

# **THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF THE GREAT LAKES OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA**

## ***CONSTITUTION***

### ***Preamble***

The Anglican Diocese of Great Lakes, (the “Diocese”) a member of the Anglican Church in North America (the "Province") and thereby a member of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church (the "Church"), ordains and establishes this Constitution.

### ***Article I***

#### ***Fundamental Declarations of The Diocese***

The Diocese hereby adopts the Fundamental Declarations of the Province as set forth in Article I of the Provincial Constitution. The Diocese acknowledges the authority and powers of the Province as set forth in the Constitution and Canons adopted thereby and adopts this Constitution to be in conformance therewith. All powers not granted to the Province are reserved to the Diocese.

### ***Article II***

#### ***Order. Governance and Discipline***

The fundamental agency of mission is the local congregation gathered in union with the Diocese. The order, governance and discipline of the Diocese shall be vested in the Bishop as the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Standing Committee, the Synod, the Executive Committee, and the Ecclesiastical Trial Court of the Diocese in conformity with this Constitution.

*Article III*  
*Authority, Composition, and Organization of the Synod*

**Section 1. Authority**

The Synod, as the legislative body of the Diocese, shall have authority to adopt canons, approve resolutions and take any other specific action for the conduct of the affairs of the Diocese not in conflict with this Constitution or that of the Province. At the annual meeting of Synod it shall receive a report on the finances and budget of the Diocese and may make comment thereon.

**Section 2. Composition**

- (a) The Synod shall be composed of the Lay Order and the Clerical Order.
- (b) The Clerical Order shall be composed of the Clergy Delegates comprising the Bishop or Bishops and all of the Presbyters and Deacons under the authority of the Bishop in the Diocese. No member of the Clerical Order while under ecclesiastical discipline shall be entitled to a seat in the Synod.
- (c) The Lay Order shall be composed of the Lay Delegates elected by the member Congregations and Missions, and, as authorized by canon, appointed and *ex officio* members.
- (d) Each elected Lay Delegate, each Clergy Delegate and, except as provided by canon, each appointed and *ex officio* member shall have voice and vote.

**Section 3. Meetings**

There shall be an annual meeting of the Synod. As provided by canon, the Synod may also hold special meetings. The elected Lay Delegates shall serve only for the annual meeting of the Synod for which chosen and for any special meeting held prior to the next annual meeting, unless other delegates are chosen specifically for such special meeting.

**Section 4. Quorum for the Transaction of Synod Business**

One half of the Congregations and Missions must be represented; one half of the delegates of the Lay Order must be represented; and one half of the delegates of the Clerical Order

must be represented in order to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at an annual or special meeting. A meeting may be adjourned by a majority of those delegates present at adjournment.

**Section 5. Presiding Officer of the Synod**

The Bishop shall preside at all meetings of the Synod unless he assigns the role of presiding officer to a member the Synod. In the Bishop's absence, the Standing Committee shall assign the role of presiding officer to a member the Synod.

**Section 6. Voting**

The Synod shall deliberate and vote as one body and, unless otherwise provided by this Constitution or by canon, a majority of those voting shall be necessary for a decision. A vote by orders may be authorized by canon.

*Article IV*

**The Executive Committee and Ad Hoc Synod Committees**

The Synod, with the consent of the Bishop, may provide by canon for the appointment or election of an Executive Committee, with duties therein provided, to serve as the authority of the Synod between annual Synod meetings. Unless and until an Executive Committee be established, the Standing Committee shall perform all the functions of the Executive Committee. The Synod may establish such other committees as it deems necessary, and the Bishop, with the advice of the Standing Committee, may appoint *ad hoc* committees to study and report on particular matters assigned by the Bishop.

*Article V*  
*Office of the Bishop*

**Section 1. The Calling to the Episcopate - 1 Timothy 3**

A Bishop is called by God and the Church to be a shepherd who feeds the flock entrusted to his care. A Bishop is an overseer of the flock and as such is called to propagate, to teach, and to uphold and defend the Faith and Order of the Church, willingly and as God directs. He must not be greedy for money but be eager to serve, not lording the authority of his office or position over those entrusted to his care. He must be a humble, wholesome example to the entire flock of Christ. By the tradition of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, Bishops are consecrated for the whole Church and are successors of the Apostles through the grace of the Holy Spirit given to them. They are chief missionaries and chief pastors, guardians and teachers of doctrine, and administrators of godly discipline and governance.

**Section 2. Concerning Criteria for Bishops**

To be a suitable candidate for Bishop, a person must:

- Be a person of prayer and strong faith;
- Be pious, have exemplary morals and exhibit Godly character;
- Have a zeal for souls
- Have demonstrated evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit;
- Possess the knowledge and gifts that equip him to fulfill the office;
- Be held in high esteem by the faithful;
- Be a male Presbyter at least 35 years old;
- Have served as Rector of a congregation; and
- Have demonstrated the ability to lead and grow the Church.

