

TITLE IV

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2009 revised the canons known as Title IV to make clergy discipline first and foremost a process of discernment, mediation and pastoral response rather than one that is legalistic and judicial. The process now models those used in the medical, legal and social work professions. The revised canons went into effect on July 1, 2011.

Canon 1 of Title IV sets the theological context for the process: "By virtue of Baptism, all members of the Church are called to holiness of life and accountability to one another. The Church and each Diocese shall support their members in their life in Christ and seek to resolve conflicts by promoting healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life, and reconciliation among all involved or affected. This Title applies to Members of the Clergy, who have by their vows at ordination accepted additional responsibilities and accountabilities for doctrine, discipline, worship and obedience."

An overview of the process

Before July 1, 2011, clergy disciplinary matters were brought to the bishop or the Standing Committee of the diocese. Effective July 1, 2011, under the revised canons, all matters will be reported to an intake officer (find contact information below). Matters might then be resolved through pastoral care, mediation, and an agreement with the bishop, an investigation, or any combination of these. An investigation may result in formal mediation, and, if necessary, a hearing.

The process now allows for resolution through whatever means will move those affected toward justice, restitution, amendment of life, repentance, healing, forgiveness and reconciliation. This can include a variety of interventions for all involved and, if necessary, the suspension or removal of the cleric from ordained ministry.

Clergy standards of conduct:

Members of the clergy should:

- Maintain confidentiality
- Safeguard property and funds of the church
- Conform to the canons of the Episcopal Church and the rubrics of The Book of Common Prayer
- Abide by ordination vows
- Obtain consent of the bishop before engaging in secular employment
- Obtain consent of the bishop to be absent from the diocese for more than two years

Members of the clergy should not:

- Engage in sexual misconduct (includes sexual behavior with: a member of the congregation; employee; volunteer; person in high school; person under 18 years of age; person legally incompetent; someone with whom the clergy has ever had a pastoral relationship)
- Hold or teach any doctrine contrary to that held by the Episcopal Church
- Commit criminal acts
- Engage in dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation
- Habitually neglect public worship, Holy Communion
- Engage in any conduct unbecoming a member of the clergy. This conduct is defined as any disorder or neglect that prejudices the reputation, good order and discipline of the Church, or any conduct of a nature to bring material discredit upon the Church or the Holy Orders conferred by the Church.

Contacting the Intake Officer:

Anyone may contact the diocesan Intake Officer to report concerns about the behavior of a member of the clergy (priests, deacons, bishops). This initiates a process to hold clergy accountable for their behavior.

The current Intake Officer for the Diocese of Pennsylvania is:
The Rev. Louis Temme

Contact him by e-mail for an appointment at:
TemmeIntakeDiopa@gmail.com

The Intake Officer will:

- Listen with respect
- Offer pastoral care and response
- Create a written report regarding the concern(s) presented that determines the next step in the disciplinary process
- Answer questions about the process

A full description of the Title IV Disciplinary process is found at:

http://www.episcopalarchives.org/pdf/CnC/CandC_2009pp123-166.pdf

Please note: Effective July 1, 2011, members of the clergy are required to report to the Intake Officer anything that may constitute an offense by a member of the clergy and are required to cooperate with the clergy disciplinary process.

Members of the 2015 Diocesan Disciplinary Board:

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Clergy Disciplinary Process and Intake Procedure



in the Episcopal
Diocese of Pennsylvania

2015