



CANONS OF THE
CHRISTIAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Revised July 19, 2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Canon I –	Of the General Synod ..	3
Canon II –	Of the Presiding Archbishop and the Council of Bishops ..	4
Canon III –	Of the Synodical Council ..	5
Canon IV –	Of Dioceses ..	5
Canon V –	Of Missionary Districts ..	6
Canon VI –	Of Standing Committee ..	6
Canon VII –	Of Parishes, Vestries, and Rectors ..	7
Canon VIII –	Of Congregations and Clergy Seeking Admission ..	10
REMOVED -	Canon IX – Of Intercommunion Agreements	
Canon IX –	Of the Laity ..	11
Canon X –	Of Holy Matrimony ..	12
Canon XI –	Of Translations of the Bible ..	14
Canon XII –	Of the Standard Book of Common Prayer ..	
Canon XIII –	Of the Music of the Church ..	15
Canon XIV –	Of Holy Orders in General ..	15
Canon XV –	Of Postulants ..	16
Canon XVI –	Of Candidates for Holy Orders ..	17
Canon XVII –	Of the Board of Examining Chaplains ..	17
Canon XVIII –	Of Ordination to the Diaconate ..	18
Canon XIX –	Of Ordination to the Priesthood ..	18
Canon XX –	Of Clergy Ordained in Other Churches ..	19
Canon XXI –	Of the Election of Bishops ..	19
Canon XXII –	Of the Duties of Bishops ..	20
Canon XXIII –	Of the Duties of Priests ..	21
Canon XXIV –	Of the Duties of Deacons ..	22
Canon XXV –	Of Deaconesses ..	23
Canon XXVI –	Of Lay Readers ..	25
Canon XXVII –	Of Religious Communities ..	26
Canon XXVIII –	Of Offenses for which Bishops, Priests, and Deacons may be Tried ..	27
Canon XXIX –	Of Courts and their Membership ..	28
Canon XXX –	Of Presentments ..	29
Canon XXXI –	Of A Clergyman In Any Jurisdiction Chargeable With Offense In Another ..	30
Canon XXXII –	Of Renunciation of the Ministry ..	30
Canon XXX III –	Of the Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation ..	31
Canon XXXIV –	Of Sentences ..	32
Canon XXX V –	Of Enactment, Amendment, and Repeal ..	32
Appendices ..		34

CANONS OF THE CHRISTIAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

I

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

CANON I

Of The General Synod

Section 1.a. At the time and place appointed for the meeting of the General Synod, the Secretary shall call to order the members present and record the names of the lay and clerical delegates who are entitled to seats. If there be a quorum present, the Secretary shall inform the Council of Bishops of the organization of the Synod and of its readiness to proceed to business. If there be no Secretary, the Presiding Archbishop shall appoint a temporary one for the above purpose, who in the General Synod's first item of business shall be either confirmed in office or replaced through election by the General Synod.

Section 1.b. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the proceedings of the Synod along with *copies of all documents pertaining to this church and shall remain in office until a successor is elected. All official Church documents and originals of Church papers will reside at the Office of the Presiding Archbishop.* It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the General Synod, whenever any alteration of the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution or the Canons is proposed—or any other subject submitted to the consideration of the several diocesan conventions—to give notice thereof within thirty days to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Church in every diocese, as well as to the Secretary of the Convention of every diocese, who shall make known such notices to the Convention of the diocese at its next meeting.

Section 2.a. The right of calling special meetings of the General Synod shall be vested in the Council of Bishops. An absolute majority of the Council is needed to call a special meeting.

Section 2.b. The delegates elected to the General Synod shall be the delegates to the special meetings unless different delegates have been selected in the meantime.

Section 3.a. At every meeting of the General Synod, a Treasurer shall be elected and shall remain in office until a successor shall be elected. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive and disburse all moneys collected under the authority of the Synod; and with the advice and approval of the Council of Bishops to invest such surplus funds as may be on hand. An account shall be rendered to the Synod and shall be audited as provided by the Synod. In case of a vacancy, the Presiding Archbishop shall appoint a Treasurer until a successor is elected.

Section 3.b. The Treasurer shall give a bond conditioned on the faithful performance of his duties. The amount thereof and the terms on which the same shall be given shall be subject to the approval of the Council of Bishops; the expense of the bond shall be paid by the General Synod.

Section 3.c. The Treasurer shall submit to the General Synod at its regular meeting a detailed budget for the next three years. The Treasurer shall have the power to expend all sums of money covered by this budget, subject to the provisions of these canons.

CANON II

Of the Presiding Archbishop and the Council of Bishops

Section 1. The Council of Bishops shall elect one of its number to be the Presiding Archbishop, who, when his election is confirmed by the next General Synod, shall be instituted in his office.

Section 2. The Presiding Archbishop shall preside over the Council of Bishops and take order for the consecration of bishops when duly elected. He shall perform such other duties prescribed for him by the Council of Bishops or by the canons of this Church.

Section 3. All necessary expenses of the Presiding Archbishop shall be provided for in the budget to be submitted by the Treasurer.

Section 4. In the event of the disability of the Presiding Archbishop, the Bishop who, according to Article 1, Section 6, of the Constitution becomes its Presiding Officer, shall be substituted for the Presiding Archbishop for all the purposes of these canons.

Section 5. The term of office of the Presiding Archbishop shall be for life, so long as he is able to discharge the duties of his office as Presiding Archbishop; nevertheless, he may resign his office at any time. Whenever the Presiding Archbishop becomes unable to function and is incapable of functioning and authorizing acts of Ecclesiastical Authority, the Council of Bishops may ask for an election.

Section 6. The Presiding Archbishop shall be the president of the General Synod of the Christian Episcopal Church and shall possess and enjoy all the rights, power, and authority that belong and pertain to the Primate of a particular and national Church according to the ancient customs and canons of the Catholic Church,,and the ancient customs and canons of the Church of England.

Section 7. The office of Presiding Archbishop shall be funded by two percent of the tithes each Diocesan Bishop receives monthly from his Parishes. Monies are to be sent each quarter to the Treasurer.

CANON III

Of the Synodical Council

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Synodical Council, under the direction of the Presiding Archbishop, to implement the decisions and resolutions of the preceding General Synod during its recess. The Synodical Council shall have no authority to make decisions or pass resolutions not approved by the General Synod.

Section 2. A clerical and lay member from each Diocesan Standing Committee shall be elected by the Diocesan Convention to the Synodical Council and shall serve until their successors are elected. Their term of office shall be determined by the Convention which elected them.

CANON IV

Of Dioceses

Section 1. The Diocese shall be the primary unit of jurisdiction in this Church. Each Diocese shall be governed by a Bishop whose authority shall be defined by the canons. The Diocese shall have boundaries which shall be established by the Council of Bishops and ratified by the General Synod.

Section 2. The Diocese shall be incorporated in one of the states within the Diocesan boundaries.

Section 3. Each Diocese shall have its own canons, a Standing Committee, a Chancellor who shall be a practicing attorney licensed by the state in which he/she resides, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Diocesan Court. The duties of the aforementioned shall be defined in the Canons of the Diocese.

Section 4. The Diocesan Canons shall be in accord with the Canons of this Church.

Section 5. Whenever it is proposed to increase, diminish, or otherwise change the territory of a Diocese, no action shall be taken by the General Synod until the proposal has been submitted to the Bishop and Convention of each diocese involved.

Section 6. Any action taken by the Convention upon such proposal as described in the foregoing section shall be reported without delay to the Secretary of the General Synod, whereupon the General Synod may proceed to act.

Section 7. Whenever any Diocese ceases to be viable due to the lack of financial resources, diminished number of parishes, and/or insufficient number of parishioners, the remaining parishes may request the dissolution of the Diocese. They may request permission to join another jurisdiction or allow the

Presiding Archbishop, with the consent of the Council of Bishops, to assign its parishes and territory to the Bishop in closest proximity. This decision shall be ratified by the next General Synod.

Section 8. The Bishop of the Diocese which has been dissolved shall become Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese which has received his territory.

