

The Constitution of the Anglican Church in North America

Article I: Fundamental Declarations of the Province

As the Anglican Church in North America (the Province), being a part of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church of Christ, we believe and confess Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one comes to the Father but by Him. Therefore, we identify the following seven elements as characteristic of the Anglican Way, and essential for membership:

1. We confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, containing all things necessary for salvation, and to be the final authority and unchangeable standard for Christian faith and life.
2. We confess Baptism and the Supper of the Lord to be Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself in the Gospel, and thus to be ministered with unfailing use of His words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.
3. We confess the godly historic Episcopate as an inherent part of the apostolic faith and practice, and therefore as integral to the fullness and unity of the Body of Christ.
4. We confess as proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture the historic faith of the undivided church as declared in the three Catholic Creeds: the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian.
5. Concerning the seven Councils of the undivided Church, we affirm the teaching of the first four Councils and the Christological clarifications of the fifth, sixth and seventh Councils, in so far as they are agreeable to the Holy Scriptures.
6. We receive The Book of Common Prayer as set forth by the Church of England in 1662, together with the Ordinal attached to the same, as a standard for Anglican doctrine and discipline, and, with the Books which preceded it, as the standard for the Anglican tradition of worship.
7. We receive the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1571, taken in their literal and grammatical sense, as expressing the Anglican response to certain doctrinal issues controverted at that time, and as expressing fundamental principles of authentic Anglican belief.

In all these things, the Anglican Church in North America is determined by the help of God to hold and maintain, as the Anglican Way has received them, the doctrine, discipline and worship of Christ and to transmit the same, unimpaired, to our posterity. We seek to be and remain in full communion with all Anglican Churches, Dioceses and Provinces that hold and maintain the Historic Faith, Doctrine, Sacraments and Discipline of the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

Article X: College Of Bishops

1. The chief work of the College of Bishops shall be the propagation and defense of the Faith and Order of the Church, and in service as the visible sign and expression of the Unity of the Church.
2. Each bishop in active episcopal ministry shall be included in the College of Bishops as provided by canon.
3. The College of Bishops shall elect the Archbishop from among its members.
4. The College of Bishops will meet with such frequency as best serves its chief work, and at the call of the Archbishop or one quarter of the episcopal members of the Provincial Council.

5. The College of Bishops shall have authority in the election of bishops of the Province which may be:
 - a. consent to an election from a diocese or network (whether regional or affinity-based), or
 - b. the actual choice and consent from among two or more nominees put forward by a diocese or network (whether regional or affinity-based), in the manner set forward by canon.

The Canons of the Anglican Church in North America

Title III: Of Ministers, Their Recruitment, Preparation, Ordination, Office, Practice and Transfer

Canon 8 - Of Bishops

Section 1 - Concerning Requirements for Bishop According to Holy Scripture

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 wants him to – not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to his care, but being a wholesome example to the entire flock of Christ (1 Peter 5:2-3). These requirements are in addition to the requirements set forth in Canon 2 for Deacon (1 Timothy 3:8-13) and for Presbyter (1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17; Titus 1:6-9).

Section 2 - Concerning the Ministry of Bishops

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 3 - Concerning Criteria for the Episcopate

To be a suitable candidate for the episcopate, a person must:

1. Be a person of prayer and strong faith;
2. Be pious, have good morals and exhibit Godly character;
3. Have a zeal for souls;
4. Have demonstrated evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit;
5. Possess the knowledge and gifts which equip him to fulfill the office;
6. Be held in good esteem by the faithful;
7. Be a male Presbyter at least 35 years old;
8. Have demonstrated the ability to lead and grow the Church.

Section 4 - Concerning the Election of Bishops

1. With the consent of the College of Bishops, a diocese may commence the process of election of a Bishop. This consent to commence the process may be by electronic or telephonic meeting of the College of Bishops. Such election will be subject to the approval of the College of Bishops as described in this section.
2. Bishops shall be chosen by a Diocese in conformance with the constitution and canons of the Diocese and consistent with the Constitution and Canons of this Church.

3. An electing body from the Diocese shall certify the election of a Bishop for consent by the College of Bishops, or may certify two or three nominees from which the College of Bishops may select one for the Diocese.
4. Where the originating body is newly formed, that body shall normally nominate two or three candidates, from whom the College of Bishops may select one.
5. Consent or choice shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the membership of the College of Bishops present and voting, which consent must be given within 60 days of certification and in writing. For purposes of the election of Bishops at a meeting of the College, a quorum shall be a majority of the active members of the College.
6. Upon the consent or choice of a Bishop-elect by the College of Bishops, the Archbishop shall take order for the consecration and/or installation of such Bishop.
7. In the event the Bishop-elect or the nominees are rejected by the College of Bishops, the College shall so inform the originating body in writing.

