



**CONSTITUTIONS AND
CANONS
OF THE
DIOCESE OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Adopted as Revised in Convention,
November 2, 1991. Amended 1995, 1996,
1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2005

**CONSTITUTION AND CANONS OF
THE DIOCESE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
ADOPTED IN CONVENTION, NOVEMBER 2, 1991**

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE

I: Acceptance of National Constitution and Canons.....	3
II: Admission into union with the Convention	3
III: Convention	3
IV: Special Sessions of the Convention.....	3
V: The Members of the Convention	4
VI: Transaction of Business.....	5
VII: President of the Convention.....	5
VIII: Secretary of the Convention	5
IX: Treasurer of the Convention.....	6
X: Election of a Bishop.....	6
XI: Suspension or Censure of Clergy	6
XII: Alteration of this Constitution.....	6

CANONS

Canon

1: Diocesan Convention.....	7
2: Admission of a Congregation into Union with the Convention.....	7
3: The Secretary	9
4: The Standing Committee	10
5: The Finance Committee.....	10
6: Regional Convocations.....	11
7: The Diocesan Council	13
8: Deputies to the General Convention.....	14
9: Deputies to Provincial Synod	15
10: Registrar of the Diocese	15
11: The Chancellor of the Diocese	16
12: The Parish Register and Report	16
13: Annual Meetings of the Congregations	17
14: Duties of Wardens and Vestry Members.....	18
15: On Church Debt.....	20
16: Of Controversies between Congregations	21
17: Of the Missionary Work of the Diocese	21
18: Organization of Missions.....	22
19: Summer Chapels.....	23
20: Commission on Ministry	24
21: Episcopal Fund	24
22: Abandonment of the Communion of this Church by a Priest or Deacon.....	25
23: The Ecclesiastical Court for the Trial of a Priest or Deacon	25
24: The Church Attorney for a Trial.....	26
25: The Presentment of a Priest or Deacon Accuses of an Offense for Which there may be a Trial.....	26
26: Amendment of the Canons	26

**CONSTITUTION AND CANONS OF
THE DIOCESE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**
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ARTICLE I

Acceptance of National Constitution and Canons

The Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Hampshire accedes to the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, otherwise known as the Episcopal Church, and acknowledges its authority.

ARTICLE II

Admission into union with the Convention

A group of communicants in good standing in this Church who desire to organize and seek admission into union with the Convention of this Diocese shall confer with the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Bishop may, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, recognize and encourage such group to seek admission to union with the Convention as a Congregation. The same may be admitted as a recognized Mission or Parish in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese.

ARTICLE III

Convention

Sect. 1. There shall be an annual Convention of this Church held at a time and place fixed by majority vote in any annual session.

Sect. 2. For good cause arising after the annual session of the Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint another time or place for the next annual session.

ARTICLE IV

Special Sessions of the Convention

Sect. 1. The Bishop may call a special session of the Convention, when the Bishop shall judge such session to be conducive to the good of the Church, and shall do so, whenever requested by the Standing Committee.

Sect. 2. In case of the absence or disability of the Bishop, or in a vacancy of the Episcopate, the Standing Committee shall have power to call a special session.

Sect. 3. The purpose or purposes for which such session is called shall be duly stated in the notice thereof, which shall be sent by the Secretary to each of the Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, and to every Parish in union with the Convention and every organized Mission recognized by the Ecclesiastical Authority, at least four weeks previous to the time appointed.

Sect. 4. No business shall be transacted at such session other than that stated in the notice thereof, except by a vote of at least two thirds of each order.

ARTICLE V

The Members of the Convention

Sect. 1. The Convention shall consist of Clerical and Lay Members.

Sect. 2. The Clerical Members shall be the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one, the Bishop Suffragan, if there is one, and all members of the Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, except any who have been inhibited or suspended.

Sect. 3. The Lay Members shall be Delegates from each Congregation in union with the Convention, to be chosen by the Congregation at its Annual Meeting, or at some duly called meeting of the same.

Sect. 4. Every Congregation in union with the Convention which (1) maintains a member of the Clergy in charge, (2) has had regular weekly services throughout the preceding year, is entitled to the number of Delegates specified in the Canons of the Diocese.

Sect. 5. The Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may recognize any Summer Congregation, School Chapel, or other Congregation in the Diocese as entitled to one Delegate, having a seat and voice but no vote.

Sect. 6. (a) Congregations that fail to submit their Parochial Reports on the Canonically prescribed due date, or on a date which will be an extension determined by Diocesan Council because of extenuating circumstances, will lose the right and privilege to vote at the Diocesan Convention of that year.

(b) A Congregation shall not be entitled to representation in the Convention if:

1. For the space of one year it shall have failed to pay any pension premium required by Canon; or
2. For the space of two years it shall not have had the services of a member of the Clergy in charge.

Any such Congregation shall again be entitled to representation, if it shall make application to the Convention accompanied with a report of its condition satisfying the above provisions, and if the Convention shall agree thereto. This right shall take effect from the adjournment of the Convention so agreeing.

Sect. 7. Before any Lay Delegate shall be seated as a member of the Convention, a certificate of appointment, signed by a Warden, the Parish Clerk, or the member of the Clergy in charge of the Congregation, shall be submitted to the Convention. The member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation shall have the power to fill any vacancy which may occur in the Lay representation from such Congregation. In the absence of the member of the Clergy in charge, a Warden from such Congregation may exercise the same power. A Lay Delegate shall be a regular worshiper and Communicant in the Congregation which the Delegate represents.

Sect. 8. The Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Diocesan Council shall be ex officio members of the Convention.

Sect. 9. The Convention shall be the final judge of the qualifications of its members.

ARTICLE VI

Transaction of Business

Sect. 1. A quorum for the transaction of the business of the Convention means at least: a) one-third of clerical members with vote, and b) delegates from one-third of the congregations represented under Article V. Section 4.

Sect. 2. A number less than a quorum may recess from day to day.

Sect. 3. In all matters which shall come before the Convention, the Clergy and Laity shall deliberate and vote in one body, and, on any questions, a majority of votes shall decide. But, if in any case it be required by five voters, the two Orders shall vote separately; and, unless a majority of the Clergy present and a majority of the Lay Delegates present shall concur, the measure shall be lost. All elections shall be by ballot, unless otherwise ordered, and the Clerical ballots and the Lay ballots shall be counted separately and a concurrent quota in both Orders shall be necessary for election.

ARTICLE VII

President of the Convention

Sect. 1. The Bishop shall preside in the Convention, and may appoint a Moderator of Convention, who shall chair the sessions of Convention on behalf of the Bishop.

Sect. 2. The Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, shall be the Vice-President of the Convention, taking the Bishop's place in the latter's absence, and shall also have a seat and vote in any board or committee created by this Convention, of which the Bishop of the Diocese is a member.

Sect. 3. If neither the Bishop of the Diocese, nor a Bishop Coadjutor, is present at any session of the Convention, the President of the Standing Committee shall preside at the Convention. Provided, however, that, in case the Diocese is placed under the authority of a Bishop from without the Diocese, such Bishop, if present, shall be the President of the Convention.

Sect. 4. Any presiding officer of Convention may appoint a Moderator to chair on his or her behalf.

