

**AMENDMENTS TO DIOCESAN CANONS 4, 5, 6, 7, 13 and 19**

**RESOLVED:** That Canons 4, 5, 6, 7, 13 and 19 of the Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania be amended as described in the Report of the Committee on Canons to this 227<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese, appended below.

**EXPLANATION:** These proposed amendments are intended to clarify various ambiguities in the Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and have been reviewed and refined extensively by the expanded Committee on Canons. Please see the report of the Committee on Canons (appended below) for further explanation.

**CANON 4  
Of Committees and Commissions**

SEC 4.1 *The Standing Committee*

4.1.1 The Standing Committee of the Diocese shall consist of five clergy, canonically and actually resident in the Diocese, and five lay communicants, residents of the Diocese, chosen by ballot by the concurrent votes of the members of each Order.

4.1.2 At each Stated Convention there shall be elected one member of the clergy and one layperson to take the places of those whose terms shall then expire, to serve for five years. A member of this Committee shall not be eligible for reelection after serving two **full** terms until one Convention year shall have elapsed.

4.1.3 Vacancies in the Committee, whether due to deaths, removals from the Diocese, resignations, failure of the Convention to elect, or to any other cause, shall be filled by the concurrent vote of the remaining clerical and lay members, the member or members so elected to serve only until the next Stated Convention, when the Convention itself shall elect a person or persons to take the place of the former member or members for the unexpired terms, if any.

4.1.4 The duties of the Standing Committee shall be such as have been or may be laid upon it by General Convention or by the Convention of this Diocese.

SEC 4.2 *The Committee on Canons*

4.2.1 At the close of each Stated Convention a Committee on Canons, consisting of **not less than 3** clergy and **3** lay members, shall be appointed by the Bishop to hold office until the close

of the next Stated Convention, and vacancies in this committee shall be filled by the Ecclesiastical Authority. ***The Chancellor, or a Vice Chancellor designated by the Chancellor, shall serve as an ex officio member of the Committee.***

4.2.2 All proposals to alter or add to the Constitution or Canons shall be referred to this Committee ***for its report to Convention***; provided, however, that any such proposal that shall be recommended by a Special Committee of the Convention shall be referred to the Committee on Canons only in order that the Committee may report specifically whether or not the proposed amendment does or does not conflict with any provision of the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese or of the General Convention.

4.2.3 It shall be the duty of the Committee on Canons to suggest to the Convention, from time to time, such changes in, or additions to, the Constitution, Canons, Rules of Order, or Standing Resolutions as may seem to the Committee to be wise.

#### SEC 4.3 *The Committee on Incorporation*

At the close of each Stated Convention, a Committee on Incorporation, consisting of an equal number of clerical and lay members, shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to remain in office until the close of the next Stated Convention, and vacancies in this Committee shall be filled by the same Authority.

#### SEC 4.4 *The Committee on Elections*

At the close of each Stated Convention the Bishop shall appoint a Committee on Elections, consisting of the Secretary of the Convention, who shall be the Chairperson, and two clergy and two lay members, to hold office until the next Stated Convention. They shall serve as judges of the election, and any vacancies occurring shall be filled by the Bishop.

#### SEC 4.5 *The Commission on Clergy Salaries and Pensions*

4.5.1 There shall be a Commission of the Diocese to be known as "The Commission on Clergy Salaries and Pensions," consisting of the Bishop, *ex officio*, who shall be the Chairperson, and twelve other members, six clergy and six lay, all of whom shall serve three-year terms staggered so that two lay members and two clergy are elected each year. One lay member and one clergy member shall be elected by the Convention and one lay member and one clergy member shall be elected by Diocesan Council. The Commission shall have power to fill vacancies among the members elected by Convention until the next Stated Convention, and the Diocesan Council may fill vacancies among the members elected by it. Any member shall be eligible for re-election, but except for having been chosen to fill a vacancy and to serve out the unexpired term of another, no person shall serve for more than two full terms consecutively.