Section 5 - Concerning the Required Declarations at Consecration

No Presbyter shall be consecrated a Bishop in the Church until he shall have subscribed the following declaration:

“I 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, and therefore, I consequently hold myself bound to conform my life and ministry thereto, and I do solemnly engage to conform to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of Christ as this Church has received them.”

“And I do promise, here in the presence of by Almighty God and of the Church, that I will pay true and canonical obedience in all things lawful and honest to the Archbishop of the Anglican Church in North America, and his successors; so help me God.”

Section 6 - Concerning Bishops for Special Mission

Bishops for Special Mission are Bishops elected by and serving directly under the College of Bishops for a specific missionary purpose. The office of any Bishop for Special Mission shall be created in consultation with the Executive Committee. Any male Presbyter of this Church qualified by these Canons may be elected as a Bishop for Special Mission by the College of Bishops. The College of Bishops may certify two or three candidates, from whom one may be elected by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the College.

Section 7 - Concerning Incapacity of the Diocesan Bishop

- a. When a majority of the members of the Standing Committee or its equivalent have significant concern regarding the physical or mental capacity of the diocesan bishop to carry out his duties, they shall promptly notify the Archbishop who may appoint a pastoral representative to assist the Standing Committee in addressing the concerns with the bishop and his family.
- b. If the matter is not resolved and a majority of the Standing Committee believe that the Bishop is no longer able to carry out his duties due to a physical or mental incapacity, the Standing Committee shall notify the Archbishop and ask the Bishop to submit to examination by at least two licensed physicians or psychologists

who have a specialty appropriate to the circumstance and who shall render their opinion to the Standing Committee and to the Bishop and his family. One of the physicians or psychologists shall be chosen by the Bishop and one by the Standing Committee.

- c. If, after considering the report of the physicians or psychologists the Standing Committee determines that the Bishop is no longer able to carry out his duties due to a physical or mental incapacity, the Standing Committee may, upon a two-thirds majority vote, ask the bishop to resign or to take a medical leave of absence. The Standing Committee shall report this matter to the Archbishop, who shall ensure that appropriate pastoral care is provided to the Bishop and his family.
- d. The Bishop shall have the right to appeal within 30 days of receiving written notification of the determination of incapacity by the Standing Committee. The appeal shall be to the Provincial Tribunal. The Tribunal shall review all evidence relevant to the appeal, including testimony of witnesses. The Tribunal's decision shall be based on the preponderance of the evidence. A simple majority of the Tribunal shall be necessary to render a decision and the decision shall be final. Pending the outcome of the appeal, the Bishop shall automatically be placed on paid administrative leave.
- e. If the Bishop refuses to comply with any provision of this canon, the Archbishop may issue a Godly Admonition. If the Bishop refuses to comply with the Archbishop's Godly Admonition, such refusal shall constitute a presentable offense under Canon IV.2.
- f. If the Bishop resigns, takes medical leave, or appeals to the Provincial Tribunal under the provisions of this canon, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall be the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, or the Standing Committee.
- g. While the Bishop is on medical leave, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, or the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority until the Archbishop declares either the Bishop competent to resume his duties or unable to do so. If the Archbishop declares the Bishop unable to resume his duties, the Standing Committee may declare the office vacant and the Diocese may proceed to seek the consent of the College of Bishops for the election of a new Bishop pursuant to Canon III.8.4.1.

Section 8 - Procedure When the Episcopal Relationship is Imperiled or Hindered

- a. Whenever the Bishop or a majority of the Standing Committee of the diocese (or its equivalent) believe the pastoral relationship between the Bishop and the Diocese to be imperiled or hindered by reason of dissension, either or both shall present the matter to the Archbishop.
- b. Upon notification of such imperilment or hindrance, the Archbishop shall promptly seek reconciliation by whatever means he believes appropriate that is not inconsistent with Holy Scripture. Both the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the diocese (or its equivalent) shall participate cooperatively in the process. The Archbishop may issue interim directives appropriate to the matter.
- c. After good faith participation in this process, the Bishop or a two-thirds majority of the Standing Committee may appeal to the Archbishop to issue a final judgment. Prior to issuing a final judgment, the Archbishop shall consult with the Executive Committee and the Chancellor of the Province. The Executive Committee may schedule a conference with the Bishop and Standing Committee of the diocese before rendering its advice to the Archbishop. At such conference, the parties may be heard and may be represented by a person or persons of their choice.