Section 9. Each Parish shall remit to the Diocesan Treasurer by the fifteenth of each month, a sum equal to the monthly proportion of ten percent of its gross receipts, less monies given for capital expenditures or specifically designated funds, for the immediate preceding year.

Section 9.a. For cause a Parish may petition the Diocesan Bishop for an alternate remittance schedule. Such petition and approval, if granted, shall be in writing and requires renewal, if necessary, annually.

Section 9.b. Payment of the tithe set forth in Canon IV, Section 9, or as modified in Canon IV, Section 9.a., shall be a condition of qualifying Lay Delegates to the General Synod.

CANON V

Of Missionary Districts

Section 1. The Council of Bishops may, upon recommendation of the Presiding Archbishop, establish a Missionary District in any area where there is need, and where no organized Diocese presently exists.

Section 2. The Council of Bishops shall then choose a Missionary Bishop for that area, and proceed to set a date for his consecration (if needed) and installation.

CANON VI

Of Standing Committee

Section 1. In every Diocese there shall be a Standing Committee whose members shall be elected according to its Canons and whose operation shall be governed by its own rules. A meeting of the Council may be called either by the Bishop or by members of the Council; in the latter case, the Bishop shall be notified of the time and place of the meeting. At all meetings, all members of the Council shall have the right to voice and vote.

Section 2. The duties of the Standing Committee shall be enumerated in these canons. A quorum consisting of a simple majority is necessary to conduct any business.

Section 3. Whenever Bishop Ordinary becomes unable to function and is incapable of authorizing

another to act as Ecclesiastical Authority of the jurisdiction, the Presiding Archbishop, with the consent of the Council of Bishops, may authorize the Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan or Standing Committee to act as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese until such time as the Presiding Archbishop shall declare the said Bishop competent to resume his duties. The Council of Bishops shall determine what constitutes incapacity.

Section 4. A Standing Committee shall consist of not less than five members with not less than two members, lay or clerical, from the same Parish.

CANON VII

Of Parishes, Vestries, and Rectors

Section 1. Every congregation of this church shall be incorporated within the state where it is located.

Section 2. The formation of a new parish or the reception of an existing one is left to the action of the Convention acting with the recommendation of the Bishop and the Standing Committee. The Bishop may offer episcopal oversight until the action of the Convention.

Section 3. A congregation of at least seven communicant members may seek admission as a Parish of this Diocese. Application, in a form prescribed by the Diocesan Bishop, must be submitted. When the Diocesan Bishop with the advice of the Standing Committee acts affirmatively on such application, the congregation is provisionally admitted as a Parish of this Diocese pending confirming action by the Synod. The Diocesan Bishop may take under his oversight any congregation pending such application. Should the said congregation be admitted, they shall immediately seek incorporation within the state in which they reside.

Section 4. Every Parish shall, if possible, own its own property and have control over it. Each Parish is responsible for leased or rented property and neither the Diocese nor this Church shall have any equitable interest or trust estate therein. In the case of ownership, each Parish shall hold its own deed.

Section 4.a. No Church of this Diocese shall be consecrated except it be debt free. Nor shall a consecrated Church be encumbered, except with the consent of the Diocesan Bishop and the Standing Committee. Every Parish of the Diocese shall maintain full casualty and liability insurance on its property as well as comprehensive liability coverage against wrongful acts committed by Parish clergy or staff.

Section 5. The Rector of the Parish shall be chosen by the Vestry with the consent of the congregation and the Bishop, and said Rector shall be subject to all the provisions of these canons. In every case, the Bishop shall license the credentials of the Priest chosen to be Rector before he is canonically instituted. *For the purposes of his office, and for the full and free discharge of all the functions and duties pertaining thereto, the Rector shall, at all times, be entitled to the use and control of the church and parish buildings with the appurtenances and furniture thereof.*

Section 5.a. Whenever a Parish shall be without a Rector, the Vestry of the Parish, in consultation with the Diocesan Bishop, shall provide for worship services in the Parish until a new Rector is elected according to the norms of the Canons pertaining to the election of a Rector. If the Vestry fails to provide these services within thirty days, the Diocesan Bishop may appoint a Priest, Deacon, or Licensed Lay Reader to provide such services.

Section 6. In every Parish there shall be an Annual Meeting before Ash Wednesday as determined by the Vestry, and notice thereof shall be given at all services on the preceding two Sundays.

Section 6.a. Special Parish Meetings may be held at any time at the call of the Vestry with the consent of the Rector, notice having been given as specified in Canon VII, Section 6, and the nature of the business for which the meeting has been called also specified. No other business may be transacted at such meetings.

Section 6.b. At the Annual or Special Meetings, all Baptized members who are eighteen years of age and older, in good standing, and who were pledging contributors during the preceding calendar year, and whose membership has been duly recorded in the Parish Register, are eligible to vote. The Parish, in its by-laws, may impose additional requirements.

Section 6.c. At the Annual Meeting the members of the Vestry shall be elected in accordance with these Canons and Parish by-laws. Synod Delegates shall likewise be elected at the Annual Meeting, provided that the election of Synod Delegates may be delegated to the Vestry.

Section 6.d. Those Parishes in the Christian Episcopal Church are bound by all directives of the General Synod.

Section 6.e. For cause and with the consent of the Diocesan Bishop the affiliation or union of a Parish with any Christian Episcopal Church Diocese may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Diocesan Standing Committee as well as a two-thirds vote of the Christian Episcopal Church Standing Committee and the approval of the Presiding Archbishop, or by a two-thirds vote of the Synod and the approval of the Presiding Archbishop.

Section 6.f. Any Parish may withdraw from any Christian Episcopal Church Diocese upon the vote of the Parish Vestry in accordance with the Parish by-laws consequently sustained by a vote of a Special Parish Meeting duly called for the sole purpose of considering the Vestry's recommendation. Should a Parish withdraw from the Diocese, written notice thereof shall be forwarded to the Diocesan Bishop within ten days following the Special Parish Meeting. Should the Parish not fulfill any outstanding financial obligation due the Diocese, the Diocesan Bishop shall not release said congregation until such obligations are met.

Section 7. The Vestry of the Parish is the governing board chosen in accordance with the laws of the state, the Church Canons, and its own by-laws. Except as provided by the laws of the state or the jurisdiction, the Vestry shall have legal responsibility for the temporalities of the Parish, serving as the

agent and the legal representative thereof. The Vestry shall be a part of the Board of Directors of the Parish corporation. The Rector shall be an ex-officio member of the Vestry, who chairs the meeting of the Vestry, with voice, but with no vote or signatory powers. No Vestry meeting may be called that excludes the Rector or Minister-in-charge or that lacks his previous knowledge and consent. Christian Episcopal Church Canons shall always supercede Parish Bylaws. All Parish Bylaws that are not consistent with the Canons of the Christian Episcopal Church shall have no force or effect whatsoever.

Section 7.a. Persons elected to the Vestry shall be Communicant Voting Members of the congregation who pledge to its financial support and are in good standing as defined by the Canons of this Church. Election to the Vestry shall be in accordance with these Canons as well as the by-laws of the Parish.

Section 7.b. Each Parish shall establish in its by-laws the number of Vestry Members and their terms of service, provided that they shall not be fewer than four members. Members of the Vestry shall serve until their successors are chosen and seated.

Section 7.c. The Officers of the Vestry shall be determined at the first Vestry meeting following the Annual Parish Meeting; the Officers of the Vestry shall continue in Office until successors have been chosen and seated. The Officers shall include:

- i. The Rector, or Minister-in-charge, who shall serve as President.*
- ii. A Senior Warden, to be appointed by the Rector or Minister-in-charge from the membership of the Vestry, who shall serve as First Vice President.*
- iii. A Junior Warden, to be elected annually by the Vestry from its membership, who shall serve as Second Vice President.*
- iv. A Clerk and a Treasurer, to be elected annually by the Vestry, who may be, but need not be, members of the Vestry, and who may be, but need not be, one and the same person. The Clerk shall serve as the Secretary of the Vestry and as Secretary for Parish meetings.*

Section 7.d. The Minister in charge and Vestry shall determine the time and dates of its meetings, which shall be at least once each calendar quarter. No Vestry meeting may be held or is valid unless the Rector, Minister-in-charge, Senior Warden, or Junior Warden is present and presiding.

