All officers shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be confirmed communicants in good standing in some Parish or Mission in union with the Council, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be set forth by Canon.

Section ~~4.4~~ 4.3 Time of Elections – Special Elections

The officers of the Diocese shall be elected at the Council at such time as the Council may direct. The election of the Registrar, Archivist, Historian, Chancellor, and Vice Chancellor

shall be upon nomination of the Bishop.

Section ~~4.5~~4.4 Terms of Office

The terms of all officers, if not otherwise fixed by the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, shall be for one year and until their successors are elected, unless sooner removed by the Council.

Section ~~4.6~~4.5 Duties of Officers

The duties of all officers shall be such as may be incident to their offices and such other duties as may be declared by Canon.

Section ~~4.7~~4.6 Deputies to General Convention

- (a) The Annual Council next preceding the date which is one year prior to the next regular meeting of the General Convention of the Church shall elect four Clerical Deputies and four Lay Deputies to represent this Diocese in the said General Convention at any regular or called meeting of the General Convention. The Clerical Deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons, in either case canonically resident in the Diocese. The Lay Deputies shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be confirmed communicants in good standing resident in the Diocese.
- (b) There may be elected at the same time four Clerical Alternates and four Lay Alternates from whom the Bishop may designate one or more as necessary to supply any deficiency in the representation. If there be no Bishop, the power of designation shall be exercised by the Standing Committee.
- (c) To assure a full representation of this Diocese in the General Convention, the Standing Committee, when necessary, shall appoint qualified representatives to supply any deficiency and such appointments shall have the full force and effect of an election by the Council.
- (d) The four clerical deputies and the four lay delegates so elected shall also serve as delegates to the Provincial Synod preceding General Convention.

Section 4.8 — Delegates to Provincial Synod

~~The Annual Council next preceding the meeting of the Provincial Synod of the Church shall elect four Clergy and four Lay Delegates to represent this Diocese in the meeting of the Synod. The same provisions concerning the election of alternates and the powers of the Bishop and Standing Committee, as well as qualifications of representatives, shall apply in this election as in the choice of deputies to the General Convention.~~

Section ~~4.9~~4.7 System of Voting

In all elections, the voting shall be by voting machines or other mechanical or electronic

devices or by ballot unless unanimously dispensed with. To facilitate elections, except in an election to the Episcopate, the Council may adopt and define by Canon some form of the preference system of voting.

IF AMENDED:

Section 4.2 Officers

The officers of the Diocese shall be as follows: the Standing Committee, the Executive Board, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Registrar, an Archivist, a Historian, a Chancellor, one or more Vice Chancellors, and such other officers as the Council may hereafter create by Canon. All officers shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be confirmed communicants in good standing in some Parish or Mission in union with the Council, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be set forth by Canon.

Section 4.3 Time of Elections – Special Elections

The officers of the Diocese shall be elected at the Council at such time as the Council may direct. The election of the Registrar, Archivist, Historian, Chancellor, and Vice Chancellor shall be upon nomination of the Bishop.

Section 4.4 Terms of Office

The terms of all officers, if not otherwise fixed by the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, shall be for one year and until their successors are elected, unless sooner removed by the Council.

Section 4.5 Duties of Officers

The duties of all officers shall be such as may be incident to their offices and such other duties as may be declared by Canon.

Section 4.6 Deputies to General Convention

- (a) The Annual Council next preceding the date which is one year prior to the next regular meeting of the General Convention of the Church shall elect four Clerical Deputies and four Lay Deputies to represent this Diocese in the said General Convention at any regular or called meeting of the General Convention. The Clerical Deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons, in either case canonically resident in the Diocese. The Lay Deputies shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be confirmed communicants in good standing resident in the Diocese.
- (b) There may be elected at the same time four Clerical Alternates and four Lay Alternates from whom the Bishop may designate one or more as necessary to supply any deficiency in the representation. If there be no Bishop, the power of designation shall be exercised by the Standing Committee.

- (c) To assure a full representation of this Diocese in the General Convention, the Standing Committee, when necessary, shall appoint qualified representatives to supply any deficiency and such appointments shall have the full force and effect of an election by the Council.
- (d) The four clerical deputies and the four lay delegates so elected shall also serve as delegates to the Provincial Synod preceding General Convention.

Section 4.7 System of Voting

In all elections, the voting shall be by voting machines or other mechanical or electronic devices or by ballot unless unanimously dispensed with. To facilitate elections, except in an election to the Episcopate, the Council may adopt and define by Canon some form of the preference system of voting.

SUBMITTED BY: The Executive Board

RATIONALE (by The Executive Board): Section 4.2 was previously deleted and should be removed, and the subsequent sections should be renumbered.

Former Section 4.8 was merged with former Section 4.7 to create new Section 4.6 of this Article. This proposed change makes the general convention delegates (clergy and lay) the delegates for Provincial Synod as well. Provincial Synod has evolved, and it now serves primarily as a pre-General Convention meeting, just as we hold pre-council meetings in the Diocese. Sending to Provincial Synod persons who will not be attending General Convention is not a wise use of their time and talent or diocesan financial resources. Their time would be better spent in other ministry.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS PROPOSAL FOR A SECOND READING.

**B. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
(Presented for publication on first reading)**

**Article 1
AUTHORITY**

EXISTING:

Section 1.1 Accedes to General Constitution and Canons

The Church in the Diocese shall, and does hereby accede to the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and acknowledges its authority.

Section 1.2 Authority in Diocese

The authority of the Church in this Diocese is vested in the Bishop, a Council, and a Standing Committee.

Section 1.3 Authority in Absence of Bishop

If the office of Bishop be vacant, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese for all purposes in the administration of the affairs of the Diocese under the Constitution and Canons is vested in the Standing Committee.

PROPOSED:

Section 1.1 Accedes to General Constitution and Canons

The Church in the Diocese shall, and does hereby accede to the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and acknowledges its authority.

Section 1.2 Authority in Diocese

The authority of the Church in this Diocese is vested in the Bishop Diocesan, a Council, and a Standing Committee.

Section 1.3 Authority in Absence of Bishop Diocesan

If the office of Bishop Diocesan be vacant, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese for all purposes in the administration of the affairs of the Diocese under the Constitution and Canons is vested in the Standing Committee.

IF AMENDED:

Section 1.1 Accedes to General Constitution and Canons

The Church in the Diocese shall, and does hereby accede to the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and acknowledges its authority.

Section 1.2 Authority in Diocese

The authority of the Church in this Diocese is vested in the Bishop Diocesan, a Council, and a Standing Committee.

Section 1.3 Authority in Absence of Bishop Diocesan

If the office of Bishop Diocesan be vacant, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese for all purposes in the administration of the affairs of the Diocese under the Constitution and Canons is vested in the Standing Committee.