- d. The judgment of the Archbishop may include a leave of absence with pay for the Bishop, a refusal to dissolve the episcopal relationship or a judgment of dissolution.
- e. If the relationship is to be dissolved, the judgment may include terms and conditions for compliance by both parties and must include a financial settlement to be determined at the discretion of the Archbishop. The Archbishop shall in all cases render pastoral support to the Bishop. Upon issuing such judgment, the Archbishop shall report the judgment to the College of Bishops.

Constitution of the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh

Article XIV – Election of a Bishop

The election of a Bishop for this Diocese shall be made in Convention, in the following manner: After nomination in open Convention, the Clergy and Laity shall ballot separately and a concurrent majority in both Orders shall be necessary to a choice. If two-thirds of either Order be represented at Convention, a majority vote shall determine the choice of such Order; otherwise, a vote of two-thirds shall be necessary for that purpose. PROVIDED, that in all cases of the election of a Bishop, no member of the Clergy shall be entitled to vote unless he or she shall have been, for at least six months immediately preceding the election, canonically resident in this Diocese.

Rules of Order of the Anglican Diocese of Pittsburgh

D. Rules of Order at the Election of a Bishop, Bishop-Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop

The election of a Bishop for this Diocese shall be made in Convention in the following manner:

1. Deputies to Convention shall be given opportunity to submit names to be considered for election as Bishop. Deputies shall also be given opportunity to submit questions to be answered by nominees. A process to determine which names are to be placed before convention, and which questions are to be asked of nominees may be adopted by Standing Committee, or by a committee appointed by Standing Committee for that purpose. The names of nominees to come before the Convention, and their responses to any questions, shall be clearly communicated in writing prior to the meeting of Convention.
2. Pursuant to Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution of this Diocese, the Secretary of the Convention shall send to each Deputy and Alternate Deputy, as well as to every member of the clergy entitled to vote, the following sections of our Constitution and Canons:
 - a. Article I and X of the Constitution of the Anglican Church in North America
 - b. Canon 8, Title III, (Anglican Church)
 - c. Article XIV of the Constitution of the Diocese, and
 - d. Section D, Rules of Order of the Diocese.
3. When the Convention gathers the President of the Convention shall, in the hearing of the Convention, read Section D of the Rules of Order, that all may prepare themselves for the duty about to be performed. Then the President shall read the form of testimonials which are to be signed in behalf of the Bishop-elect and shall then announce that nominations will be next in order.

4. The Standing Committee shall present the list of candidates for nomination. All nominations are to be made without comment or discussion.
 - a) If there are any nominations intended to be made from the floor of the Convention, they shall be offered at this time. All nominations from the floor shall be permitted, provided:
 - they be made in writing, signed by ten members of Convention representing five churches,
 - consent has been given, in writing, by the nominee,
 - that certified clearances, as used by the Standing Committee, accompany the nomination, and
 - that copies are laid before the Secretary of Convention.
 - b) No word of comment as to any nomination, or in praise or censure of any person nominated shall be in order except in Committee of the Whole.
 - c) If during the election process a candidate withdraws or is withdrawn from the ballot, no endorsement of another candidate will be in order.
5. At any time for the purpose of discussing the election process or nominations, the Convention may, by majority vote, go into Committee of the Whole, and shall sit with closed doors. The purpose of the Committee of the Whole is not to legislate but to deliberate matters and nominations to be presented to the Convention. Only certified deputies, lay and clerical, sit in the Committee of the Whole. The persons specified in paragraph B1 of the Rules of Order shall be entitled to seats, but not to voice.
6. The order of names of nominees on the ballot shall be chosen by lot.
7. When all things are ready, all present shall be called to prayer, the Veni Creator shall be said or sung, and other supplications added by the President of the Convention, followed by silent prayer and The Lord's Prayer.
8. Tellers will be appointed by the President of Convention. Then, with the Tellers having taken their places, the names of Clergy and Deputies shall be called, all other voices being suppressed. Ballots (unless distributed individually to certified deputies or their alternates at registration) shall be given to those who respond. If a Deputy does not answer to a roll call, the name of an elected and certified Alternate may be announced by the deputation, and recorded by the Secretary of the Convention. The tellers will withdraw to count. While ballots are being counted, prayers, readings of Scripture, hymns, songs, and words of encouragement shall fill the interval. The ballots being counted, the Tellers shall report, and the President shall declare the result.
9. If there be no election by concurrent majority of both Orders, new balloting must be made with all solemnity as before, until, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, a Bishop is duly chosen and elected.
10. When an election has taken place, appropriate prayers and praises shall be offered. The Bishop or President of the Convention shall appoint a committee to notify the Bishop-elect and to seek consent of the same.
11. All deputies, clerical and lay, shall then sign the required form of testimonials certifying the election.