Section 7.e. The Vestry shall fill all vacancies occurring in its membership and among Delegates to the General Synod.

Section 8. The Rector of a Parish shall be a Bishop or Priest canonically resident in the Diocese in which he serves. He shall have charge of the spiritualities of the Parish, and—subject to the authority of the Canons, the Book of Common Prayer, and the counsel of the Diocesan Bishop—he shall be the liturgical officer thereof.

Section 8.a. The Rector shall be chosen by the Vestry in consultation with the Diocesan Bishop and subject to the Diocesan Bishop's approval and confirmation.

Section 8.b. Having been chosen and approved in accordance with Canon VII, Section 8.a., and having entered upon his duties, the Rector has tenure in the Parish. He cannot be removed from his Office except by Ecclesiastical Trial and deposition by the Bishop Ordinary. The Parish, if so directed by the Diocesan Bishop, shall be obligated to provide to the discharged Rector a severance package not less than three months his current stipend.

Section 8.c. Two or more Parishes, with the consent of the Diocesan Bishop, may call the same Priest as their Rector, in which case they shall agree together as to the proper division of his service among them and as to the proportionate share of his financial support each shall bear, to be reviewed annually. Such arrangements may be terminated only by or with the approval of the Diocesan Bishop and the Vestries of the Parishes concerned, in which case the relationship of the Rector to the other Parish or Parishes continues.

Section 8.d. The Diocesan Bishop is the acting Rector of every Parish which, for any reason, is without a Rector, and may place in charge, and under his direction, a Bishop, Priest, Deacon, or Lay Reader.

CANON VIII

Of Congregations and Clergy Seeking Admission

Section 1. A congregation of Christian people, holding the Christian faith as set forth in the Catholic Creeds and recognizing the Holy Scriptures as containing all things necessary for salvation and using a rite approved by this Church or declaring its intention to do so, may make application for admission with this Church to the Bishop of the Diocese in whose jurisdiction the congregation is located. The Bishop may accept the congregation pending the approval of the Diocesan Convention.

Section 2. A minister who has not received episcopal ordination and desires to serve such a congregation shall conform to the provisions of Canons on ordination. A minister who has been ordained by a Bishop not in communion with this Church but whose ordination is nonetheless considered valid by the Council of Bishops may be admitted with his Orders. In such case, the Bishop Ordinary admitting him will forward all pertinent information and/or prescribed Clergy Statements to the Presiding Archbishop that the newly admitted priest or deacon may be entered on the Official Registry of Clergy.

Section 3. A bishop who has been consecrated by a Bishop or Bishops in a jurisdiction other than the jurisdiction of this Church may apply for affiliation with this Church through the Bishop of the Diocese in which he resides. The applicant shall supply proof of his diaconal and priestly ordination as well as his episcopal consecration together with a recommendation, if he gives it, of the Bishop of the Diocese in which he resides. No application shall be considered by the Council of Bishops without this recommendation.

CANON IX

Of the Laity

Section 1. A baptized member of this Church is a person who has received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and is enrolled in a Parish of this Church.

Section 2. A communicant is a person who has been confirmed by a Bishop of this Church, by a Bishop in communion with this Church, or by a Bishop in Apostolic Succession; and such person having been received by a Bishop of this Church, and is enrolled in a Parish of this Church.

Section 3. A member or communicant is in good standing if he or she is in full compliance with these canons and not under any form of ecclesiastical discipline.

Section 4. A member or communicant desiring to transfer from one Parish to another shall be entitled to a Letter of Transfer.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of a communicant of this Church: (a) to worship God every Sunday in his Church unless reasonably hindered, and, in the event of such hindrance, to read privately the office of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer; (b) to observe his or her baptismal vows, and so to live as not to give scandal to the Church of God; (c) to observe all applicable Canons of this Church; (d) to give regular support to the Church, as evidenced by the books of the Treasurer of the Parish, the biblical tithe being the duty of every Christian; (e) to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Communion as often as possible; and (f) to observe the feasts and fasts of the Christian year as they are set forth in the Book of Common Prayer.

Section 6. A baptized or communicant member may be stricken from the rolls of the parish (1) by the Rector if such person abandons the Church by joining another religious body, (2) with the consent of the Bishop if said person gives offense to the Church by reason of his manner of life; provided that he or she may be restored to the rolls of the parish when, and if, the causes for removal no longer exist.

Section 7. A baptized member or communicant may be censured by the Rector with the consent of the Bishop and thereby removed from and made ineligible for any office in the Church for any of the causes specified in Section 8, or refusal to obey the godly admonitions of the Bishop. Such admonition and censure shall be given or confirmed in writing by the Bishop and state the specific cause or causes and the evidence which constitutes the cause. A member so censured shall have the right of appeal to the Ecclesiastical Court and/or to the Council of Bishops of the Church, and, upon favorable adjudication, shall be entitled to reinstatement to the office from which he or she was removed if the term thereof has not expired. Such censure shall be lifted by the Bishop when the cause therefore no longer exists.

Section 8. Excommunication of communicants shall be by the Bishop after consultation with the Standing Committee for (a) abandoning the catholic faith; (b) failure to repent of grievous sins and to amend one's

life in accordance with the Christian Gospel; (c) openly and knowingly denying any doctrine of the Church, or teaching or proclaiming any contrary doctrine; provided that in all cases the said communicant shall be entitled, if he demands it, to a trial before the Ecclesiastical Court of the Diocese as to the facts alleged by the Bishop. Where applicable, the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer shall also be followed.

Section 9. Whenever the cause of excommunication ceases to exist, a person who has been excommunicated may be restored to communicant status by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Rector of the Parish of which said person was formerly a communicant.

CANON X

Of Holy Matrimony

Section 1. *Holy Matrimony is the lifelong union of a natural male person and a natural female person, blessed by God with the full authority of the Church, for the procreation of children (if it be God's will), and their physical and spiritual nurture; for the purpose of mutual love, comfort, and honor; and for the safeguarding and benefit of society.*

Section 2. No Priest may solemnize any marriage or bless any previous union except in accordance with these Canons and the laws of the civil jurisdiction in which the marriage is to take place.

Section 3. The Priest shall determine the freedom and fitness of the parties to contract Holy Matrimony according to the Canons of this Church and not in violation of the following impediments:

Section 3.a. Failure of either party to have reached the age of majority in (their) his or her state of residence except where parental consent allows for younger marriage.

Section 3.b. Mental deficiency of either party to prevent the exercise of intelligent choice.

Section 3.c. Insanity of either party.

Section 3.d. Previous marriage on the part of either party (Sec. 11 and 12).

Section 3.e. Consanguinity (whether of the whole or half blood) within the following degrees:

Section 3.e.1. One may not marry one's parent or child.

Section 3.e.2. One may not marry one's brother or sister.

Section 3.e.3. One may not marry one's uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece.

Section 3.f. Mistake as to the identity of either party.

Section 3.g. Impotence, sexual perversion, or the existence of venereal disease or known sterility in either party undisclosed to the other.

Section 3.h. Concurrent contract inconsistent with the nature of Holy Matrimony.

Section 3.i. Attendant conditions: fraud, coercion, or duress or such defects of personality as to make competent and free consent impossible.

Section 4. Both parties shall be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Section 5. Parties who wish to enter into Holy Matrimony shall notify the Priest at least *six months* prior to the proposed wedding date, so that the Priest may instruct the parties as to the nature of Holy Matrimony and assess their fitness to enter into the marital covenant. He may dispense with the required period of time, provided that there is sufficient time to allow for counseling.

Section 6. Before the solemnization of Holy Matrimony the parties shall sign the following *declaration at the first meeting*:

"We, _____ and _____, desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony in the Church, do solemnly declare that we hold marriage to be a lifelong union of husband and wife as it is set forth in the Form of Solemnization of Holy Matrimony in the Book of Common Prayer. We believe it is for the procreation (if it may be) of children, and their physical and spiritual nurture; for mutual love, comfort, and honor; and for the safeguarding and benefit of society. And we do engage ourselves, so far as in us lies, to make our utmost effort to establish this relationship and to seek God's help thereto."