SUBMITTED BY: The Executive Board

RATIONALE (by the Executive Board): This proposed change clarifies that the authority of the Church lies specifically in the office of the Bishop Diocesan.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS PROPOSAL FOR A FIRST READING.

Article 1
THE COUNCIL

EXISTING:

Section 2.1 Membership of the Council

The voting membership of the Council of this Diocese shall consist of the following:

- (a) The Bishop, when there is one, who shall be *ex-officio* President of the Council, and of the Bishop Coadjutor if there be one, and of the Bishops Suffragan, if there be such; and they shall be entitled to all privileges and membership in the Council.
- (b) All Members of the Clergy, canonically resident in the Diocese, whose letters dimissory have been accepted by the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese, or who have been ordained within this Diocese and who have not, in contemplation of removal from this Diocese, applied for letters dimissory.
- (c) Lay Delegates chosen by and representing the several Parishes and Missions of this Diocese, which may, in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, be entitled to such representation.
- (d) Lay Delegates representing College Chaplaincies of this Diocese. "College Chaplaincies" shall mean those colleges and universities, and any branch thereof, in which the work of the Episcopal Church is approved by the Bishop for such representation.
- (e) Pastoral Leaders who have been placed in charge of a Parish or an Organized Mission, or Lay Chaplains who have been placed in charge of a College Chaplaincy, of the Diocese by the Bishop.
- (f) Lay delegates representing the Youth Ministry of the Diocese. The Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall mean those communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Diocese who are at least 11 years of age and no older than 18 years of age.

Section 2.2 Lay Representation in Council

Each Parish in union with the Council shall be entitled to representation therein by four

Lay Delegates, and each College Chaplaincy in union with the Council shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate. Lay representation for each Mission in union with the Council shall be based on the Mission's Average Sunday Attendance reported in the Journal of the previous year's Council: Each Mission reporting up to 200 shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate; each Mission reporting between 201 and 400 shall be entitled to two Lay Delegates; and each Mission reporting 401 or more shall be entitled to three Lay Delegates. The Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate from each convocation within the Diocese. Delegates from Parishes and Missions shall be elected by the congregation, or by the Vestry or Bishop's Committee, as the case may be, which may, at the same time, choose an equal number of alternates. In the event that, of those elected, less than the number permitted is able to attend the Council, the Rector or Priest in Charge is authorized, and is hereby obligated, to make such selections as may ensure a full representation in the Council. Lay Delegates from the College Chaplaincies shall be appointed by the Bishop, after consultation with the Chaplain, if there be one. Upon being seated by the Council, those so selected shall have the same standing as those elected. Lay Delegates from the Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the appropriate youth missioner.

Section 2.3 Qualifications of Delegates

All Lay Delegates representing Parishes and Organized Missions shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of the Parish or Mission they represent, at least 18 years of age, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be required by Canon. All Lay Delegates from the College Chaplaincies shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Episcopal Church, registered students at the institution they represent, at least 18 years of age, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be required by Canon. All Lay Vicars in charge of an Organized Mission, or Lay Chaplains in charge of a College Chaplaincy must be confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Diocese and placed in charge of the institution they represent by the Bishop. All Lay Delegates from the Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Diocese in the particular convocation they represent, at least 14 years of age, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be required by Canon.

PROPOSED:

Section 2.1 Membership of the Council

The voting membership of the Council of this Diocese shall consist of the following:

- (a) The Bishop, when there is one, who shall be *ex-officio* President of the Council, and of the Bishop Coadjutor if there be one, and of the Bishops Suffragan, if there be such; and they shall be entitled to all privileges and membership in the Council.
- (b) All Members of the Clergy, canonically resident in the Diocese, whose letters dimissory have been accepted by the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese, or

who have been ordained within this Diocese and who have not, in contemplation of removal from this Diocese, applied for letters dimissory.

- (c) Lay Delegates chosen by and representing the several Parishes and Missions of this Diocese, which may, in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, be entitled to such representation.
- (d) Lay Delegates representing ~~College Chaplaincies~~Campus Ministries of this Diocese. "~~College Chaplaincies~~Campus Ministries" shall mean those colleges and universities, and any branch thereof, in which the work of the Episcopal Church is approved by the Bishop for such representation.
- (e) Pastoral Leaders who have been placed in charge of a Parish or an Organized Mission, or Lay ~~Chaplains~~Missioners who have been placed in charge of a ~~College Chaplaincies~~Campus Ministry, of the Diocese by the Bishop.
- (f) Lay delegates representing the Youth Ministry of the Diocese. The Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall mean those communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Diocese who are at least 11 years of age and no older than 18 years of age.

Section 2.2 Lay Representation in Council

Each Parish in union with the Council shall be entitled to representation therein by four Lay Delegates, and each ~~College Chaplaincy~~Campus Ministry in union with the Council shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate. Lay representation for each Mission in union with the Council shall be based on the Mission's Average Sunday Attendance reported in the Journal of the previous year's Council: Each Mission reporting up to 200 shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate; each Mission reporting between 201 and 400 shall be entitled to two Lay Delegates; and each Mission reporting 401 or more shall be entitled to three Lay Delegates. The Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate from each convocation within the Diocese. Delegates from Parishes and Missions shall be elected by the congregation, or by the Vestry or Bishop's Committee, as the case may be, which may, at the same time, choose an equal number of alternates. In the event that, of those elected, less than the number permitted is able to attend the Council, the Rector or Priest in Charge is authorized, and is hereby obligated, to make such selections as may ensure a full representation in the Council. Lay Delegates from the ~~College Chaplaincies~~Campus Ministries shall be appointed by the Bishop, after consultation with the ~~Chaplain~~Campus Missioner, if there be one. Upon being seated by the Council, those so selected shall have the same standing as those elected. Lay Delegates from the Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the appropriate youth missioner.

Section 2.3 Qualifications of Delegates

All Lay Delegates representing Parishes and Organized Missions shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of the Parish or Mission they represent, at least 18 years of age, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be required by Canon. All Lay Delegates

from the ~~College Chaplaincies~~Campus Ministry shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Episcopal Church, registered students at the institution they represent, at least 18 years of age, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be required by Canon. All ~~Lay Vicars~~Pastoral Leaders in charge of an Organized Mission, or ~~Lay Chaplains~~Missioners in charge of a ~~College Chaplaincy~~Campus Ministry must be confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Diocese and placed in charge of the institution they represent by the Bishop. All Lay Delegates from the Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Diocese in the particular convocation they represent, at least 14 years of age, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be required by Canon.