4.5.2 The Commission shall administer the Clergy Financial Assistance Assessment, as provided in Canon 7.5. It shall also act as the Church Pension Fund Committee of the Diocese, as provided for in Canon 7.6. It shall make an annual report of its work to the Convention. In addition, it shall have the duty and authority to study, investigate and make recommendations to the Convention, Diocesan Council, or any parish concerning all matters relating to compensation for the

clergy in the employ of the Diocese, its parishes or its missions. No such recommendation shall be made to the Convention unless the same shall have been submitted to the Diocesan Council for its information no later than the first day of the fourth month prior to the month in which such Convention shall occur; provided that Diocesan Council may waive the foregoing requirement.

4.5.3 The lay members of the Commission shall confer with the vestries and advisory committees of parishes and missions which are paying less than the minimum compensation, with the purpose of stimulating increased payments.

4.5.4 The Commission may also receive from the warden of a parish, aided parish, mission, or boards of directors of diocesan corporations, with the written consent of the clergy whose compensation is involved, appeals for permission in exceptional circumstances to pay its clergy less than the total minimum compensation established by Convention. The Commission may adopt such reasonable appeal procedures as it deems necessary and appropriate. If permission is granted, the provisions of Canon 7.5 with respect to minimum compensation of clergy shall not apply to such parish or unit of the Church for the duration of the period of time for which such permission was given. When such permission has been granted by the Commission, written notice of the reasons and terms of the permission shall be given to the Bishop for approval. The decision of the Commission when so endorsed by the Bishop, shall be binding upon the Diocesan Council, the Commission, and the unit of the Church which made the application.

SEC 4.6 *Diocesan Review Committee***(Adopted November 3, 2001)**

**Repealed effective July 1, 2011. See revisions to Canon 22.**

SEC. 4.7 *The Committee on Finance and Property* **(Adopted/Amended November 2005)**

4.7.1 The Committee on Finance and Property shall be chosen by ballot by the concurrent votes of the members of ~~both orders~~ **each Order** as hereinafter provided.

4.7.2 The Committee on Finance and Property shall consist of six Priests or Deacons actually and canonically resident in the Diocese, and nine lay members of the Church actually resident in the Diocese. **Two clergy members and three lay members shall be elected each year.** Each member of the Committee shall serve for a term of three years. ~~with terms to be staggered so that at least four new members are elected to the Committee each year.~~ In the event of a vacancy, the Diocesan Council shall appoint a person of the same order (lay or clergy) to serve until the next Diocesan Convention, at which time the Convention shall elect a person of the same order to serve the remainder of the term. No person shall serve more than two full terms consecutively.

4.7.3 In addition to the members chosen in the manner specified above, the Standing Committee shall appoint one of its members to the Committee on Finance and Property. The Standing Committee member so appointed shall have a voice in matters under discussion but may not vote on matters before the Committee.

4.7.4 The Committee shall elect a Chairperson from among its members. The Chairperson shall be a voting member of the Committee and not the Standing Committee appointee.

4.7.5 **(Formerly Section 6.3)** The Committee on Finance and Property shall perform the **following** functions and have the **following** powers and responsibilities:

4.7.5.1 Provide for the maintenance, repair, safety and other requirements of all diocesan properties; the due discharge of taxes and assessments thereon, and the payment of indebtedness on mortgages.

4.7.5.2 Provide a formula for proportionate minimum pledges from each parish and mission, making a regular allocation of their income to support the Convention and diocesan expense budget, including the missionary, educational, social service, financial, promotional, and other responsibilities of the Diocese.

4.7.5.3 Provide for the communication of the formula referred to in **the preceding** paragraph ~~Section 6.3.2 of the Canon~~, the billing of any assessment and, subject to the directions of the Treasurer of the Diocese, receiving and accounting for all pledges and assessments, including those determined for the Support of the Episcopate by the Standing Committee, and for Clergy Financial Assistance by the Commission on Clergy Salaries and Pensions.

4.7.5.4 Provide for the enforcement of Canon 16 ("Of the Mode of Securing an Accurate View of the State of the Church in this Diocese"), and Canon 17 ("Of Business Methods in Church Affairs"), and Canon 19.1 ("Diocesan Institutions").

