



JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS

of the

TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION

of the

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

held in

FLINT, MICHIGAN

at

HOLIDAY INN GATEWAY CONFERENCE CENTER

OCTOBER 23-24, 2015

*Together with the Constitution and
Canons of the Diocese
Revised to Date*

Published by the Secretary of Convention 2015

Saginaw, Michigan

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DIOCESAN CONVENTION AGENDA

Friday, October 23th

3:00 PM	REGISTRATION OPENS IN THE FOYER EXHIBITS & HOSPITALITY
5:30 PM	DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT IN THE ATRIUM
7:00 PM	BUSINESS SESSION IN THE BALLROOM (WITH ELECTIONS)

Saturday, October 24th

7:30 – 9:30 AM	BREAKFAST IN THE ATRIUM (DROP-IN CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST)
8:00 – 9:00 AM	REGISTRATION IN THE FOYER
9:30 AM	WELCOME & KEYNOTE ADDRESS IN THE BALLROOM
10:00 – 11:30 AM	WORKSHOP SESSION
11:45 AM	LUNCH IN THE ATRIUM
1:30 – 3:00 PM	WORKSHOP SESSION
3:30 PM	JAZZ EUCHARIST AT ST. PAUL'S, FLINT

GENERAL RULES – ANNUAL CONVENTION OCTOBER 23, 2015

1. Each business meeting of the Convention will open with a prayer.
2. All Resolutions to be considered by the Convention must be submitted in accordance with Title 1, Canon 3, Section 6. The Committee on Resolutions shall report to Convention its action on each submitted Resolution.
3. All reports which have been posted to the diocesan website prior to the convening of the body and not requiring Convention action shall be presented by title only.
4. On the request of any ten members of the Convention, a roll call vote shall be taken and entered in the minutes.
5. No member of Convention shall speak twice on the same subject until all others desiring to speak shall have had the opportunity to speak one time.
6. Each speaker shall be allowed up to three (3) minutes per speech.
7. All committees shall be appointed by the President with the consent of the Convention except where other provisions have been made.
8. Except for the election of a Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor, all elections shall be governed by the provisions of Title 1, Canon 6.
9. The Rules contained in “Robert’s Rules of Order - Revised” shall govern the Convention in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and this Diocese or the special rules of order of this Convention.
10. The Rules shall not be suspended or amended except by a vote of two-thirds of the members voting, a quorum being present.
11. Alternate Delegates may replace only Registered Delegates

JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY FIRST ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

HOLIDAY INN GATEWAY, Flint, Michigan

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2015, 7:00 P.M.

BUSINESS SESSION

On October 23, 2015, the day and place designated for the meeting of the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, The Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley opened the meeting with prayer and called the Convention to order.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Bishop Ousley introduced Mrs. Barb Meikle, St. John's, Midland, and asked for a motion from the floor to elect her Secretary of Convention. Motion was moved, seconded, and passed. Bishop Ousley proposed that Angela Krueger for Assistant Secretary of Convention and asked for a motion from the floor to elect. Motion was moved, seconded, and passed.

INTRODUCTIONS

Bishop Ousley introduced Mr. Edward Henneke, St. Paul's, Flint, Chancellor of the Diocese and Stephanie King, St. Alban's, Bay City, President of the Standing Committee.

QUORUM

A roll call of congregations was taken with the delegates standing as their congregation was called. It was reported that of forty-six congregations, forty two were present with voting delegates. St Paul's, Bad Axe; Grace, Long Rapids; St. Luke's, Rogers City; Grace, Standish were not in attendance. Bishop Ousley declared that a quorum was present.

RULES OF CONVENTION

Bishop Ousley noted the Rules of Convention were on the Convention Website. Bishop Ousley asked that Rev. Michael Back, Trinity, Flushing, and The Rev. Mary Fitzgerald, Supply Clergy be given voice and vote. Bishop asked for a motion from the floor. Motion was moved, seconded, and passed. Bishop Ousley noted that the Diocese of Eastern Michigan may be unique in its willingness to extend voice and vote to clergy who are not part of any of our official communion partnerships, and commends the convention for their innovative and inclusive approach. The complete list of Rules appears on page one in the Journal.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Bishop Ousley recognized Barb Meikle, Chair of the Credentials Committee. Mrs. Meikle moved that "pursuant to Title 1, Canon 12, Section 2, all forty-six congregations of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan have filed their parochial reports in a timely fashion and will have voice and vote of their lay delegates and clergy at this convention". Motion was supported and passed.