IF AMENDED:

Section 2.1 Membership of the Council

The voting membership of the Council of this Diocese shall consist of the following:

- (a) The Bishop, when there is one, who shall be ex-officio President of the Council, and of the Bishop Coadjutor if there be one, and of the Bishops Suffragan, if there be such; and they shall be entitled to all privileges and membership in the Council.
- (b) All Members of the Clergy, canonically resident in the Diocese, whose letters dimissory have been accepted by the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese, or who have been ordained within this Diocese and who have not, in contemplation of removal from this Diocese, applied for letters dimissory.
- (c) Lay Delegates chosen by and representing the several Parishes and Missions of this Diocese, which may, in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, be entitled to such representation.
- (d) Lay Delegates representing Campus Ministries of this Diocese. "Campus Ministries" shall mean those colleges and universities, and any branch thereof, in which the work of the Episcopal Church is approved by the Bishop for such representation.
- (e) Pastoral Leaders who have been placed in charge of a Parish or an Organized Mission, or Lay Missioners who have been placed in charge of a Campus Ministry, of the Diocese by the Bishop.
- (f) Lay delegates representing the Youth Ministry of the Diocese. The Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall mean those communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Diocese who are at least 11 years of age and no older than 18 years of age.

Section 2.2 Lay Representation in Council

Each Parish in union with the Council shall be entitled to representation therein by four Lay Delegates, and each Campus Ministry in union with the Council shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate. Lay representation for each Mission in union with the Council shall be based on the Mission's Average Sunday Attendance reported in the Journal of the previous year's Council: Each Mission reporting up to 200 shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate; each Mission reporting between 201 and 400 shall be entitled to two Lay Delegates; and each Mission reporting 401 or more shall be entitled to three Lay Delegates. The Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate from each convocation within the Diocese. Delegates from Parishes and Missions shall be elected by the congregation, or by the Vestry or Bishop's Committee, as the case may be, which may, at the same time, choose an equal number of alternates. In the event that, of those elected, less than the number permitted is able to attend the Council, the Rector or Priest in Charge is authorized, and is hereby obligated, to make such selections as may ensure a full representation in the Council. Lay Delegates from the Campus Ministries shall be appointed by the Bishop, after consultation with the Campus Missioner, if there be one. Upon being seated by the Council, those so selected shall have the same standing as those elected. Lay Delegates from the Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Bishop after consultation with the appropriate youth missioner.

Section 2.3 Qualifications of Delegates

All Lay Delegates representing Parishes and Organized Missions shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of the Parish or Mission they represent, at least 18 years of age, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be required by Canon. All Lay Delegates from the Campus Ministry shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Episcopal Church, registered students at the institution they represent, at least 18 years of age, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be required by Canon. All Pastoral Leaders in charge of an Organized Mission, or Lay Missioners in charge of a Campus Ministry must be confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Diocese and placed in charge of the institution they represent by the Bishop. All Lay Delegates from the Youth Ministry of the Diocese shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Organized Mission of the Diocese in the particular convocation they represent, at least 14 years of age, and shall possess such other qualifications as may be required by Canon.

SUBMITTED BY: The Executive Board

RATIONALE (by the Executive Board): In sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3, College Chaplaincy, Chaplains (in relation to campus ministry), and Lay Vicar are all archaic terms no longer in use in the Diocese. The replacement terms align these sections with the terminology used in the Diocese.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS PROPOSAL FOR A FIRST READING.

Article 4 OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

EXISTING:

Section 4.6 Deputies to General Convention

- (a) The Annual Council next preceding the date which is one year prior to the next regular meeting of the General Convention of the Church shall elect four Clerical Deputies and four Lay Deputies to represent this Diocese in the said General Convention at any regular or called meeting of the General Convention. The Clerical Deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons, in either case canonically resident in the Diocese. The Lay Deputies shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be confirmed communicants in good standing resident in the Diocese.
- (b) There may be elected at the same time four Clerical Alternates and four Lay Alternates from whom the Bishop may designate one or more as necessary to supply any deficiency in the representation. If there be no Bishop, the power of designation shall be exercised by the Standing Committee.
- (c) To assure a full representation of this Diocese in the General Convention, the Standing Committee, when necessary, shall appoint qualified representatives to supply any deficiency and such appointments shall have the full force and effect of an election by the Council.
- (d) The four clerical deputies and the four lay delegates so elected shall also serve as delegates to the Provincial Synod preceding General Convention.

PROPOSED:

Section 4.6 Deputies to General Convention

- (a) The Annual Council next preceding the date which is one year prior to the next regular meeting of the General Convention of the Church shall elect four Clerical Deputies and four Lay Deputies to represent this Diocese in the said General Convention at any regular or called meeting of the General Convention. The Clerical Deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons, in either case canonically resident in the Diocese. The Lay Deputies shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be confirmed communicants in good standing resident in the Diocese.
- (b) There may be elected at the same time four Clerical Alternates and four Lay Alternates from whom the Bishop may designate one or more as necessary to supply any deficiency in the representation. If there be no Bishop, the power of designation shall be exercised by the Standing Committee.
- (c) To assure a full representation of this Diocese in the General Convention, the Standing Committee, when necessary, shall appoint qualified representatives to supply any deficiency and such appointments shall have the full force and effect of an election by the Council.

- (d) The four ~~clerical deputies~~Clerical Deputies and the four ~~lay delegates~~Lay Deputies so elected shall also serve as delegates to the Provincial Synod preceding General Convention.

IF AMENDED:

Section 4.6 Deputies to General Convention

- (a) The Annual Council next preceding the date which is one year prior to the next regular meeting of the General Convention of the Church shall elect four Clerical Deputies and four Lay Deputies to represent this Diocese in the said General Convention at any regular or called meeting of the General Convention. The Clerical Deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons, in either case canonically resident in the Diocese. The Lay Deputies shall be at least 18 years of age and shall be confirmed communicants in good standing resident in the Diocese.
- (b) There may be elected at the same time four Clerical Alternates and four Lay Alternates from whom the Bishop may designate one or more as necessary to supply any deficiency in the representation. If there be no Bishop, the power of designation shall be exercised by the Standing Committee.
- (c) To assure a full representation of this Diocese in the General Convention, the Standing Committee, when necessary, shall appoint qualified representatives to supply any deficiency and such appointments shall have the full force and effect of an election by the Council.
- (d) The four Clerical Deputies and the four Lay Deputies so elected shall also serve as delegates to the Provincial Synod preceding General Convention.

SUBMITTED BY: The Executive Board

RATIONALE (by the Executive Board): In Section 4.6(d), the term “Delegates” is changed to “Deputies” and the references to Clerical and Lay Deputies is capitalized to make the language of this section consistent with prior sections.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THIS PROPOSAL FOR A FIRST READING.

C. CANONICAL AMENDMENTS

EXISTING:

**TITLE III
PARISHES, MISSIONS, AND SCHOOLS**

**Canon 1
PARISHES AND MISSIONS**

Section 1.1 Organization – Name

A Parish, which has not been previously organized as a Mission, may be organized under any appropriate name by the adoption of Articles of Association and by duly choosing a Vestry and Wardens, at such time as it is capable of meeting all the financial obligations of a Parish, as well as its Assessment.