ARTICLE VIII

Secretary of the Convention

A Secretary shall be chosen upon the assembling of the Annual Convention; and said Secretary, so chosen and accepting, shall remain in office until the meeting of the next Convention, or until a successor shall be appointed. The Secretary shall be a member of the Convention ex officio with voice and vote. The Secretary's

duty shall be to take the minutes of the proceedings, and keep a record thereof; to publish, soon after the Convention, the said minutes; to attest the public acts of the body; and faithfully to deliver into the hands of the successor all books and papers which may be in possession relative to the concerns of the Convention. It shall also be the Secretary's duty to give due notice of the time and place appointed for the succeeding meeting, or for a special session of the Convention.

When the Journal of the Convention is published, at least three copies of the same shall be set aside for the official record of its proceedings, and one of these copies, attested by the President and the Secretary of the Convention, shall be the official record of its proceedings.

ARTICLE IX

Treasurer of the Convention

A Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Convention, to continue in office until a successor be chosen; and it shall be the Treasurer's duty to receive and disburse all monies collected under authority of the Convention, of which the collection and appropriation shall not be otherwise specifically ordered. The Treasurer's accounts shall be rendered annually to the Convention after having been audited by the Auditor of the Convention. In case of a vacancy in this office, it shall be filled by an appointment made by the Standing Committee. The Treasurer shall be an ex officio member of the Convention with voice and vote.

ARTICLE X

Election of a Bishop

When a Bishop is to be elected, the Convention shall always vote by Orders, and a majority of eligible voters in each Order, when both concur, shall constitute an election. In case of non-concurrence, balloting shall continue in the same manner until an election is made.

ARTICLE XI

Suspension or Censure of Clergy

No member of the Clergy shall be suspended or deposed by the Bishop or Standing Committee of this Diocese, without having been adjudged thereto in the way provided for by the Canons of the General Convention or of this Diocese.

ARTICLE XII

Alteration of this Constitution

Sect. 1. The mode of altering this Constitution shall be as follows:

The Proposed amendment shall be presented, in writing, at the Annual Convention. If approved by a majority of the Clergy and a majority of the Lay Delegates present, the two Orders voting separately, it shall be submitted to the Bishop of the Diocese. The Bishop shall, in writing, make known to the next Annual Convention, immediately after the organization of the Convention, approval or disapproval of such amendment. At the aforesaid next Annual Convention the amendment shall again be voted on, the Clergy and Laity voting

separately; and if it has received the approval of the Bishop, and shall also be ratified by a majority of the Clergy and a majority of the Lay Delegates present, the alteration shall be made, and the Constitution so amended shall be valid and obligatory. But if the amendment be disapproved by the Bishop, the alteration shall not be made unless it be ratified by two thirds of each Order present.

Sect. 2. If, at the next Annual Convention immediately succeeding that in which any proposed amendment of this Constitution was first voted on and approved, the Bishop of the Diocese shall not signify, in the manner provided in Section 1 of this Article, approval or disapproval of such amendment, then said amendment shall be considered to have received the Bishop's approval.

CANON 1

Diocesan Convention

Sect. 1. Clerical List. Within one week before the meeting of every Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall prepare or cause to be prepared a list of the Clergy of this Church canonically resident in this Diocese, setting forth the names of their respective Congregations or the nature of their employment, or, if not employed, their places of residence; provided, that suspended or inhibited Clergy shall not be placed on said list.

The list shall be laid before the Convention on the first day of its session, and shall be prima facie evidence of the right of any ordained person to a seat at the Convention.

Sect. 2. Lay Delegates. Every Congregation that maintains a member of the Clergy in charge, and that has had regular weekly services during the preceding year, may send Delegates according to the following schedule: if it have not more than fifty Communicants, two delegates; if it have more than fifty but not more than one hundred fifty Communicants, three Delegates; if it have more than one hundred fifty Communicants, four Delegates. Further, each such congregation may send on additional Delegate, who shall be designated as a Youth Delegate.

Sect. 3. Qualifications of Lay Delegates. Lay Delegates to the Convention shall be adult Communicants in good standing in their respective Congregations. No Youth Delegate may have attained the age of twenty-six upon the first meeting of the Convention to which he or she was elected as a Youth Delegate. The Secretary of the Convention shall cause to be prepared a list of Delegates entitled to seats in the Convention and shall present this list to the Bishop at least one week before the meeting of the Convention.

Sect. 4. Reservations. Each Congregation shall be responsible for the reservations of meals for its own delegation and any guests and shall confirm and pay for the same not less than thirty days in advance.

CANON 2

Admission of a Congregation into Union with the Convention.

Sect. 1. Definitions. For the purposes of these Canons, the following definitions apply:

- (1) A parish is a congregation admitted into union with the Convention, whose rector is called by the congregation and approved by the Bishop.
- (2) A mission is a congregation in union with the Convention, whose rector is the bishop. A mission may be a new or recently admitted congregation, moving toward admission as a parish, or a congregation which the bishop determines will remain a mission for an indefinite period of time.

Sect. 2. Documents. A Congregation in New Hampshire seeking admission into union with the Convention, shall submit to the Convention a certified copy of its Articles of Association or other satisfactory evidence of its organization, (or, if specially incorporated, of its Charter and of its Constitution and By-Laws) in which it must be declared that the Congregation accedes to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of the Episcopal Church, and to the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese; and that the congregation agrees to support the mission of the diocese through contributions to the annual diocesan budget as voted upon by the Convention. The Congregation shall lay before the Convention written evidence subscribed by its elected leadership that it has been duly organized for one year, and during that time has held regular public services.

In admitting any Congregation into union with the Convention of the Diocese, the Convention reserves to itself the right to re-designate the Congregation, if it is a Parish, as a Mission, under the immediate control of the Bishop, whenever it is requested to do so by the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese. Such action shall require a two-thirds vote of the Convention voting by Orders, and it is understood that in applying for admission into union with the Convention any Congregation accepts this provision.

Sect. 3. Procedure. Copies of said Articles of Association, Charter, Constitution and By-Laws of such Congregation, together with the circumstances and needs of its organization, must also be submitted to the Bishop and Standing Committee of the Diocese, at least one month before the Annual Session of the Convention, and be approved by them respectively; or, if not so approved, the disapproving party shall report to the Convention the reason in writing of such disapproval.

Sect. 4. Committee. The subject of New Parishes and Missions, with all the documents, shall be referred to a committee appointed by the Bishop of three Clerical and three Lay Members of the Convention to report thereon; provided, that when such Congregation is within the limits of a city or town already having one or more Congregations in union with this Convention, the consent of the Clerical and Lay Authorities of said Church or Churches shall first be obtained unless the Bishop and Convention shall otherwise determine.

Sect. 5. Mission Growth and Development. Each mission shall prepare a plan for its growth and development, which shall, if directed by the bishop, include a time line according to which it can prepare to seek parish status. The mission shall have the support, as needed, of the bishop, the Diocesan Council and the Committee on Mission Resources in the development and implementation of the plan. The mission shall report annually to the Committee on Mission Resources concerning the accomplishment of its goals and objectives. A Mission in union with this Convention shall not reorganize as a Parish unless it first secures the

approval of the reorganization from the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese. It shall then apply to the Convention for re-admission into union with the same, as a Parish, submitting with the application the papers required in Section 2 of this Canon.