ELECTION OF CHANCELLOR

The Chair nominated Mr. Edward Henneke, St Paul, Flint, as Chancellor. Motion was moved, supported, and passed.

MINISTRY CHANGES

Bishop Ousley announced the following ministry changes:

ALLAN FELTNER, ordained Priest, serving St. Bartholomew's, Mio
 VALERIE FARGO, ordained priest, serving Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry
 BILL MCCLURE, Rector, Trinity, Alpena
 DAN SCHEID, Rector, St. Paul's, Flint
 KAY HOUCK, Priest-in-Charge, Trinity, Lexington
 KEN HITCH, Rector, St. John's, Midland
 DON DAVIDSON, Priest-in-Charge, St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc
 HEATHER BARTA, Priest-in-Charge, St. Jude's, Fenton
 MARY JO SCHUETZ, Re-Retired, St. John's, Midland
 MARY FITZGERALD, formerly Calvary, Hillman, now serving as Supply Clergy

Not present with us:

ALICE LEWIS, retired from Christ, Owosso
 BRUCE MICHAUD, Retired from Trinity, Alpena
 GEORGE, CLEAVES, Retired from St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc
 MICHAEL WILSON, Re-Retired, St. John's, Midland
 JOSH HOOVER, to St. James', Birmingham, Diocese of Michigan

CLERK OF NOMINATIONS REPORT

Bishop Ousley recognized Canon Michael Spencer, Clerk of Nomination for his report. Canon Spencer thanked the Diocesan Discernment Committee for its service and presented the following candidates to the 21st Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan:

For the Diocesan Council:

In the clergy order, REV. ELIZABETH CHACE, St Francis, Grayling; REV. NANCY STEELE, Faith Lutheran, Saginaw
 In the lay order, JULIE MUIR, St. Paul's, Harsens Island; JOHN PETTIPHER, St. Jude's, Fenton

For the Standing Committee:

In the clergy order, REV. ALLAN FELTNER, St Bartholomew's, Mio; REV. DAN SCHEID, St. Paul's, Flint
 In the lay order, BETH BARKLEY, Trinity, Lexington; ANTHONY DIZON, St. John's, Midland

For the Trustees:

MICHAEL KEENAN, St John's Saginaw; BOB MEIKLE, St. John's Midland; ROBERT STONEY, St John's Midland

Canon Spencer noted that this is the first convention in recent memory where all the seats were contested, and extended his appreciation to all this year's candidates. Delegates and clergy had received ballots at registration, and were asked to mark them at this time. Ballots were collected and election results were announced later in the business session.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bishop Ousley recognized Mike Turnbull, Diocesan Treasurer, for the financial report. Mike described 2014 as a "flat" year for diocesan finances that ended with assets increasing \$110,000 (net growth 1.1%). Total financial assets were \$10 million. For 2014 operating income of \$1,104,596, based on congregation income of \$479,540, and other operating income of \$625,056. We end 2014 with a surplus of just under \$100,000.

Due to the market, investments have not done as well. The trustees have worked diligently at controlling costs and keeping in line with the market. 2015 Highlights this year include increase in the budget to support Coppage-Gordon, Camp Chickagami and McKenzie Bade as the youth director. We have updated technology with a new server in the diocese office. We had also removed ourselves as a separate building from condominium, which gives us more financial flexibility with the building. The website has also been updated. We are projecting a surplus of \$22K after reserving \$31K for future expenses.

2016 - 2018 budget assumptions expect giving to be similar with 95% congregation income, 5% drawn on Congregational Development & Redevelopment Fund, Breaking New Ground, Loans & Grants. 17.8% is our tithe to the National Church. We continue to budget \$100,000 to Outreach for Social Service Network Grant, to fund Camp Chickagami for \$10,000, and add more dollars for Coppage-Gordon & Camp Chickagami Youth Director.

We will utilize CDRF to fund additional diocesan programs. The plan is for a maximum budget for Loans and Grants Fund to be 10% of balance to a maximum of \$50K.

Hats off to the trustees, who have beat the goals of the market analysis. The operating expenses for the past 3 years have been improving and we are now at 50/50 with Diocese Administration and Ministry Missions. The 2016 operating income is \$1,294,830, expenses \$1,338,271. Deficit spending is projected for the next 3 years. We consider this as an investment into our future, as we put dollars towards programs to develop and grow the diocese. We are predicting no increase in budget revenues from investments due to current market conditions. Net deficit estimation for 2016 - \$125,291; 2017 - \$159,260; 2018 - \$189,633.

