

The Canons of the Diocese of the Holy Cross

A non-geographical Diocese comprised of
independent Parishes within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic
Church and in affiliation with Forward in Faith - North America

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Canon 1. Of The Diocese of The Holy Cross

Canon 1.01. The Diocese of the Holy Cross shall be a Missionary Association of Independent Parishes; a Diocese of and within the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

Canon 1.02. The area in which the Diocese exercises jurisdiction is non-geographical.

Canon 2. Of The Diocesan Synod

Canon 2.01. There shall be a Synod of the Diocese. The membership thereof shall consist of:

- a. All Bishops of the Diocese.
- b. All Presbyters and Deacons of the Diocese.
- c. Three Lay Delegates from each Parish of the Diocese.

Canon 2.02. Synod shall meet biennially on a date and at a place determined by the Synod preceding. However, at his discretion, the Diocesan Bishop, with the consent of the Standing Committee, may also, with thirty days written notice of date, time and place having been given to all Clergy and Congregations, convene a Synod of the Diocese.

Canon 2.03. A quorum shall be a majority of the non-retired Clergy in good standing and lay representation by one or more Delegates from a majority of the Parishes of the Diocese entitled to representation.

Canon 2.04. The Diocesan Bishop shall be entitled to preside and have vote at all meetings of Synod. In the event of his disability this responsibility shall pass to the Bishop Coadjutor or if none to the Bishop senior by Consecration. If no Bishop be present, the Chairman of the Standing Committee shall preside and thereafter, in order of precedence, the most senior priest in point of ordination.

Canon 2.05. Synod shall deliberate and vote as one body except in specific matters in which the Canons require a vote by Orders (the Bishops, Clergy, and Lay Delegates voting separately), or when a demand is made therefor by a Bishop, or by at least three Clergy, or by three Lay Delegates. A

concurrent majority in each Order being necessary for any matter to be decided by such vote by Orders.

Canon 2.06. The Diocesan Bishop, with the concurrence of the majority of his fellow Bishops, shall possess the right to veto any act of Synod which he believes is contrary to the Christian Faith or the Doctrine, Polity, or Canons of this Church, provided that he shall give his reasons therefor.

Canon 2.07. Voting by proxy is allowed at all meetings of Synod (except in the election of a Bishop), provided that a written proxy be filed with the Presiding Officer. Proxy votes may be cast by the Presiding Officer or by a clergy or lay Delegate as designated by its originator.

Canon 3. Of The Duties And Powers Of Synod

Canon 3.01. Synod shall exercise, subject to the provisions of these Canons, the legislative authority of the Diocese with respect to its temporalities.

Canon 3.02. Synod shall provide, in accordance with these Canons, for the financial support of the Diocese and the Episcopate and may levy a tithe on the Congregations voluntarily in association with this Diocesan Synod. The Synod shall adopt budgets governing the financial operation of the Diocese.

Canon 3.03. The Synod shall elect a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Chancellor, and the members of the Standing Committee. All Officers shall serve until the conclusion of the next Biennial Synod.

Canon 3.04. Synod shall, upon recommendation of the Diocesan Bishop and Standing Committee, formally receive and seat at Synod such additional qualifying Parishes as wish to enter into association with the Diocese.

Canon 4. Of The Funds Of The Diocese

Canon 4.01. The Treasurer shall keep and administer the operating funds of the Diocese under the direction of the Diocesan Bishop and Standing Committee.

Canon 4.02. Capital Funds of the Diocese shall be held and managed under the direction of the Diocesan Bishop and Standing Committee.

Canon 5. Of The Standing Committee

- Canon 5.01. There shall be a Standing Committee composed ex officio of the Diocesan, Coadjutor and Suffragan Bishops of the Diocese, and four Priests and four Lay Communicants of the Diocese elected in the manner set forth in these Canons. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the elected membership of the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Bishop shall appoint a replacement from the appropriate Order to fulfill that term set forth in these Canons. In the event of a vacancy occurring in the elected membership of the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Bishop shall appoint a replacement from the appropriate Order to fulfill that term.
- Canon 5.02. The Standing Committee shall serve as the Diocesan Bishop's Council of Advice and shall perform all duties and functions assigned to it by these Canons. It shall elect a Chairman and such other officers as it requires.
- Canon 5.03. The Standing Committee shall meet at the call of the Diocesan Bishop or its Chairman by such means and at such time and place as shall be determined and not less than twice each year.
- Canon 5.04. Between Synods the Standing Committee may exercise the powers of the Synod, except that it may not enact nor repeal Canons.
- Canon 5.05. As required, the Standing Committee may appoint from its members persons to serve as Board Members of the Diocesan Corporation.