Section 7. At his discretion, the Priest may decline to solemnize any marriage.

Section 8. There shall be at least two competent witnesses other than the Priest to the solemnization of Holy Matrimony.

Section 9. The Priest shall record in the proper register the date and place of marriage, the names of the parties and their parents, the age of the parties, their residence and Church status, and the witnesses and priest shall sign the record.

Section 10. No Priest or Bishop, knowingly after due inquiry, shall solemnize the marriage of any person who has been or is the husband or the wife of any other person then living, from whom he or she has been divorced for any cause arising after marriage. Nor shall it be lawful for any member of this Church to enter upon a marriage when either of the contracting parties is the husband or the wife of any other person then living from whom he or she has been divorced for any cause arising after marriage. This Canon shall not be held to apply to the innocent party in a divorce for adultery; provided, that before the application for such remarriage a period of not less than one year shall have elapsed. After a divorce has been granted, satisfactory evidence touching the facts in the case, including a copy of the Court's Decree and record, if practicable, with proof that the defendant was personally served or

appeared in the action, shall be forwarded to the Diocesan Bishop. The Diocesan Bishop shall in writing make a judgment.

II

WORSHIP

CANON XI

Of Translations of the Bible

The Lessons at Morning and Evening Prayer and at the Holy Communion shall be read from a translation of the Holy Scriptures approved by this Church, among which are the following: The Authorized Version of 1611 commonly called the King James Bible, the Revised Standard Version of 1952. For those congregations who predominately speak a language other than English, appropriate translations may be used. If the Rector of a congregation desires to use any other translation, he shall request permission of the Bishop.

CANON XII

Of the Standard Book of Common Prayer

Worship of Almighty God in the Church shall be according to the 1662 and/or the 1928 American version of the Book of Common Prayer, the same being hereby authorized, subject to such modifications as may be set forth by The Ordinary.

Missals and devotional manuals based on, conforming to, and/or incorporating the services set forth in the said Book of Common Prayer, specifically the American Missal and the Anglican Missal, may also be used which include the 1549 Canon and the Gregorian Canon, provided that the Diocesan Bishop may at his discretion enumerate the permitted missals and devotional manuals.

The service designated in the Book of Common Prayer as the Holy Communion, The Lord's Supper, and also known as the Holy Eucharist, the Divine Liturgy, and the Mass, is the principal service of the Church and shall be celebrated on Sundays as the principal service in every congregation when a Priest is available as the celebrant.

CANON XIII

Of the Music of the Church

The rubrics and other directions of the Book of Common Prayer shall be applied in relation to the use of music in the services of the Church, and the Hymnal 1940 (United States of America) shall be the primary musical standard, subject to modifications as may be set forth by The Ordinary. It shall be the duty of every Rector to see that music is used in his congregation as an offering for the glory of God and as a help to the people in their worship. To this end he shall be the final authority, consistent with the Canons of this Church, in the administration of matters pertaining to music, with such assistance as he may see fit to employ from persons skilled in music. It shall be his duty to suppress all unseemly music and all irreverence in the rendition thereof.

III

THE MINISTRY

CANON XIV

Of Holy Orders in General

Section 1. This church adheres to the traditional practice of having male Bishops, Priests, and Deacons.

Section 2. No man shall be ordained Deacon until he possesses a baccalaureate degree or advanced degree from an college or university acceptable to the Diocesan Bishop, and until he has reached the age of twenty-three (23) years. No Deacon may be priested until he has reached the age of twenty-four (24) years, nor Bishop until he has reached the age of thirty-five (35) years.

Section 3. No man shall be ordained Bishop, Priest, or Deacon unless and until he has publicly subscribed to the ancient Catholic Creeds, known as the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Creed of St. Athanasius, and shall have subscribed to the oath prescribed by Article V, Section 1, of the Constitution.

Section 4. No man shall be ordained Bishop, Priest, or Deacon or received into this Church in any of these capacities, or admitted as a Postulant or Candidate for Holy Orders, unless he shall meet the New Testament requirements for ordination, especially as stipulated in 1 Timothy 3:1-13. *He shall not have been divorced or been granted an annulment from a still-living spouse and remarried, nor married a woman who was divorced or been granted an annulment from a still-living man.*

He shall be free from substance abuse, he shall be free from sexual perversion, and he shall submit medical reports from one or more physicians, and shall submit to psychological/psychiatric testing as to his mental, and emotional health. He shall not be an abuser of his spouse or children.

CANON XV

Of Postulants

Section 1. An adult male communicant member of this Church who believes himself called to the Sacred Ministry shall consult the Rector or Priest in Charge of his Parish or, if there is none where he lives, some other Priest. If encouraged to persevere, he should apply to the Bishop for admission as a Postulant. The application for Postulancy shall state: 1) Name; 2) Date and place of birth; 3) Date and place of Baptism; 4) Date and place of Confirmation with the name of the confirming Bishop; 5) Date and place of admission to Communion; 6) Whether he has applied previously to any Bishop for admission as a Postulant, with full details; 7) The grounds on which he believes himself to be called to the Sacred Ministry. In addition, the Bishop shall require an extensive background check of the applicant's financial and criminal history.

Section 2. Within sixty days of the receipt of the application, the Bishop shall notify the applicant of the acceptance or rejection of his application. If the applicant is accepted, this fact is to be recorded in the records of the Diocese and the Board of Examining Chaplains is to be notified.

Section 3. The life, preparation, and study of a Postulant shall be directed by the Bishop with the assistance of the Board of Examining Chaplains.

Section 4. The Postulant shall report to the Bishop personally or by letter four times a year during the Ember seasons regarding his manner of life, his spiritual state, and the progress of his studies.

Section 5. Before entering into his course of theological studies, the Postulant shall lay before the Bishop and the Board of Examining Chaplains evidence that he possesses a satisfactory diploma from a college or university together with a full statement of the work done by him.

Section 6. Should the Candidate's first language be other than English, the Bishop *and the Standing Committee shall use their discretion to modify the pre-theological educational requirements.*

Section 7. The Bishop may remove any Postulant who fails to be accepted as a Candidate after the lapse of two years from the date of his acceptance as a Postulant, noting this fact in the Diocesan Records and notifying the Postulant so removed.

CANON XVI

Of Candidates for Holy Orders

Section 1. Any Postulant who has met the requirements of Canon 16, Section 5, may apply for admission as a Candidate. The application shall be endorsed by the Vestry and the Rector or Priest in Charge of the parish of which he is a member. If he is not a member of a Parish of this Church, he shall be endorsed by two (2) Priests and five (5) godly lay persons.

Section 2. The Bishop shall require the applicant to submit a report from a licensed, practicing physician regarding the applicant's physical condition and a report from a licensed, practicing psychiatrist, or a qualified, practicing psychologist (and if the psychologist is not a Priest, he must also be licensed) regarding his mental and emotional health.

Section 3. The Bishop shall admit said person as a Candidate within thirty days, except for weighty cause, and so note the same in the records of the Diocese and advise the Board of Examining Chaplains. If said person is not admitted, he shall be notified within thirty days of the reason thereof.

Section 4. Sections 3 and 4 of Canon 16 apply to the candidate also.

Section 5. Before applying for ordination to the Diaconate, the Candidate must pass examinations in the following subjects: 1) Holy Scripture: the Bible in English or the language in which he is fluent, its contents, and historical background; 2) Church History: a general outline; 3) Anglican Church History; (4) Doctrine: the Church's teaching set forth in the Creeds and the Offices of Instruction; 5) Liturgics: The contents and use of the Book of Common Prayer; 6) Practical Theology: The office and work of a Deacon; the conduct of public worship; principles of sermon composition and delivery; principles and methods of Christian education in the Parish; the missionary work of the Church; Constitution and Canons of the Church and the jurisdiction to which the candidate belongs; the use of the voice in reading and speaking in the language in which he is fluent.