4.7.5.5 Consider and make recommendations respecting all appeals for funds and offerings within the Diocese of Pennsylvania, requiring diocesan approval.

4.7.5.6 Be responsible, under the direction of Diocesan Council, for all the financial affairs of the Diocese, and act in any other business or executive capacity that may be required of it by the Diocesan Council or the Convention.

4.7.5.7 Notify the parishes and missions of the Diocese before November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, of the formula for pledging and all assessments for the ensuing calendar year.

## **CANON 5**

### **Of the Ecclesiastical Authority**

#### SEC 5.1 *Absence or Disability of the Bishop*

5.1.1 Whenever in these Canons the duty of the Bishop **of the Diocese** to take action is prescribed, such duty, in case of the canonical absence or disability of the Bishop, shall devolve upon the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one; but if there be no Bishop Coadjutor, or in case of canonical absence or disability of the Bishop Coadjutor as well as of the Bishop, such duty shall devolve upon the Bishop Suffragan, if there be one, and if there be more than one, upon the one senior in time of consecration.

5.1.2 In the absence or disability of the Bishop **Diocesan**, the Bishop Coadjutor, **if there be one**, shall, in accordance with the provisions in the Constitutions and Canons of the General

Convention and of this Diocese, become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, but in the case of the absence or inability of both the Bishop **Diocesan** and the Bishop Coadjutor, the Bishop Suffragan shall, under the same condition, become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority. In such cases the Bishop who acts temporarily as Ecclesiastical Authority shall remain such until the termination of the absence or disability of the Bishop **Diocesan** or Bishop Coadjutor, as the case may be.

5.1.3 The duty and the right of acting as Ecclesiastical Authority shall devolve upon the Standing Committee ~~or other authority or person, in cases wherein provision is made for their action in place of the Bishop only~~ in the event of the absence or disability of all the Bishops named. ~~or of a vacancy in the episcopate.~~

**5.1.4 If the Standing Committee is acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Standing Committee may designate one or more of its members to act on its behalf, except for acts which can only be performed by a Bishop under the Canons of the General Convention which shall be performed by a Bishop appointed by the Standing Committee.**

SEC. 5.2

*Death or Resignation of the Bishop*

Upon the death **or resignation** of the Bishop of the Diocese, if there be no Bishop Coadjutor to succeed, ~~the Bishop Suffragan, if there be one, shall become temporarily the~~ **temporary** Ecclesiastical Authority **shall remain the Ecclesiastical Authority** until such time as a new Bishop shall be chosen and consecrated.

SEC. 5.3

*Legal Proceedings*

In any legal proceedings to secure observance of any of the Canons of the Diocese or the General Convention, or for the purpose of protecting the interests of the Church in this Diocese. The Ecclesiastical Authority as herein defined shall be authorized to act in the name of and for the Church in this Diocese.

**CANON 6**  
**Of the Diocesan Council**

SEC. 6.1

*Membership*

6.1.1 There shall be a Diocesan Council which shall consist of the Bishop, or Bishops , the Secretary of the Convention, the Treasurer of the Diocese, all *ex officio*, and 3 members from each deanery to be elected by the deaneries. ~~The term of office shall be three years.~~ ***In the event the role of Ecclesiastical Authority shall have devolved upon the Standing Committee, the Standing Committee shall designate one of its members to serve on the Diocesan Council with voice and vote and on all subcommittees thereof. The Chancellor (or a Vice Chancellor) may attend Diocesan Council Meetings and participate in its discussions, without vote.***

6.1.2 ***Each deanery shall be represented on the Council by one member of the clergy, canonically resident in this Diocese, and two lay persons, who shall be adult communicants in good standing within this Diocese.*** Each deanery shall annually elect one ***such*** member of Council for a term of three years, such election to be held prior to Convention, and such term to commence at the rising of Convention. ~~In each year, four of the members so elected shall be members of the clergy, canonically resident in this Diocese, and eight shall be lay persons who shall be communicants in good standing within this Diocese and who shall be a minimum of 18 years of age. The distribution of the twelve among the deaneries shall be such that each deanery shall be represented by one member of the clergy and two lay persons so elected.~~ ***In the event a member of Council elected by a deanery shall cease to be a member of that deanery, such member shall be deemed to have resigned from Council.***