Canon 6. Of The Chancellor

- Canon 6.01. The Chancellor shall be an attorney licensed to practice law. The Chancellor shall serve as legal advisor to the Bishop and Diocese.
- Canon 6.02. With the consent of the Diocesan Bishop, the Chancellor may appoint Deputy Chancellors to conduct on his behalf legal business as may be required in States where he is not licensed to practice.

Canon 7. Of The Corporation Of The Diocese

- Canon 7.01. The Diocese shall be incorporated and it shall have a Board .of Trustees composed of the Diocesan Bishop, and two other such members as may be appointed by the Standing Committee. The Diocesan Bishop shall be

President of the Corporation and Chairman of its Board and Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.

Canon 7.02. The Corporation shall be the legal agent of the Diocese, subject to the direction of the Diocesan Bishop and Standing Committee.

Canon 8. Of Holy Matrimony

Canon 8.01. Prior to the solemnization of Holy Matrimony the parties shall sign the following declaration:

“We, A. B. and C. D., 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.”

Canon 8.02. At his discretion, a Bishop or Priest may decline to solemnize any marriage. No Bishop or Priest may solemnize any marriage unless both parties shall have been baptized 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.

Canon 8.03 The Bishop or Priest shall determine that the parties to contract Holy Matrimony are not in violation of the following impediments:

- a. Failure of either party to have reached the age of consent in the state of residence.
- b. Mental deficiency of either party sufficient to prevent the exercise of intelligent choice.
- c. Insanity of either party.
- d. Consanguinity (A Table of Kindred and Affinity)

A man may not marry his:

Mother
Daughter
Adopted daughter
Father's mother
Mother's mother
Son's daughter
Daughter's daughter
Sister
Wife's mother
Wife's daughter
Father's wife
Son's wife
Father's father's wife
Mother's father's wife
Wife's father's mother
Wife's mother's mother
Wife's daughter's daughter
Wife's son's daughter
Son's son's wife
Daughter's son's wife
Father's sister
Mother's sister
Brother's daughter
Sister's daughter

A woman cannot marry her:

Father
Son
Adopted son
Father's father
Mother's father
Son's son
Daughter's son
Brother
Husband's father
Husband's son
Mother's husband
Daughter's husband
Father's mother's husband
Mother's mother's husband
Husband's father's father
Husband's mother's father
Husband's son's son
Husband's daughter's son
Son's daughter's husband
Daughter's daughter's husband
Father's brother
Mother's brother
Brother's son
Sister's son

(In this Table the term 'brother' includes a brother of the half-blood, and the term 'sister' includes a sister of the half-blood)

- e. Mistake as to the identity of either party.
- f. Impotence, sexual perversion, the existence of venereal disease or known sterility in either party undisclosed to the other.
- g. Concurrent contract inconsistent with the nature of Holy Matrimony.
- h. Attendant conditions: fraud, coercion or duress or such defects of personality as to make competent and free consent impossible.

Canon 8.04.

No Bishop or Priest shall solemnize the marriage of any person who has been the spouse of any other person still living. The prospective couple must be either bachelor or widower *and* maiden or widow.

Canon 8.05. Persons who wish to enter into Holy Matrimony shall notify the Minister at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date, so that he may instruct them as to the nature of Holy Matrimony and assess their fitness to enter into the marital covenant. All persons seeking to enter into Holy Matrimony shall receive said instructions, but the Minister may, at his discretion, reduce the required time period provided there is sufficient time to allow adequate preparation.

Canon 8.06. There shall be at least two competent witnesses other than the Minister to the solemnization of Holy Matrimony. The Minister 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 Minister shall sign the record.

Canon 9. Of Holy Orders In General

Canon 9.01. No man may be ordained a Deacon until he has reached the age of twenty-three years, nor ordained Priest until he has reached the age of twenty-four years, nor be consecrated a Bishop until he has reached the age of thirty years. No man may be ordained a Priest or consecrated a Bishop unless he shall have earned a baccalaureate or advanced degree from a college or university acceptable to the Diocesan Bishop and Standing Committee.