Section 6. The Bishop may remove any candidate for Holy Orders who fails to present himself for examination for Deacon's Orders within three years, and shall note this action in the Diocesan Records.

CANON XVII

Of the Board of Examining Chaplains

Section 1. In every jurisdiction there shall be a Board of Examining Chaplains, consisting of at least two learned Priests. Examining Chaplains shall be appointed by the Bishop.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Board of Examining Chaplains, under the guidance and oversight of the Bishop, to conduct the examinations of Postulants and Candidates prescribed in these Canons. The examining chaplains, when so requested by the Bishop, shall give oversight to Postulants, Candidates and Deacons, and shall advise them in regard to their studies and preparation.

Section 3. The Board of Examining Chaplains shall report promptly, in writing, to the Bishop the results of each examination held by it, whether satisfactory or unsatisfactory. Their judgment to the Bishop shall be considered advisory.

CANON XVIII

Of Ordination to the Diaconate

Section 1. A candidate for Holy Orders, having completed the required examinations, shall apply to the Bishop to be ordained Deacon, also submitting a recommendation from the Priest who endorsed him as a Postulant (or another Priest who has knowledge of the Candidate) and a recommendation of the Vestry of the Parish to which he belongs.

Section 2. When the requirements of Section 1 have been satisfied, the Bishop shall take orders for the ordination of the candidate to the diaconate. The man ordained to the Diaconate shall remain a Deacon for at least one year before being ordained to the priesthood, provided that the Bishop may shorten this time to not less than six months.

Section 3. A Deacon ordained under the provisions of this Canon shall exercise his ministry as assistant in any Parish or Parishes to which, at the request or with the consent of the Rector and Vestry, he may be assigned by the Bishop. As such, he may execute all functions pertaining to the office of Deacon. He may not serve as a Minister in charge of a congregation except under the supervision of a Diocesan Priest. He may not be transferred to another jurisdiction without the written permission of the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof.

CANON XIX

Of Ordination to the Priesthood

Section 1. A Deacon desiring to be ordained to the priesthood shall apply to the Bishop to be ordained a Priest.

Section 2. No man shall be ordained to the priesthood without a cure.

Canon XX

Of Clergy Ordained in Other Churches

Section 1. A Priest or Deacon who has been ordained by a Bishop in Apostolic Orders recognized as valid by this Church may be admitted to a Diocese of this Church in the Order in which he had been ordained, such admission being by the Bishop of the Diocese under such conditions as he may determine, provided that the said Priest or Deacon renounces the authority of his former ecclesiastical

obedience and submits himself to the authority of such Bishop. All such Priests or Deacons shall meet the requirements for ordination stated in these Canons.

Section 2. If there is any doubt as to the validity or regularity of such ordination, the Bishop may regularize him.

Section 3. A minister ordained in a church not having Apostolic Orders recognized as valid by this Church and who seeks Holy Orders in this Church must 1) renounce the authority of his former ecclesiastical obedience and submit himself to the authority of the Bishop of this Church; 2) submit his letter of ordination and satisfactory evidence that it and his other credentials are valid and authentic; 3) provide satisfactory evidence of his moral and godly character and that he is free from any vows or other engagements inconsistent with the exercise of the ministry of this Church; 4) provide transcripts of his academic and theological studies; 5) be certified in writing by at least two Priests of this Church stating that from personal examination or from satisfactory evidence laid before them, they believe that his desire to leave the communion to which he has belonged has not arisen from any circumstance unfavorable to his moral or religious character or on account of which it may not be expedient to admit him to Holy Orders and the exercise of the ministry of this Church; 6) have fulfilled all the requirements pertaining to his order as stated in these Canons; 7) display competence in all areas expected for ordination to the priesthood. In addition, he shall be examined in the points of doctrine, discipline, polity, and worship in which the communion from which he has come differs from this Church. This portion of the examination shall be conducted at least in part in writing.

CANON XXI

Of the Election of Bishops

Section 1. When there shall be an occasion for the election of a Bishop, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the jurisdiction for which the election is to be held shall notify the Council of Bishops and the several Standing Committee stating the particulars of the call. In the case of the resignation, incapacity, or death of the Bishop, the Standing Committee of the jurisdiction shall notify the Presiding Archbishop of the vacancy and the Presiding Archbishop shall make the above mentioned notifications. Within forty-five days of the notification, the Diocesan Convention shall convene and proceed with the election according to the Canons of the Diocese. Following the election, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall notify the bishop-elect immediately who shall accept or decline the election within three days of the notification.

Section 2. Upon the acceptance of the Bishop-elect, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall submit the name and credentials of the Bishop-elect to the Council of Bishops and the several Standing Committee. Within thirty days of the notification of the election, the Council of Bishops and the Standing Committee shall vote to confirm the election, an absolute majority of the Council of Bishops and each of the Standing Committee being needed for confirmation. Failure of any of the Councils to respond within the specified time shall constitute confirmation. If the election takes place within sixty days prior to a General Synod, the election shall be confirmed by a majority of the Synod.

Section 3. Upon confirmation of the election, the Presiding Archbishop shall take order for the consecration of the Bishop-elect by at least three Bishops of Apostolic Succession.

Section 4. In all particulars the service of the consecration shall be under the direction of the Bishop presiding at the consecration.

Section 5. A Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of this Canon, but the initiative shall always be taken by the Bishop with the advice and consent of his Standing Committee. Upon the death, resignation, or retirement of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor shall become the Bishop of the Diocese. The tenure of the Bishop Suffragan shall not be terminated by the death, resignation, retirement, or removal of the Bishop.

Section 6. Any Bishop in this Church shall be able to resign his position with the consent of the majority of the Council of Bishops.

CANON XXII

Of the Duties of Bishops

Section 1. Every Bishop Ordinary shall reside within his jurisdiction and shall not absent himself therefrom for more than three months without the consent of the Standing Committee.

Section 2. Every Bishop Ordinary shall visit every congregation in his charge at least once in every three years for the purpose of examining their condition, preaching the Gospel, celebrating the Holy Eucharist, and confirming those presented for that purpose.

Section 3. Every Bishop Ordinary shall keep a register of his official acts.

Section 4. Every Bishop Ordinary shall deliver at the Diocesan Convention a Charge to his clergy and may, from time to time, address to his people Pastoral Letters on points of Christian doctrine, worship, or manners, which he may require his clergy to read or distribute to their congregations.

Section 5. A Bishop Ordinary may not perform any episcopal act within the jurisdiction of another Bishop Ordinary without the consent of that Bishop Ordinary or, in the absence of a Bishop Ordinary, the Council of Bishops.

Section 6. Every Bishop Ordinary shall give timely notice of the acceptance of Letters Dimissory. He shall enroll among the clergy of the Diocese those received and delete the names of those transferred thereby.

Section 7. The resignation of a Bishop Ordinary shall be addressed to the Council of Bishops and shall become effective upon acceptance by the Council. A Bishop retiring or resigning shall retain his seat and vote in the Council of Bishops and is subject to these canons. A Bishop who has resigned with the

consent of the Council of Bishops, may, at the discretion of the Bishop Ordinary of the jurisdiction, be enrolled among the clergy of that jurisdiction and become subject to its Canons and regulations.

CANON XXIII

Of the Duties of Priests

Section 1. Every Priest in charge of a congregation shall see to it that a Parish Register is kept in which shall be recorded (a) all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials within such parish; (b) all divine services of said parish, whether in church or elsewhere, with notation of the date, place, nature of service, and attendance; (c) all communicants of said parish, with notation of how received, how and for what cause removed, and designation of whether active or inactive; (d) a list of families in the parish.

Section 2. Every Priest in charge of a congregation shall (a) instruct both parents and godparents concerning the significance of Holy Baptism, the responsibilities involved, and how these obligations are to be discharged; (b) instruct both children and adults who have not been confirmed, preparing them for Confirmation.

Section 3. Every Priest in charge of a congregation shall (a) at every Confirmation deliver to the Bishop a list of names of those being confirmed; (b) advise the Bishop on every episcopal visitation of the spiritual and temporal state of the Parish, delivering to him for inspection all Parish records he may request; (c) read to the congregation within one month after receipt of the same any Pastoral Letter received from the Bishop.