**Section 3. Election of Bishops**

The election of the Bishop of the Diocese, a Bishop Coadjutor or a Bishop Suffragan shall take place at the annual meeting or any special meeting of the Synod called for the purpose. The vote shall be by ballot and by orders. A majority of the votes cast by each order on the same ballot shall be necessary for election. The Secretary of the Diocese shall immediately forward the name of the Presbyter so elected to the College of Bishops of the Province for its consent as provided in Title III, Canon 8, Section 4 of the Provincial Canons. In the event that the Bishop-elect is rejected by the College of Bishops, the Bishop or the Standing Committee shall promptly call another meeting of the Synod for the purpose of electing a Bishop.

*Article VI*  
**Vacancy in the Office of the Bishop**

**Section 1. Death, Retirement or Removal of the Bishop**

Upon the death, retirement or removal of the Bishop, if there be no Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. Upon the written request of the Standing Committee, the College of Bishops may appoint an Acting Bishop to be in charge of the Diocese until a Bishop can be elected.

**Section 2. Disability or Impermissible Absence of the Bishop**

If the Standing Committee should determine upon careful deliberation that the Bishop is under a disability, or has absented himself without permission from or consultation with the Diocese for more than two months, it may with the consent of the Archbishop declare the Office of the Bishop vacant. In such case, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, or the Bishop Suffragan shall take charge until the Standing Committee with the consent of the Archbishop declares the Bishop restored. If there be neither Bishop Coadjutor nor Bishop Suffragan, the

Standing Committee shall serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese until the Standing Committee with the consent of the Archbishop declares the Bishop restored.

**Section 3. Succession in Case of Death, Retirement, or Removal of the Bishop**

A Bishop Coadjutor shall become the Bishop upon the death, retirement, or removal of the Bishop. A Bishop Suffragan may not become the Bishop of the Diocese unless he be so elected at a meeting of the Synod and his election be consented to by the College of Bishops.

***Article VII***  
**The Standing Committee**

There shall be a Standing Committee of the Diocese that shall perform those duties required by the Constitution and Canons of the Province and of the Diocese. The Standing Committee shall be composed of an equal number of elected clergy and laity and shall be constituted as provided by canon.

***Article VIII***  
**Diocesan Committee on Constitution and Canons**  
**and Other Committees of the Diocese**

There shall be a Diocesan Committee on Constitution and Canons that shall be responsible for ensuring the conformity of the Diocesan Constitution and Canons with those of the Province. This Committee shall review and report its recommendation to the Synod regarding any proposed amendment to the Constitution or Canons. The Synod may establish other committees of the Diocese.

***Article IX***  
**The Officers of the Diocese**

In addition to the Bishop, and, if there be such, the Bishop Coadjutor and the Bishop Suffragan, the officers of the Diocese shall be the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Chancellor, and the Registrar. The selection and duties of the Officers of the Diocese shall be prescribed by canon.

*Article X*  
*Mission and Worship*

**Section 1. The Mission of the Diocese**

The mission of the Diocese shall be the mission of the Province. The fundamental agency of mission in the Province and the Diocese is the local congregation.

**Section 2. Worship in the Diocese**

The worship of Almighty God in the Diocese shall be according to Anglican faith and order and shall be conducted in accord with the Constitution and Canons of the Province and of the Diocese.

*Article XI*  
*Ecclesiastical Discipline*

**Section 1. Ecclesiastical Trial Court Established**

There shall be an Ecclesiastical Trial Court of the Diocese for the application of Church discipline in accordance with the Provincial Constitution and Canons.

**Section 2. Jurisdiction, Composition, Terms of Office and Procedures**

The jurisdiction, composition, terms of office and procedures of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall be established by canon.

*Article XII*  
*Concerning Property of Congregations and Missions*

All property, real and personal, owned or held by or on behalf of a Congregation or Mission of the Diocese is and shall be owned by the Congregation or Mission, free of any trust or other claim in favor of the Diocese or the Province. A Congregation or Mission may not alienate or encumber its real property except with the consent of a majority of the Congregation or Mission by vote taken at a meeting called for that purpose with adequate advance notice.

*Article XIII*  
**Concerning Diocesan Property**

Any property, both real and personal, owned by the Diocese now and in the future is not and shall not be subject to any trust interest in favor of the Province or any other claim of ownership arising out of the canon law of the Province.

*Article XIV*  
**Incorporation**

The Diocese may incorporate in accordance with the laws of the State where located or the State where any of its Congregations or Missions is located. The Bishop shall be the President of the corporation and the Standing Committee its Board of Directors. Operation of the corporation shall be as provided by canon and applicable state law.

*Article XV*  
**Amendment**

No amendment to this Constitution may be adopted until it has been reviewed by the Constitution and Canons Committee and its recommendations given to the Synod. This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 majority vote at any regular meeting of the Synod. If approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the Synod, the amendment shall lie over to the next annual meeting of the Synod, and, if again approved in the same form by a 2/3 majority vote, the Constitution shall then stand amended as proposed.