

REVISED

ARTICLE 12

REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTRA-DIOCESAN CONVENTIONS OR SYNODS

Current:

Sec. 1 An equal number of priests and lay persons canonically resident within the Diocese shall be elected to serve as representatives to such extra-diocesan conventions, synods or meetings to which this Diocese may wish to send representatives. They shall possess the same qualifications as members of the Standing Committee and shall be elected at the Annual Diocesan Convention by a total cumulative vote of both orders. Such duly-elected representatives shall hold office until their successors are elected.

Sec. 2 The Bishop shall assign the Alternate deputies or delegates to fill any vacancy in the delegation, first choosing from among the non-elected nominees. In case there be no Bishop or he is unable to act, this power shall be exercised by the Standing Committee.

Proposed:

Sec. 1 The Diocese shall elect an equal number of clergy and lay persons as representatives to such extra-diocesan conventions or synods to which this Diocese may wish to send representatives. They shall possess the same qualifications as members of the Standing Committee and shall be elected at the Annual Diocesan Convention by a total cumulative vote of both orders. Such duly-elected representatives shall hold office until their successors are elected.

Sec. 2 From the pool of representatives elected under Article 12.1, the Bishop shall assign the delegates and alternates to represent the Diocese.

Rational: Provincial gatherings vary each year, sometimes requiring a large delegation, sometimes a smaller one. The number of delegates to Provincial Assembly varies by the Communicants in Good Standing of each diocese the year Assembly is held.

Current:

CANON 25
WARDENS AND VESTRY OF PARISHES

Current:

Sec. 25.1 Vestries shall consist of not less than six (6) and not more than fifteen (15) members who shall be Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing of at least eighteen (18) years of age, canonically resident in the Parish, and who were financial contributors to the Parish in the preceding year as shown on the records of the Treasurer.

Proposed:

Sec. 25.1 Vestries shall consist of not less than six (6) and not more than fifteen (15) members who shall be Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing of at least eighteen (18) years of age, canonically resident in the Parish, and who were financial contributors to the Parish in the preceding year as shown on the records of the Treasurer. **No spouse of a priest or deacon can serve on the Vestry where that clergyman serves. No parish staff can serve on a Vestry where employed.**

Rational: Limit nepotism.

CANON 27
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL REPORTS

Current:

Sec. 27.1 A report from every Parish and Mission shall be prepared annually for the year ending December 31 preceding, upon the form provided by The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. This report shall be sent in duplicate to the Bishop not later than March 1.

Sec. 27.2 Copies and tabulations of the reports shall be filed in the Diocesan office for the use of commissions and committees. These reports, or such parts of them as the Bishop may deem proper, shall be published in the Journal of the Convention.

Proposed:

Sec. 27.1 Every Parish and Mission shall submit an annual parochial report for the year ending December 31 preceding by March 1 to the Province.

Sec. 27.2 Parishes and Missions which have failed to timely submit their parochial report shall be denied a voice and vote at convention, unless such requirement is waived by appeal to the convention.

Rational: bring in line with current practices and Provincial Constitution and Canons.

CANON 44
OF THE MINISTRY OF BAPTIZED & CONFIRMED PERSONS

Current:

Sec. 1 – Concerning the ministry of all baptized persons

The Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons, including:

1. Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ's name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ's mission at all times and in all places.
2. Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to lifelong Christian formation.

Sec. 2 – Concerning the ministry of confirmed adult communicants

The Diocese shall make provision for the training and selection of confirmed communicants in good standing in the parishes or missions of the Diocese to serve as Lector, Worship Leader, Lay Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, or Catechist.

Guidelines for the training and selection of the persons called to these ministries are contained in the Handbook on Lay Ministry available from the Diocese.

Sec. 3 – Concerning the ministry of Religious Orders

The Diocese shall make provision for the identification, encouragement, and discernment of those interested in exploring religious orders.

Sec. 4 – [Retained for future use.]

Sec. 5 – Concerning the ministry of Holy Orders

The Diocese affirms what Anglicanism has always held, namely, the normality of the threefold ministry of Bishop, Priest, and Deacon. Therefore, the Diocese shall make provision for the discernment, training, and selection of confirmed, communicant men in good standing within the Diocese seeking to serve the Church in this manner.

Those considering these ministries shall follow the guidelines and process for the calling, training, examination and selection of a Deacon or Priest as contained in the Customary for Holy Orders which is available from the Diocese.

Sec. 6 – Commission on Ministry

The Bishop shall appoint confirmed communicants in good standing within the Diocese to serve on the Commission on Ministry. The commission shall be an advisory body to assist the Bishop in establishing and implementing the guidelines and procedures contained in the Customary for Orders.

Proposed:

Sec. 1 – Concerning the ministry of all baptized persons

The Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons, including:

1. The word “baptized” refers to one who has received the Sacrament of Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
2. Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ’s name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ’s mission at all times and in all places.
3. Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to lifelong Christian formation.

Sec. 2 – Concerning the ministry of confirmed adult communicants

1. The word “communicant” refers to a baptized person who receives communion at least three times a year at a Parish or Mission in union with the Diocese.
2. The term “confirmed” refers to a baptized individual who has received a laying on of hands by a Bishop in the Apostolic Succession.
3. The phrase “good standing” refers to a communicant who is canonically resident and a financial contributor to the Parish or Mission.
4. The Diocese shall make provision for the training and selection of confirmed communicants in good standing in the parishes or missions of the Diocese to serve as Lector, Worship Leader, Lay Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, or Catechist.
5. Guidelines for the training and selection of the persons called to these ministries are contained in the Handbook on Lay Ministry available from the Diocese.

Sec. 3 – Concerning the ministry of Religious Orders

The Diocese shall make provision for the identification, encouragement, and discernment of those interested in exploring religious orders.

Sec. 4 – [Retained for future use.]

Sec. 5 – *Concerning the ministry of Holy Orders*

The Diocese affirms what Anglicanism has always held, namely, the normality of the threefold ministry of Bishop, Priest, and Deacon. Therefore, the Diocese shall make provision for the discernment, training, and selection of confirmed, communicant men in good standing within the Diocese seeking to serve the Church in this manner.

Those considering these ministries shall follow the guidelines and process for the calling, training, examination and selection of a Deacon or Priest as contained in the Customary for Holy Orders which is available from the Diocese.

Sec. 6 – *Commission on Ministry*

The Bishop shall appoint confirmed communicants in good standing within the Diocese to serve on the Commission on Ministry. The commission shall be an advisory body to assist the Bishop in establishing and implementing the guidelines and procedures contained in the Customary for Orders.

Rational: provide clear definition of terms.

CANON 43
OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Current:

Section 43.7 The Clergy shall require the parties to 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 Book of Common Prayer:

We believe that the union of husband and wife, in heart, body, and mind, is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and when it is God’s will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

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.”

Proposed:

Section 43.7 The Clergy shall require the parties to sign the following declaration:

“We, N.N. and N.N., 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 Book of Common Prayer. We believe it is established by God for the procreation of children, and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord; for mutual joy, and for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; to maintain purity, so that husbands and wives, with all the household of God, might serve as holy and undefiled members of the Body of Christ; and for the upbuilding of Christ’s kingdom in family, church, and society, to the praise of his holy Name. 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.”

Rational: bring in line with the 2019 BCP