Section 4. No Priest shall officiate or preach on any more than one occasion in any jurisdiction other than his own without the written consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof.

Section 5. A clergyman moving from one jurisdiction to another, in order to gain canonical residence within that jurisdiction, shall present to the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof a testimonial from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the jurisdiction from which he is moving, a certificate that he is a clergyman (stating Order) in good standing and not liable for presentment for any ecclesiastical offense within the past five years. Such certificate is called Letters Dimissory.

Section 6. No Priest moving from one jurisdiction to another shall officiate as Rector or Priest in Charge of any Parish or congregation of the jurisdiction into which he moves unless and until the Bishop of the jurisdiction into which the Priest is moving shall have received Letters Dimissory from his previous Bishop.

Section 7. Any Priest who desires to officiate temporarily outside the confines of this Church shall obtain permission from the Ecclesiastical Authority of the jurisdiction in which he is enrolled.

Section 8. Any Priest retiring from active ministry because of age or disability or any Priest who is not currently engaged in ministry remains subject to the Bishop of the jurisdiction in which he enrolled.

Section 9. Any Priest with a minimum of five years' pastoral experience may be eligible to apply for a commission in the Chaplaincy of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and certain state agencies. A Priest desiring such commission or other appointment must first apply to his Bishop for recommendation to the Presiding Archbishop of this Church who is the Official Endorsing Authority of this Church for all chaplaincies.

CANON XXIV

Of the Duties of Deacons

Section 1. Every Deacon shall be subject to the authority of the Bishop of the jurisdiction for which he has been ordained, or, if there be no Bishop, to that of the clerical members of the Standing Committee. He shall officiate in such places only as such authority may designate. He shall not accept any appointment for work outside his proper jurisdiction without the written consent both of his own Bishop and the Bishop in whose jurisdiction he desires to minister.

Section 2. A Deacon shall not be the Rector of a Parish, nor may he accept a chaplaincy in the military service.

Section 3. A Deacon ministering in a Parish shall act only under the direction of the Priest, or the Bishop if there be no Priest.

Section 4. A Deacon may deliver sermons of his own composition if licensed to do so by the Diocesan Bishop.

Section 5. A Deacon ministering in a Parish not under the charge of a Priest shall, if not under the immediate direction of the Bishop, be placed under the authority of a neighboring Priest, by whose direction in subordination to the Bishop he shall be governed in all things.

Section 6. The Letters Dimissory of a Deacon desiring to be transferred from one jurisdiction to another shall state the exact standing of the Deacon in regard to examinations passed or dispensations received; also the dates of his birth, admission as a Candidate, and ordination.

CANON XXV

Of Deaconesses

Section 1. A woman of devout character, riper years, of proven fitness and suitable character, widowed or never married, called to and trained for the ministry of teacher, visitor, and comforter in God's Holy Church may be set apart to the ancient and hallowed Order of Deaconess by any Bishop, subject to the provisions of this Canon.

Section 2. Nothing in this Canon is to be construed as equating the Office of Deaconess with the Apostolic Order of Deacons.

Section 3. The candidate for this office shall hold a secondary diploma or equivalent and be physically and psychologically fit for the performance of this office.

Section 4. A woman desiring reception as a candidate for the Order of Deaconess shall submit to the Bishop the following:

- a) written endorsement of the Rector or Priest in Charge of the parish of which she is a member,
- b) written endorsement of the Vestry of said Parish,
- c) proof of the date and place of her Baptism and Confirmation,
- d) proof that she meets the educational requirement.
- e) certification by one or more physicians as to her physical, mental, and emotional health;
- f) results of an extensive background check of the applicant's financial and criminal histories.

Section 5. During the period of Candidacy she shall be under the supervision of the Bishop, and shall report to him quarterly at the Ember Seasons.

Section 6. Prior to being set apart to the Order of Deaconess a woman shall be required to study and have demonstrated proficiency in the following subjects:

- a) Holy Scriptures: The Bible: introduction to and the contents of the various books with special knowledge of at least one Gospel and one Epistle.
- b) Church History: a general outline, including the history of the Church in the United States and special knowledge of the first five centuries.
- c) Christian Missions: history, present extent, and methods.
- d) Doctrine: contents and teaching of the Book of Common Prayer.
- e) Ministration: the office and work of a Deaconess; parish work, organization, and administration.
- g) Religious Education: educational methods and childhood development.
- h) Social Services: familiarity with the work of social service organizations, and with referral protocol.

Section 7. Upon successful completion of the foregoing and upon her appointment to some position under the jurisdiction of the church, a Bishop may admit the woman to the Order of Deaconess by a service prescribed by Bishop of the jurisdiction in which she is enrolled.

Section 8. No Deaconess shall accept work in a Diocese without the expressed authority, in writing, of the Bishop of that Diocese; nor shall she undertake work in a Parish without the like authority from the Rector of the Parish. When not connected with a Parish, the Deaconess shall be under direct oversight of the Bishop of the Diocese in which she is canonically resident. She must be licensed by the Diocesan Bishop.

Section 9. Duties of a Deaconess under the Direction of the Rector or Priest in Charge or, in the absence of a Rector or Priest in Charge, under the supervision of the Bishop of the jurisdiction are:

- a) to care for the sick, the afflicted, and the poor;
- b) to organize, superintend, and carry out the Church's work among women and children;
- c) to give instruction in the Christian *faith to women and children*;

Section 11. A Deaconess shall report annually to the Bishop in the manner and form required by him.

Section 12. A Deaconess desiring to be transferred from one jurisdiction to another shall have:

- a) written authorization of the Bishops of both jurisdictions, and
- b) Letters Dimissory that state the dates of her birth, admission as a candidate, and her setting apart.

Canon XXVI

Of Lay Readers

Section 1. The Rector, at his discretion, may use qualified male communicants, to read the Old Testament Lesson, Psalm, and Epistle Lesson within the context of Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Holy Communion. This person shall be known as a Lector.

Section 2. The Bishop may, under such conditions as he may prescribe, license any male communicant

over the age of eighteen (18) years as a Lay Reader. Such license shall be for one year and is renewable at the Bishop's discretion. For cause, which to him may be sufficient, the Bishop may at any time revoke the license of any Lay Reader.

Section 3. Each person desiring to be licensed as a Lay Reader shall be properly instructed and trained by the Parish Priest before making application to the Bishop, making use of this Church's MANUAL FOR LAY READERS as a guide and text.

Section 4. A Lay Reader, so licensed, may be placed by the Bishop in temporary pastoral charge of a Parish which has no Rector, in which case he shall function under the direction and oversight of the Bishop, or he may exercise his office in a Parish, under the direction of the Rector thereof. In no event shall he function outside an established Parish, or elsewhere than in the Diocese in which he is licensed, except on the express instructions of the Bishop.

Section 5. The functions of a Lay Reader are limited to the following:

1) Reading:

- (a) Morning and Evening Prayer, omitting the Absolution, and making no substitution for it;
- (b) The Litany;
- (c) The Penitential Office;
- (d) The Offices of Instruction;
- (e) The Burial Offices, substituting the Grace for the Priestly Blessing;
- (f) The Epistle only in the Holy Communion;
- (g) Sermons, homilies, and addresses approved by the Bishop or Rector;

CANON XXVII

Of Religious Communities

Section 1. A religious community of men or women desiring the official recognition of the Church shall submit for his approval its Rules and Constitution to the Bishop of the Diocese wherein the Motherhouse of the community is situated. No change in the Rule or Constitution shall be made without his approval.

Section 2. In such Constitution there shall be a distinct recognition of the doctrine, discipline, and worship of this Church as of Supreme Authority.

Section 3. No religious community shall establish itself in another Diocese without the permission of the Bishop of that Diocese.

Section 4. The religious community shall be free to choose liturgical formularies within their chapels in conformity to their Rule and the monastic traditions of the Western Rite; but elsewhere they shall conform to the Canons on Worship and in the administration of the Sacraments shall conform to the Book of Common Prayer without alteration, save as it may be permitted by these Canons.