Sect. 6. Mission Closure. If a mission has lost such vitality and viability that eventual closure seems inevitable or desirable, the Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee, may order the closure of the mission. The Bishop shall inform the Convention of such closure.

Sect. 7. Property Held in Trust. In conformity and consistent with the provisions of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, all real and personal property held by or for the benefit of any Parish, Mission, Chapel, or Congregation located in the Diocese of New Hampshire is held in trust for the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of New Hampshire. The existence of this trust, however, shall in no way limit the power and authority of the Parish, Mission, Chapel or Congregation otherwise existing over such property so long as the particular Parish, Mission, Chapel or Congregation remains a part of, and subject to, the Episcopal Church, its Constitution and Canons and to the Diocese of New Hampshire. A Parish, Mission, Chapel or Congregation in Union with this Convention shall be deemed to have irrevocably consented to this trust as to all property of whatever description, and whether held in the name of the said Parish or in any other manner.

CANON 3

The Secretary

Sect. 1. Duties. In addition to the duties assigned by Article VIII of the Constitution, it shall be the duty of the Secretary to send annually on request to each of the Bishops of this Church, and to the Secretary of every Diocesan Convention or Council, and to the Secretary of the House of Deputies of the General Convention, a copy of the Journal of this Convention; and to secure, as far as is desirable, from the Secretaries of the Diocesan Conventions or Councils copies of their Journals in exchange. The Secretary shall also perform such duties as may be required by the Diocesan Convention or by the General Convention.

Sect. 2. Method of Nominations. The Secretary of the Convention shall send to each Delegate and Alternate Delegate, sixty days before the Convention a list of the offices to be voted on at the next Convention. Any three Delegates may nominate to the Secretary one candidate for each office. Forty-five days before the Convention the Secretary shall ask those nominated whether they accept the nomination. The Secretary shall send to each Delegate and Alternate Delegate entitled to vote, fifteen days before the meeting of the Convention, a complete list of the candidates who have accepted nomination, together with a brief biographical sketch of each nominee and a digest of business to be voted on at the next Convention. The list and digest shall be included in the Pre-Convention Journal.

Sect. 3. Assistant Secretary. The Secretary may appoint at each Convention an Assistant Secretary who shall assist in the performance of the Secretary's duties.

Sect. 4. Expenses. Any expense incurred by the Secretary in the discharge of official duties shall be allowed as part of the Convention expense.

Sect. 5. Vacancy. In case of a vacancy in this office, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a Secretary pro tempore who shall serve until the Convention elects a Secretary.

CANON 4

The Standing Committee

Sect. 1. Membership. There shall be a Standing Committee consisting of three Priests and three adult confirmed Communicants. At every annual meeting the Convention shall elect one Priest and one Lay Communicant as members of said Committee, each to serve three years. The Committee shall meet as soon as possible after election, and choose from their own body a President and Secretary; all the members having been duly cited, a majority of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. No person, either Clergy or Lay, who has served six consecutive years on the Standing Committee, shall be eligible for re-election until at least one year has elapsed. They shall perform the duties assigned them by the Canons of the General and Diocesan Conventions. Their proceedings shall be reported at each annual Convention, and recorded by the Secretary of the Convention.

Sect. 2. To Advise the Bishop. The Standing Committee shall be a Council of Advice to the Bishop. They may be summoned whenever the Bishop shall wish for their advice; and they may meet of their own accord, and agreeably to their own rules, whenever their duties may so require.

Sect. 3. Vacancy in the Episcopate. In case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in all cases, except such as are otherwise provided for by the Canons of the Episcopal Church or of this Diocese.

Sect. 4. To Fill Vacancies. The Standing Committee shall have authority to fill all vacancies that may occur in an office elected by Diocesan Convention between Conventions, until an election of a successor for the balance of the unexpired term shall have been accomplished at the next Diocesan Convention, and to fill vacancies for which other provision has not been made.

Sect. 5. The Authority of Convention. The Standing Committee, acting with the Bishop, if there be one, shall between annual Convention sessions have the authority and responsibilities of the Diocesan Convention, except where otherwise provided in these Canons, and shall be accountable to the Diocesan Convention.

CANON 5

The Finance Committee

Sect. 1. Membership. There shall be a Finance Committee consisting of the following:

- (a) a chairperson, appointed by the Bishop; and
- (b) a Trustee, selected by the Trustees; and
- (c) one member chosen by the Diocesan Council; and
- (d) three at-large members, elected by Diocesan Convention; and,
- (e) one member from the Diocese nominated by the Finance Committee and approved by the Council; and,
- (f) The Treasurer of the Convention.

The Bishop's appointment of a chairperson shall be for two years, renewable once. The three at-large members and the members appointed or approved by the council shall serve for three year terms renewable once.

Sect. 2. Duties. The Finance Committee shall discharge the duties as provided in the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Sect. 3. Budget. The Finance Committee shall prepare for the Diocesan Council's review and approval, in advance of the annual meeting of the Convention, a budget for the year following. This budget shall include the Bishop's compensation, the expenses of the Episcopate, the contingent expenses of the Convention and Diocese, including all diocesan programs. This budget, which shall be published in prior to the annual Convention, may be altered or amended by the annual Convention, and must be approved by majority vote at that time. The budget approved at annual Convention will be in effect from January 1 to December 31 of the year following. The Diocesan Council shall have the responsibility and authority to make changes in the annual budget between sessions of the Convention.

Sect. 4. Funding of Diocesan Budget. Immediately following the annual Convention, the Finance Committee shall have circulated to all Congregations the appropriate information, including the requested minimum level of giving for the work of the Diocese and of the Episcopal Church, and other necessary information to promote support of the budget.

CANON 6

Regional Convocations

Sect. 1. Convocations. There shall be six regional Convocations as follows:

(a) Western: Charlestown; Trinity, Claremont; Union, Claremont; Hanover; Keene; New London; Newport; Walpole.

(b) Northern: Berlin; Colebrook; Groveton; Lancaster; Lisbon; Littleton; North Conway; North Woodstock; Woodsville.

(c) Lakes: Ashland; Franklin; Laconia; Meredith; Plymouth; Sanbornville; Tamworth; Tilton; Wolfeboro.

(d) Central: Concord; Dunbarton; East Concord; Hopkinton; Pittsfield; Weare.

(e) Southern: Derry; Goffstown; Londonderry; Grace, Manchester; St. Andrew's, Manchester; Merrimack; Milford; Nashua; Peterborough; Salem.

(f) Seacoast: Dover; Durham; Exeter; Hampstead; Hampton; Christ Church, Portsmouth; St. John's, Portsmouth; Rochester.

Sect. 2. Transfers and New Congregations. A newly organized Congregation, or a Congregation seeking transfer to a different Convocation, shall forward a written request designating the Convocation of its choice to the Diocesan Council for approval. In the case of a transfer, no member of that Congregation shall be qualified to hold office in the Convocation or to be a Convocation Representative to the Diocesan Council for one year from the date of such transfer.