Canon 9.02. No man shall be ordained Deacon , Priest, or consecrated Bishop unless 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 in the presence of the Bishop to the Promise and Oath of Conformity provided in the Appendix to the Canons of this Diocese.

Canon 9.03. No man shall be ordained Deacon , Priest, or consecrated Bishop, or admitted as a Postulant or Candidate for Holy Orders, unless:

- a. He shall meet the New Testament requirements for ordination, especially as stipulated in I Timothy 3:1-13.
- b. 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.

- c. He shall be free from drug or alcohol abuse.
- d. He shall be free from sexual perversion.
- e. He shall submit medical reports from one or more physicians as to his satisfactory physical, mental and emotional health.

Canon 10. Of Postulants

- Canon 10.01. An adult male communicant of this Church who believes himself called to the Sacred Ministry may, with the endorsement of his Rector or Minister-in-charge, apply to the Diocesan Bishop for admission as a Postulant. The application shall be in a form determined and provide such information as set forth by the Bishop.
- Canon 10.02. Before entering into his course of theological studies, the postulant shall lay before the Diocesan Bishop and the Board of Examining Chaplains adequate evidence that he possesses a satisfactory diploma from a college or university acceptable to the Diocesan Bishop and Standing Committee together with a full statement of the work done by him.
- Canon 10.03. Within sixty days of the receipt of the application, the Diocesan Bishop shall notify the applicant of the acceptance or rejection of his application. When accepted, this fact shall be recorded in the records of the Diocese.
- Canon 10.04. The life, preparation and study of a Postulant shall be directed by the Diocesan Bishop and those he may appoint thereto.
- Canon 10.05. The Postulant shall report to the Diocesan Bishop personally or by letter during each of the Ember seasons regarding his manner of life, spiritual state, and the progress of his studies.
- Canon 10.06. The Diocesan Bishop may withdraw his acceptance of a Postulant at his discretion and shall, in such a case, notify both the former Postulant and his Priest or Minister-in-charge accordingly within ten days.

Canon 11. Of Candidates For Holy Orders

- Canon 11.01. Any Postulant who has in the judgment of the Diocesan Bishop made satisfactory progress may apply for admission as a Candidate. Such

application must be endorsed by the Vestry and the Rector or Minister-in-charge of the Parish of which the applicant is a member. The Postulant shall, at the time of his application, provide medical reports as to his satisfactory physical, mental and emotional health.

Canon 11.02. The Diocesan Bishop shall notify the applicant within sixty days of his acceptance or, if the application is rejected, of the reason thereof.

Canon 11.03. Sections .04, .05, and .06 of Canon 10 shall also apply to the Candidate.

Canon 12. Of The Board Of Examining Chaplains

Canon 12.01. The Board of Examining Chaplains shall consist of those persons so appointed by the Diocesan Bishop and serving at his pleasure. The Board of Examining Chaplains shall function in accordance with the provisions of these Canons.

Canon 12.02. It shall be the duty of the Board of Examining Chaplains, at the discretion and under the guidance and oversight of the Diocesan Bishop, to conduct the examinations, both written and oral, of men preparing for Holy Orders and to advise the Bishop as to their studies and preparation.

Canon 12.03. The Board of Examining Chaplains shall report promptly, in writing, to the Diocesan Bishop the results of each examination held by it, whether satisfactory or unsatisfactory. The Bishop shall transmit these reports to the Standing Committee, which shall not recommend a Postulant for admission as Candidate or recommend a Candidate for ordination until it has received a report from the Board of Examining Chaplains that he has passed all required examinations.

Canon 13. Of Ordination To The Diaconate

Canon 13.01. A Candidate for ordination to the Diaconate, having passed the required examinations, also submitting a recommendation from his Parish Priest or Minister-in charge and the Vestry of the Parish to which he belongs, and having obtained the approval of the Standing Committee, may apply to the Diocesan Bishop to be so ordained.

Canon 13.02. A man ordained to the Diaconate shall remain a Deacon for one year before

being ordained to the Priesthood, provided that the Diocesan Bishop may shorten this time to not less than six months at his discretion.