6.1.3 No additional members of Council shall be selected ***other*** than by the provisions of this Canon.

6.1.4 Any ***elected*** member shall be eligible for re-election but no one shall serve for more than six consecutive years ***except as hereinafter provided***, and no salaried employee of the Diocese or any corporation or organization provided by these Canons, other than

- ( a ) vicars of missions
- ( b ) rectors of aided parishes
- ( c ) institutional and college chaplains; and
- ( d ) holders of positions determined by the Standing Committee not to raise the possibility of substantial conflict of interest shall be eligible for election on the Diocesan Council. In case of vacancies the respective deaneries shall promptly elect persons to serve the unexpired terms, such elected persons then to be eligible for re-election to two consecutive three year terms. No person who has served two consecutive three-year terms shall be eligible to serve on Council until the passage of at least one year.

6.1.5 The Bishop shall be the chief ~~chief~~ ***presiding*** officer of Diocesan Council, but may delegate the responsibility of presiding at meetings to any other member. ***In the event a Bishop, other than the Bishop Diocesan, is acting as or designated by the Ecclesiastical Authority, such Bishop shall act as presiding officer of Diocesan Council. In the event the role of Ecclesiastical Authority shall have devolved upon the Standing Committee, the Council shall elect a member of Council to preside at meetings of Council.*** Whenever the term "Diocesan Council" appears in these Canons, it shall be understood to signify "Bishop and Diocesan Council."

6.1.6 The Bishop may invite any persons to attend Diocesan Council Meetings and participate in the discussion; the Diocesan Council may likewise invite any persons by resolution of the quorum.

6.1.7 A quorum shall consist of not less than one-half of the full membership, which shall be necessary for the transaction of business.

6.1.8 The Secretary of Convention shall also serve as Secretary of the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council may elect other officers from its membership and organize itself as it considers necessary. It shall make its own rules for the conduct of its business, and shall meet at least bi-monthly, with the exception of July and August. Special meetings may be called by the Bishop or a written petition to the Bishops or Ecclesiastical Authority signed by nine members.

SEC. 6.2 *Powers and Responsibilities (Amended November 11, 2006)*

6.2.1 Diocesan Council's duty shall be to carry out the programs and policies adopted by the Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

6.2.2 Diocesan Council's authority shall be subject to the limitations or directives adopted by Diocesan Convention and by these Canons.

6.2.3 The Bishop and the persons to whom the Bishop shall delegate the necessary and appropriate authority, shall administer ~~and carry on~~ from day to day the program as approved by Convention. ~~and Diocesan Council~~. All such persons shall be responsible directly to the Bishop for the performance of their duties, and the Bishop shall be responsible to the Convention and the Diocesan Council in all matters relating to the adopted programs.

6.2.4 The Diocesan Council shall furnish the Bishop with assistance for the administration of the Diocese.

SEC. 3. *Budget and Annual Report (Formerly Section 6.4)*

6.3.1 The Diocesan Council shall prepare and submit to each stated Convention a budget for the work of the Diocese as undertaken or proposed for the ensuing year. The Diocesan Council shall have authority to expend all monies provided for in the budget as adopted, to allocate any otherwise unappropriated funds, and to transfer unexpended balances.

6.3.2 The Diocesan Council, as soon as practicable after the end of each calendar year, shall have prepared and circulated a full report of its work, which report shall also be presented to the stated Convention. It shall publicize the Treasurer's Report, together with a statement of all trust funds or property in its possession and control. It shall be the duty of Diocesan Council to suggest to Convention , from time to time, such changes in legislation or methods as may seem to Diocesan Council to be advantageous to the work of the Church.