Sect. 3. Membership. Each regional Convocation will be composed of the Clergy and Lay Delegates to Convention from each Congregation within the region.

Sect. 4. Officers. At its first meeting after the Diocesan Convention, each regional Convocation shall elect from its membership a Convener and a Co-Convener, who shall not be from the same Congregation. The Convener shall serve for a term of two years, renewable once, or until a successor takes office. The same shall apply to the Co-Convener. At the same meeting, each regional Convocation shall elect from its membership one Clergy and one Lay person who shall not be members of the same Congregation to serve as Convocation Representatives to Diocesan Council. The term of service shall be for two years, renewable once. The Diocesan Council Representatives from the regional Convocations may be the Convener and Co-convener.

Convocation officers (Conveners, Co-conveners, and Diocesan Council Representatives) shall be considered members of the regional Convocation through the end of their terms of office, even though their terms of office as Delegates to Convention from their Congregations shall have expired prior to the expiration of their terms as Convocation officers.

Sect. 5. Meetings. Each regional Convocation may determine the time and place for its meetings, and shall further meet whenever requested by the Council. Each Convocation shall be accountable to the Council for its activities.

Sect. 6. Responsibilities. Each Convocation shall have the responsibility to do the following:

- (a) To provide liaison between Congregations and the Diocese.
- (b) To assist communications between Congregations in the Convocation.
- (c) To generate ideas and programs which can be referred to the Diocesan Council.
- (d) To test programs and plans made by the Diocesan Council.
- (e) To provide an opportunity to present Diocesan program budgets to the people.
- (f) To provide a medium for the evaluation of on-going programs.
- (g) To discuss Convention issues and proposals prior to Convention.
- (h) To assist Convention Delegates to be well informed on all aspects of Diocesan life in preparation for their work at Convention.
- (i) To undertake local programs too large or too expensive for a single Congregation to undertake.
- (j) To focus on particular concerns or interests peculiar to the region.

CANON 7

The Diocesan Council

Sect. 1. Membership. The Diocesan Council shall consist of the following:

- (a) The Chairperson shall be the Bishop. In the case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, the President of the Standing Committee shall preside. In the case of the absence of the Bishop, a member of the Council appointed by the Bishop shall preside; and
- (b) one Clergy and one Lay Representative from each of the six Convocations, who shall in each case not be members of the same Congregation; and
- (c) the Chairperson or designee of the Diocesan Finance Committee; and
- (d) the Chairperson of the Committee on Mission Resources; and
- (e) the Chairpersons of the Diocesan Council Commissions; and
- (f) one member of the Trustees of the Diocese; and
- (g) a non-voting Secretary appointed by the Bishop; and
- (h) a non-voting Treasurer appointed by the Bishop.

The Trustee member shall be chosen by that Body; the Convocation Representatives shall be chosen as provided in the Canons; and the Bishop shall appoint the Council Finance Committee chair, as well as the heads of the Commissions. Each of these appointees shall serve for a two year term, renewable once. Elected Council members shall serve in office until their successors are chosen.

Sect. 2. Duties. The Diocesan Council shall, under the leadership of the Ecclesiastical Authority, plan and promote such diocesan work as may be deemed advisable, all subject to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and to the other directives of the Convention. It shall have the authority and responsibilities of the Diocesan Convention between annual Convention sessions with regard to matters of the finances and program of the Diocese and shall be accountable to the Diocesan Convention. The Diocesan Council shall share in the overall responsibility for the financial life of the Diocese. The Diocesan Council shall make an annual report of its proposals and achievements to the Convention. The Council shall receive and review reports of the Committee on Mission Resources, which shall report at least semi-annually to the bishop and the Council on the development and status of the congregations with which it is working.

Sect. 3. Procedures. The Council may determine its own procedure, and may enact any by-laws required by its work or by that of its agencies, subject to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

Sect. 4. Meetings. The Council shall meet at such times as it may deem expedient or upon the call of the Presiding Officer. A majority of its members shall constitute a quorum.

Sect. 5. Fiscal Authority. (1) The Council shall receive and expend such monies as are voted and appropriated for its use by the Convention, and shall submit a report on the same to the Convention each year. It may also receive and expend monies derived from other sources and designated for work within its jurisdiction.

(2) The base used to determine the minimum giving by the congregations of this diocese for the work of the diocese and the Episcopal Church shall be the total annual operating income of said Congregations as reported in their most recent Parochial Reports. Total operating income, as used here, includes all income received from pledges, loose offerings, income from investments and from all other sources. The only exceptions to the total income figure are: that portion of bequests or capital gifts which are not in lieu of pledges and are added to permanent endowment or trust funds, rather than being expended in the year in which they are received; Diocesan or Episcopal Church grants and loans; income from investments used outside the Congregation; funds used for major building or major renovation, as defined by the Finance Committee, and special and occasional offerings for work outside the Congregation.

Sect. 6. Agencies. The Council may form such agencies as it may deem expedient to perform the tasks assigned to it. Members of such agencies shall be appointed by the Bishop and confirmed by the Council.

Sect. 7. Responsibilities. (1) Diocesan Council shall address itself, without limiting itself, to the following areas:

- (a) Resources;
- (b) Church Development;
- (c) Direct Human Services; and
- (d) Ministry.

(2) The Council shall from time to time evaluate and assist in the work of its agencies and its regional Convocations; it shall submit annually an account of the activities of the said Convocations and agencies together with its own recommendations to the Diocesan Convention.

(3) The regional Convocations and the agencies of the Diocesan Council shall in the first instance be accountable to the Council, and the Council in turn shall be accountable annually to the Diocesan Convention.

CANON 8

Deputies to the General Convention

Sect. 1. Election. At the annual meeting of Convention prior to the year preceding the year in which any stated General Convention is to be held, the Convention shall elect four Clergy and four Lay persons to act as Deputies from this Diocese to the General Convention. Not fewer than eight of the Clergy and eight of the Laity shall be nominated, and after four Clergy and four Lay persons have been elected Deputies, four Clergy and four Lay persons shall be elected Alternate Deputies by the same ballots. The Deputies thus elected shall continue in office for three years, unless new Deputies be chosen in their places, in an annual or special meeting of the Convention. The Clerical Deputies shall be Priests or Deacons canonically resident in this Diocese; and the Lay Deputies shall be adult confirmed Communicants in this Diocese.

Sect. 2. Duties. It shall be the duty of the Deputies-elect to give not less than thirty days notice to the Ecclesiastical Authority, before the meeting of the General Convention, of their acceptance of the election and their intention to perform its duties. In case of the inability of any Deputy to attend, or in case of

vacancy, or in default of notice of acceptance given to the Ecclesiastical Authority, before the day appointed for the meeting of the General Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall designate, from the list of Alternate Deputies, and in order of priority of election, as many as may be necessary to insure a full representation of the Diocese; and the persons so designated, being furnished with the certificate of the Ecclesiastical Authority, shall possess the full powers of Deputies of this Diocese.

Sect. 3. Vacancies. If a vacancy appears, after the list of Alternate Deputies has been exhausted, the Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint any Priest or Deacon of the Diocese, if the vacancy be in the Clerical Order, or any adult confirmed Communicant from the Diocese, if the vacancy be in the Lay Order, to serve as a Deputy until the close of the pending session.