Canon 13.03. A Deacon shall exercise his ministry as appointed by the Diocesan Bishop. He may be assigned to assist in any parish or parishes with the consent of the Rector and Vestry thereof. As such he may execute all the functions pertaining to the office of Deacon including, if he be so licensed by the Bishop, the preaching of sermons of his own composition. He may not serve as a Minister-in charge of a congregation except under the supervision of the Diocesan Bishop or a Priest assigned to such supervision by the Bishop.

Canon 14. Of Ordination To The Priesthood

Canon 14.01. A Deacon desiring to be ordained to the Priesthood, having passed all required examinations, and submitting such credentials as may be required, shall apply to the Diocesan Bishop to be so ordained.

Canon14.02 No man shall be ordained to the Priesthood without a Title.

Canon 15. Of The Election Of Bishops

Canon 15.01. When there is a vacancy in the Office of the Diocesan Bishop, or when the Diocesan Bishop and Standing Committee shall see fit to call for the election of a Bishop Suffragan, the Standing Committee shall, not less than ninety days prior to a regularly scheduled Synod or, if said Synod shall not be scheduled within one hundred and eighty days, summon a Special Synod called for the purpose of electing a Bishop, notify every clergyman and parish of the Diocese and solicit, should they so desire, their nomination of a candidate qualified under the provision of these Canons for election. Such nominations must be submitted, together with a written consent and current vita from the priest nominated, to the Standing Committee not less than sixty days prior to the electing Synod. The names and vitae of those duly nominated shall be provided, by the Standing Committee, to the clergy and parishes of the Diocese not less than thirty days prior to the electing Synod. The Synod shall vote by Orders and when one candidate shall have received a majority vote in each Order, an election shall be declared. If, after three ballots have been cast, no election has been achieved, the name of the candidate with the fewest total votes

shall be withdrawn. This procedure shall continue, as necessary, with each ballot until only two candidates remain. If, after the number of candidates has been reduced to two, two additional ballots result in no election, the names of both candidates shall be placed in a chalice by the Secretary of the Synod. The Presiding Officer of the Synod shall then, in the presence of the assembled Synod, remove the name of one candidate who shall be declared thereby elected. This amendment shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

Canon 15.02 At any Synod required either at the request of the Diocesan Bishop or under the provisions of these Canons to elect a Bishop and for which no nominations have been received prior to the convening of such Synod, nominations shall be made from the floor of a person or persons qualified under the provisions of these Canons for election and balloting shall proceed as set forth herein. This amendment shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

Canon 15.03. With the consent of the Diocesan Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor may be elected. The Bishop Coadjutor shall become the Diocesan Bishop when that Office becomes vacant.

Canon 16. Of The Duties Of Bishops

Canon 16.01. The Diocesan Bishop shall visit every Congregation in this Diocese at least once every three years for the purposes of examining their condition, preaching the Gospel, celebrating the Holy Communion, and Confirming those presented for that purpose. Every Congregation of the Diocese shall receive an Episcopal Visitation each year; if not by the Diocesan Bishop, then at his direction by the Bishop Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop.

Canon 16.02. Every Bishop shall keep a record of his Official Acts. It shall be the property of the Diocese and shall be available to the Diocesan Bishop, his Successors, and to the Standing Committee for their inspection.

Canon 16.03. A Bishop retiring because of age or disability retains his seat and vote in Synod and in the Standing Committee and is subject to these Canons; however, a Bishop resigning for any other cause, while remaining subject to these Canons shall not vote and may be seated at Synod or Standing Committee only at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop. Episcopal resignations shall be addressed to the Standing Committee and notice sent

to each Bishop of this Diocese.

Canon 16.04 Any bishop shall be able to resign his position with the consent of the Standing Committee.

Canon 16.05 Any Bishop of this Diocese shall resign his position upon a formal request passed by three fourths of the membership of the Standing Committee provided that all the other episcopal members thereof concur therein, or by the concurrent majority vote by Orders of a Synod of this Diocese, If such a resignation shall be required, said Bishop shall be so notified forthwith and shall hand over, intact and in good order, all records and assets of the Diocese in his possession within seven days of receiving said notification. The resigning Bishop shall be entitled to receive a severance allowance equal to three months stipend unless the cause of his dismissal shall be for a criminal offense.

Canon 17. Of The Parish

Canon 17.01. 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 and a majority of the Standing Committee act 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. Every parish seeking admission to this Diocese must be affiliated with Forward in Faith – North America.