**CANON 7**  
**Of Funds, Assessments and the Budget**

SEC. 7.1                      *The Fund for the Endowment of the Episcopate*

The Fund for the Endowment of the Episcopate shall consist of the investments constituting the permanent Fund, heretofore called the Episcopal Fund, and of such other sums or securities as may from time to time be given or raised for the endowment of the episcopate of the Diocese, and the investments thereof shall be in the care of and managed by the Church Foundation. The Church Foundation shall pay over the net income to the Treasurer of the Diocese, to be used for the purposes of the Assessment for the Support of the Episcopate hereinafter described, and shall make an annual report to the Convention.

SEC. 7.2                      *Assessment for the Support of the Episcopate*

7.2.1 The Standing Committee shall determine, on or before the first of May of each year, the amount needed for the support of the episcopate in the ensuing year, in accordance with the standing directions of the Convention, and, after deducting therefrom the estimated income to be derived from investments, shall report the balance to Diocesan Council as the amount to be assessed upon the parishes, missions and chapels of the Diocese in such manner as the Convention shall from time to time direct, and in the absence of any such direction in any year, in the manner last directed by Convention.

7.2.2 Income from the Fund from the Endowment of the Episcopate or from any other fund for that purpose shall be added to the proceeds of the above assessment, and payment out of the combined total shall be made to the order to the Bishop and Standing Committee, or in the absence or disability of the Bishop, by order of the Standing Committee alone.

**7.2.3 No funds shall be expended or obligations incurred for the expenses of the episcopate in excess of those set forth in the budget for the support of the episcopate adopted by the Standing Committee and presented to Diocesan Convention pursuant to Canon 7.3.2, without the express consent of the Standing Committee.**

**Of Property Held for Religious Purposes**

SEC. 13.1                    *Prohibiting the Destruction or Desecration of Consecrated Buildings*  
**No Proposed Modifications**

SEC. 13.2                    *Prohibiting Alienation or Encumbering*

It is hereby declared that all real property which has heretofore been or shall hereafter be devised, conveyed to, or acquired by a Bishop, a dean or any official of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, or any rector therein, or any incorporated parish or mission in this Diocese, for use for religious worship, or for a rectory, parish house or school, shall be taken and held by such a devisee or grantee for the work of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Pennsylvania, and no sale, conveyance or mortgage thereof, or lease for more than one year, shall be made by any Bishop, Dean or other Diocesan official, or by any rector, or any incorporated parish or mission without the



# REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CANONS

Over the past two years the Committee on Canons at the request of the Resolutions Committee for the 225<sup>th</sup> Convention and in consultation with the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor, and numerous diocesan leaders including Bishops Bartlett and Michel, has undertaken a comprehensive review of the Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. As a result of that study, the Committee on Canons is proposing the following changes to the Canons for consideration and enactment at the 227<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

The proposed canonical amendments have two primary goals. First, they seek to eliminate various ambiguities in the Canons. Some of these are as simple as inconsistent wording in different parts of the Canons. Secondly, and most important, the proposed changes will clarify the historic polity within the diocese among the various bodies having responsibility and exercising authority, both in normal times and in the absence of a diocesan bishop.

During the first several years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the diocese has been under enormous financial stress. Some of this was the result of new initiatives undertaken by our leadership. Other factors such as declining parish giving and endowment income have exacerbated the situation. Spending substantially exceeded income during several of those years with a consequent draw down of our assets. Ambiguities in our Canons became apparent because lines of authority were blurred and in some cases contradictory. This led to disagreements among the diocesan bishop and various leadership bodies regarding their respective roles and prerogatives with respect to financial matters. Over the past three or four years, there have been substantial improvements in financial reporting, in large measure due to the efforts of a large number of dedicated people. Transparency in financial transactions has now become not only a goal but a reality. Nevertheless, the canonical ambiguities remain and the proposed changes seek to address this by clarifying the language and codifying our best understanding of the appropriate lines of authority.

In addition, we have experienced the unusual situation in which the Standing Committee has been called upon to act as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese. While we certainly hope that this temporary situation will never need to be repeated, we have learned that the Canons of General Convention do not always provide sufficient guidance. Accordingly, there are some proposed changes to the diocesan Canons which clarify the role of the Standing Committee when it functions as Ecclesiastical Authority. Some of the proposed changes would also increase the role and responsibility of other leadership bodies during such a period.

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