



**THE CANONS OF THE
DIOCESE OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF THE
ANGLICAN CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

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(Amended and authorised by the Synod of the Diocese of the United Kingdom on 24 April 2010)

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THE CANONS

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

*(Where ** occurs in the following text, reference should be made to those sections of the Provincial Canons to be found in the Addendum at the end of these Diocesan Canons.)*

CANON 1 OF THE NAME

The name of this Church and See shall be The Diocese of the United Kingdom of The Anglican Catholic Church, hereinafter referred to as "the Diocese" or "this Diocese" or "the Anglican Catholic Diocese of the United Kingdom".

CANON 2 OF OBJECTS AND PURPOSES

The objects and purposes of the Diocese shall be to provide for the formation, organisation, operation and government of this branch of Christ's Body, a constituent Diocese of The Anglican Catholic Church. The Diocese is created and established by the Church for purposes of the Church's internal administration and the cure of souls; it is not an entity independent of the Church nor is it possible for the Diocese, as such, to disaffiliate from, or to leave the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of, the Church.

CANON 3 OF ACCESSION AND ADOPTION OF ACC CONSTITUTION AND CANONS OF THE ORIGINAL PROVINCE

As a Constituent Jurisdiction of The Anglican Catholic Church, referred to as "this Church", this Diocese adopts respectively the Constitution and Canons of this Church and of the Original Province wherein it shall be a constituent jurisdiction, referred to as "this Province", and thereby acknowledges and submits itself to their primacy and declares it shall be bound and governed by the provisions thereof. This Diocese recognises and concurs with the principles of doctrine, morality, worship and action set forth in the Affirmation of St. Louis.

CANON 4 OF MEMBERSHIP OF THIS CHURCH

4.1 Of Baptised Members

All persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church, are members thereof.

4.2 Of Members in Good Standing

All Baptised members who shall for the preceding year have fulfilled the requirements of this Church, "of the Due Celebration of the Lord's Day", as set forth in Section 18.2.02 of Canon 2 of Title XVIII** of the Provincial Canons, unless for good cause prevented, are members of this Church in good standing.

4.3 Of Communicants in Good Standing

All members in good standing who have been confirmed by a Bishop of this Church or a Bishop of a Church in formal or canonical Communion with this Church or have been received into this Church by a Bishop of this Church or his authorised representative, and who is recognised as validly confirmed, shall, unless for good cause prevented, have received Holy Communion at least at Christmastide, Eastertide, and Whitsuntide during the preceding year, are communicants in good standing of this Church.

CANON 5 OF THE TERRITORY SUBJECT TO THE ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION OF THIS DIOCESE

The Diocese of the United Kingdom shall be composed of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

CANON 6 OF THE TEMPORAL AFFAIRS OF THIS DIOCESE

6.1 Of Regulation of Temporal Affairs

The Diocese shall be registered with the Charity Commission. The Diocese shall be subject in its temporal affairs to English Law.

6.2 Of Canons as By-Laws

The Canons of the Diocese, together with the Canons and Statutes of the Original Province of The Anglican Catholic Church and with the Constitution and Canons of The Anglican Catholic Church, all as from time to time amended, shall serve as the By-Laws and Constitution of the Diocese in the conduct of its temporal affairs insofar as the same are not inconsistent with the requirements of the Charity Commission.

6.3 Of The Diocese as a Charity

The voting members of the Council of Advice shall be the Governing Body of the Diocese as a Charity.

6.4 Of Trustees

For the purposes of the requirements of the Charity Commissioners, the Trustees for the Diocese shall be those three Officers who, by virtue of their Office, are also signatories for the Diocesan Account, namely the Officers who hold the Diocesan posts of Bishop Ordinary, Secretary and Treasurer.

6.5 Of Deviation from By-Laws and Constitution

If it is impracticable or impossible to comply with the Canons in order to satisfy the requirements of the Charity Commission while managing some aspect of the temporal affairs of the Church, the Bishop Ordinary, in consultation with the Council of Advice, may authorise a deviation from the Canon concerned provided that nothing done shall change the ecclesiastical organisation, purposes, function and government of the Diocese. In any case in which the Bishop is called upon to give such authorization, the relevant portions of these Canons shall be submitted to the next regular Diocesan Synod for formal amendment to bring them into conformity with such requirements of the Charity Commission.

CANON 7 OF THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

7.1 Of the Bishop Ordinary

The Anglican Catholic Diocese of the United Kingdom shall have a Bishop Ordinary who shall be a Bishop in the line of Apostolic Succession and who shall possess and exercise such inherent power, authority and jurisdiction as is recognised by ancient Canons and Tradition, subject to the provisions of, and as set forth in, the Constitution and Canons of The Anglican Catholic Church, the Canons and Statutes of the (Original Province) thereof, and the Canons of this Diocese.

7.2 Of the Government of the Church in This Diocese

The Bishop Ordinary of The Diocese of the United Kingdom, hereinafter referred to as "the Bishop", shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Diocese and has, by virtue of his office and dignity in the Church of God, Charge of the care, government and administration of the Church in this Diocese as well as the cure of souls of all clergy and laity therein subject to the authority of this Church, and shall be both their Father in God and their chief pastor.

7.3 Of Requirements of Candidates for the Office of Bishop in this Diocese

1. The candidate to have at least 7 years' unbroken membership of the Anglican Catholic Church.
2. The candidate to be free of criminal conviction and/or public scandal.
3. The age of the candidate to accord with Article 4, Section 6** of the Constitution of this Church.
4. The nomination for a Candidate to be considered for election to the Episcopate needs to be proposed jointly by a member of the Clergy and a member of the Laity, and seconded by another person who may be a member of either the Clergy or the Laity. Proposers and seconder are to be members of the ACC in this Diocese and in good standing.

7.4 Of Composition and Conduct of Electoral Synods

(a) Each Electoral Synod of this Diocese for any election to the Episcopate shall be composed of:

(1) Clerical Electors who shall comprise the Clerical House of Electors of this Diocese, and

(2) Lay Electors who shall comprise the Lay House of Electors of this Diocese.

All Bishops (other than the Bishop Ordinary), Priests and Deacons of this Church canonically resident in this Diocese, who are in good standing, shall be, act and serve as the Clerical Electors of this Diocese and be members of its Clerical House of Electors. The Lay Electors

shall be Delegates from each Congregation, Parish, Mission or other such cure in canonical union with this Diocese elected for the purpose of each Electoral Synod with the same entitlement they would elect Delegates for the Annual Diocesan Synod.

(b) The President and Presiding officer of any Electoral Synod of this Diocese shall be the Metropolitan of this Province or his duly appointed Episcopal Deputy.

(c) A quorum in either House of Electors shall consist of at least fifty percent (plus one more person) (50% + 1) of those Electors entitled to seat and vote, whether those Electors are present upon that occasion or not.

(d) For there to be any Canonical Election to the Episcopate in this Diocese, save where otherwise provided in the Constitution and Canons of this Church, the person so elected must receive a two-thirds (2/3) majority, separately, in each House of Electors, of those present and voting. The President shall be entitled to have a casting vote.

(e) The President shall keep an Electoral Synod in session, save for Divine Service and meals, until completion of the election according to the provision of this Canon. Upon any failure to achieve a quorum in either or both Houses, it shall be within the discretion of the President to recess the Electoral Synod for a period not to exceed fifteen days. Upon any subsequent failure to achieve a quorum, the President shall return the Licence and the Writ of Election to the Metropolitan of this Province and prorogue that Electoral Synod with his Benediction.

(f) No electoral Synod of this Diocese shall recognise any proxy vote of franchise under any name whatsoever.

(g) No Electoral Synod of this Diocese shall have any legislative authority or jurisdiction, or transact any other business than that of the election to the Episcopate specified in the Writ of Election concerned. All matters or questions regarding parliamentary procedure shall be determined in accordance with standing orders.

(h) Upon receipt of a Writ of Summons to an Electoral Synod of this Diocese by the appropriate authority, pursuant to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, Province or Diocese, any Elector (Clerical or Lay) of this Diocese shall be under formal canonical obligation to attend the Synod unless he/she has permission from the President to be absent.

(i) The Order of Business of an Electoral Synod in this Diocese shall be as follows:

(1) The Electoral Synod shall begin with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The celebrant shall be the President of that Synod, who may present his Charge to the Synod in lieu of the Sermon.

(2) The Two Houses of the synod shall meet in Joint session throughout. The Licence and Writ of Election, the Writ of Summons, and any Writ of Commission to the President shall be read out. The President shall then appoint a Recording Secretary and two tellers/scrutineers for each House. The Recording Secretary shall determine and report to the President the number of Electors present and whether there is a quorum in each House, and the number of votes required for Canonical Election. Provided there is a quorum in each House, the President shall declare the Electoral Synod duly constituted for canonical election, and ready to proceed.