- (a) By not less than twenty-five confirmed communicants residing in any place in the Diocese, where there is not an organized Parish, and not less than ten of whom shall be at least 11 years of age.
- (b) Notice shall be given to the Bishop, but if there be no Bishop, then to the President of the Standing Committee, of the intention thus to associate and organize. Said notice shall be in writing and shall contain such information as will enable the Bishop to pass upon the propriety of the act, and such notice shall be signed by the persons proposing to organize a Parish.
- (c) The notice shall be substantially as follows:

“We, whose names are hereunto affixed, earnestly desiring to promote the holy influence of the Christian religion in our hearts, and those of our families and neighbors, do hereby associate ourselves under the name of _____ in communion with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the Diocese of Texas, the authority of whose Constitution and Canons we do hereby recognize and to whose Liturgy and mode of worship and discipline we promise conformity.

We further certify our ability to maintain the regular services of a Minister without assistance from the Diocese, or from any other Parish, and to this end we pledge ourselves to raise annually not less than the sum of _____ dollars for the salary of the Rector.”

- (d) The Bishop, if the Bishop shall approve the notice, or in the Bishop's absence, the Standing Committee if they approve, shall give a certificate to that effect, which approval shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the Diocese with the papers upon which the certificate of approval was granted. Such approval shall be a condition precedent to the admission of the Parish into union with the Council of the Diocese.
- (e) As soon as the Bishop or Standing Committee, if there be a vacancy in the Episcopate, gives approval, the parties signing the notice of intention to organize shall meet and enter into Articles of Association as follows:

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

“We whose names are hereunto subscribed, desiring to enjoy the privileges of religious worship and instruction according to the forms and doctrines of the

Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, have this _____ day of _____, A. D. _____, at _____, in the State of Texas, formed ourselves into a congregation and adopted the following Articles of Association:

Article 1. This congregation shall be known by the name of Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of Church.

Article 2. This congregation acknowledges, accedes to, and adopts the Doctrines, Discipline, and Worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas.

Article 3. When any person uniting with this congregation shall disclaim or refuse conformity to the authorities mentioned in the preceding article, that person shall cease to be a member of this congregation.

Article 4. In the election of a Rector of _____ Church, the Vestry shall have due regard for the wishes of the Communicants of the Church, but no election is to be had until the name of the person selected or desired has been made known to the Bishop by the Wardens of the Church, and sufficient time been given the Bishop to communicate with the Wardens and Vestry.

Article 5. The annual rents, contributions, and other revenues raised by this congregation from time to time shall be applied by the Wardens and Vestry to the maintenance and support of the Rector or Minister and to such other objects as are connected with the well-being of the Church and to no other purposes whatever.

Article 6. In the case of the dissolution of this congregation for any cause whatever, the lands, tenements, and other estates, real or personal, if such there be, shall vest in the Corporation known in law as the 'Protestant Episcopal Church Council of the Diocese of Texas,' to be held in trust by said corporation for the benefit of any future congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church which may be formed in this place or its vicinity, upon the same principles as the present congregation."

- (f) A certified copy of the Articles of Association shall be presented to the Committee on Parishes & Missions preceding the committee's recommendations to the Annual Council. The Committee on Parishes and Missions shall, after evaluating all of the requirements under this canon, make a recommendation at the next annual Council regarding admission of the parish. The Council may act, giving or withholding its consent to the union of the said Parish with the Council as may seem best for the interests of the Church.

Section 1.2 Parochial Missions

Missions may be organized by any Parish, with the consent of the Bishop, by the Rector of the Parish or under the Rector's supervision, and such Mission shall be governed by such officers, and under such rules and regulations as may be satisfactory to the Rector of the Parish; but no such Mission shall be admitted into union with the Council, or be entitled to any allowance from the Executive Board of the Diocese without the consent of the Rector of the Parish and its Vestry.

Section 1.3 Missions Petitioning to Become Parishes

Any Mission organized under the provisions of Title III.5 may petition the Council to be admitted as a Parish, at such time as it is capable of meeting all the financial obligations of a Parish, as well as its Assessments.

Section 1.4 Remitting Parishes to Missions

- (a) Whenever the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry, or if there be no Rector, the Wardens and Vestry of an existing Parish, shall unite in a petition to the Bishop, asking that such Parish shall be remitted to the position of an organized Mission, stating fully the grounds for such petition, the Bishop may, in the Bishop's discretion, grant or refuse said petition and the Bishop's action thereon shall be recorded with said petition in the minutes of the said Parish, and by the Bishop reported at the next Annual Council.
- (b) If the Wardens and Vestry of any Parish shall fail for a period of six months without just cause to elect a Rector, such Parish shall be considered dormant, and the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may remit such Parish to the position of an Organized Mission, and such action shall be reported by the Bishop to the next Annual Council.

Section 1.5 Suspending Parishes or Missions

- (a) Suspending Parishes or Missions from the right of representation in the Council of the Diocese shall be effected according to Article 6 of the Constitution. The suspension or dissolution of a Parish or Organized Mission must be in accordance with Article 6 of the Constitution.
- (b) Any Parish failing in three years out of the five years next preceding any Annual Council to elect a Vestry, to pay its assessments as assessed by the Council, to make the reports required by Canons, or to provide for the services of a Minister at least quarterly, shall lose voice and vote in the Council until the Council, by a two-thirds vote, after hearing the recommendation of the Executive Board, shall otherwise determine; and upon a like failure for five consecutive years, shall be dropped from the roll of Parishes and remitted to the missionary field, unless the Council by a two-thirds vote, after hearing the recommendation of the Executive Board, shall otherwise determine. Any Parish failing for one year to comply with the terms of its organization may, at the discretion of the Bishop, be declared by the Bishop to cease to exist as a Parish and to thereby become a Mission of the

Diocese, and such action by the Bishop shall be reported by the Bishop to the next Annual Council for record.

- (c) Any Mission failing for two years to comply with the terms of its organization shall be suspended from union with the Council, subject to restoration by a two-thirds vote of the Council, and upon a like failure for three years, it forfeits its organization.

Section 1.6 Ministry Employees

All Youth Ministers, Directors of Christian Education, Directors of Lay Ministry, and Directors of any other ministry, whether compensated or otherwise, serving in any Diocesan Entity shall be adult confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Mission of the Diocese. The Bishop may make exception of the requirement set forth in the preceding sentence, within such limitations and conditions as the Bishop may prescribe. Every Diocesan Entity shall report annually with respect to all Lay Ministry Directors: (1) the names, offices, and addresses of each Lay Ministry Director; (2) the Parish or Mission of which each Lay Ministry Director is an adult confirmed communicant in good standing; and (3) such other information as the Bishop may require.

