



The Canons of the Province of New England, The Episcopal Church

**Accepted by Synod, November 2007
Amended by Synod, April 2008**

Canons of the Province of New England

The Episcopal Church

That the Church may the more adequately set forward the salvation of all by the extension of the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world, and that the resources of The Episcopal Church in New England may be developed to this end, therefore the Dioceses of the First Province, Assembled in Primary Synod as ordered by the General Convention of 1913, so set forth the following Canons, as subsequently amended:

Canon 1 Name

The name of the First Province shall be "The Province of New England," hereinafter "Province."

Canon 2. Provincial Synod

Section 1. The Provincial Synod shall have power to enact canons for its own regulation and government; to elect judges of the Provincial Court of Review; to perform such other duties as may be committed to it by the General Convention; to deal with all matters within the Province; to adopt a budget for the maintenance of any provincial work undertaken by the Synod; and to create an Executive Committee with power to administer and carry on such work as may be committed to it by the General Convention, by the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council, or by the Synod.

Section 2. The Provincial Synod shall not have power to regulate or control the internal policy or affairs of any constituent diocese.

Section 3. All actions and proceedings of the Synod shall be subject to and in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Canon 3. Synod Membership

Section 1. The Provincial Synod shall consist of a House of Bishops and a House of Deputies.

Section 2 Every Bishop Diocesan of this Church having jurisdiction within the Province, every Bishop Coadjutor, Suffragan Bishop, and Assistant Bishop, and every Bishop whose episcopal work has been within the Province, but who by reason of advanced age or bodily infirmity has resigned shall have a seat and vote in the House of Bishops of the Province.

Section 3. (a) Each Diocese within the Province shall be entitled to representation in the Provincial House of Deputies by two deputies and two alternate deputies, elected in the manner prescribed by the diocese they represent. In each diocese one deputy and one alternate deputy shall be a priest or deacon canonically resident in the diocese, and one deputy and one alternate deputy shall be a lay person who is a confirmed adult communicant of this Church in good standing but not necessarily domiciled in the diocese. Each deputy and alternate deputy shall be elected for a three year term.

(b) The Secretary of each Diocesan Convention shall be requested to forward the names of the duly elected deputies and alternates to the Executive Director of the Synod.

(c) Deputies to the Provincial Synod shall report the actions of the Synod to their respective Diocesan Conventions.

Canon 4. Synod Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Synod shall be a President, a Vice-President, and a Treasurer. The President and Vice-President shall each be elected to a term of three years by the concurrent votes of a majority of the members of House of Bishops and majorities of the members of the House of Deputies voting by orders, lay and clerical. Neither the President nor the Vice-President may be elected to a successive term in the same office, but the Vice-President may be elected to the office of President. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President and Vice-President for a term of three years and may be appointed to a second full term to a maximum of six years.

(a) The President of the Synod shall be either a bishop, priest, deacon or lay person of the Province. The President's term of office shall begin at the close of the session on the day of the election and shall end when a successor is chosen and takes office. If the President dies, vacates or resigns the office, the Vice-President of the Synod shall serve as President until the next annual meeting of the Synod, when a President shall be elected, in the manner prescribed by this canon, to complete the current presidential term of office.

(b) If the President is not a bishop, the Vice President shall be a bishop, and if the President is a bishop, the Vice President shall be a priest, deacon, or lay person of the Province. A Vice President who is a bishop shall, in addition to the duties prescribed above, serve *ex-officio* as the President of the House of Bishops of the Synod and shall represent the Province in all matters requiring the participation of a bishop.

(c) The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all moneys collected under the authority of the Synod. The Treasurer shall be responsible for oversight of investment management, banking, budget preparation, and financial reporting. The Treasurer shall keep books of account and render a financial accounting at meetings of the Executive Committee and at each annual meeting of the Synod. The Treasurer shall direct the conduct of an audit in accordance with these canons. The Treasurer shall be adequately bonded.

Section 2. The President and the Vice-President shall be and remain *ex-officio* members of the Synod during their respective terms of office. The Treasurer, if not a member of the Synod, shall be entitled to a seat on the floor of the Synod and, with the consent of the President, may speak on subjects relating to the Treasurer's office.

Canon 5. Executive Director

The Synod shall employ an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall determine the duties and terms of employment of the Executive Director, including salary, expense allowance, and pension, which items shall be included in the provincial budget. The Executive Director shall hold office at the pleasure of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Director shall be responsible for recording the proceedings of meetings of the Synod and shall perform such other duties as may be directed by the Executive Committee. Whenever a subject is to be submitted to the consideration of the several dioceses of the Province, the Executive Director shall give notice thereof to the ecclesiastical authority in every such diocese and shall present evidence of compliance with this requirement to the Synod at its next meeting.

Canon 6. Executive Committee

The President, Vice President, and Treasurer shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Province and shall act on the Synod's behalf between meetings of the Synod. The Executive Director shall attend all meetings of the Executive Committee.