We have unrestricted net assets of \$7M and project 3% return over the next 3 years. The balance sheet is very strong. To summarize, we are developing Mission Ministries by increasing support for Coppage-Gordon and Camp Chickagami, funding Social Service Network Grants for \$100K and increasing programs to help clergy and congregations with loans and grants.

BISHOP'S ADDRESS

Bishop Ousley addressed the convention. The text is included in this journal.

CAMP PRESENTATION

Bishop Ousley introduced McKenzie Bade Camp Chickagami Director and Facilitator of Youth and Young Adults Networks. There were 194 campers which is a great testament of the support that camp is receiving from the diocese and churches. A video was played with the senior camper's service pledge.

BISHOP'S APPOINTMENTS

To the Commission on Ministry:

ELLEN MCVEY, Lay, St. John's Midland

TO CONSTITUTION AND CANONS COMMITTEE:

TOM DOWNS, Clergy, St. Paul's, Gladwin

LINDA RATHBURN, Lay, St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc

TO THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE:

CHARLES CURTIS, Clergy, St. Elizabeth's, Higgins Lake

AMY SIMONS, Lay, St. John's, Saginaw

WRITTEN REPORTS

Bishop Ousley asked the Convention to receive by title the reports from, Commission on Ministry, Coppage-Gordon School, Cheyenne River Mission, Recovery Outreach Ministry, Registrar, Retired Clergy and Spouses, Social Justice Network and Trustees.

A motion was moved, supported and passed. Reports are found in the Journal.

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Bishop Ousley recognized Amy Simons of the Resolutions Committee who offered the following:

WHEREAS, this gathering cannot take place without considerable preparation, for which we depend upon our staff and many dedicated volunteers, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 21st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan extends its grateful appreciation and thanks to our Diocesan Staff and Volunteers who have made this gathering possible.

WHEREAS, the congregation, clergy, musicians, and ministry leaders of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint have opened their doors as hosts for the celebration of Holy Eucharist,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 21st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan does offer its gratitude for their hospitality and support in our communion and worship.

WHEREAS, the 26th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, **The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori**, is approaching the end of her tenure as Presiding Bishop, and, WHEREAS,

Bishop Schori, during her time as Presiding Bishop has served with grace, energy, devotion to God and to this Church, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 21st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan does offer its prayers of thanksgiving for her service and does further offer her our thanks and prayers as she enters a new part of her episcopate and life.

WHEREAS, the Bishop of North Carolina, **The Rt. Rev. Michael Bruce Curry**, has been elected the 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, and, WHEREAS, Bishop Curry is in the waning days of his introduction into that Office as he awaits his Installation as Presiding Bishop on All Saints Day of this year, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 21st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, does extend its prayers and best wishes of good health and Godspeed for Bishop Curry and for the success and fruitfulness for God's Kingdom of his work in that Office, and does assure him of our diligent and fervent prayer for him continuing throughout his tenure in that Office.

WHEREAS, **The Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, Mr. Brian Ouellette, The Rev. David Vickers, Ms. Missy Harrison, and Ms. Kris Forsyth**, have offered their diverse gifts, talents and experience to the work of this Diocese through the Ministry Workshops offered as a part of this Convention, and, WHEREAS, these offerings give us opportunities to address the needs of our congregations to broaden and deepen our lives and ministries in several different areas. BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this 21st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan expresses its thanks and gratitude for their gracious sharing of their experience and expertise.

WHEREAS, **Barb Meikle** has faithfully served as the secretary of this convention for the past 13 years, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 21st. Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan thank her for service to the church and this convention.

WHEREAS, **Bishop Todd Ousley** has beckoned us to ponder the nature of our Episcopal identity that embraces a balance with the structure of tradition and the flexibility of improvisation, BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 21st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan embrace the Bishop's call to make our tradition and innovation relevant to our communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this 21st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan prays that the Secretary of the Convention will convey to the appropriate persons these thanks and greetings.

Motions were supported and passed.

DESIGNATED OFFERING

Bishop Ousley spoke about changing the designated offering for the Eucharist to being split equally with the Canterbury House at U of M. (the original recipient) and Flint Water Relief. The Flint water system will require long term support.

THE FEAST

Bishop Ousley introduced Katie Forsyth, Director of Communications and Public Engagement. Katie spoke about The Feast. This year's focus in the annual magazine was about churches going outside their walls into the communities that surround them.

ALZHEIMER'S MINISTRY

Bishop Ousley recognized Rev Sharon Naughton, Deacon. Sharon gave an update about progress in the eradication of Alzheimer's disease.

