

The Constitution of the Diocese

Definitions

Church: Anglican Church in North America (ACNA)

Congregation: Any parish or mission in union with the Diocese

Parish: Self-supporting congregation with full-time clergy

Mission: Any other congregation admitted into union with the Diocese that is not a parish

Fellowship: A group organized for the purpose of forming a congregation to apply for admission into union with the Diocese.

The Bishop: Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese

Suffragan Bishop: Bishop elected to assist the Diocesan Bishop in his work without right of succession

Bishop Coadjutor: Bishop elected to succeed sitting Diocesan Bishop

Vote: One vote

Canonical Residence: Recorded as resident by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese

Diocese: The Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes

Synod: The annual gathering of the clergy and lay delegates in order to conduct the business of the Diocese

Preamble

The Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes (hereinafter, the Diocese) is a member of the Anglican Church in North America and thereby a member of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. The Diocese came into being in 2010 in order to preserve and propagate the historic Christian faith as handed down in the Anglican formularies throughout the centuries in order to spread the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ to the Great Lakes region. The Diocese at its founding consists of those congregations and missions listed in Article XIV of this Constitution and those additional parishes, missions and fellowships which may be added from time to time in the manner provided by canon.

Article I: Fundamental Declarations of the Diocese

The Diocese hereby adopts the Fundamental Declarations of the Anglican Church in North America as set forth in Article I of the constitution of this Church. The Diocese acknowledges the authority and powers of the Anglican Church in North America 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 Anglican Church in North America 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, the Standing Committee, the Synod and the Ecclesiastical Court of the Diocese in conformity with this constitution.

Article III: Authority, Composition and Organization of the Synod

Section 1. Authority

The Synod shall have authority to adopt canons, approve resolutions and budgets 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 Anglican Church in North America.

Section 2. Composition

- (a) The Synod shall be composed of the Lay Order and the Clerical Order.
- (b) The Clerical Order shall consist of the Bishop or bishops and all of the presbyters and deacons canonically resident in the Diocese. No member of the Clerical Order under ecclesiastical discipline shall be entitled to a seat in the Synod.
- (c) The Lay Order shall consist of the lay delegates from the member congregations and missions, authorized by canon as well as those ex officio members authorized by canon.
- (d) Lay members of the Standing Committee, the chancellor, the treasurer, the secretary of the Diocese and four (4) youth delegates between the ages of 16 and 22, chosen by the Standing Committee, shall be ex officio members of the Synod.

- (e) Each elected lay delegate, each clergy delegate and each ex officio member shall have voice and vote.

Section 3. Meetings

There shall be an annual meeting of the Synod, and special meetings of the Synod, as provided by canon. The lay delegates shall serve for the annual meeting of the Synod for which chosen and, unless other delegates be chosen, for any special meeting held prior to the next annual meeting.

Section 4. Quorum for the transaction of business at Synod

One-half of the members of the Clerical Order and one-half of the members of the Lay Order shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at an annual or special meeting, but a smaller number constituting a majority of those present may adjourn any such meeting.

Section 5. Presiding Officer of the Synod

The Bishop shall preside at all meetings of the Synod, and he may assign the role of presiding officer. In his absence, the Standing Committee shall appoint a presiding officer.

Section 6. Voting

The Synod shall deliberate and vote as one body and a majority of those voting shall be necessary for a decision. There may be a vote by orders if requested by ten (10) members of the Synod, in which case a majority of those voting in each order shall be necessary for a decision.

Article IV: Election of a Bishop

The election of the Bishop of the Diocese, or a Suffragan Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor, 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 to a choice. The secretary of the Diocese shall immediately forward the name of the person so selected to the College of Bishops of the Province for its consent as provided in Title III, Canon 8, Section 4 of the canons of the Province. The Synod may by ballot nominate two or three presbyters to be referred to the College of Bishops of the Province for its selection as provided in the aforesaid canons of the Province. In the event that the Bishop-elect or the

nominees are rejected by the College of Bishops, another election meeting of the Synod shall promptly be called by the Bishop or the Standing Committee.