Canon 7. Synod Meetings

Section 1. The Synod shall meet at least once annually at a time and place designated by the President. At least sixty days notice shall be given to the bishops and deputies.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Synod may be called by the President on the written request of at least three members in each of the three orders. Notice of the time and place of special meetings shall be mailed to each bishop and deputy at least thirty days before the meetings, stating the purpose thereof. No business shall be taken up other than that announced in the notice of the meeting.

Section 3. The President of the Provincial Episcopal Church Women, members of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church resident within the Province, coordinators of provincial networks, and chairpersons of provincial programs shall have a seat and voice at meetings of the Synod, but no vote.

Section 4. The House of Bishops and the House of Deputies will ordinarily sit together, but either house may at any time resolve to sit separately.

Canon 8. Transaction of Business

Section 1. To constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, there shall be present at least one clerical deputy and one lay deputy representing each of a majority of the dioceses composing the Province. A number less than a quorum may adjourn from day to day.

Section 2. Except as may be otherwise provided in these canons, the vote of a majority of the members of the Synod present shall prevail.

Section 3. On any question of petitioning the General Convention or either of its houses, the numbers of votes pro and con shall be recorded in the minutes and the petition.

Section 4. At any meeting of the Synod the rules of order governing the previous meeting shall be in force until they are amended or repealed by the Synod.

Section 5. No person shall speak more than twice in the same debate, nor on a question of appeal more than once, without leave of the Synod.

Canon 9 Convocation

Section 1. Provincial Synod may annually convene a non-legislative convocation, entitled the Provincial Convocation, to which all interested persons may be invited.

Section 2. In a year in which General Convention meets, the Synod shall convene a meeting prior to the General Convention to discuss issues that will come before the Convention, and this gathering may serve as the Convocation in that year.

Canon 10. Matters referred by General Convention

Whenever the General Convention shall refer any subject to the Provincial Synod for its consideration, it shall be the duty of the Synod to consider the subject or subjects so referred to it at the first meeting of the Synod after the adjournment of the General Convention, and to report its action and judgment in the matter to the Secretary of the House of Deputies at least six months before the date of the next General Convention.

Canon 11. Executive Council of The Episcopal Church

Section 1. The Synod shall elect two representatives from the Province to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church (hereinafter "Executive Council"). One member shall be a bishop or priest or deacon canonically resident in a diocese that is a constituent member of the Province, and one member shall be a lay person who is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing of a diocese that is a constituent member of the Province. The terms of the representatives of the Province shall be so rotated that two persons shall not be simultaneously elected for equal terms. At its last scheduled meeting prior to the meeting of General Convention, the Synod shall elect to the Executive Council a representative to the term about to be completed.

Section 2. Except in the case of members elected for short terms, in order to achieve rotation of terms or to complete a vacated term, the term of office of the representatives of Executive Council shall be equal to twice the interval between regular meetings of the General Convention. The term shall begin upon the adjournment of the first regular meeting of General Convention following the election. Members shall remain in office until their successors are elected and qualified. The Executive Director shall certify election to the Secretary of the House of Bishops and to the Secretary of the House of Deputies not later than the third day of the session of the General Convention. No person who has served at least three consecutive years on the Executive Council shall be eligible for immediate re-election for a term of more than three years. After any person shall have served six consecutive years on the Executive Council a period of three years shall elapse before such person shall be eligible for re-election to the Council.

Canon 11. Executive Council of The Episcopal Church

Section 3. (a) The term of a member shall become vacant

- (1) when the Synod fails to elect a member;
- (2) a member dies, resigns, or no longer resides in the Province;
- (3) a clergy member is inhibited, admonished, suspended, or deposed, renounces orders, or is certified as having abandoned the Communion of The Episcopal Church;
- (4) a priest or deacon member becomes a bishop;
- (5) a lay member is ordained or ceases to be a communicant in good standing;
- (6) a member is twice absent from regularly scheduled meetings of the Council in the interval between successive regular meetings of the General Convention without having been excused for good cause by the Chair; or
- (7) a member is removed for cause deemed sufficient by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Synod.

(b) In the event of a vacancy, the President and the Executive Committee shall appoint a suitable person, canonically resident in the Province, to serve until the Synod shall by election fill the vacancy.

Canon 12. Election of Judges for the Court of Review

In the matter of the composition and conduct of the Provincial Court of Review, the provisions of Title IV, Canon 4 of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church shall prevail.

Canon 13. Financial Management

Section 1. The Synod will annually adopt a budget for the maintenance of any Provincial work undertaken by the Synod, such budget to be raised in such manner as the Synod may determine.

Section 2. The Synod may request the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church to make funds available for any given work in the Province under the provisions of Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Section 3. All accounts of the Province shall be audited annually by an independent certified public accountant or independent licensed accountant or an Audit Committee authorized by the Executive Committee. The audit report shall be filed with the Executive Committee not later than September 1 of each year, covering the preceding calendar year.

Canon 14. Amendment

These canons may be amended at any meeting of the Synod by the concurrent votes of a majority of the members of House of Bishops and majorities of the members of the House of Deputies voting by orders, lay and clerical.