(j) The Rules of Procedure in any Electoral Synod of this Diocese shall be as follows:

(1) Subject to Canon 7.3 above, upon the declaration of the President that nominations already received are in order, the name of any man meeting the Constitutional and Canonical qualifications of this Church may be advanced from the floor, provided that he has been nominated by a member of each House and seconded by a third person who may be a member of either House, and that he gives assurance to the Synod that he is willing to be nominated, or, if he is not present, that such assurance from him is provided in writing at the time of his nomination.

(2) The President shall always allow time for further nominations if only one name has been advanced.

- (3) The President of an Electoral Synod shall not allow any campaigning or campaign speeches, or other similar political activity, beyond the simple identification of the nominees at the time of their nomination. Each nominee will, however, have been expected to provide details about their employment to date, training, posts within the Church of God, a statement on their doctrinal position, and their aspirations for the post. In the event of nominations from the floor, each candidate will speak to Synod on these same issues. All candidates should be agreeable to answering questions for a period of time to be determined by the President.
- (4) Before each ballot there shall be prayer led by the President of the Synod, and a period of silent prayer. During this period, there shall be no discussion. After prayers, each Elector shall write on his/her blank ballot paper only the name of that nominee he/she believes to be called by God to the Episcopate in that election.
- (5) The tellers/scrutineers shall supervise the ballots and report the results to the President or his Deputy.
- (6) Each ballot must be secret.
- (k) The procedures to declare and certify the results of the balloting, and to close the Electoral Synod, shall be as follows:
- (1) Upon any person receiving a two-thirds (2/3) majority in each House the President shall declare that person to be elected.
- (2) Following the President's Declaration of Election, he shall summon the person so elected before the Synod, and formally ask him if he will accept election to the Bishopric concerned. Upon acceptance the President shall declare him validly and truly elected and proceed with the Canonical Certification by the Electoral Synod.
- (3) The Chancellor (or Vice-Chancellor) and one member of each house shall sign the appropriate Certificates of Election before their departure from that session of the Electoral Synod. These shall then be attested to by the Guardians of the Spiritualities or the Members of the Council of Advice, whichever shall apply, as soon as can be arranged. The President shall also sign and seal the certificate of Election and Returns. One full set of Certificates of Elections and Returns shall be forwarded to the Metropolitan of this Province.
- (4) If, after seven ballots, no election has been achieved, the President may consider a motion to elect by Postulation. Such motion shall specify the names of the persons to be forwarded to the Metropolitan of the Province and His College of Bishops for their election. It shall specify that the Electoral Synod fully concedes and assigns its authority and duty to elect to that Bishopric, to the] Metropolitan and College of Bishops, and that their election in that regard constitutes a true and valid election in this Diocese. Such motion must receive at least two-thirds of the Electors in each House present and voting, with the assent of the President of that Synod, in order to pass. If the Electoral Synod has chosen the method of Postulation, the President shall require all the electors so to certify and attest, in the same manner as for a completed election
- (5) When the President is satisfied that the Synod has completed all of its canonical business, certifications and returns, he shall prorogue the Synod with his Benediction.

7.5 Of Failure to Elect

- (a) If any Electoral Synod of this Diocese fails to elect within a period of six months from the date of issue of the Licence and Writ of Election, such election shall revert to rest with and be vested in the Metropolitan of this Province and his College of Bishops by the Right of Devolution.
- (b) If any Electoral Synod fails to elect, such Electoral Synod shall be prorogued by the President, and the Licence and Writ of Election shall cease. It shall be left to the discretion of the Metropolitan and his College of Bishops as to whether to issue any other Licence and Writ of Election to the Bishopric of this Diocese concerning the proposed election.

CANON 8 OF THE COUNCIL OF ADVICE (GUARDIANS OF THE SPIRITUALITIES)

8.1 Of the Council of Advice

In this Diocese there shall be Council of Advice, which shall be, act and serve as the Council of Advice to the Ordinary of this Diocese during his term of Tenure of Office, and shall be his official counsellors and advisors.

8.2 Of the Guardians of the Spiritualities

If there be a canonical vacancy in this See, the Council of Advice, not inconsistent with the authority of the Metropolitan of this Province, shall be, act and serve, as the Guardians of the Spiritualities of this Diocese. The Metropolitan will appoint, or affirm the existing appointment of, a priest to act as Vicar General during the vacancy.

8.3 Of Membership

(a) The Bishop Ordinary shall be the Chairman and a full voting Member of the Council of Advice and shall preside at all Meetings. There shall be a Vice Chairman who will be appointed by the Bishop to preside and vote in his absence. During a canonical vacancy the Vicar General shall act as Chairman and be a full voting Member.

(b) The Chancellor, Treasurer and Secretary, (or their deputies, in their absence) shall be *ex-officio* Members of the Council with seat and voice but without vote while the Bishop Ordinary is in office. When the See is vacant, the Council of Advice functions as the Guardians of the Spiritualities and *ex-officio* Members shall be entitled to vote.

(c) There shall be four clerical and four lay Members, chosen as follows. The Bishop Ordinary shall appoint one clerical and one lay Member to serve for one year and be eligible for re-appointment. Each year, Synod shall elect a clerical and a lay Member to serve for three years. The election of both clerical and lay Members shall be by the whole Synod.

(d) Any Member of the Council of Advice may be removed for good cause by due canonical process.

8.4 Of Meetings

The Council of Advice may meet immediately after the adjournment of any meeting of Synod, if notified beforehand of any urgent business to be conducted. Otherwise it shall meet additionally on the other three quarters in January, July and October (generally on the second Saturday of the month). A Meeting can be summoned by the Chairman, or at the request of a third of the Members, with thirty days notice being given.

8.5 Of Expenses

The Diocese shall pay the reasonable expenses of Members of the Council incurred in connection with attendance at meetings.

8.6 Of Standing Orders

The Council of Advice may produce Standing Orders for the conduct of its business and the performance of its duties and amend or develop them, as necessary, from time to time.

8.7 Of Telephone and Other Electronic Conferencing and Voting

The Council of Advice may confer and vote by telephone or other electronic means, on any matter. Such action when recorded by the Secretary and minuted, shall have the same effect as any action by the Council taken at a normal Meeting, provided all Members are afforded the opportunity to confer and vote by the process used.

8.8 Of a Quorum

A simple majority of the whole voting membership of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of Official business. A majority of the actual voting Members present shall be required to determine any matter being voted upon.

8.9 Of Vacancies

The Bishop Ordinary shall appoint a replacement to fill any vacancy of his appointees on the Council occurring between Annual Synods. If the vacancy is for a Member elected by Synod, the Synod, at its next annual meeting, shall elect a person of the same Order to fill the vacancy for the duration of the unexpired term.

CANON 9 OF OFFICERS OF THE DIOCESE

9.1 Of the Chancellor

(a) The Bishop Ordinary, with the advice and consent of the Council of Advice, shall appoint some able communicant in the Province, who is in good standing of the Church, who is trained in the law, to be the Chancellor of the Diocese.

(b) The Chancellor of the Diocese shall have the following duties:

(1) To be legal advisor, confidential or otherwise, to the Bishop Ordinary, the Council of Advice, the Synod or either House thereof, the Marriage Tribunal and the Ecclesiastical Court.

(2) To examine and approve, as to the requirements of civil and canon law, all contracts entered into by the Diocese and any other canonically established agency, instrumentality or organisation of the Diocese, and to examine and approve the title to all property purchased by the Diocese and any other canonically established organisation of the Diocese.

(3) To attend to the proper registration of all documents affecting the title of property belonging to the Diocese and any other canonically established organisation of the Diocese.

(4) To represent, or supervise the representation of, the Diocese and any other canonically established organisation of the Diocese in any litigation brought by or against it, or which affects any of its properties, and to serve as general legal advisor of the Diocese.

(5) To deliver to his successor all records and papers pertaining to his office.

9.2 Of the Treasurer

(a) The Bishop Ordinary, with the advice and consent of the Council of Advice, shall appoint some able communicant in the Diocese, who is in good standing of the Church, who is competent to handle financial affairs, to be the Treasurer of the Diocese.

(b) The Treasurer of the Diocese shall have the following duties:

(1) To receive and account for all monies collected by authority of the Diocese, or deposited with him for any Church purpose, keeping a separate account of each such fund upon which any payments are made to him.

(2) To deposit all funds of the Diocese with one or more financial institutions approved by the Council of Advice.