Section 5. Canon 7, Section 3, shall apply to a religious community in the same way that it applies to a Parish.

Section 6. Members of a religious community who are in Holy Orders shall be subject to all canonical regulations concerning the clergy.

Section 7. Provision shall be made in the Constitution for the appointment of a Visitor, with the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Motherhouse is situated, if the Bishop is himself unwilling to serve in this capacity. It shall be the duty of the Visitor to see that the Constitution and the Rule, as approved, are duly observed, and to receive and hear appeals either from the community or from individual members thereof as to transgressions of the Rule. No full member of a community shall be dismissed therefrom without appeal to the Visitor, nor shall any be released from his or her obligations thereto without the Visitor's sanction.

Section 8. It shall not be within the power of a succeeding Bishop to withdraw the official recognition that has been given to a religious community, provided that the conditions laid down in this Canon are observed.

IV

ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

CANON XXVIII

Of Offenses for which Bishops, Priests, and Deacons may be tried

Section 1. A Bishop, Priest, or Deacon of this Church shall be liable to Presentment and trial for the following offenses, viz.:

- 1) Crime or immorality;
- 2) Holding or teaching publicly or privately and advisedly, any doctrine contrary to that held by this Church;
- 3) Violation of the Canons or the Constitution of this Church;
- 4) Violation of the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese to which he belongs;
- 5) Any act which involves a violation of his ordination vows;
- 6) Habitual neglect of public worship, and the Holy Communion, according to the order and use of this Church;
- 7) Conduct unbecoming a clergyman.

Section 2. In the case of a Bishop, Priest, or Deacon convicted in a secular court of any crime or misdemeanor involving immorality, it shall be the duty of the Presiding Archbishop, if there be one, otherwise the Council of Bishops in the case of a Bishop, and in the case of a Priest or Deacon, the Bishop of the Diocese in which he is canonically resident, to institute an inquiry into the matter, and if there is sufficient reason for further proceeding, to present him for trial.

Section 3. No presentment shall be made or conviction had for any offense, unless the offense shall have been committed within five years immediately preceding the time of the presentment, except that in the case of a conviction in a court of record exercising criminal jurisdiction as aforesaid, a presentment may be made at any time within one year after such conviction, notwithstanding that five years may have elapsed since the commission of the offense.

Section 4. The mode of presentment of a Priest or Deacon shall be that provided by the Canons of the Diocese wherein the accused is canonically resident.

Section 5. In cases of sexual misconduct, the local authorities are to be notified first, and then the Diocesan Bishop.

CANON XXIX

Of Courts and their Membership

Section 1. In each jurisdiction there shall be an Ecclesiastical Court for the trial of any Priest or Deacon thereof, and it shall be the duty of each diocese to provide by Canon for the establishment of such court and the mode of conducting trials in the same.

Section 2. The Council of Bishops shall appoint and convene a court for the trial of any Bishop presented as herein provided. Only Bishops may be members of this court.

Section 3. In case of conviction by the Trial Court, the Bishop shall not proceed to sentence the accused before the expiration of thirty days after he shall have been served with notice of the decision of the court, nor in case an appeal is taken shall sentence be pronounced pending the hearing and determination thereof.

Section 4. There shall be a Court of Review of the trial of a Priest or Deacon, which shall be composed of a Bishop, two Priests, and two lay communicants of the Church vested with jurisdiction to hear and determine appeals from decisions of trial courts in dioceses on the trial of a Priest or Deacon.

Section 5. The judges of this Court of Review shall be nominated by the Presiding Archbishop and confirmed by the General Synod and shall serve until the next General Synod and until their successors shall have been appointed and confirmed. The Bishop mentioned in Section 4 shall be the Presiding Officer of the Court of Review.

Section 6. An appeal may be made timely within thirty days of the decision of the Trial Court. This appeal shall be made in writing to the Bishop who is the Presiding Officer of the Court of Review, stating the nature of the case and the reason(s) for the appeal. The Court of Review shall, within thirty days, request the entire transcript of the trial from the Trial Court and, upon receipt of the transcript, shall notify immediately all parties of the time and place for the hearing of the appeal which shall be within three months but not fewer than two months from the date of notification. At least three of the five judges must be present to hear the appeal, who shall render their decision on the appeal within thirty days of the hearing. The expenses of the appeal shall be paid by the appellant.

Section 7. The Court of Review, at its discretion, may hear the appeal solely upon the evidence presented to the Trial Court or admit additional pertinent evidence. The Court may reverse or affirm, in whole or in part, the decision of the Trial Court; or, if in its opinion, justice shall require, may grant a new trial. Should the appellant fail to appear for the hearing, the Court of Review shall, at its discretion, dismiss the appeal, or proceed to hear and determine the appeal. The concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the Court present shall be necessary to pronounce a judgment.

Section 8. The Court of Review established by this Canon for the trial of a Priest or Deacon shall constitute the Court of Review for the trial of a Bishop.

CANON XXX

Of Presentments

Section 1. A Priest or Deacon shall be presented and tried according to the Canons of the jurisdiction within this church.

Section 2. A Bishop may be presented by any Bishop of this Church exercising jurisdiction, or ten or more communicants of this church in good standing, of whom at least two shall be Priests; one Priest and not fewer than six communicants shall belong to the Parish in which he has domicile. Such charges shall be in writing, signed and sworn to by all the accusers and shall be presented to the Presiding Archbishop, if there be one, otherwise the Council of Bishops. The grounds of accusation must be set forth with reasonable certainty of time, place, and circumstance.

Section 3. Whenever a Bishop shall have reason to believe that there are in circulation rumors, reports, or allegations affecting his personal or official character, he may demand in writing of the Presiding Archbishop, if there be one, otherwise the Council of Bishops, that investigation of such rumors, reports, and allegations be made.

Section 4. The Presiding Archbishop, if there be one, otherwise the Council of Bishops, upon receipt of such demand shall select a Board of Inquiry of five priests and five lay communicants, of whom eight shall form a quorum.

Section 5. The Board of Inquiry shall investigate such rumors or reports as the case may be. In conducting the investigation, the Board shall hear the accusations and such proof as the accusers may produce, and shall determine whether, upon matters of law and fact, as presented to them, there is ground to put the accused to trial.

Section 6. The testimony shall be recorded and transcribed and shall be preserved in the archives of the Council of Bishops. The proceedings of the Board shall be private.

Section 7. If in the judgment of the majority of the whole Board of Inquiry there is sufficient ground to present the accused Bishop for trial, it shall make a public declaration to that effect.

CANON XXXI

Of A Clergyman In Any Jurisdiction Chargeable With Offense In Another

Section 1. If a clergyman belonging to any jurisdiction shall have conducted himself in another jurisdiction in such a way as to be liable to presentment under the provisions of Canon 29, the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof shall give notice of the same to the Ecclesiastical Authority where the clergyman is canonically resident, exhibiting, with the information given, reasonable ground for presuming its truth. If the Ecclesiastical Authority of the alleged offender, after due notice given, shall omit, for the space of three months, to proceed against the offending clergyman, or shall request the Ecclesiastical Authority of the jurisdiction in which the offense or offenses are alleged to have been committed, to proceed against him, it shall be within the power of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the jurisdiction, within

which the offense or offenses are alleged to have been committed, to institute proceedings as provided by that Diocese.

Section 2. If a clergyman shall come temporarily into any jurisdiction, under the imputation of having elsewhere been guilty of any of the offenses within the provisions of Canon 29, or if any clergyman, while sojourning in any Diocese, shall so offend, the Bishop, upon probable cause, may admonish such clergyman and inhibit him from officiating in said jurisdiction. The Bishop shall give notice to all the clergymen and congregations in said jurisdiction that the officiating of said clergyman is inhibited; and like notice shall be given to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the jurisdiction in which the said clergyman is canonically resident. Such inhibition shall continue in force until the Bishop who inhibited the clergyman be satisfied of the innocence of the said clergyman, or until he be acquitted on trial.

Section 3. The provisions of the Section 2 shall apply to clergymen ordained in foreign lands by Bishops in communion with this Church; but in such case notice of the inhibition shall be given to the Bishop from whose jurisdiction the clergyman shall have come, and also to all the Bishops exercising jurisdiction in this Church.