PROPOSED:

Title III

PARISHES, MISSIONS, CONGREGATIONS, COMMUNITIES, AND SCHOOLS

Canon 1

PARISHES AND MISSIONS, CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

Section 1.1 Organization – Name

A Parish, which has not been previously organized as a Mission, may be organized under any appropriate name by the adoption of Articles of Association and by duly choosing a Vestry and Wardens, at such time as it is capable of meeting all the financial obligations of a Parish, as well as its Assessment.

- (a) By not less than twenty-five confirmed communicants residing in any place in the Diocese, where there is not an organized Parish, and not less than ten of whom shall be at least 11 years of age.
- (b) Notice shall be given to the Bishop, but if there be no Bishop, then to the President of the Standing Committee, of the intention thus to associate and organize. Said notice shall be in writing and shall contain such information as will enable the Bishop to pass upon the propriety of the act, and such notice shall be signed by the persons proposing to organize a Parish.
- (c) The notice shall be substantially as follows:

"We, whose names are hereunto affixed, earnestly desiring to promote the holy influence of the Christian religion in our hearts, and those of our families and neighbors, do hereby associate ourselves under the name of _____ in communion with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the Diocese of Texas, the authority of whose Constitution and Canons we do hereby recognize and to whose Liturgy and mode of worship and discipline we promise conformity.

We further certify our ability to maintain the regular services of a Minister without assistance from the Diocese, or from any other Parish, and to this end we pledge ourselves to raise annually not less than the sum of _____ dollars for the salary of the Rector."

- (d) The Bishop, if the Bishop shall approve the notice, or in the Bishop's absence, the Standing Committee if they approve, shall give a certificate to that effect, which approval shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the Diocese with the papers upon which the certificate of approval was granted. Such approval shall be a condition precedent to the admission of the Parish into union with the Council of the Diocese.
- (e) As soon as the Bishop or Standing Committee, if there be a vacancy in the Episcopate, gives approval, the parties signing the notice of intention to organize shall meet and enter into Articles of Association as follows:

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed, desiring to enjoy the privileges of religious worship and instruction according to the forms and doctrines of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, have this _____ day of _____, A. D. _____, at _____, in the State of Texas, formed ourselves into a congregation and adopted the following Articles of Association:

Article 1. This congregation shall be known by the name of Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of _____ Church.

Article 2. This congregation acknowledges, accedes to, and adopts the Doctrines, Discipline, and Worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas.

Article 3. When any person uniting with this congregation shall disclaim or refuse conformity to the authorities mentioned in the preceding article, that person shall cease to be a member of this congregation.

Article 4. In the election of a Rector of _____ Church, the Vestry shall have due regard for the wishes of the Communicants

of the Church, but no election is to be had until the name of the person selected or desired has been made known to the Bishop by the Wardens of the Church, and sufficient time been given the Bishop to communicate with the Wardens and Vestry.

Article 5. The annual rents, contributions, and other revenues raised by this congregation from time to time shall be applied by the Wardens and Vestry to the maintenance and support of the Rector or Minister and to such other objects as are connected with the well-being of the Church and to no other purposes whatever.

Article 6. In the case of the dissolution of this congregation for any cause whatever, the lands, tenements, and other estates, real or personal, if such there be, shall vest in the Corporation known in law as the 'Protestant Episcopal Church Council of the Diocese of Texas,' to be held in trust by said corporation for the benefit of any future congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church which may be formed in this place or its vicinity, upon the same principles as the present congregation."

- (f) A certified copy of the Articles of Association shall be presented to the Committee on Parishes & Missions preceding the committee's recommendations to the Annual Council. The Committee on Parishes and Missions shall, after evaluating all of the requirements under this canon, make a recommendation at the next annual Council regarding admission of the parish. The Council may act, giving or withholding its consent to the union of the said Parish with the Council as may seem best for the interests of the Church.

Section 1.2 Parochial Missions

Missions may be organized by any Parish, with the consent of the Bishop, by the Rector of the Parish or under the Rector's supervision, and such Mission shall be governed by such officers, and under such rules and regulations as may be satisfactory to the Rector of the Parish; but no such Mission shall be admitted into union with the Council, or be entitled to any allowance from the Executive Board of the Diocese without the consent of the Rector of the Parish and its Vestry.

Section 1.3 Episcopal Missional Communities

- (a) An Episcopal Missional Community may be established beyond the walls and membership of a Congregation. An Episcopal Missional Community shall organize under the auspices of a Head of Congregation. The Bishop shall report to each annual Council the number of Episcopal Missional Communities existing in the Diocese, their location, and the means provided for their oversight.
- (b) Episcopal Missional Communities do not have voice and vote at Annual Diocesan Council unless members are elected to council as delegates from the sponsoring

congregation. Members of an Episcopal Missional Community may exercise all rights of membership in the sponsoring congregation if they are qualified as members under the Canons of the Diocese.

Section 1.4 Episcopal Fellowships

In any place where there is not a Parish or organized Mission, and where the establishment of a Mission does not appear feasible, an Episcopal Fellowship may be established by the Bishop, or in the absence of the Bishop, by the Standing Committee, upon such terms, conditions, and limitations and with such provision for its maintenance as the Bishop or the Standing Committee, as applicable, shall prescribe. The Bishop shall report to each annual Council the number of Episcopal Fellowships existing, their location, the means provided for their maintenance, and the terms, conditions, and limitations of their existence. Upon recommendation of the Bishop and with approval of the Council, each Episcopal Fellowship shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate to any meeting of Council and may be seated with voice, but without vote.

Section 1.5 Special Evangelical Missions

At the request of one or more sponsoring parishes, the Bishop, or in the absence of the Bishop, the Standing Committee may establish a Special Evangelical Mission upon such terms, conditions, and limitations, and with such provisions for its maintenance as the Bishop or the Standing Committee, as applicable, shall prescribe. The Bishop shall report to each annual Council the number of Special Evangelical Missions existing, their location and sponsors, the nature of their ministries and the needs being met, the means provided for their maintenance, and the terms, conditions, and limitations of their existence.

Section ~~1.3~~1.6 Missions Petitioning to Become Parishes

Any Mission organized under the provisions of Title III.5 may petition the Council to be admitted as a Parish, at such time as it is capable of meeting all the financial obligations of a Parish, as well as its Assessments.

Section ~~1.4~~1.7 Remitting Parishes to Missions

- (a) Whenever the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry, or if there be no Rector, the Wardens and Vestry of an existing Parish, shall unite in a petition to the Bishop, asking that such Parish shall be remitted to the position of an organized Mission, stating fully the grounds for such petition, the Bishop may, in the Bishop's discretion, grant or refuse said petition and the Bishop's action thereon shall be recorded with said petition in the minutes of the said Parish, and by the Bishop reported at the next Annual Council.
- (b) If the Wardens and Vestry of any Parish shall fail for a period of six months without just cause to elect a Rector, such Parish shall be considered dormant, and the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may remit such Parish to the position of an Organized Mission, and such action shall

be reported by the Bishop to the next Annual Council.