(3) To make the specific payments from each fund, as promptly as collections will allow, in conformity with the budget of the Diocese, and in accordance with rules adopted by the Council of Advice; provided that the Bishop Ordinary shall have sole authority to make or to authorise payments from the Bishop Ordinary's Discretionary Fund.

(4) To give to the Auditor elected in accordance with these Canons such assistance and co-operation as required in connection with the performance of the duties of the Auditor.

(5) To deliver to his successor in office all funds, books, and papers pertaining to his office.

(c) The Treasurer's accounts shall at all times be subject to inspection under the Authority of the Bishop Ordinary, the Synod, or the Council of Advice, and he shall furnish a quarterly statement to the Bishop Ordinary and the Council of Advice and an annual statement to the annual meeting of the Synod.

9.3 Of the Secretary

(a) The Bishop Ordinary, with the advice and consent of the Council of Advice, shall appoint some able communicant in the Diocese, who is in good standing of the Church, who is capable of performing the duties and responsibilities of Secretary, to be the Secretary of the Diocese.

(b) The Secretary of the Diocese shall have the following duties:

(1) To be, under the supervision of the Bishop Ordinary, the Administrative Officer of the Diocese, and to supervise any Diocesan Headquarters staff, except for those independent offices established by these Canons.

(2) To record the proceedings of the Synod, and of the Council of Advice, and to deposit those records among the permanent records of the Diocese.

(3) To preserve the official records, papers, and books of the Diocese.

(4) To notify promptly all persons concerned of all canonically authorised meetings, elections, resolutions or actions taken.

(5) To furnish to the Bishop Ordinary, the Synod, the Council of Advice, the ecclesiastical Court and the various Commissions of the Diocese, appropriate official lists of the Clergy, Congregations, Parishes, Missions and other such cures of the Diocese, prepared in such a way as to meet their needs.

(6) To submit reports, lists of delegates or other representatives, and records from the Diocese of any canonically established organisation as may be required, to any Provincial or Regional ecclesiastical body or authority.

(7) To supervise the proper publication of the proceedings of the Synod, and publication of such other matters as may be directed by the Council of Advice.

(8) To keep, in a separate book, a Register of all Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, indicating the dates of, and other pertinent data concerning, their respective ordinations and receptions; all transfers to or from the other Dioceses, and all dismissals, depositions or deaths of the Clergy of the Diocese.

(9) To keep a Register of all Parishes and Missions affiliated with the Diocese, showing their respective organisations, admissions, successions of Clergy in charge, other Clergy serving in the Parish and/or Mission, and such other particulars as may be necessary to indicate their respective status and history.

(10) To deliver to his successor in office all records and papers pertaining to his office.

(c) The Parishes and Missions of the Diocese shall submit to the Secretary, on forms provided by him for that purpose, the Annual Parochial Return required by Title XVII, Canon 2.01**, of the Canons of The Original Province of The Anglican Catholic Church to be submitted no later than 30 days before Synod each year. The Secretary shall collect, organise and permanently preserve these Returns.

9.4 Of the Historian/Archivist

(a) The Bishop Ordinary, with the advice and consent of the Council of Advice, may appoint some able communicant in the Diocese, who is in good standing of the Church, who is capable of performing the duties of Historian/Archivist, to be the Historian/Archivist of the Diocese.

(b) The Historian/Archivist of the Diocese shall receive, file, index, and preserve any books, papers, journals, reports, manuscripts, pamphlets or other documents pertaining to the Diocese, the Parishes and Missions, and other institutions of the Diocese, and to the Church generally. In consultation with the Provincial Archivist, he shall regularly prepare and send such items to him or her as may be required.

9.5 Of Deputy Officers

The Bishop Ordinary, with the advice of the Council of Advice, may authorise Deputy Diocesan Officers who shall exercise all the powers and duties of the principal officer in his/her absence, and shall perform such duties as the principal officer may assign.

N.B. When there is a Vacancy in See, appointments normally made by the Bishop Ordinary shall be made by the Episcopal Visitor with the consent of the Guardians of the Spiritualities

9.6 Of Removal of Officers

Any Officer or Deputy Officer of the Diocese may be removed from his office by the Bishop Ordinary, for good cause, by an affirmative vote of three-quarters of the membership of the Council of Advice.

CANON 10 OF DEANS AND DEANERIES

The Bishop Ordinary, in consultation with the Council of Advice, may establish one or more Regional or Rural Deaneries, or dissolve them as he may deem necessary to the proper administration of the Diocese, and may appoint a Priest of the Diocese situate in the Deanery concerned to be the Dean thereof.

CANON 11 OF SYNOD

There shall be a Synod of the Diocese, consisting of the Bishop Ordinary, a House of Clergy and a House of Laity, through which the Bishop Ordinary shall exercise his inherent legislative authority.

11.1 Of Annual Meeting

The Synod shall be held normally on the First Saturday after Easter (or such other day(s) as may be decided by the Bishop Ordinary with the advice and consent of the Council of Advice) and at a venue or host Parish within the Diocese as decided by the delegates at the previous Synod. Notice and writ of summons to lay and clerical delegates to the meeting shall be given in writing to the constituent Parishes or Missions, and to the house of clergy, and mailed no later than 35 days prior to the Synod. For the purposes of these Canons, the Synod meeting convened and convoked on 7 November, 1992, shall be the first Annual Meeting of the Synod of this Diocese.

11.2 Of Special Meetings

Special Meetings of the Synod may be called at any time by the Bishop Ordinary, or by the Metropolitan or some Bishop acting in his behalf, upon written notices to the constituent Parishes and Missions of this Diocese mailed at least thirty-five days in advance thereof. The Council of Advice, the College of Priests, or one-quarter of the constituent Parishes and Missions may petition the Bishop Ordinary to convene a Special Meeting. If such a petition for a Special Meeting is not granted by the Bishop Ordinary, the petitioner shall have the right to appeal to the Metropolitan, who may then summon a meeting of the Synod.

11.3 Of Quorum and Voting

(a) The Bishop Ordinary or his deputy, thirty percent (30%) of the House of Clergy and thirty percent (30%) of the House of Laity shall constitute a quorum for transaction of business of the Synod. Except as otherwise specifically provided in these Canons, the Synod shall deliberate and vote in one body. Except where a larger percentage is required by the provisions of these Canons, a simple majority of those present and voting, a quorum being present, shall be sufficient for the passage of matters brought before the Synod. Three or more members of the Synod may call for a vote by House, in which case the required percentage shall be required in each House. No enactment or resolution in any meeting of the Synod shall have effect without the assent of the Bishop Ordinary, which is not lightly nor without the gravest cause to be withheld. The reason for any withholding of Assent shall be in writing.

(b) All members of the House of Clergy as defined in Canon 12, and all lay Delegates as defined in Canon 13 who were elected to attend the Annual Meeting of the Synod, shall have seat, voice and vote in that Annual Meeting and in subsequent Special Meetings of the Synod, and voice and vote on any issues to come before the synod between Annual or Special Meetings thereof.

11.4 Of Promulgation

The Acts of Synod shall be in force and effect upon their having received the assent of the Bishop Ordinary and after due notification to the Clergy canonically resident in the diocese, unless some other date is specified in any one act or piece of legislation.

11.5 Of Officers

The President of the Synod shall be the Bishop Ordinary, who may lawfully appoint a deputy to preside in his stead. If there be no Bishop Ordinary, the Presiding Officer shall be appointed by the Metropolitan or his Representative.

11.6 Of Rules of Procedure

Unless otherwise provided in these Canons or in the rules of procedure adopted by the Synod, the business of the Synod shall be conducted according to the most current revision of Robert's Rules of Order. (These are available online.)

11.7 Of Terms of Tenure of Office of Diocesan Officials

Unless otherwise provided in these Canons, for the purpose of calculating the term of office of all persons elected or appointed by the Synod, or by any constituent authority or entity of the Diocese, the period between any two successive Annual Meetings of the Synod shall be deemed to be one year.

CANON 12 OF THE HOUSE OF CLERGY

The House of Clergy shall consist of all Bishops other than the Bishop Ordinary, all Priests and Deacons, active and retired, canonically resident in the Diocese and not under censure, all of whom shall have seat, voice and vote therein.

CANON 13 OF THE HOUSE OF LAITY

The House of Laity shall consist of lay delegates from the constituent Congregations, Parishes, Missions or other such cures of the Diocese, elected in accordance with their respective Constitutions. Each constituent Parish or Mission shall be entitled to one delegate for each twenty-five communicants, or major portion thereof, in voting status in the Parish or Mission; provided further that no Parish or Mission shall have less than two (except where they are reasonably unable to send two), nor more than eight delegates, each of whom shall have seat, voice and vote.