ELECTION RESULTS**DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

REV. ELIZABETH CHACE, St Francis, Grayling, JULIE MUIR, St. Paul's, Harsens Island

STANDING COMMITTEE-

REV. DAN SCHEID, St. Pauls, Flint, BETH BARKLEY, Trinity, Lexington;

TRUSTEES

MICHAEL KEENAN, St John's Saginaw; BOB MEIKLE, St. John's Midland;

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

Bishop Ousley declared the convention business concluded and announced that next year's convention will be held November 11-12, 2016, at the Treetops Resort, Gaylord, MI. The convention will be considered adjourned following the dismissal at the Closing Eucharist, taking place at St. Paul's, Flint.

Address to the 21st Convention of the
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan
October 23, 2015 + Holiday Inn Gateway + Flint

The Kingdom of God is like Jazz:
Becoming an Agile, Dynamic, and Gracious Church

I'm one of those music lovers whose taste runs the gamut from contemporary to traditional, baroque to blues, Latin rhythms to techno beats, fusion to Afro-pop, secular to spiritual. But most of all, I love jazz. Born of the inevitable encounter between African folk music and classical European forms, originating in the field hollers of plantation workers, jazz is highly contextual, adaptive, agile, dynamic, responsive, participatory, and improvisational. Or as jazz musician J.J. Johnson put it: "Jazz is restless. It won't stay put and it never will."

Restless. Fidgety. Toe-tapping and finger-drumming. Itching to do something. Impatient. Shaking off the bonds of convention. Experimenting. Taking risks. Making mistakes and sliding into unexpected notes and rhythms. All informed by tradition but not limited by it. That's jazz. And that's us. The Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

Let me play a few notes of the tradition and the improvisation that characterize the music we make.

- What would you do if someone shattered the glass and broke into your basement? Install a new alarm system and lose a bit more trust in the goodness of humanity? Not the folks at Calvary in Hillman who chose hope over fear and love over suspicion. An unexpected break-in on the night before their food pantry distribution led to an unexpected partnership in cleaning-up and breaking bread together. Clients and servers swept up, shared a meal and sowed the seeds of a crock pot ministry that empowers the powerless and feeds the hungry, physically and spiritually.
- With Flint and Saginaw ranked #3 & #4 respectively among the FBI's list of most violent cities, our churches and institutions are taking creative approaches to address issues around violence and injustice:
 - The Very Rev. Jay Gantz and the leadership team at St. Andrew's in Flint continue to stake a claim for Christ in the crime-ridden eastside of the city abandoned by many residents, businesses and churches. Tough, talking and in-your-face-honest, Fr. Jay has blended Anglo-Catholicism with 12-Step Spirituality and joined forces with the gritty determination of an unlikely band of parishioners to provide a space that feeds the body and the soul while unashamedly facing down the scourge of neighborhood violence.

- Meanwhile, in the central city, St. Paul's in Flint, under the leadership of the Rev. Dan Scheid, is deepening its partnerships with Crossover Ministries and Christ Enrichment Center to address issues of hunger, literacy, and repurposing of lives. Together, the Rector, Vestry, and congregation are becoming a more visible and prophetic witness for justice, most recently in response to the lack of adequate access to clean, healthy water.
- To the north, the Very Rev. Judy Boli and the leadership of St. Paul's Saginaw have mobilized their spiritual resources in a bold reclamation of God's land that has been desecrated by murder. With a team of parishioners and in conversation with residents, prayers are said and hymns are sung to re-sanctify land where a senseless loss of life has occurred.
- With Michigan as the only state to lose population in the last census update and with the population of our diocese aging, it could seem counter-intuitive to focus energies on youth and young adults, but that's exactly what's happening at Transfiguration in Indian River. This older congregation in a resort and seasonal community is reaching out to all ages with its innovative intergenerational Christian Formation program, *Messy Church*, led by Missy Harrison. Additionally, like the older congregation at St. Elizabeth's in Higgins Lake, they send numerous local children to summer camp at Camp Chickagami --- mostly non-parishioners.
- Camp Chickagami continued its phenomenal growth in 2015 with 194 campers --- almost double the previous year --- re-establishing itself as the centerpiece of diocesan ministry with youth, young adults and families. With an even more ambitious program and expansion of camping opportunities in 2016, Camp Chickagami will require additional creative support and energies in the years to come. The calling of McKenzie Bade to serve as Facilitator of Youth and Young Adult Networks and as the first Executive Director of Camp Chick is a bold and risky move designed to enhance our ministries not only through summer camp but also through support and encouragement of ministry networks of youth and young adults.
- Both Bishop Bill Gordon, our spiritual founder, and Ed Leidel, our first bishop, partnered with the people of Eastern Michigan to be responsive to local contexts and to risk boldly for the Gospel. That spirit continues with such experiments as the one between St. John the Baptist in Otter Lake, Grace in Lapeer and St. John's in Dryden. Casting aside the old models of one priest for one congregation or one priest spread too thin among multiple congregations, they've embraced a model of abundance over scarcity that has four priests serving the sacramental needs of three congregations while maintaining the integrity of each congregation's operation. Over the course of the years they've embraced this model, it has been dynamic, ever-changing and open to adaptation.