CANON XXXII

Of Renunciation of the Ministry

Section 1. If any clergyman of this Church not under presentment shall declare, in writing, to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the jurisdiction in which he is canonically resident, his renunciation from the ministry of this Church, it shall be the duty of the Ecclesiastical Authority to record the declaration and request so made. The Bishop, being satisfied that the person so declaring is not amenable for any canonical offense, and that his renunciation is not occasioned by misconduct or irregularity, but is voluntary and for causes which do not affect his moral character, shall defer formal action upon the declaration for two months, and meanwhile shall lay the matter before the clerical members of the Standing Committee and with their advice and consent he may pronounce that such renunciation is accepted and that the clergyman is released from the obligations of the Ministerial Office, and that he is deprived of the right to exercise the gifts and spiritual authority as a Minister of God's Word and Sacraments conferred on him by his ordination. The Bishop's declaration shall state that the renunciation was for causes which do not affect the man's moral character, and shall, if desired, give a certificate to this effect to the person so removed from the ministry. In all other cases of renunciation of the ministry, where there may be a question of misconduct or irregularity, the Bishop shall not pronounce sentence of suspension save with the consent of the Standing Committee. The Bishop shall give due notice of every such removal or suspension from the ministry in the form in which the same is recorded.

Section 2. If a clergyman making the aforesaid declaration of renunciation of his ministry be under presentment for any canonical offense, or if he shall have been placed on trial for the same, the Ecclesiastical Authority to whom such declaration is made, shall not consider or act upon such declaration until after the said presentment shall have been dismissed, or the said trial shall have been concluded and sentence, if any, pronounced. If the Ecclesiastical Authority to whom such declaration is

made shall have grounds to suppose that the person making the same is liable to presentment for any canonical offense, such person may, in the discretion of the said Ecclesiastical Authority, be placed upon trial for such offense, notwithstanding such declaration of renunciation of the ministry.

Section 3. A Bishop may avail himself of the provision in Canon 33, Section 1, in which case the action therein specified shall be taken by the Council of Bishops.

CANON XXXIII

Of the Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation

Section 1. Except as provided by Canon 33, a Rector may not resign his parish without the consent of the Parish, or its Vestry, whichever may be authorized to act, nor may any Rector canonically or lawfully elected and in charge of any Parish be removed therefrom against his will except as herein provided.

Section 2. If for any serious reason a Rector or the body authorized to elect a Rector, shall desire a dissolution of the pastoral relation, and the parties be not agreed respecting the dissolution, notice in writing may be given by either party to the Bishop of the Diocese. The Bishop, in case the difference be not settled by his godly judgment, shall ask the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, and, proceeding with its aid and counsel, shall be the ultimate arbiter and judge. If the jurisdiction be vacant, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall select a Bishop of an adjacent jurisdiction to act as the Bishop with like force and effect. The judgment shall be either that the pastoral relation shall cease and determine the time and specifics of the dissolution, or that said relation shall not be terminated; and such judgment shall be binding on both parties. In the event of failure or refusal of either party to comply with the terms of such judgment, the Bishop may inflict such penalties as may be provided by the Constitution and Canons of the jurisdiction; and in default of any such provisions, may (1) in the case of a Rector, suspend such Rector from the exercise of his priestly office until he shall comply with said judgment; (2) in the case of the Parish, recommend to the Convention that the union of the Parish with the jurisdiction shall cease until they have complied with his judgment.

Section 3. In the case of a regular and canonical dissolution of the connection between a Rector and his Parish, the Bishop shall direct the Secretary of the Convention to record the same.

Section 4. This Canon shall not apply in any Diocese which has made or shall hereafter make provision by Canon upon this subject, nor in contravention of any right of any Rector, Parish, congregation, or Vestry under the law of the civil authority.

CANON XXXIV

Of Sentences

Section 1. The Bishop alone has the authority to pronounce sentence on a Priest or Deacon convicted as indicated in these Canons.

Section 2. The Council of Bishops, speaking through the Presiding Archbishop, has the sole responsibility and authority to pronounce sentence on a Bishop.

Section 3. Sentence shall be

- 1) censure and/or admonishment;
- 2) suspension, for a definite period, not to exceed five years;
- 3) suspension for life;
- 4) deposition from the sacred ministry.

Section 4. A sentence of suspension of a Priest or Deacon may be terminated or shortened by the Bishop of the jurisdiction in which he was convicted with the advice and consent of the Council of Bishops.

Section 5. A sentence of suspension against a Bishop may be terminated or shortened by the Council of Bishops.

CANON XXXV

Of Enactment, Amendment, and Repeal

Section 1. No new Canon shall be enacted, or existing Canon be amended or repealed, except by the General Synod by a majority vote in each order.

Section 2. Whenever a Canon which repealed another Canon, or part thereof, shall itself be repealed, such previous Canon or part thereof shall not thereby be revived or re-enacted, without express words to that effect.

Section 3. The following form shall be used in all cases of enactment or amendment to existing Canons: "Canon... (or Section... or Clause..., Section..., of Canon...) is hereby amended to read as follows: (Here insert the new reading)." And in the event of insertion of a new Canon, or of a new section or clause, in a Canon, or of the repeal of an existing Canon, or of a section or clause, the numbering of the Canons or divisions of a Canon which follow shall be changed accordingly.

Section 4. These Canons, as well as amendments to these Canons, upon adoption, shall become effective as of the next following First Sunday of Advent or as otherwise provided by the adopting General Synod.

ADDENDUM

ADDENDUM I

Promise and Oath of Conformity

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

I, A.B, do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation in Jesus Christ; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of the Christian Episcopal Church and of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. So help me God, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Dated) _____ *(Signed)* _____

ADDENDUM II

Forms of Endorsement

A. For a Postulant the endorsement of the Rector or Minister-in-charge shall read:

To the Right Reverend _____, Bishop of the Christian Episcopal Church:

I hereby commend to you A.B., and certify that he is a Communicant Member of _____ Parish. After due inquiry concerning his manner of life and possible vocation to the Sacred Ministry, I hereby request that he be considered for admission as a postulant.

(Dated) _____ (Signed) _____

B. For Candidates for Holy Orders the endorsement from the Rector and Vestry of a postulant's application for admission as a candidate shall read:

To The Standing Committee of any Christian Episcopal Church Diocese:

We do certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that A.B. for the last three years has lived a sober, honest, and godly life, and that he is loyal to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of this Church, and does not hold or teach anything contrary thereto. And, moreover, we think him worthy to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Deacons in Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

(Dated) _____ (Signed) _____

I hereby certify that A.B. is a Communicant Member of _____ Parish in good standing; that the foregoing endorsement was signed at a meeting of the Vestry duly convened at _____, on the _____ day of _____, in the Year of Our Lord _____, and that the names attached are those of all (or two-thirds majority of all) of the members of the Vestry.

(Signed) _____ Rector/Clerk of the Vestry

C. The Standing Committee's endorsement of a Deacon to be made a Priest:

To the Right Reverend _____, Bishop of the Christian Episcopal Church:

*We, being the majority of all the members of the Standing Committee of the _____
Diocese, and having been duly convened at _____, do testify that
The Reverend A.B., Deacon, desiring to be ordained Priest, has presented to us satisfactory credentials
that since the _____ of _____, in the Year of Our Lord _____, (being the
day of his ordination to the Diaconate), The Reverend A.B. has lived a sober, honest and godly life, and
that he has not written, taught, or held anything contrary to the Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of
this Church; and we hereby recommend the Reverend A.B., for ordination to the Priesthood of Christ's
One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. In witness thereof, we have hereunto set our hands this
_____ day of _____ in the Year of our Lord _____.*

(Signed) _____

ADDENDUM II

Explanatory Terms/Changes

Section 1. The term "Christian Episcopal Church" used in this document refers to the Christian Episcopal Church of the United States.

Section 2. The term "Presiding Bishop" has been changed to "Presiding Archbishop"

Section 3. The previous term "Council of Advice" has been changed to "Standing Committee"