Sect. 4. Yielding to Alternate. A Deputy who shall have been excused from attending the General Convention, for causes judged sufficient by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, shall on the day following the close of the General Convention, resume all rights and privileges as a Deputy of the Diocese of New Hampshire, and the Deputy who took that place shall, at the same time, resume being an Alternate Deputy.

CANON 9

Deputies to Provincial Synod

Sect. 1. Election. There shall be elected triennially by the Diocesan Convention one Clerical and one Lay Deputy to serve in the Provincial Synod for a term of three years. An Alternate shall be elected in each order to serve a term concurrent with the Deputy from the same order.

Sect. 2. Secretary to Forward Names. The Secretary of the Diocesan Convention shall forward the names of the duly elected Deputies and Alternate Deputies to the Secretary of the Synod.

Sect. 3. Vacancies. Should a vacancy appear for a Deputy and should the Alternate Deputy be unavailable, the Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint any Priest or Deacon of the Diocese, if the vacancy be in the Clerical Order, or any adult Communicant from the Diocese, if the vacancy be in the Lay Order, until the time of the next Annual Diocesan Convention.

CANON 10

Registrar of the Diocese

There shall be elected by the Convention of this Church a Registrar whose duty it shall be to procure all such published journals, papers, reports, pamphlets, and other documents relating to the history of the Church in this Diocese, and also all other such journals, records, and histories of the Church in the United States as are now, or may become, the property of the Convention of this Church; to provide for the preservation of the same in some safe and accessible place of deposit, and to hold the same under such regulations and restrictions as this Convention may from time to time enact.

It shall be the duty of the Registrar to present, at each Annual Convention of the Church in this Diocese, a full report of all collections of books, pamphlets, or papers made, in accordance with the requisitions of this Canon, during the last Convention year, with the names of all donors, and a specification of all exchanges of duplicates or appropriations of money; and such report, or so much of it as the Ecclesiastical Authority shall determine, shall be published in the Annual Journal of the Convention. The said Registrar shall hold the office until another be duly chosen.

CANON 11

The Chancellor of the Diocese

There shall be in this Diocese a Chancellor, who shall be an adult confirmed Communicant, admitted to the Bar in the State of New Hampshire, elected for the term of two years by the Diocesan Convention upon the nomination of the Bishop, whose duty it shall be to give legal advice to and perform legal services for the Bishop, as may be requested by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. The Chancellor of the Diocese shall be a member of the Convention with voice and vote.

CANON 12

The Parish Register and Report

Sect. 1. Parish Register. Every member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation, or if there be none, a Warden, shall keep a Register of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials. The Register shall specify the name of the child baptized, the names of the parents and sponsors, the date of birth of the person baptized, the names of the adults baptized, and of their sponsors, the names of the parties married, the names and ages of the persons buried, and the date when each rite was performed. It shall also contain a list of the Communicants, of the families and adult persons of the Congregation, and an accurate list of the persons confirmed which shall be signed by the Bishop officiating at each confirmation.

Sect. 2. Definition of Communicant. For the purposes of this and all other Canons the term adult Communicant in Good Standing shall be held to be defined by the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Sect. 3. Parochial Reports. (1) The member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation, or, if it be vacant, the Wardens, shall cause to be presented, on or before the first day of every March, to the Secretary of the Convention, a statement of the number of baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals, and of the Communicants, distinguishing the additions, removals, and deaths in the Congregation, also of the condition of the Church School, and any other matters illustrating the condition of the Church. It shall also be the duty of the Wardens in each Congregation annually to report the value of the Church property, the salary paid the Clergy of the Congregation during the past year.

(2) Clergy without parochial charge shall report the occasional services they may have rendered, or if they have performed no ministerial duties, the causes or reasons which have prevented them from officiating.

Sect. 4. Episcopal Visitations. At every Visitation the member of the Clergy in charge of the Congregation, or the Wardens if there be no Clergy in charge, shall submit the Parish Register to the Bishop for inspection.

Sect. 5. Letters Dimissory. No ordained person shall be given Letters Dimissory from this Diocese or shall be eligible for transfer from one charge to another in the Diocese until the Ecclesiastical Authority is assured that the records required in Section 1 of this Canon have been properly made in the Register of the present charge and until a report has been presented to the Ecclesiastical Authority covering the statistics required in Sect. 3 of this Canon, beginning from the first of the then current year and ending at the date of the dissolution of the pastoral relation.

Sect. 6. List of Communicants Outside Congregations. There shall be kept under the direction of the Bishop a list of such Communicants or confirmed persons as may not be reported by the several Congregations.

CANON 13

Annual Meetings of the Congregations

Sect. 1. Election of Officers. The Wardens, Vestry Members, Parish Clerk, and the Delegates to the Convention shall be nominated by the Congregation and shall be elected by ballot by the parishioners at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation, to be held on some date during the month of January, except in those Congregations whose charter orders otherwise; provided, however, that, on the petition of any Congregation which finds urgent reason for holding its Annual Meeting on a different date from that here indicated, the Bishop of the Diocese, acting with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee given by a three-fourths vote, may license such Congregation to hold its Annual Meeting regularly at the time indicated in such petition; and the names of the Congregations so licensed, with the time fixed for the Annual Meeting in each case, shall lie on perpetual record in every Journal of the Diocesan Convention.

Sect. 2. Special Meetings. In case of death, resignation, or removal of any of the officers above named, a Special Meeting of the members of the Congregation shall be held to fill such vacancy, if it be requested by five Communicants of that Congregation.

Sect. 3. Qualifications for Office. Wardens shall be adult confirmed Communicants, and Vestry members shall be adult Communicants of the Congregation.

Sect 4. Presiding. At all Meetings of the Congregation and Vestry Meetings the Rector or member of the Clergy in charge of the Congregation, if present, shall preside.

Sect. 5. Rotating Vestries. In all Congregations having more than one hundred Communicants and a Vestry of five or more members, at least one out of every five Vestry members shall be ineligible for re-election at any Annual Meeting

until after the expiration of one year. A Warden shall be ineligible for re-election for at least one year after having served six consecutive years as a Warden of the Congregation. Each Congregation shall determine for itself the means by which it will give effect to this provision. Provisions of this Section which conflict with the existing Charter of any Congregation now in union with this Convention shall not be held binding.

Sect. 6. Qualifications of Voters. In any Congregation of this Church where no constitutional provision has been made or shall be made as to the qualifications of voters at Annual or other Special Meetings, the Clerk or Secretary shall keep a list of qualified voters, and only those on said list shall be allowed to vote. Every person who is an adult baptized Member of this Church in good standing, whose name is carried on the membership list of the Congregation, and who has contributed to the support of the Congregation, whether personally or as a member of a family, shall have the right to vote.

CANON 14

Duties of Wardens and Vestry Members

Sect. 1. Duties of Wardens. It shall be the duty of the Wardens to assist the Clergy in promoting the general interest of the Congregation; to take care that the Church buildings and grounds be kept in good condition; to provide Prayer Books and Hymnals, vestments and furniture; to make the collections in Churches; to furnish the bread and wine for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist; to procure a suitable book for keeping the records of the Congregation; to preserve order during Divine Service; and to secure, when necessary, in accordance with the Canons of the General Convention and of the Diocese, Clerical Services or Lay Reading for the edification of the Church.