Canon 17.02. 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 Canon 19.02. If the Vestry fails to provide for these services within thirty days, the Diocesan Bishop may appoint a Priest, Deacon, or Licensed Lay Reader to provide for such services.

Canon 17.03. In every Parish there shall be an Annual Meeting between January 1 and February 28 as determined by the Vestry, and notice thereof shall be given at all services on the preceding two Sundays

Canon 17.04. 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 17.03., and the nature of the business for which the meeting has been called also specified. No other business may be transacted at such meeting.

Canon 17.05. 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.

Canon 17.06. At the Annual Meeting the members of the Vestry shall be elected in accordance with these Canons and the 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.

Canon 17.07. Parish affiliation with the Diocese of the Holy Cross is voluntary; however, such Parishes, while so affiliated, shall accede to the Canons of the Diocese of the Holy Cross, are bound thereby, and shall comply with all directives of the Diocesan Synods.

Canon 17.08. A Parish may be incorporated under the laws of the State in which it is located, in such case the Rector shall always be President and Chairman of the Board of Directors with a right to vote in all corporate meetings, and the Vestry shall be the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

Canon 18. Of Vestries

Canon 18.01. The Vestry is the governing board of every Parish of the Diocese and is in charge of the temporalities thereof, serving as its legal representative with respect to its business and property. The Vestry also serves as a council of advice to the Rector or Minister-in-charge.

Canon 18.02. Persons elected to the Vestry shall be Communicant Voting Members of the congregation who pledge to its financial support. Election to the Vestry shall be in accordance with these Canons as well as the By-laws of the Parish.

Canon 18.03. 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.

Canon 18.04. The Rector or Minister-in-charge shall always be a Vestry member ex officio with the right to preside and vote at meetings. No Vestry meeting may be called that excludes the Rector or Minister-in-charge or lacks his previous knowledge and consent.

Canon 18.05. 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:

- a. The Rector or Minister-in-charge, who shall serve as President.
- b. 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.
- c. A Junior Warden to be elected annually by the Vestry from its membership, who shall serve as Second Vice President.
- d. 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 for Parish Meetings.

Canon 18.06. The 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.

Canon 18.07. The Vestry shall fill all vacancies occurring in its membership and among Delegates to the Diocesan Synod.

Canon 19. Of The Rector

Canon 19.01. The Rector of a Parish shall be a Bishop or Priest canonically resident in this Diocese. 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. The Rector shall have at all times possession and control of and access to the use of all Parish buildings and property.

Canon 19.02. The Rector shall be chosen by the Vestry in consultation with the Diocesan Bishop and subject to the Diocesan Bishop's approval and confirmation.

Canon 19.03. Having been chosen and approved in accordance with Canon 19.02, and having entered upon his duties the Rector has tenure in the Parish, he cannot be removed from his Office except by joint decision of the Diocesan Bishop and the Vestry of the Parish. 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.

Canon 19.04. 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 arrangement as to any of them 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.

Canon 19.05. 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 20. Of Tithes To The Diocese

Canon 20.01. 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 specially designated funds, for the immediate preceding year.

Canon 20.02. 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.

Canon 20.03. Payment of the tithe set forth in Canon 20.01, or as modified in Canon

20.02, shall be a condition of qualifying Lay Delegates to the Diocesan Synod.

Canon 21. Of Parish Records And Reports

Canon 21.01. In each Parish of the Diocese the following Record Books shall be kept by the Officers responsible for them:

- a. A Register of all Services and a Register of all Parish Members according to their canonical status to be kept by the Rector or Minister-in-charge.
- b. A Financial Record of all receipts and expenditures to be kept by the Treasurer.
- c. A Book of the Minutes of Vestry and Parish Meetings to be kept by the Clerk of the Vestry.

Canon 21.02. Each Parish of the Diocese shall submit to the Diocesan Bishop by March 15 of each year an Annual Parochial Report for the previous year in the form set forth by the Bishop, to which shall be attached as part thereof a full and correct copy of its financial report for the previous year. The timely filing of these reports, unless dispensed for cause in writing from the Diocesan Bishop, shall be a condition of qualifying Lay Delegates to the Diocesan Synod.