In addition, each Parish or Mission shall elect a like number of alternates, ranked in order of presence, who shall not have seat, voice and vote, except when properly seated to replace an absent delegate.

CANON 14 OF THE DIOCESAN COURT OF THE ORDINARY

The Diocesan Court of the Ordinary (referred to as the "Court"), through which the judicial authority of the Bishop Ordinary shall be exercised, shall have such membership as provided in these Canons and shall function under the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of this Church and of this Province.

During a Vacancy in See the Guardians of the Spiritualities may seek the services of the Court of another Diocese within the Province.

14.1 Of Composition

- (a)** The Bishop Ordinary shall be the President and Presiding Judge.
- (b)** The Chancellor will be a permanent Member of the Court, acting as Legal Advisor to the Bishop and deputising as President and Presiding Judge in the absence of the Bishop.
- (c)** There shall be two clerical and two lay Members, chosen by the following method. The Bishop Ordinary shall appoint one clerical and one lay Member to serve for a period of three years. Synod shall elect a clerical and a lay member to serve for three years. The election of these clerical and lay Members shall be by the whole Synod. (When the Court is established in the DUK for the first time, the Bishop shall appoint his two Members for three years and Synod will elect a clerical and a lay Member to serve for three years each.) Clerical and lay Members may be re-appointed/re-elected for a second term of office, and thereafter may not serve again until after at least one year has elapsed.

14.2 Of Vacancy

If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Court other than upon expiration of the term for which the member was elected, the Bishop Ordinary shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting of the Synod, at which time the Synod shall elect a person to fill the unexpired term. If the vacancy be one of the Bishop's nominees that appointment should be confirmed by him at Synod.

14.3 Of the Jurisdiction of the Court

The Court shall have Jurisdiction over the following

- (a) The Clergy, except Bishops, and the Laity for trial in matters of discipline and offences against ecclesiastical law.
- (b) Constitutional and Canonical controversies
- (c) All other Ecclesiastical Causes
- (d) All other matters and causes assigned to such Court by the Constitution and Canons both of this Church and of this Province and by these Canons.

14.4 Of the Duty of the Court

The Court shall have the duty to render or pronounce sentences, decisions, declarations, judgments and decrees on any matter referred to it by the Bishop Ordinary, the Synod or the Council of Advice of this Diocese.

14.5 Of Right of Appeal

Any appeal from any sentence, decision, decree, judgment or order of the Court, or of the Bishop Ordinary or Marriage Tribunal or any other tribunal, may be made to the Metropolitan or the Court of the Metropolitan, as the case may be, or to the High Court of the Holy Synod, in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of The Anglican Catholic Church.

14.6 Of Administration

- (a) This Court shall have powers for compelling the attendance of witnesses and the gathering of evidence, the conduct and regulation of the business of the Court, the making of rules and regulation for the practices and procedures thereof, and the enforcement of sentences, decisions, declarations, judgments and decrees made therein as provided and set forth in the Constitution and Canons of this Church and of this Province and in these Canons.
- (b) The records of all cases adjudicated in this Court shall be deposited with the Secretary of the Diocese in either the confidential records of the Diocese or in the public archives as may be determined for each case. The Bishop Ordinary may order all or part of such records sealed subject to his subsequent review.
- (c) The Bishop Ordinary, or during the vacancy of the See the Episcopal Visitor, shall appoint some person learned in the law as Church Advocate, who shall prosecute all causes arising under the instance or office jurisdictions of the Court.

CANON 15 OF CONGREGATIONS OF THE DIOCESE

15.1 Of Designation

All congregations and other such cures of souls in this Diocese which meet the criteria set forth in Section 1.03 of Canon 1 of Title XVII** of the Canon of this Church shall be called "Parishes" (unless other criteria or usage applies in that instance). Cures which do not meet the criteria shall be called "Missions", except for Religious Orders and Chaplaincies. All such congregations may be registered as Charities under the laws of the land. Whether or not registered, each congregation shall adopt a Constitution, a copy of which shall be deposited with the Secretary of the Diocese.

15.2 Of Admission to the Diocese

- (a) Congregations shall be admitted to constituent status upon subscription to these Canons, approval by the Bishop Ordinary and favourable vote of the Synod. This process is managed according to the protocol as set out below:

The procedure for applications from Missions:

Any Mission seeking admission should request forms from the Diocese.

The completed forms to be returned to the Diocesan Office

The Bishop Ordinary and the Council of Advice consider the application and appoint a competent Representative to visit the Mission to meet the people and discuss essential details.

The Representative reports back to the Bishop and the Council.

The Bishop Ordinary and the Council of Advice determine whether or not to accept the Mission.

If it is agreed to accept the Mission they are notified accordingly and arrangements made for the formal acceptance to be confirmed at the next Diocesan Synod.

Missions can only be formally accepted at the annual Synod.

The details of the Mission are then formally entered in the Diocesan Register.

Missions shall be referred to as Provisional Missions without voting rights until admitted as a full Mission at Synod.

(b) By making application to this Diocese to be admitted to constituent status therein, each Congregation *ipso facto* acknowledges and accepts the authority of the Constitution and Canons of the Church, of the Province, and of this Diocese, as from time to time amended; agrees that the said Constitutions and Canons form part of, and supersede contradictory portions of, that Congregation's Constitution and By-laws; and agrees to conform the written form of that Constitution and those By-laws to the provisions of the same.

15.3 Of Vestry and Officers Thereof

(a) Each Congregation shall have a Rector, Incumbent or Priest in Charge, as the case may be, and a Treasurer and Secretary, who must be members of the Congregation. They shall act for the Parish or other such cure in matters pertaining to the temporality of that cure in accordance with the Canons of this Church and the Canons of this Diocese.

(b) The Congregation shall appoint or elect in accordance with its Constitution a Treasurer and a Secretary.

(c) The Rector, Incumbent or Priest in Charge of the Parish or other such cure shall be the presiding officer at Parish meetings.

(d) In the case of Missions or other such dependent congregations, the procedure for selecting and appointing a Rector, Incumbent or Priest in Charge shall be as set forth in the Canons of this Church and of this Diocese. The Bishop Ordinary shall appoint a Bishop's Committee consisting of the Rector, Incumbent or Priest in Charge, and two laypeople. These three shall constitute a minimum Bishop's Committee which has responsibility to appoint a Treasurer and a Secretary, and authority to appoint up to four additional Committee members. All members shall have voice and vote in Committee deliberations.

15.4 Of Meetings

(a) Each Congregation shall hold an Annual Meeting during the first quarter of each calendar year unless local conditions dictate otherwise.

(b) Special Meetings between regularly scheduled Annual Parish Meetings may be convened under conditions set out in the Constitution.

(c) At any Annual or Special Meeting of any Congregation of this Diocese, the passage of any motion or other proposal to amend the Constitution or By-laws of that Congregation so as to delete therefrom references to this Church or this Diocese, or to disaffiliate from this Church or this Diocese, shall require the affirmative votes of three-fourths (3/4) of the whole number of qualified voting members of that Congregation as of the previous Annual Meeting, whether those voting members are present or not. Specifically, the absence of such a voting member shall have, with respect to any such issue, the same effect as a negative vote and no proxies shall be permitted.

15.5 Of Qualifications for Voting and Holding Office

A voting member of any Congregation shall be a Communicant member in Good Standing as defined in Canon 4 of these Canons.

15.6 Of Parochial Property

Each Congregation shall hold title to its real and personal property and the Diocese shall have no legal or equitable possessory interest in it. This provision shall not derogate from the financial interest of the Diocese in Parochial property to the extent of the Congregation's legal indebtedness to the Diocese, if any.

15.7 Of Parochial Clergy

(a) The appointment of Parochial Clergy will be made by the Bishop Ordinary in accordance with Canons 9-15 inclusive of Title XII** of the Canons of the Anglican Catholic Church. The removal or dismissal of Parochial Clergy shall be in accordance with the provisions of Canons 11 and 12 of Title XII of the Canons of this Church.

(b) In extraordinary circumstances, the Bishop Ordinary may designate a Deacon, Warden or Lay Reader, to be in charge of a Congregation for a limited period of time.

15.8 Of Records

(a) The fiscal year for the Diocese and all Congregations within it shall be from 1st January to 31st December. Each Parish or Mission shall return the Diocesan Annual Parish Return by the required date, before the Annual Synod. Failure to submit by the stipulated date may mean that the Congregation be asked to give reasons for the delay and any serious breach of this Canon may cause its status to be reviewed. Any such action would be taken by the Bishop Ordinary in consultation with the Chancellor of this Diocese, with the Advice and Consent of the Council of Advice.