Sect. 2. Duties of the Vestry. The Wardens and Vestry shall be agents and legal representative of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relation of the Parish to its Clergy. It shall be the duty of the Wardens and Vestry to take charge of the property of the Church and to transact the temporal business pertaining to the Parish; to elect and call a Rector, and to provide for the maintenance of same; and to collect and pay to the Diocese of New Hampshire the monies committed for support of the budget of the Diocese. In the absence of the Wardens, it shall be the duty of the Vestry to perform the several duties specially pertaining to these officers. The election of a member of the Clergy to any vacant cure in this Diocese shall not be valid until the approval of such election is given in writing by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Sect. 3. Clergy Compensation. Every congregation of the diocese shall provide its clergyperson(s) with at least the minimum annual compensation due them according to the terms of a resolution to be passed at each annual convention of the diocese, such compensation to become effective at the beginning of the following calendar year. Such “minimum annual compensation” shall be understood to include all of the components used by the Church Pension Fund to determine pension assessments. For purposes of this canon full-time employment shall be considered to be at least 40 hours per week. Where the employment of the clergyperson is defined by the Letter of Agreement as being less than full-

time, the vestry or bishop's committee shall determine and provide at least the appropriate pro-rated level of minimum annual compensation.

Sect. 4. Implementation of Clergy Compensation Canons. Every congregation of the diocese shall begin implementation of the provisions of Section 3 by annual adjustments beginning as of January 1, 2002. The provision of this canon shall be applicable to all clergy serving congregations as rector, vicar, priest-in-charge, interim priest, assistant, associate, curate and to those who may be employed by the diocese in extra-parochial capacities. Compliance with this canon shall be so stipulated in the Letter of Agreement of each such clergyperson, a copy of which shall be on file with the Office of the Bishop. Each congregation shall report to the bishop by March 1 of each year on the compensation of its clergyperson(s) and the report will be recorded in the next Pre-Convention Journal.

Sect. 5. Vestry Meetings. No meeting of the Vestry shall be held unless the Rector or member of the Clergy in charge requests it, or upon call of three members of the Vestry, and unless at least three days notice has been given by the Clerk. The Rector or member of the Clergy in charge, or one of the Wardens, and a majority of the Wardens and Vestry, shall constitute a quorum.

Sect. 6. Duty of Clerk. It shall be the duty of the Clerks of the several Congregations, immediately after the choice of Delegates to the Convention, to report the names of such Delegates to the Secretary of the Convention.

Sect. 7. Business Methods. In every Congregation the following standard business methods shall be observed:

(1) Funds held in trust, endowment, other permanent funds, and securities constituting physical evidence of ownership or indebtedness, shall be deposited with a national or state Bank, or with the Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New Hampshire, or with some other agency approved in writing by the Finance Committee of the Diocese, providing for at least two signatures for removal or withdrawal of such funds or securities; provided, however, that this section shall not apply to funds and securities refused by the depositories named as being too small for acceptance. Such small funds and securities shall be under the care of the persons or corporation properly responsible for them. This section shall not be deemed to prohibit investments in securities issued in book entry form or other manner that dispenses with the delivery of a certificate evidencing the ownership of the securities or indebtedness of the issuer. Records shall be made and kept of all trust, endowment, and permanent funds showing at least the following: (a) source and date; (b) terms governing the use of principal and income; (c) to whom and how often reports of condition are to be made; and (d) how the funds are invested.

(2) Treasurers and custodians, other than banking institutions, shall be adequately bonded.

(3) Books of account shall be kept so as to provide the basis for satisfactory accounting.

(4) The accounts of all Congregations and other entities subject to the jurisdiction of the Diocese shall be audited annually by an independent certified or licensed public accountant. In lieu thereof, the Finance

Committee of the Diocese may approve the appointment of an Audit Committee of the Congregation or other entity which is capable of performing said audit. The report of all audits, including any comments filed by the party performing said audit regarding controls, business or other accounting practices, together with a summary of corrective actions to be taken or authorized shall be filed with the Bishop not later than thirty days following the date of receipt of such report. An annual audit report shall be filed each year, covering the financial transactions of the previous calendar year. A congregation failing to file annual audit or assessment reports for two consecutive years no later than September 15 of the year following the second completed year for which a report is due, shall have seat and voice but no vote in all ensuing diocesan conventions until the reports are filed.

(5) Annual reports of all accounts shall be made to the Convention of the Diocese, which reports shall be referred to and reported upon by the Finance Committee.

(6) All buildings and their contents shall be kept adequately insured.

Sect. 8. Congregations Receiving Financial Support. The vestry or bishop's committee of a congregation that receives a grant for operating purposes from the diocese, or that is unable to contribute the amount requested for support of diocesan mission and ministry, shall prepare a plan for its growth and development. The vestry or bishop's committee shall develop the plan with the support of the bishop, the Diocesan Council, and the Committee on Mission Resources. The plan shall include measurable goals and objectives which may include a time line for becoming financially self-supporting, agreed upon by the congregation and the committee and approved by the Council. The vestry shall make an annual report to the Committee on Mission Resources describing steps it has taken toward accomplishment of its goals.

CANON 15

On Church Debt

Sect. 1. Indebtedness. No indebtedness or renewal thereof shall be incurred by a Congregation without the written approval of both the Bishop and Standing Committee except:

(1) Indebtedness for permanent improvements, replacements or additions to real estate or equipment, where the amount of such indebtedness, plus indebtedness of every kind already existing, shall not exceed one hundred fifty percent of the average annual receipts of such Congregation during the past three years;

(2) Indebtedness for current expenses where the amount of such indebtedness, plus all indebtedness heretofore incurred for current expenses and still existing, shall not exceed twenty percent of the total current receipts of such Parish, Mission, or Congregation during the preceding fiscal year; and the payment of all such indebtedness shall be provided for in the budget of the next ensuing fiscal year with reasonable expectation of its payment out of the receipts of the next two years.

Provided, that in computing receipts under paragraphs (1) and (2) hereof, amounts from or for endowments or from or by bequests, except income therefrom not

specially designated, and receipts for expenditures other than parochial, shall not be included.

Sect. 2. Plan for Payment. In any circumstances under which approval is required, it shall be granted only when the payment of all indebtedness shall be provided for in a plan of amortization or other method of payment to be submitted to and approved by the same authority.

CANON 16

Of Controversies between Congregations

Sect. 1. Method of Arbitration. In case of controversy or difference between Congregations, the Standing Committee of the Diocese shall constitute, and be, a session of arbitration for the adjustment of the same, according to the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the principles of equity and justice. A presentment may be made, by either party, to the Bishop, setting forth its claims with a general statement of the evidence to support them, and requesting an investigation by canonical authority. On receiving such presentment, the Bishop shall transmit a copy of the same to the President of the Standing Committee, who, as soon as may be, shall proceed to summon the Standing Committee to meet, at a time and place appointed by the Bishop, to act in the case. The Bishop shall also, at least one month before the day so appointed, cause a notice to be given to the Clerk, or one of the Wardens, of each of the respective Congregations in controversy, of the said time and place, together with copies of the presentment, and with citations to appear, each on its proper part. If on points of law the Standing Committee shall desire the assistance and counsel of a Lay assessor, the Bishop shall appoint some suitable person to act as such, it being understood that the office of the assessor is simply suggestive and advisory, and not authoritative.