Canon 22. Of Parish Property

Canon 22.01. A Parish, whether incorporated or not, is the absolute owner in fee simple of all its property, real or personal, and the Diocese has and claims no equitable interest or trust estate therein, excepting only such liens, encumbrances, and rights that the Diocese may acquire under the terms of a loan made to the Parish and excepting also property purchased by the Diocese and standing in the name thereof.

Canon 22.02. 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 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.

Canon 23. Of Suspending Union With The Diocese

Canon 23.01 For cause and with the consent of the Diocesan Bishop the affiliation or union of a Parish with this Diocese may be suspended by a two thirds vote of the Standing Committee, or by a two thirds vote of the Synod.

Canon 23.02. Any Parish may withdraw from its voluntary affiliation with this Diocese upon the vote of the Parish Vestry in accordance with the Parish By-laws and, except for those parishes incorporated as “Free Churches,” 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 determine in this manner to withdraw from the Diocese, written notice thereof shall be forwarded to the Diocesan Bishop within ten days following the Special Parish Meeting and the Parish shall fulfill any outstanding financial obligation that may be due the Diocese prior to such withdrawal.

Canon 24. Of Worship

Canon 24.01. Worship of Almighty God in this Church shall be according to 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 Diocesan authority.

Canon 24.02. 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, provided that the Diocesan Bishop may at his discretion enumerate the permitted missals and devotional manuals.

Canon 24.03. 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 24.04. Except where the text of Holy Scripture is printed as a part of the Book of

Common Prayer, only the Authorized or King James Version shall be used in the reading of the appointed Lessons, Epistle and Gospel.

Canon 24.05. 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 Diocesan Authority. It shall be the duty of every Minister 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. It shall be his duty to suppress all irreverence in the rendition of music as well as all light and unseemly music.

Canon 25. Of Enactment, Amendment And Repeal

Canon 25.01. No new Canon shall be enacted, or existing Canon amended or repealed except by a majority vote in each Order of the Diocesan Synod, proper notice having been given of the proposed new Canon or amendment or motion to repeal in accordance with the following:

a. Written notice setting forth the full text of the new Canon, or motion of amendment, or motion to repeal of an existing Canon, must be received by the Diocesan Bishop not less than two months prior to the applicable Synod.

b.

c. The Diocesan Bishop shall forward a copy of said notice to each Parish and to each Clergyman of the Diocese at least one month prior to the applicable Synod.

Canon 25.02. 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.

Canon 25.03. In all cases of future enactment, the same, if by way of amendment of an existing provision, shall be in substantially the following form: "Canon .. (or Clause ... 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 clause in a Canon, the numbering of the Canons or of divisions of a Canon which follow shall be changed accordingly, if necessary.

Canon 25.04. Amendment of these Canons shall become effective on the First Sunday in Advent next after enactment thereof, unless an earlier date is specified.

Appendix 1 - 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 Diocese of the Holy Cross and of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. So help me God, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Dated)_____ (Signed)_____

Appendix 2 - 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
Diocese of the Holy Cross:

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) The Reverend _____

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 the Diocese of the Holy Cross:

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 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 a two-thirds majority of all) of the
members of the Vestry.

(Signed) _____ Rector/Clerk of the Vestry

Appendix 2 - continued

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

To The Right Reverend _____, Bishop of
the Diocese of the Holy Cross:

We, being the majority of all the members of the Standing Committee of the
Diocese of the Holy Cross, 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 _____ day 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)

D. The endorsement from the Rector and Vestry to the Standing Committee for a Deacon to be
ordained a Priest shall read:

To the Standing Committee of the Diocese of the Holy Cross:

We do certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that The
Reverend A. B., Deacon since the _____ day of _____, in the
Year of Our Lord _____, (being the date of his ordination
to the Diaconate), has lived a sober, honest and godly life, and has not
written, taught or held anything contrary to the Doctrine, Discipline, and
Worship of this Church. And, moreover, we think The Reverend A. B. a man
qualified to be admitted to the Sacred Order of Priests in Christ's One, Holy,
Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

(Dated) _____ (Signed)

Appendix 2 - continued

I hereby certify that The Reverend A. B., is a Member of _____ Parish; 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 all the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) of the members of the Vestry.

(Signed) _____ Rector/Clerk of the Vestry

Appendix 3- Information Form For Holy Matrimony

Appendix 4 - Declaration Of Intention For Holy Matrimony