(b) Any congregation, Parish or other such cure which steadfastly refuses to conform to the Canons of this Diocese, or of the Province, may be expelled from the Diocese by the Bishop Ordinary in consultation with the Chancellor of this Diocese, and with the Advice and Consent of the Council of Advice.

15.9 Of Change of Status

Any Congregation, whose numbers have increased or decreased over a continuous period of one year so that it has changed its Status according to the criteria for its designation as specified by Canon 15.1 will need to have its Status changed. The Diocesan Secretary shall notify the Council of Advice (with a copy of the letter to the Congregation) of the changed circumstances. The Council will consider and decide if a change of Status is necessary and if approved notify the particular Congregation of the decision. Within sixty (60) days of the date of the letter of Notification the Congregation concerned may address a written appeal to Synod to determine.

CANON 16 OF HOLY ORDERS

16.1 Of Preparation for Holy Orders

(a) All men preparing for Holy Orders in this Diocese will do so in accordance with the recommended procedures set out by the Board of Ministry. Members of the Board of Ministry and its chairman shall be appointed by the Bishop Ordinary. The Chairman must be a Priest.

(b) All members of the Board of Ministry are Examining Chaplains. The Chairman may appoint other learned persons to serve as additional Examining Chaplains if necessary.

16.2 Of Aspirancy, Postulancy and Candidacy

(a) A man may be admitted as an Aspirant for Holy Orders by his Rector, Incumbent or Priest in Charge.

(1) He must be at least 16 years of age.

(2) He must be a full member, in good standing, of the Anglican Catholic Church and actively associated with an Anglican Catholic congregation and shall normally have been so for the year preceding his application.

(3) He must have been rightly and validly Baptised and Confirmed.

(b) An Aspirant may be admitted to Postulant status only by the Bishop Ordinary.

(1) He must be at least 18 years of age.

- (2) He must have been an Aspirant for at least 3 months unless otherwise determined by the Bishop Ordinary after consultation with the Board of Ministry.
 - (3) The Bishop Ordinary must be satisfied of his medical, mental, personal and spiritual health and maturity.
 - (4) He must submit the required Diocesan Application Form for training.
- (c) A Postulant may be admitted to the status of Candidate for Holy Orders only by the Bishop Ordinary.
- (1) He must be at least 22 years of age.
 - (2) He must have been a Postulant for at least 6 months unless otherwise determined by the Bishop Ordinary after consultation with the Board of Ministry.
 - (3) He must have the continued support of his Parish Priest and his congregation, expressed in writing to the Bishop Ordinary.
- (d) The Bishop Ordinary shall keep an up-to-date Register of Candidates, including the names of all men admitted by him as Candidates for Holy Orders in this Diocese.
- (e) The Board of Ministry will monitor the Candidate's progress and report to the Bishop Ordinary annually.

16.3 Of Ordination to the Diaconate

- (a) All Candidates for ordination to the Diaconate must demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board of Ministry, intellectual competence in those subjects required by Canon 9 of Title XI**of the Canons of The Anglican Catholic Church, subject to Canon 10.05(a) & (b)** of the Canons of The Anglican Catholic Church. In addition, he shall demonstrate in person to the Bishop Ordinary competence in the preparation and preaching of sermons and in the conduct of liturgical services pertaining to the Order to which he ultimately aspires.
- (b) No one under 23 years of age will be ordained.
- (c) The minimum period of Candidacy prior to ordination to the Diaconate is normally one year, or as determined by the Bishop Ordinary after consultation with the Board of Ministry.
- (d) The Bishop, after consultation with the Council of Advice and Board of Ministry, will decide whether or not to ordain the Candidate to the Diaconate.
- (e) The Candidate must provide the certificates and Letters Testimonial required under the Canons of The Anglican Catholic Church, Title XI, Canon 7.01.**
- (f) The names of Candidates for Ordination to the Diaconate shall be published during service times at each Parish or Mission within the Diocese at least one month before the day of Ordination. The *Si Quis* shall be certified by the Warden or Parish Priest as having been read and that no objection was received. If any impediment or challenge has been raised they shall inform the Bishop forthwith.

16.4 Of The Diaconate

- (a) The functions of the Diaconate are, under the direct supervision of a Bishop or a Priest so appointed:
 - (1) to assist the celebrant during Mass and to distribute the Holy Communion.
 - (2) to proclaim the Gospel, both in and outside of the Liturgy.
 - (3) to preach, when so licensed by the Bishop Ordinary.
 - (4) to perform those pastoral and teaching duties assigned to him.

(b) If a man ordained as a Deacon does not proceed to the Priesthood but later desires to become a candidate for Ordination to the Priesthood:

He must state in a letter to the Bishop Ordinary, the Council of Advice and the Board of Ministry, his reasons for believing that God calls him to this change in status, and undertake the additional training required.

(c) Every Deacon in this Diocese must report to the Bishop Ordinary with an account of the manner of his life, his spiritual discipline, and the accomplishments of his ministry, when required.

16.5 Of Ordination to the Priesthood

(a) No one under 24 years of age will be ordained to the Priesthood.

(b) A Deacon shall normally have served one full year in the Diaconate prior to ordination to the Priesthood, unless the Bishop Ordinary shall find good cause for the contrary. No man shall be ordained both Deacon and Priest upon the same day, except as provided for in Canon 4.02 of Title XI** of the Canons of The Anglican Catholic Church.

(c) The Bishop, after consultation with the Board of Ministry will decide whether or not to ordain the Candidate to the Priesthood.

(d) The Deacon must provide the Certificates and Letters Testimonial required under the Canons of The Anglican Catholic Church, Title XI, Canon 7.02.**

(e) The names of Candidates for Ordination to the Priesthood shall be published during service times at each Parish or Mission within the Diocese at least one month before the day of Ordination. The *Si Quis* shall be certified by the Warden or Parish Priest as having been read and that no objection was received. If any impediment or challenge has been raised they shall inform the Bishop forthwith.

16.6 Of Reception of Clergy

(a) If any clergyman from another ecclesiastical body with which this Church is not in formal canonical communion desires reception into this Diocese with the intention to perform the functions of the Sacred Ministry:

(1) He must meet all requirements for Ordination in this Church.

(2) The procedure for the Reception and Licensing of Clergy:

- (i) All Clergy wishing to join the ACC must request and fill in fully the necessary application form(s).
- (ii) An initial interview with the Regional Dean may then be arranged.
- (iii) The application is then considered by the Bishop.
- (iv) The Bishop will arrange to interview the candidate concerned.
- (v) The Bishop will arrange for the Council of Advice to interview the candidate.
- (vi) Following stages (i) – (iv) above, the candidate is notified by the Bishop of his decision whether or not to accept the application. In the event of a refusal the Bishop is not required to state his reasons.
- (vii) If accepted, arrangements are made for the candidate to be formally received (conditionally ordained if necessary) and duly licensed after satisfactorily undertaking a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check.

(b) A Minister of any non-Catholic body desiring reception under this Canon, having satisfied the general requirements listed above and having received the Sacrament of Holy Confirmation, may be received as an Aspirant, Postulant, or Candidate for Holy Orders as deemed appropriate by the Bishop Ordinary after consultation with the Board of Ministry. Having been so received, he must complete all requisite examinations and other requirements remaining prior to qualifying for ordination, as specified elsewhere in this Canon.

(c) The reception of any clergyman under censure in his former ecclesiastical body may not be effected until the Bishop Ordinary of this Diocese has investigated the basis of that censure, and has seen fit to remove the same with the consent of the Council of Advice of this Diocese and one other Bishop of The Anglican Catholic Church.

16.7 Of Impediments to the Ministry

(a) No person shall be admitted into Holy Orders in this Diocese who fails to meet the requirements, or who is not free of the impediments, set forth by this church in Article XVI of its Constitution** and in Canon 5 of Title XI** of its Canons.

(b) No person shall be permitted to function ministerially in this Diocese who has acquired any of the impediments set forth in Canon 5.03 of Title XI** of the Canons of this Church.

CANON 17 OF MARRIAGE AND ANNULMENT

17.1 Of Priests Intending to Solemnise a Marriage

Each Priest of this Diocese intending to solemnise or bless a marriage and each party intending to contract a marriage shall comply with Title XV, Canon 3,** of the Canons of The Anglican Catholic Church.

17.2 Of the Principle of Nullity

In matters of marriage the liberties and freedom of action of a Christian are subject to the Laws of God as revealed by our Lord Jesus Christ and administered by His Church, which is charged to explain and define the Divine Law but has no capacity to alter it.