Sect. 2. Judgment. After a fair and full hearing of the parties, the Committee shall proceed to make a judgment on the question or questions at issue, which judgment, being signed by a majority of the Committee, shall be sealed and delivered to the Bishop; who, if approving the same, shall, within a reasonable time, make it known to the parties respectively. The Bishop, if not approving the judgment, shall have power to order a new session of arbitration, at any time within six months. A judgment so rendered, and approved, shall be binding on the respective parties; and, if either of them shall not, within a reasonable time, comply with and conform to the said judgment, such Congregation shall forfeit its union with the Convention, and all rights and privileges thereto pertaining.

CANON 17

Of the Missionary Work of the Diocese

Sect. 1. Members are Missionary Society. The members of the Church in the Diocese are, by the Divine ordering, the Missionary Society of the Diocese, and the Diocesan Convention is the proper Board of Missions of the Diocese.

Sect. 2. Diocesan Convention. The Diocesan Convention shall sit as a Board of Missions, at such times as the Convention shall itself determine by rules of order, or by a special vote at any time.

Sect. 3. Diocesan Council. When the Convention is not in session, the missionary interests of the Diocese shall be cared for by the Diocesan Council.

Sect. 4. Role of the Bishop. The Diocesan Council shall have power to regulate all matters of missionary work not ordered by the Convention of the Diocese; provided, that all appointments and removals of Missionaries shall be made by the Bishop alone, or in the Bishop's absence, by the Clerical members of the Standing Committee, and that no new Mission shall be opened, no old Mission abandoned, and no change be made in the stipend of any particular Missionary, without the Bishop's consent.

Sect. 5. Council to Report. It shall be the duty of the Diocesan Council to make a report to the Board of Missions, at the close of the year's work, reviewing the missionary work of the Diocese and the Council's proceedings relating thereto.

Sect. 6. Archdeacon. The Bishop may appoint an Archdeacon, or General Missionary, to assist in the Missionary work of the Diocese, in the case of Church people who have no regular ministrations, the unshepherded people of the State, and in supplying services in vacant Parishes and Missions.

CANON 18

Organization of Missions

Sect. 1. Application for Recognition. The residents of any town, village, or neighborhood, who may desire the services of the Episcopal Church established among them, should give notice of their desire to the Bishop of the Diocese, who will thereupon visit them, or send one of the Clergy to visit them. The Bishop will also, whenever it seems advisable so to do, recommend to the Diocesan Council the recognition of such town, village or neighborhood, as a Mission, and may secure the appointment of a Missionary to them.

Sect. 2. Organization. (1) A recognized Mission of the Diocese shall, with the consent of the Bishop, be organized in the following manner: The Bishop shall appoint a Warden, a Treasurer, and a Clerk to serve for the first year.

(2) After the first year a Bishop's Committee shall be chosen by the regular worshipers of the Mission, in the manner prescribed by the Canons for the election of the Vestry of a Parish. Of this Committee the member of the Clergy in charge shall be ex officio chair. The Bishop's Committee shall consist of not more than seven members, baptized adults, and shall include a Warden, who must be an adult confirmed Communicant of this Church. Two members of the Bishop's Committee shall be elected to fill the offices of Clerk and Treasurer respectively, or one person may be elected to hold those offices together. The rights and duties of the Bishop's Committee shall be those of the Vestry of a Parish, except that they shall not have the right to call a member of the Clergy to be in charge and their acts shall be subject to the approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Sect. 3. Duties of Officers. The duties of the Wardens of a Mission shall be those prescribed in the Canons for the Wardens of a Parish. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect and receive all monies contributed for the support of the

Mission, and to remit or disburse them in accordance with the direction of the Bishop's Committee.

Sect. 4. Reports. The member of the Clergy in charge or, if there be none, the Warden of a Mission, shall present to the Annual Convention a report of the same character and details as the parochial report required by the Canons from the member of the Clergy in charge or Wardens of a Parish.

Sect. 5. Assessments. A Mission shall be assessed for the support of the Bishop and for the contingent expenses of the Convention, in the same manner as a Parish is assessed; but, such assessment shall be remitted or reduced whenever the Diocesan Council shall recommend such remission or reduction.

CANON 19

Summer Chapels

Sect. 1. Jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of a Summer Chapel will be shared by the Bishop with the local Rector or Vicar in whose parochial cure the Summer Chapel is located. The governing committees of such Summer Chapels shall be subject to the Bishop's direction and subject to the Canons of the Diocese and of the Episcopal Church. In Summer Chapels located beyond parish bounds, or in cures where there is a Clerical vacancy, the Bishop shall appoint a Priest to represent the Ordinary on the Summer Chapel Committee.

Sect. 2. Local Laity. The local laity may serve together with summer residents on the Summer Chapel Committees, the tenure of office to be established by each local Committee.

Sect. 3. Officiants. The appointment of Summer Chapel officiants shall be approved by the Bishop, and where possible a preference shall be given to Diocesan Clergy who desire such appointment. This section shall not preclude vacationing Clergy of other Dioceses from so officiating.

Sect. 4. Reports. Each year, prior to February 1, every Summer Chapel Committee shall submit to the Bishop and Diocesan Council a report similar to the parochial report, summarizing pastoral and sacramental acts, and giving a financial accounting indicating receipts, expenditures, and year-end balances, and including all assets from offerings, gifts, and investments. Such information shall be summarized in the Annual Diocesan Convention Journal.

Sect. 5. Register. Each Summer Chapel shall fulfill the canonical responsibility of maintaining independently, or through the Parish or Mission in which the Chapel is located, registers for all official acts, including worship, baptisms, confirmations, marriages and funerals.

Sect. 6. Annual Summer Chapel Meeting. The Chairs and at least one lay representative from each Chapel Committee will attend an annual Diocesan Summer Chapel Meeting to consider the mutual concerns and opportunities of the Summer Chapel ministry.

CANON 20

Commission on Ministry

Sect. 1. Membership. There shall be a Commission on Ministry consisting of six Clergy and six confirmed Communicants. At each annual meeting of the Convention the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint two Clergy and two Lay persons, each to serve for three years. Vacancies occurring between Diocesan Conventions shall be filled by appointment of the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Sect. 2. Duties. The Commission shall, in fulfillment of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, (a) assist the Bishop in determining present and future needs for all ordained ministry in the Diocese. The commission shall assist the Bishop in all matters related to the enlistment, selection, examination and nurture of Candidates for Holy Orders, as well and the nurture and support of ordained persons in their ministries.

(b) assist the bishop in supporting the development, training, utilization, and affirmation of the ministry of the Laity in the world. The commission shall also assist the Bishop with licensing of particular lay ministries within the church. Licenses shall expire on the First Sunday of Advent each year and may be renewed on application to the Bishop with the approval of the Vestry and the Clergy under whose supervision the Lay minister works.