Section ~~1-5~~1.8 Suspending Parishes or Missions

- (a) Suspending Parishes or Missions from the right of representation in the Council of the Diocese shall be effected according to Article 6 of the Constitution. The suspension or dissolution of a Parish or Organized Mission must be in accordance with Article 6 of the Constitution.
- (b) Any Parish failing in three years out of the five years next preceding any Annual Council to elect a Vestry, to pay its assessments as assessed by the Council, to make the reports required by Canons, or to provide for the services of a Minister at least quarterly, shall lose voice and vote in the Council until the Council, by a two-thirds vote, after hearing the recommendation of the Executive Board, shall otherwise determine; and upon a like failure for five consecutive years, shall be dropped from the roll of Parishes and remitted to the missionary field, unless the Council by a two-thirds vote, after hearing the recommendation of the Executive Board, shall otherwise determine. Any Parish failing for one year to comply with the terms of its organization may, at the discretion of the Bishop, be declared by the Bishop to cease to exist as a Parish and to thereby become a Mission of the Diocese, and such action by the Bishop shall be reported by the Bishop to the next Annual Council for record.
- (c) Any Mission failing for two years to comply with the terms of its organization shall be suspended from union with the Council, subject to restoration by a two-thirds vote of the Council, and upon a like failure for three years, it forfeits its organization.

Section ~~1-6~~1.9 Ministry Employees

All Youth Ministers, Directors of Christian Education, Directors of Lay Ministry, and Directors of any other ministry, whether compensated or otherwise, serving in any Diocesan Entity shall be adult confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Mission of the Diocese. The Bishop may make exception of the requirement set forth in the preceding sentence, within such limitations and conditions as the Bishop may prescribe. Every Diocesan Entity shall report annually with respect to all Lay Ministry Directors: (1) the names, offices, and addresses of each Lay Ministry Director; (2) the Parish or Mission of which each Lay Ministry Director is an adult confirmed communicant in good standing; and (3) such other information as the Bishop may require.

IF AMENDED:

**Title III
CONGREGATIONS, COMMUNITIES, AND SCHOOLS**

Canon 1
CONGREGATIONS AND COMMUNITIES

Section 1.1 Organization – Name

A Parish, which has not been previously organized as a Mission, may be organized under any appropriate name by the adoption of Articles of Association and by duly choosing a Vestry and Wardens, at such time as it is capable of meeting all the financial obligations of a Parish, as well as its Assessment.

- (g) By not less than twenty-five confirmed communicants residing in any place in the Diocese, where there is not an organized Parish, and not less than ten of whom shall be at least 11 years of age.
- (h) Notice shall be given to the Bishop, but if there be no Bishop, then to the President of the Standing Committee, of the intention thus to associate and organize. Said notice shall be in writing and shall contain such information as will enable the Bishop to pass upon the propriety of the act, and such notice shall be signed by the persons proposing to organize a Parish.
- (i) The notice shall be substantially as follows:

“We, whose names are hereunto affixed, earnestly desiring to promote the holy influence of the Christian religion in our hearts, and those of our families and neighbors, do hereby associate ourselves under the name of _____ in communion with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the Diocese of Texas, the authority of whose Constitution and Canons we do hereby recognize and to whose Liturgy and mode of worship and discipline we promise conformity.

We further certify our ability to maintain the regular services of a Minister without assistance from the Diocese, or from any other Parish, and to this end we pledge ourselves to raise annually not less than the sum of _____ dollars for the salary of the Rector.”
- (j) The Bishop, if the Bishop shall approve the notice, or in the Bishop's absence, the Standing Committee if they approve, shall give a certificate to that effect, which approval shall be transmitted to the Secretary of the Diocese with the papers upon which the certificate of approval was granted. Such approval shall be a condition precedent to the admission of the Parish into union with the Council of the Diocese.
- (k) As soon as the Bishop or Standing Committee, if there be a vacancy in the Episcopate, gives approval, the parties signing the notice of intention to organize shall meet and enter into Articles of Association as follows:

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

“We whose names are hereunto subscribed, desiring to enjoy the privileges of religious worship and instruction according to the forms and doctrines of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, have this _____ day of _____, A. D. _____, at _____, in the State of Texas, formed ourselves into a congregation and adopted the following Articles of Association:

Article 1. This congregation shall be known by the name of Rector, Wardens, and Vestry of _____ Church.

Article 2. This congregation acknowledges, accedes to, and adopts the Doctrines, Discipline, and Worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas.

Article 3. When any person uniting with this congregation shall disclaim or refuse conformity to the authorities mentioned in the preceding article, that person shall cease to be a member of this congregation.

Article 4. In the election of a Rector of _____ Church, the Vestry shall have due regard for the wishes of the Communicants of the Church, but no election is to be had until the name of the person selected or desired has been made known to the Bishop by the Wardens of the Church, and sufficient time been given the Bishop to communicate with the Wardens and Vestry.

Article 5. The annual rents, contributions, and other revenues raised by this congregation from time to time shall be applied by the Wardens and Vestry to the maintenance and support of the Rector or Minister and to such other objects as are connected with the well-being of the Church and to no other purposes whatever.

Article 6. In the case of the dissolution of this congregation for any cause whatever, the lands, tenements, and other estates, real or personal, if such there be, shall vest in the Corporation known in law as the 'Protestant Episcopal Church Council of the Diocese of Texas,' to be held in trust by said corporation for the benefit of any future congregation of the Protestant Episcopal Church which may be formed in this place or its vicinity, upon the same principles as the present congregation.”

- (l) A certified copy of the Articles of Association shall be presented to the Committee on Parishes & Missions preceding the committee’s recommendations to the Annual Council. The Committee on Parishes and Missions shall, after evaluating all of the requirements under this canon, make a recommendation at the next annual Council regarding admission of the parish. The Council may act, giving or withholding its consent to the union of the said Parish with the Council

as may seem best for the interests of the Church.

Section 1.2 Parochial Missions

Missions may be organized by any Parish, with the consent of the Bishop, by the Rector of the Parish or under the Rector's supervision, and such Mission shall be governed by such officers, and under such rules and regulations as may be satisfactory to the Rector of the Parish; but no such Mission shall be admitted into union with the Council, or be entitled to any allowance from the Executive Board of the Diocese without the consent of the Rector of the Parish and its Vestry.