Any marriage contracted where a canonically defined impediment has been identified is null and void *ab initio* irrespective of any status it may have under civil law.

The principle of nullity can never be applied to any union which was a valid marriage, for that which once obtained cannot be said never to have existed.

17.3 Of Marriage Tribunal

The Bishop Ordinary shall appoint a Marriage Tribunal, the members of which shall serve as long as the Bishop requires. This Tribunal shall be guided by the provisions set forth in the Constitution and Canons of this Church and Province. The Bishop Ordinary or (during a vacancy in See) the Guardians of the Spiritualities may seek the services of the Marriage Tribunal of another Diocese within the Province.

17.4 Of Responsibility of Parties to Invalid marriage

(a) The parties to an invalid marriage relationship have an absolute duty to terminate the practice of sexual union which is sin if performed outside valid marriage: however, a common household may sometimes be maintained for the sake of meeting other Christian responsibilities or as a matter of necessity.

(b) A child born or adopted in the course of an invalid marriage is legitimate in Canon Law. The parents of such a child do not, because of the fact of invalidity, cease to have an obligation to provide for the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing of the child and specifically, to the child's instruction in the Christian Faith.

(c) The fact of a marriage's invalidity as a Sacrament of the Church or at Canon Law does not imply that the parties' union was not a valid marriage by Natural or Civil Law, or both. Further, where one party was unaware of the causes of invalidity, that innocent party is a *putative spouse* who is entitled to all of the benefits of the marriage accrued up until the discovery of the causes of the invalidity. Upon the termination of an invalid marriage one or both parties may continue to have obligation to the other party as a matter of Christian Charity and Moral and Civil Law.

17.5 Of Legitimacy

No judgment by Ecclesiastical Authority that a purported marriage is a nullity shall reflect in any way upon the legitimacy of children or the civil validity of the relationship.

17.6 Of Pastoral Care Concerning Marriage Questions

In matters regarding the validity or invalidity of a marriage the Parish Priest will consult with the parties concerned and submit to the Bishop Ordinary all available information for a judgment. The Bishop Ordinary may consult the Marriage Tribunal and may request further consultation with the Parish

Priest and the parties involved. Having rendered a judgment, the Bishop Ordinary shall then give Godly pastoral advice to the parties concerned regarding the appropriate course of action.

CANON 18 OF FUNDING OF THE DIOCESE

18.1 Of Budget

The Treasurer shall prepare a Budget, for submission to the Synod, for the conduct of the business of the Diocese for the ensuing fiscal year as established by the Council of Advice. The Council of Advice shall review the budget at its regular January meeting (or meeting next before Synod) prior to its submission to the Synod.

18.2 Of the Diocese to be Supported by the Parishes and Missions

Funds for the conduct of the business of the Diocese, as budgeted for by the Synod, shall be provided by the payment of tithes by the Parishes and Missions of the Diocese and by such other funds as may be available for that purpose.

18.3 Of Expenditure of Funds

(a) Budgeted funds shall be disbursed by the Treasurer or the person authorised by the Diocese to do so. That person will make all necessary arrangements with the Treasurer, subject to the budgeted limits.

(b) Between annual Synods the Council of Advice may make modifications to the budget in amounts not to exceed 10% of the total budgeted income, unless it deems such action to be required by extraordinary circumstances.

CANON 19 OF PROVINCIAL AND HOLY SYNODS

19.1 Of Clerical and Lay Delegates

Clerical and Lay delegates and Alternates to Provincial or Holy Synods, who must be canonically resident in the Diocese or communicants of a Parish or Mission of the Diocese, shall be elected by the Diocesan Synod in such numbers as provided for in Article VII Section 2 and Article IX Section 2 of the Provincial Constitution** to represent the Diocese in those Synods. Such delegates and Alternates shall continue in office until their successors are elected.

19.2 Of Nomination of Candidates

The initial list of candidates for Clerical and Lay Delegates and Alternates to Holy or Provincial Synod will be composed of all Delegates to Diocesan Synod who do not remove their names from candidacy. Further nominations may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting by any sitting Delegate from among the Communicants in Good Standing of this Diocese who wish to be nominated and are able to fulfil its duties.

19.3 Of Election

Those who are willing to represent the Diocese and are able to attend, up to a maximum number of eleven, will be authorised to do so.

CANON 20 OF ANNUAL AUDIT

The Council of Advice shall annually appoint a qualified person who, or engage a firm of auditors which, shall audit the financial accounts and records of the Diocese within forty-five days preceding the annual meeting of the Synod and shall provide a statement of this audit to the Synod.

CANON 21 OF AMENDMENT

21.1 Notice

Proposed amendments to these Canons shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Diocese at least sixty days prior to the Synod meeting at which the proposed action is to be taken, and the proposed amendments shall be mailed to all official delegates at least thirty-five days prior to the Synod meeting at which the proposed action is to be taken. The foregoing notice may be waived by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the Synod.

21.2 Voting

Amendment to these Canons shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at two successive Annual Meetings of the Synod, or a ninety percent (90%) majority of those present and voting at a single Annual Meeting of the Synod.

ADDENDUM

(see note at the beginning of the Canons)

Article IV. Section 6 Of the Age and Consecration of a Bishop

No man shall be ordained and Consecrated Bishop until he shall have attained the age of forty (40) years, nor shall he be consecrated by fewer than three (3) Bishops, unless for grave cause the Metropolitan, or the College of Bishops, shall so direct.

Article VII. Section 2 Of the Structure of Provincial Synods

- (a)** Each Provincial Synod to have three Houses:
 - (1) A Council of Bishops, consisting of all the Bishops of the Province;
 - (2) A Senate of the Clergy, consisting of not to exceed eleven (11) Clergymen from each Diocese, the exact number to be fixed by Provincial Canon, and chosen in accordance with Diocesan Canons; and
 - (3) An Assembly of the Laity, consisting of not to exceed eleven (11) lay Delegates from each Diocese, the exact number to be fixed by Provincial Canon, and chosen in accordance with Diocesan Canons.
- (b)** Provision for Representation from Jurisdictions other than Dioceses. Delegates in either House from other Jurisdictions under Provincial Authority may be provided for by Canon.
- (c)** Composition, Officers, and Rules of Procedure. The Composition, officers, and rules of procedure of each such House shall be as provided for by Canon.

Article IX. Section 2 Of the Structure of the Holy Synod

- (a)** The Holy Synod to have three Houses. The Holy Synod shall consist of three (3) Houses:
 - (1) A Council of Bishops, consisting of all the Bishops of this Church;
 - (2) A Senate of the Clergy, consisting of not to exceed eleven (11) Clergymen from each Diocese, the exact number to be fixed by Canon, and chosen in accordance with Diocesan Canons; and
 - (3) An Assembly of the Laity, consisting of not to exceed eleven (11) lay Delegates from each Diocese, the exact number to be fixed by Canon, and Chosen in accordance with Diocesan Canons.
- (b)** Provision for Representation from Jurisdictions other than Dioceses. Delegates from other Jurisdictions may be provided for by Canon.
- (c)** Composition, Officers, and Rules of Procedure. The composition, officers, and rules of procedure of each House shall be as provided for by Canon, unless otherwise provided for by Canon.

Article XVI. Section 1 Of the Sex and Age of Ordinands

The clergy shall be male persons who shall have attained the age of twenty-three (23) years prior to ordination as Deacon, twenty-four (24) years prior to ordination as Priest, and forty (40) years prior to ordination and consecration as Bishop.

Title XI. Canon 4.02 No Two Orders to be Conferred on the Same Day without a Faculty

No man shall be ordained both Deacon and Priest on one and the same day without obtaining a special Faculty from the Primate, which Faculty shall only be granted for good and sufficient cause. Until there be a Primate, the Metropolitan shall be applied to and have the power of issuing such special Faculty only for good and sufficient cause.

Title XI. Canon 5 Of the Quality of Such as are to be Ordained Deacons or Priests

5.01 Qualities Prerequisite

Every Bishop shall take care that he admit no person into Holy Orders but such as he knows either by himself, or by sufficient testimony, to have been rightly baptised and confirmed, to be sufficiently instructed in Holy Scripture and in the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of the Anglican Catholic Church, and to be of virtuous conversation and good repute and such as to be a wholesome example and pattern to the flock of Christ.

5.02 Physical and Mental Impediments

No person shall be admitted into Holy Orders who is suffering, or who has suffered, from any physical or mental infirmity which in the opinion of the Bishop will prevent him from ministering God's Word and Sacraments or from performing the other duties of the Minister's Office.