Sect. 3. Committee on the Ministry of the Ordained. The Committee on the Ministry of the Ordained shall act on behalf of the Commission on Ministry, in fulfillment of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, and in assisting the Bishop in all matters related to the enlistment, selection, examination and nurture of Candidates for Holy Orders, as well as the continuing education, nurture and support of ordained persons in their ministries.

Sect. 4. Committee on the Ministry of the Laity. The Committee on the Ministry of the Laity shall act on behalf of the Commission on Ministry in assisting the Bishop in all matters related to the continuing education, nurture and support of Lay persons in their ministries, in the Church and in the world. With respect to Lay ministries within the Church:

(1) The Committee on the Ministry of the Laity shall examine applicants for the various licensed Lay ministries provided for in the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

(2) Lay Licenses shall expire on the First Sunday of Advent each year and may be renewed on application to the Bishop with the approval of the Vestry and the member of the Clergy under whose supervision the Lay minister works.

CANON 21

Episcopal Fund

Sect. 1. The Trustees. The Fund for the Support of the Episcopate in this Diocese, together with what may hereafter be contributed or acquired, and any accumulation from the investment thereof, shall be entrusted to the Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New Hampshire, and it shall be the duty of said Trustees, after paying the cost of maintaining the Fund, to pay over each year to

the Treasurer of the Convention the net income from said Fund, with a statement of credits to the several Parishes and Missions.

Sect. 2. Use of Funds. The Trustees of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New Hampshire shall have charge of all real estate belonging to said Fund, and of the Episcopal Residence, and it shall be their duty to make such repairs on the Episcopal Residence as may, from time to time, be found necessary, and, on the order of the Finance Committee of said Trustees, the Treasurer of the Convention shall pay all bills for taxes, insurance and repairs on said Episcopal Residence, except in so far as the Trustees may be able to pay the same from the net income of the Special Endowment Fund for the Episcopal Residence.

Sect. 3. Reports. The Trustees shall make a statement exhibiting the condition of said funds and all securities to each annual Diocesan Convention.

CANON 22

Abandonment of the Communion of this Church by a Priest or Deacon

If it is reported that a Member of the Clergy of this Diocese has abandoned the Communion of this Church, there shall be consideration of the report and action taken in accordance with Title IV, Canon 10, of the Canons of the Episcopal Church adopted in General Conventions 1789--1994, and as they may be amended from time to time.

CANON 23

The Ecclesiastical Court for the Trial of a Priest or Deacon

Sect. 1. The Court. There shall be in the Diocese of New Hampshire an Ecclesiastical Court for the Trial upon Presentment of any Member of the Clergy subject to the jurisdiction of this Diocese. The Court shall consist of three Members of the Clergy of this Diocese and two Lay Persons who are adult confirmed communicants of this Diocese. The members of the Court shall be elected by the Diocesan Convention for three year terms, all members being elected in the same year.

Sec. 2. Nomination of the Court. The Bishop and Standing Committee of the Diocese shall nominate no fewer than six Members of the Clergy and no fewer than four Lay Persons to the Convention of the Diocese for election.

Sec. 3. Presiding Judge. The Court shall elect from among its members a Presiding Judge, who may be a Member of the Clergy or a Lay Person. The election for Presiding judge shall be held not later than two months after the convention in which the court was elected or at such earlier time as the ecclesiastical court may need to be convened for a trial.

Sec. 4. Challenges. In any particular case, any member of the Court may be challenged for cause, either by the Church Attorney or by the Respondent. The members of the Court who are not challenged for cause shall determine the relevance and validity of such challenges, and their determination shall be final and non-appealable. In the event that all members of the Court are challenged for

cause, the Bishop or the Bishop's designee shall determine the relevance and validity of such challenges and that determination shall be final and non-appealable. If challenges to the entire Court have been sustained, a new Court shall be appointed by the Bishop and Standing Committee. When appointments are made to the Court, or the entire Court replaced, for a particular case, nevertheless the elected Court remains in office for all other cases.

Sec. 5. Continuity. Any Presentment filed with a particular Court by the Standing Committee shall be tried by that Court, even if a new Court is elected by the Diocesan Convention before the matter has been concluded.

Sec. 6. Vacancies. If a vacancy occurs in the Court, either as provided for in the Canons of the General Convention or because of a challenge to a member of the Court is sustained, the Bishop and Standing Committee shall name a person to fill the vacancy until the next Diocesan Convention, at which an election shall be held to fill the unexpired term. The person chosen to fill the vacancy shall be selected from a list of candidates otherwise qualified for election to the Court prepared by the Bishop and Standing Committee. Vacancies shall be filled by persons from the same Order as the person whose absence created the vacancy.

CANON 24

The Church Attorney for a Trial

There shall be a Church Attorney who shall be appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee at the beginning of each three-year term of the Court. The Church Attorney shall act as the representative of the Standing Committee in the investigation and prosecution of Charges. The Church Attorney shall be an adult confirmed communicant, a member of a congregation in union with the Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire, and a member of the Bar of the State of New Hampshire. If a vacancy in the office shall occur, it shall be filled by the Bishop and Standing Committee. The Church Attorney may obtain the services of such other trial counsel as the situation may require.

CANON 25

The Presentment of a Priest or Deacon Accused of an Offense for which there may be a Trial

Whenever a Member of the Clergy of the Diocese of New Hampshire is charged with a serious offense for which there could be a trial, the consideration of the nature of the offenses charged, the method of investigation, presentment and trial, and any sentences that result shall be in accordance with Title IV, Canons One through Fifteen of the Canons of the Episcopal Church adopted in General Conventions 1789-1994, and as they may be amended from time to time.

CANON 26

Amendment of the Canons

Sect. 1. Procedure. No new Canon shall be enacted and no amendment of these Canons shall be made, except those proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Canons, unless the proposed new Canon or amendment shall have been sent

to the Secretary of the Convention with a copy sent concurrently to the Committee on Constitution and Canons at least eight weeks before the annual session of Convention. The Committee on Constitution and Canons shall report its recommendations thereon, and any proposed amendments offered by said Committee shall be submitted to the Secretary of Convention not later than four weeks before Convention to be included by the Secretary with the reports of other committees which are sent to Convention Delegates.

Sect. 2. Method of Adoption. Except as provided in Section 3 below, a majority vote of each order, voting separately, shall be required for the enactment or adoption of any new Canon or amendment. A Canon or amendment so enacted or adopted shall become effective immediately unless otherwise provided in the wording of the new Canon or amendment.

Sect. 3. When Two-thirds Vote Required. Whenever the Bishop shall signify to Convention disapproval of a proposed new Canon, or alteration, or amendment of an existing Canon, then the enactment or adoption of the same shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of each Order present who shall vote separately by Orders.

REV-November 2, 1991;Canons 23-26 revised - November 4, 1995;Canons 1, 5, 7, 14 amended, Canon 16 deleted - November 2, 1996; Canons 2, 5, 6, 7, 12, 14, 18, 17, 21 amended October 30, 1999;Articles V, VI, VII - Amended October 28, 2000;Canon 14 Amended October 28, 2000; Canon 14 amended October 27, 2001, Canon 2 amended October 26, 2002.
Canon 1 amended November 12, 2005