Section 1.3 Episcopal Missional Communities

- (a) An Episcopal Missional Community may be established beyond the walls and membership of a Congregation. An Episcopal Missional Community shall organize under the auspices of a Head of Congregation. The Bishop shall report to each annual Council the number of Episcopal Missional Communities existing in the Diocese, their location, and the means provided for their oversight.
- (b) Episcopal Missional Communities do not have voice and vote at Annual Diocesan Council unless members are elected to council as delegates from the sponsoring congregation. Members of an Episcopal Missional Community may exercise all rights of membership in the sponsoring congregation if they are qualified as members under the Canons of the Diocese.

Section 1.4 Episcopal Fellowships

In any place where there is not a Parish or organized Mission, and where the establishment of a Mission does not appear feasible, an Episcopal Fellowship may be established by the Bishop, or in the absence of the Bishop, by the Standing Committee, upon such terms, conditions, and limitations and with such provision for its maintenance as the Bishop or the Standing Committee, as applicable, shall prescribe. The Bishop shall report to each annual Council the number of Episcopal Fellowships existing, their location, the means provided for their maintenance, and the terms, conditions, and limitations of their existence. Upon recommendation of the Bishop and with approval of the Council, each Episcopal Fellowship shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate to any meeting of Council and may be seated with voice, but without vote.

Section 1.5 Special Evangelical Missions

At the request of one or more sponsoring parishes, the Bishop, or in the absence of the Bishop, the Standing Committee may establish a Special Evangelical Mission upon such terms, conditions, and limitations, and with such provisions for its maintenance as the Bishop or the Standing Committee, as applicable, shall prescribe. The Bishop shall report to each annual Council the number of Special Evangelical Missions existing, their location and sponsors, the nature of their ministries and the needs being met, the means provided for their maintenance, and the terms, conditions, and limitations of their existence.

Section 1.6 Missions Petitioning to Become Parishes

Any Mission organized under the provisions of Title III.5 may petition the Council to be admitted as a Parish, at such time as it is capable of meeting all the financial obligations of a Parish, as well as its Assessments.

Section 1.7 Remitting Parishes to Missions

- (a) Whenever the Rector, Wardens, and Vestry, or if there be no Rector, the Wardens and Vestry of an existing Parish, shall unite in a petition to the Bishop, asking that such Parish shall be remitted to the position of an organized Mission, stating fully the grounds for such petition, the Bishop may, in the Bishop's discretion, grant or refuse said petition and the Bishop's action thereon shall be recorded with said petition in the minutes of the said Parish, and by the Bishop reported at the next Annual Council.
- (b) If the Wardens and Vestry of any Parish shall fail for a period of six months without just cause to elect a Rector, such Parish shall be considered dormant, and the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may remit such Parish to the position of an Organized Mission, and such action shall be reported by the Bishop to the next Annual Council.

Section 1.8 Suspending Parishes or Missions

- (a) Suspending Parishes or Missions from the right of representation in the Council of the Diocese shall be effected according to Article 6 of the Constitution. The suspension or dissolution of a Parish or Organized Mission must be in accordance with Article 6 of the Constitution.
- (b) Any Parish failing in three years out of the five years next preceding any Annual Council to elect a Vestry, to pay its assessments as assessed by the Council, to make the reports required by Canons, or to provide for the services of a Minister at least quarterly, shall lose voice and vote in the Council until the Council, by a two-thirds vote, after hearing the recommendation of the Executive Board, shall otherwise determine; and upon a like failure for five consecutive years, shall be dropped from the roll of Parishes and remitted to the missionary field, unless the Council by a two-thirds vote, after hearing the recommendation of the Executive Board, shall otherwise determine. Any Parish failing for one year to comply with the terms of its organization may, at the discretion of the Bishop, be declared by the Bishop to cease to exist as a Parish and to thereby become a Mission of the Diocese, and such action by the Bishop shall be reported by the Bishop to the next Annual Council for record.
- (c) Any Mission failing for two years to comply with the terms of its organization shall be suspended from union with the Council, subject to restoration by a two-thirds vote of the Council, and upon a like failure for three years, it forfeits its organization.

Section 1.9 Ministry Employees

All Youth Ministers, Directors of Christian Education, Directors of Lay Ministry, and Directors of any other ministry, whether compensated or otherwise, serving in any Diocesan Entity shall be adult confirmed communicants in good standing of a Parish or Mission of the Diocese. The Bishop may make exception of the requirement set forth in the preceding sentence, within such limitations and conditions as the Bishop may prescribe. Every Diocesan Entity shall report annually with respect to all Lay Ministry Directors: (1) the names, offices, and addresses of each Lay Ministry Director; (2) the Parish or Mission of which each Lay Ministry Director is an adult confirmed communicant in good standing; and (3) such other information as the Bishop may require.

SUBMITTED BY: The Executive Board

RATIONALE (by the Executive Board): The proposed name changes to Title III and Canon 1 more accurately reflects the contents that follow if the subsequent proposed changes are adopted by Diocesan Council.

The proposed addition of Section 1.3 provides for the Diocesan vision of creating communities beyond the walls and membership of traditional communities.

New Sections 1.4 and 1.5 are formerly Title III, Canon 5, Sections 5.11 and 5.12, respectively. It is proposed that these sections be moved to Title III, Canon 1, in order to group all special categories of non-parish/mission communities together. The remaining sections in Title III, Canon 1, are re-numbered to incorporate the new sections if adopted by Diocesan Council.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE ADOPTION OF THIS PROPOSAL.

Canon 3 THE WARDENS

EXISTING:

Section 3.1 Care and Use of Church Building

The Wardens shall have a care that the Church building shall be kept free from all secular uses, and that it be opened for all services, rites, ceremonies, or other purposes, either authorized or approved by the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and in this Diocese and for no other purpose, and that it be kept in good repair as be worthy of the House of God.

PROPOSED:

Section 3.1 Care and Use of Church Building

The Wardens shall have a care that the Church building(s) ~~shall be kept free from all secular uses and that it~~ be opened for all services, rites, ceremonies, or other purposes, either authorized or approved by the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and in this Diocese and for no other purpose, and that it be kept in good repairs ~~be worthy of the House of God.~~

IF AMENDED:

Section 3.1 Care and Use of Church Building

The Wardens shall have a care that the Church building(s) be opened for all services, rites, ceremonies, or other purposes, either authorized or approved by the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and in this Diocese and for no other purpose, and that it be kept in good repair.

SUBMITTED BY: The Executive Board

RATIONALE (by the Executive Board): This proposal removes the language banning the use of congregation buildings and property for secular uses. It is common practice for congregation buildings to host those in their surrounding community to engage with them. This proposal removes “as be worthy of the house of God” as archaic language no longer in use in the Diocese.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE ADOPTION OF THIS PROPOSAL.