5.03 The Impediment of Divorce

No man shall be admitted into Holy Orders who has contracted what purports to be a second or subsequent marriage (whether or not the same is valid according to secular law) while he has a presently living wife of a marriage considered valid by the Church, nor shall he be admitted into Holy Orders if he has contracted what purports to be marriage with a woman (whether or not the same is valid according to secular law) who has a presently living husband of a marriage considered valid by the Church.

5.04 The Impediment of Illegitimacy

No person shall be refused ordination and consecration as Bishop or ordination as Priest or Deacon on the ground that he was born out of lawful wedlock.

Title XI. Canon 7 Certificates and Letters Testimonial to be Exhibited to the Bishop by Such as are to be Ordained Deacons or Priests

7.01 Certificates of Deacons

Every man who is to be made a Deacon shall exhibit to the Bishop of the Diocese or other Jurisdiction:

- (a) a Certificate or other sufficient evidence of the date and place of his birth;
- (b) a Certificate or other evidence of his Baptism and Confirmation;
- (c) a Certificate signed by the officiating Minister and a Churchwarden of the Parish in which he usually resides or in which his name is entered on the Church Electoral Roll, certifying that the Form commonly called *Si Quis* was read in the time of Divine Service on some Sunday at least a week before the day of Ordination and that no impediment was alleged;
- (d) Letters Testimonial of his good life and conversation from three Priests, one of whom at least must be beneficed, i.e. have a cure, who have had personal knowledge of his life and doctrine by the space of three years next before or of such time as shall satisfy the Bishop; whose signatures shall be countersigned by the Bishop of the Diocese or other Jurisdiction wherein the said Priests are respectively either beneficed or licensed, if he be other than the Bishop to whom the said Letters are addressed.
- (e) if he shall have resided in any college or Hall in any University, or in any Theological College, similar Letters Testimonial from each such College or Hall; and
- (f) Any other Certificates of canonical consent.

7.02 Certificates of Priests

Every Deacon who is to be Ordained Priest shall exhibit to the Bishop of the Diocese:

- (a) his Letters of Orders;
- (b) a Certificate signed by the officiating Minister and a Churchwarden of the Parish or Ecclesiastical District or other such place as is provided in these Canons wherein he serves as a stipendiary Curate or, if he be not such, wherein he usually resides that

the Form *Si Quis* was read according to the provisions of Section 11.7.01 and that no impediment was alleged;

- (c) Letters Testimonial of his good life and conversation from three Priests, of whom one at least must be beneficed, who have had personal knowledge of his life, work, and doctrine during his Diaconate; whose signatures shall be countersigned according to the provisions of Section 11.7.01; and
- (d) Any other Certificates of canonical consent.

Title XI. Canon 9 Of the Normal Standard of Learning and Examination of Candidates for Holy Orders

No Bishop shall admit any persons into Holy Orders except such person, on careful and diligent examination, wherein the Bishop having jurisdiction in that place shall have called to his assistance the Archdeacons or other such Officials of that place with his examining Chaplains or other such Commission on the Ministry appointed for this purpose, be found to possess a sufficient knowledge of:

9.01 Holy Scripture: The Old and New Testaments with the Apocrypha in English, their contents, teachings, theology, and historical background; a reading knowledge of the New Testament in Greek, together with special knowledge of one Synoptic Gospel and the Gospel according to Saint John, and of three Epistles, one of which shall be Romans or First Corinthians or Hebrews;

9.02 Church History: The History of the Early Church, the Fathers, the Councils, Doctrine, and the later Eastern and Western Churches including the History of the Church of England and Anglicanism in general, and of this Church in particular;

9.03 Dogmatic, Systematic, and Patristic Theology: The Church's Doctrine, Discipline, Worship, Tradition, and other teachings thereof, especially as set forth in the Creeds, the Fathers, the Doctors of the Church, and the Book of Common Prayer;

9.04 Christian Apologetics;

9.05 Moral Theology and Christian Ethics;

9.06 Ascetical and Mystical Theology: The History, Development, Theology, and Practice of Christian Spirituality, Formation, and Discipline, and its relation to Moral Theology and the Sacraments of the Church.

9.07 Liturgical Theology: The Principles, History, and Development of Christian Worship; the History, Contents, Spirituality, and Liturgical Theology of the Book of Common Prayer;

9.08 Canon Law and Ecclesiastical Polity: The History, Doctrines, Contents, and Development of the Common Law of the Church Catholic, the General Canon Law, Custom, and the Constitution and Canons of this Church and of the Province and Diocese wherein he is canonically resident;

9.09 Pastoral Theology and its Practice: The Office and Work of a Deacon and of a Priest; the use of the Book of Common Prayer, the Administration of the Sacraments, and the Conduct of Public Worship; Homiletics: Principles of Sermon Composition and Delivery. In connection with the examination in this subject the Candidate shall present three sermons, composed by himself, or texts of Holy Scripture appointed by the Bishop; Pastoral Care; Parish Organisation and Administration; Principles and Methods of Christian Education; and the use of the voice in reading, speaking, and liturgical chanting;

9.10 Church Music: The Study, History, and Application of Liturgical Music, especially to the traditional forms and their use.

9.11 He must also offer one of the following elective subjects:

- (a) Hebrew,
- (b) The History and Development of Christian Philosophy,
- (c) The Philosophy of Religion,
- (d) Church Music,
- (e) Advanced Exegesis of the Greek New Testament, or
- (f) A particular subject of study of one of the Church Fathers or Doctors of the Church and his teachings, a period of Church History, or of one of the Ecumenical Councils.

9.12 When the principal cultural language of a Diocese or other Jurisdiction of this Church is other than English, or where there is a significant segment of the population of the Jurisdiction wherein the cultural language is other than English, the course of study set forth above in this Canon or the examination therein as aforesaid may be conducted in that cultural language as the Bishop Ordinary of that Jurisdiction shall direct.

Title XI. Canon 10.05 Canonical Dispensations from Educational Requirements

(a) Dispensation permitted where pastorally advisable

Notwithstanding anything elsewhere provided in any Canon or other regulation of force and effect within this Church, for serious cause and after consultation with his Archdeacon or other authority as in Canon 9, the lawful and proper Bishop of any Diocese, Missionary District or other Jurisdiction of this Church may at his discretion canonically dispense any man from such educational requirements as are otherwise set forth in these Canons or elsewhere if the said Bishop finds it pastorally advisable, provided always, that any man so dispensed may not be granted Letters Dimissory to another Diocese or other Jurisdiction without a written request of the lawful and proper Bishop thereof, and some suitable Charge or Cure of Souls provided for him.

(b) Restrictions upon men so dispensed

A Deacon or Priest so dispensed may be restricted by terms of his License as to his right to preach sermons of his own composition, and a Priest so dispensed may be restricted by terms of his Faculty to hear confessions only in exceptional circumstances or upon such conditions as that Bishop Ordinary, after consultation, may determine.

Title XV. Canon 3 Holy Matrimony

3.01 Indissolubility, Nature, and Purposes of Matrimony

This Church affirms, according to our Lord's teaching, that marriage is in its nature a union permanent and life-long, for better for worse, till death them do part, of one man with one woman, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for the procreation and nurture of children, for the hallowing and right direction of the natural instincts and affections, and for the mutual society, help and comfort which the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and adversity, and to that end couples entering into that union shall make and subscribe before the Solemnisation of Matrimony the following Declaration of Intention and Commitment to Holy Matrimony in the presence of the Officiating Clergyman and two witnesses:

DECLARATION OF INTENTION AND COMMITMENT TO HOLY MATRIMONY

We, A.B. and C.D., desiring to receive the blessing of Holy Matrimony within the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, do solemnly declare:

That we hold and accept Holy Matrimony to be a mystical and lifelong union of husband and wife, as it is set forth in the Form of Solemnisation of Matrimony in the Book of Common Prayer, and that this union forms an indissoluble Sacramental bond so long as we both shall live, which cannot be broken or dissolved by any action of civil authority;

That each of us is totally and unselfishly committed and bound to the other, calling continually upon the Grace of Almighty God and the power of the Holy Spirit to enable each of us, always and unconditionally, to extend to the other, joyfully and lovingly, the fellowship, support, encouragement, and understanding which is required for the fulfilment of the same;

That we know Holy Matrimony to be God's loving provision for the procreation (if it may be) and the gift and heritage of children, and for their physical, intellectual, moral, and spiritual nurture and upbringing in God's faith and fear, and for the safeguarding and benefit of society;

That we bind ourselves mutually to cleave unto the oneness of the flesh that is the Will of God, vowing to refrain from any form of sexual activity outside the bonds of this union;

That we are both jointly and individually committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and we pledge ourselves unreservedly to seek His Will in all matters affecting our family life, to hold Him in our hearts as the Head and centre of our family, and to call upon God the Holy Spirit to keep us in that obedience; and

That we do accept the Doctrine and Discipline of Holy Church in all things affecting our union, and do promise to seek the help and counsel of a Priest of the Church at any time when there is any threat to any aspect of our union, and before any action is taken that might cause irreparable or permanent damage to this relationship.