Article: Vacancy in the Office of the Bishop

Section 1. Upon the death 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 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. If the Standing Committee, upon careful deliberation, determines that the Bishop is under a disability or has absented himself without permission or consultation from the Diocese for more than six months, it may, with the consent of the Archbishop, declare the Office of the Bishop vacant. In such case, the Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan shall take charge until the Standing Committee declares the Bishop restored. If there be none, the Standing Committee shall serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

Section 3. A Bishop Suffragan may not become the Bishop of the Diocese unless he be so elected at a meeting called for that purpose and his election consented to by the College of Bishops. A Bishop Coadjutor shall become the Bishop upon the death, retirement or removal of the Bishop.

Article VI: The Officers of the Diocese

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

Article VII: Provision for a Standing Committee

There shall be a Standing Committee of the Diocese, which shall perform those duties required by the Constitution and Canons of the ACNA and of the Diocese. The Standing Committee, which shall be the Council of Advice to the Bishop in charge of the Diocese, shall consist of three presbyters canonically and actually resident in the Diocese and of three laypeople, each of whom is a member in good standing in a Congregation in canonical union with the Diocese. Two (2) members, one (1) a presbyter and one (1) a layperson, shall be chosen at each Annual session of the Synod for a term of three (3) years. Officers, consisting of a presiding officer and clerk, shall be elected annually by the Committee at their first meeting after the Diocesan Synod. At all meetings a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

Article VIII: Provision for a Synod Council

The Synod, with the consent of the Bishop, may provide by canon for the appointment or election of a Synod Council with duties therein provided. Until a Synod Council be established, the Standing Committee shall perform all the functions of a Synod Council. The Synod may establish such other committees 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 IX: Mission, Ministry and Worship

Section 1. The mission of the Diocese shall be that of the Province: to extend the Kingdom of God by so presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people everywhere will come to put their trust in God through Him, know Him as Savior and serve Him as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. The chief agents of this mission to extend the Kingdom of God are the people of God. The fundamental agency of mission is the local congregation.

Section 2. The worship of Almighty God shall be according to Anglican faith and order and shall be conducted in accord with the Standards provided in the Constitution and Canons of the Province.

Section 3. The work of the Diocese is to equip each congregation of the Diocese so that they may reconcile the world to Christ, plant new congregations, and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything commanded by Jesus Christ.

Article X: Ecclesiastical Discipline

Section 1. There shall be an Ecclesiastical Court of the Diocese for the application of Church discipline in keeping with the standards established in the canons of the Anglican Church in North America.

Section 2. The membership of the Ecclesiastical Court, its jurisdiction, procedures and terms of office shall be established by canon.

Article XI: Concerning Congregational Property

All congregational property, real and personal, owned or held by or on behalf of a congregation that is a member of this Diocese is and shall be solely and exclusively owned by the congregation, free of any trust or other claim in favor of the Diocese or the Province. The provisions of Article XII of the Constitution of ACNA are incorporated herein. A congregation may not alienate or encumber its real property except with the consent of a majority of the congregation by vote taken at a meeting called for that purpose.

Article XII: Concerning Diocesan Property

The Diocese shall own its property free of any trust or other claim of the Province. Diocesan property shall not be subject to any claim of trust or other claim by the Province.

Article XIII: Incorporation

The Diocese is incorporated in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio. 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 laws.

Article XIV: Congregations and Missions of the Diocese

At the founding of the Diocese, the following parishes, missions and fellowships are the founding entities of the Diocese. Additional congregations and missions may be added by majority vote at any meeting of the Diocese as provided by canon.

Christ the King Anglican Church, Columbiana, Ohio

Church of the Good Samaritan, Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Church of the Holy Spirit, Akron, Ohio

Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Milan, Ohio

New Life Anglican Church, Petoskey, Michigan

St. Andrew's Anglican Church, Columbus, Ohio

St. Anne in the Fields, Madison, Ohio

St. Luke's Anglican Church, Fairlawn, Ohio

St. Paul's Anglican Church, Greenfield, Indiana

Westside Anglican Fellowship, Cleveland, Ohio

White Fields Ministry, Painesville, Ohio

Article XV: Adoption and Amendment

This Constitution is ratified by the Extraordinary Constitutional Convention convened on May 1, 2010. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote at any regular meeting of the Synod. If approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Synod, the amendment shall lie over to the next annual meeting of the Synod, and if again approved by a two-thirds majority vote, the Constitution shall then stand altered or amended as proposed.