**Canon 5
DIOCESAN MISSIONS**

EXISTING:

Section 5.11 Episcopal Fellowships

In any place where there is not a Parish or organized Mission, and where the establishment of a Mission does not appear feasible, an Episcopal Fellowship may be established by the Bishop, or in the absence of the Bishop, by the Standing Committee, upon such terms, conditions, and limitations and with such provision for its maintenance as the Bishop or the Standing Committee, as applicable, shall prescribe. The Bishop shall report to each annual Council the number of Episcopal Fellowships existing, their location, the means provided for their maintenance, and the terms, conditions, and limitations of their existence. Upon recommendation of the Bishop and with approval of the Council, each Episcopal Fellowship shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate to any meeting of Council and may be seated with voice, but without vote.

Section 5.12 Special Evangelical Missions

At the request of one or more sponsoring parishes, the Bishop, or in the absence of the Bishop, the Standing Committee may establish a Special Evangelical Mission upon such terms, conditions, and limitations, and with such provisions for its maintenance as the Bishop or the Standing Committee, as applicable, shall prescribe. The Bishop shall report to each annual Council the number of Special Evangelical Missions existing, their location and sponsors, the nature of their ministries and the needs being met, the means provided for their maintenance, and the terms, conditions, and limitations of their existence.

PROPOSED:

~~Section 5.11—Episcopal Fellowships~~

~~In any place where there is not a Parish or organized Mission, and where the establishment of a Mission does not appear feasible, an Episcopal Fellowship may be established by the Bishop, or in the absence of the Bishop, by the Standing Committee, upon such terms, conditions, and limitations and with such provision for its maintenance as the Bishop or the Standing Committee, as applicable, shall prescribe. The Bishop shall report to each annual Council the number of Episcopal Fellowships existing, their location, the means provided for their maintenance, and the terms, conditions, and limitations of their existence. Upon recommendation of the Bishop and with approval of the Council, each Episcopal Fellowship shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate to any meeting of Council and may be seated with voice, but without vote.~~

~~Section 5.12—Special Evangelical Missions~~

~~At the request of one or more sponsoring parishes, the Bishop, or in the absence of the Bishop, the Standing Committee may establish a Special Evangelical Mission upon such terms, conditions, and limitations, and with such provisions for its maintenance as the Bishop or the Standing Committee, as applicable, shall prescribe. The Bishop shall report to each annual Council the number of Special Evangelical Missions existing, their location and sponsors, the nature of their ministries and the needs being met, the means provided for their maintenance, and the terms, conditions, and limitations of their existence.~~

IF AMENDED:

Sections 5.11 and 5.12 are deleted from Title III, Canon 5.

SUBMITTED BY: The Executive Board

RATIONALE (by the Executive Board): It is proposed that sections 5.11 and 5.12 be moved to Title III, Canon 1, as new sections 1.4 and 1.5, respectively. This change places all types of special congregations in the same Canon.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE ADOPTION OF THIS PROPOSAL.

**TITLE V
ENDOWMENTS, INSTITUTIONS, AND FOUNDATIONS**

**Canon 6
THE EPISCOPAL HIGH SCHOOL**

EXISTING:

Section 6.3 Elections – Vacancies

The elective membership of the Board of Trustees shall consist of 24 persons elected by the Annual Council on nomination of the Bishop. At all times, no less than two thirds (2/3) of the elected Trustees shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas. All members of the Board of Trustees shall be at least 18 years of age. The first Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the Bishop and shall serve until the next Annual Council, at which Council 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve four years, 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve three years, 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve two years, and 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve one year. At each Annual Council thereafter, 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected for full terms, which begin at the June meeting of the Board of Trustees following Annual Council. Such members so elected shall hold office for the stated term and until their successors are elected and qualified. After completion of a four-year term, persons may not be renominated for a full term for at least one year, which limitation shall not apply to persons completing unexpired terms. Any vacancy occurring in the Board may be filled by the Board until the next Annual Council, at which time a Trustee shall be elected on nomination of the Bishop to serve the unexpired term.

PROPOSED:

Section 6.3 Elections – Vacancies

The elective membership of the Board of Trustees shall consist of 24 persons elected by the Annual Council on nomination of the Bishop. At all times, no less than ~~two thirds (2/3)~~ sixty (60) percent of the elected Trustees shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas. All members of the Board of Trustees shall be at least 18 years of age. The first Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the Bishop and shall serve until the next Annual Council, at which Council 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve four years, 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve three years, 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve two years, and 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve one year. At each Annual Council thereafter, 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected for full terms, which begin at the June meeting of the Board of Trustees following Annual Council. Such members so elected shall hold office for the stated term and until their successors are elected and qualified. After completion of a four-year term, persons may not be renominated for a full term for at least one year, which limitation shall not apply to persons completing unexpired terms. Any vacancy occurring in the Board may be filled by the Board

until the next Annual Council, at which time a Trustee shall be elected on nomination of the Bishop to serve the unexpired term.

IF AMENDED:

Section 6.3 Elections – Vacancies

The elective membership of the Board of Trustees shall consist of 24 persons elected by the Annual Council on nomination of the Bishop. At all times, no less than sixty (60) percent of the elected Trustees shall be confirmed communicants in good standing of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas. All members of the Board of Trustees shall be at least 18 years of age. The first Board of Trustees shall be appointed by the Bishop and shall serve until the next Annual Council, at which Council 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve four years, 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve three years, 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve two years, and 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected to serve one year. At each Annual Council thereafter, 1/4 of the elected members shall be elected for full terms, which begin at the June meeting of the Board of Trustees following Annual Council. Such members so elected shall hold office for the stated term and until their successors are elected and qualified. After completion of a four-year term, persons may not be renominated for a full term for at least one year, which limitation shall not apply to persons completing unexpired terms. Any vacancy occurring in the Board may be filled by the Board until the next Annual

SUBMITTED BY: The Executive Board

RATIONALE (by the Executive Board): The EDOT Commission on Episcopal Schools handbook calls for 60% of the Board to be confirmed communicants in the Episcopal Church. This proposed change aligns Title V, Canon 6, Section 6.3 with current practice and allows the Diocese and parishes to maintain both oversight and an Episcopal identity without being overly burdensome.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE ADOPTION OF THIS PROPOSAL.

PREAMBLE

EXISTING:

No preamble to the Constitution and Canons exists at this time.

PROPOSED PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION AND CANONS OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF TEXAS:

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Texas, a member of The Episcopal Church, and thereby a member of the Anglican Communion, is part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church established by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Being obedient to the Gospel of Jesus

Christ, the purposes of the Diocesan Constitution and Canons, as amended in Diocesan Council, are to support the mission of this Diocese, to promote the good order of its ministry through its congregations and institutions, and to be responsive, compassionate and loving to all people within this Diocese and throughout the world.

SUBMITTED BY: The Executive Board

RATIONALE (by the Executive Board): The Diocesan Constitution and Canons do not currently have a preamble. This proposed preamble states that the purpose of the entire Constitution and Canons is to serve the mission of this Diocese.

THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE ADOPTION OF THIS PROPOSAL.