Dated: _____

Witnessed: _____

Signed: _____

Clergyman: _____

3.02 Legal and Canonical Requirements

Every Clergyman of this Church shall conform to the civil laws governing the creation of the civil status of marriage, and also to the laws of this Church governing the solemnisation of Holy Matrimony. He shall have instructed both parties as to the Church's Doctrine of Marriage and the nature, meaning, and purpose of Holy Matrimony, and the need of God's Grace in order that they may discharge aright their obligations as Married persons or shall have ascertained that they have both received such instruction from some other Clergymen of this Church known by him to be competent and responsible.

3.03 Impediments to Marriage

It shall be the duty and responsibility of every Clergyman of this Church before solemnising any marriage, or when application is made to him for matrimony to be solemnised in the Church or Chapel of which he is the Minister or allowing such matrimony to be solemnised therein, to enquire diligently and to determine, with due pastoral care and consideration, the right of the parties to contract a marriage or the solemnisation thereof according to the Discipline of the Church and the Laws Ecclesiastical, and these Canons, exercising care that none of the following impediments exist.

- (a) Of Diriment Impediments or *Impedimenta Dirimenta*.
Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the following in particular shall be deemed to be diriment impediments that if such exists or is present at the time of any purported marriage or has been placed or has obtained or existed before any such purported marriage and has not been removed or revoked or has ceased to exist by the time of such solemnisation, they shall render such purported marriage wholly null and void *ab initio*:
- (i) Consanguinity, whether of the whole or half blood, or of such other Kindred or Affinity as is contained in the following Table:
A man may not marry his (A) Mother, (B) Step-mother, (C) Mother-in-law, (D) Daughter, (E) Step-daughter, (F) Daughter-in-law, (G) Sister, (H) Grandmother, (I) Grandfather's Wife, (J) Wife's Grandmother, (K) Grand-daughter, (L) Wife's Grand-daughter, (M) Grandson's Wife, (N) Aunt, (O) Niece;
A woman may not marry her (A) Father, (B) Step-father, (C) Father-in-law, (D) Son, (E) Step-son, (F) Son-in-law, (G) Brother, (H) Grandfather, (I) Grandmother's Husband, (J) Husband's Grandfather, (K) Grandson, (L) Husband's Grandson, (M) Grand-daughter's Husband, (N) Uncle, (O) Nephew.
 - (ii) Defective intention or conditional consent by either one or both parties by a positive act of the will to exclude the marriage itself or any right to the conjugal act or any essential property of marriage or any of the ends belonging to marriage or to frustrate or thwart any part of its purposes or fulfilment.
 - (iii) Mistake or fraud concerning the identity of either party, or as to the nature of the ceremony, or serious personal or moral defect.
 - (iv) Lack of Intent on the part of either party to enter into the marriage as a lifelong indissoluble contract with the other party before God.
 - (v) Concurrent contract inconsistent with the contract constituting canonical marriage.
 - (vi) Mental deficiency or incapacity of either party or serious defect of personality or psychological factor present sufficient to prevent the exercise of intelligent choice, rational judgement, or the want of true consent.
 - (vii) Insanity or serious mental illness or deficiency of either party.
 - (viii) Failure of either party to have reached the age of puberty.
 - (ix) Impotence, sexual perversion or inversion, homosexuality; or the existence of venereal disease or sterility known in either party undisclosed to the other.
 - (x) Force or threats of force, duress or other coercion or constraint in order to extort or obtain matrimonial consent against the free will of either party against the other, or by any and all third persons against either or both of the parties.
 - (xi) Facts that would make the proposed marriage bigamous.
 - (xii) Prior marriage of either of the parties, the original partner remaining still alive, unless the Church has determined by due canonical procedure that the former union was null and void *ab initio* and not a true and valid marriage.
 - (xiii) Pregnancy by other than the intended husband and that fact suppressed from or undisclosed to the man.
 - (xiv) Lack of any consent which must be freely given and received.
 - (xv) Proposed marriage that would constitute an offence against the Moral Teaching of the Church or would be the result of an offence against the Divine Law.
 - (xvi) Intent to enter into or to continue any practice of concubinage or cohabitation or immoral conduct that would constitute an offence against the vows or bonds of matrimony.

(xvii) Intent on the part of either party not to consummate the marriage or to deprive the marriage union of the opportunity for procreation or to deprive any child conceived by the union of its right to life.

- (b) Of Prohibited Impediments or *Impedimenta Prohibitiva*.
Without restricting the generality of the foregoing preface of this Section, the following in particular shall be deemed to be prohibited impediments to the Solemnisation of Matrimony:
Failure of at least one party to be a communicant in good standing of this Church, and failure of either party to be a baptised and practising Christian.

3.04 Other Requirements

No Clergyman of this Church shall solemnise any marriage unless the following procedures have been complied with:

- (a) The intention of the parties to contract marriage shall have been signified to the Clergyman at least thirty (30) days before the service of solemnisation, except a special or common License and Faculty have been granted by the Metropolitan or Bishop as hereafter specified, and for good and sufficient cause in the said Metropolitan's or Bishop's opinion.
- (b) Where it is the responsibility of the Minister to do so, he shall assure himself that all the prerequisite notices, consents, licences, and forms as required by the civil law of the Jurisdiction in which such Marriage is to be solemnised, have been given, obtained, and completed. He shall also assure himself that the Banns of the persons to be married have been published openly as required by Canon or *in lieu* of such publication, a license has been obtained from the proper ecclesiastical authority. Otherwise, the Banns of Marriage shall be published openly in the Church three (3) consecutive Sundays during Divine Worship, after the accustomed manner. Where either or both of the parties are accustomed to worship in a Church or Churches other than their own Parish Church, the Banns may be published in the Church or Churches in which they worship.
After the final publishing, their publication shall be recorded as required, and if the marriage is to be solemnised elsewhere, the appropriate certificate shall be forwarded to the officiating Minister.
The publication of Banns shall not exempt the parties from obtaining a license to marry where the Civil Law requires them to do so.
- (c) There shall be present at least two witnesses to the solemnisation, both of whom shall sign as such in the appropriate Register or Registers as may be required by Canon of that Diocese or other Jurisdiction or Civil Law and elsewhere provided by these Canons.
- (d) Said Clergyman shall record in the proper Register or Registers the date and place of the marriage, the names of the parties and their parents, the age of the parties, their residences, and their Church status.

3.05 Special or Common Licences

The Metropolitan of each Province and the Bishop of every Diocese or other Jurisdiction may grant a common Licence and Faculty for the solemnisation of matrimony without the publication of Banns or with less than thirty days' notice to the officiating Clergyman as otherwise set out in Sub-section 3.04 (a), when in the said Metropolitan or Bishop's opinion there be good and sufficient cause for the same, at a lawful time and place and in no wise in contravention of applicable Civil Law within the several areas of their Jurisdiction, and the Primate of this Church may grant a special License and Faculty for the same purpose or purposes and for good and sufficient cause throughout this whole Church, in no wise in contravention of applicable Civil Law.

3.06 Clergyman may Decline to Solemnise any Marriage

It is and shall be within the discretion of any Clergyman of this Church to decline to solemnise any marriage.

3.07 Times and Seasons for Marriage

A marriage may not be solemnised at any unseasonable hour but only between sunrise and sunset, nor in the prohibited seasons, without a special License or Faculty from the Primate, or of the Metropolitan of the Province for good and sufficient cause in the said Primate or Metropolitan's opinion. The prohibited seasons are from Advent Sunday to the Octave of the Epiphany, Septuagesima to the Octave of Easter, and Rogation Sunday through the Eve of Trinity Sunday.

It is licit at all times to contract marriage privately before the Clergyman and appointed witnesses, but never clandestinely or by stealth.

3.08 Clergymen to Control the Service

When matrimony is to be solemnised, it belongs to the Clergyman to decide what music shall be played, what hymns or anthems shall be sung, or what furnishings or flowers should be placed in or about the Church for the occasion.

3.09 Of the Nuptial Eucharist

It is fitting that the new-married persons should receive the Holy Communion at the time of their Marriage, or at the first opportunity after their Marriage.