- Adding to the mix of sacramental leadership models already in place, 2016 will see the formal introduction of *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*, whereby those congregations entering a covenant with their bishop will be allowed access to a liturgical form that will provide communion on a regular basis even in the absence of a priest. This experimental provision stretches our canonical boundaries while maintaining a faithfulness to the tradition --- a clear example of ecclesiastical jazz.
- Formation opportunities for individuals and congregations have expanded in 2015 with the initiation of the Diocesan Congregational Development Institute under the leadership of Canon Mike Spencer and in collaboration with the Diocese of Western Michigan with support from the Diocese of Northern Indiana. Through the Institute, congregational teams of clergy and laity from both Eastern and Western Michigan are being empowered for more faithful and effective ministry in their local contexts. The Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry, under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. Val Fargo, continues to collaborate with the Dioceses of Michigan and a new partner, the Diocese of Western Michigan. Their collaboration, known as the Academy for Vocational Leadership, provides a time- and cost-effective local program of formation for ordination as deacon or priest. Furthermore, *The Biblical Wild*, an award-winning teaching series produced by Katie Forsyth, continues to reach individuals and groups within and outside the diocese with an exploration of each book of the bible.
- Experimentation and collaboration are essential elements of jazz as is openness to where the music and the spirit take you. Reaching across congregational, denominational, and racial boundaries, churches in the Blue Water area have continued a series of “Community Conversations on Race” designed to address the ongoing legacy of slavery and racial injustice in our country. Unlike many such conversations that quickly lose momentum, they have widened the circle and developed increased energy for finding ways to talk about important spiritual matters that divide us. This same area of the diocese continues to engage in an effort known as the Blue Water Initiative, designed to bring together congregational leaders from across the region to explore ways in which networked and collaborative ministries might be developed. The work is experimental and improvisational and sometimes defies convention. Sounds a lot like jazz.
- A convergence of dreams for a new kind of diaconate and the rise of passionate voices for justice led to the emergence of a Social Justice Network, focused on mobilizing to address justice issues around violence, poverty, and health. More information can be found on Facebook at the Social Justice Network of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

On a slightly different note, I have to say a word or two about Barb Meikle, faithful Assistant to the Bishop for the past thirteen years. She’s been the gracious voice of welcome and symbol of hospitality for the Diocese and the one to keep both Bishop Leidel and me organized. Content to play a behind-

the-scenes role, she's uncomfortable with attention being drawn to her and is no doubt blushing at this moment, so I won't draw out any further my thanks and appreciation. I do hope you will join me in giving thanks for Barb's ministry among us these past years and wish her and Bob a joyous retirement. Barb, if I've embarrassed you, well . . . as they say in Canada. Sorry. [CLAP]

Two final words before I close: first, I continue to give thanks for the tremendous privilege of serving with you as Bishop of Eastern Michigan. Your tenacity, your spirit and your willingness to stretch the boundaries provide me the grace notes necessary take more risks, make more mistakes in service of holy possibility, and to slide into unexpected rhythms of life and ministry. Second, I'll turn the closing of this year's Bishop's Address over to a voice of the present and the future: Ryan Zavacky, member of St. John's Alma, 2014 graduate of Alma College, and one who has recently completed his year-long commitment to the Episcopal Church's Young Adult Service Corps. Ryan . . . (video message thanking everyone for the support of the diocese and his church. He spoke of the importance of loving service.)

The Right Reverend Todd Ousley
II Bishop

**CONGREGATIONS IN UNION with CONVENTION
DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN - October 23, 2015**

<u>Place</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Organ Admitted</u>	
Alma	Gratiot	St. John's	1885	1995
Alpena	Alpena	Trinity	1866	1995
Atlanta	Montmorency	St. Mark's	1960	1995
Bad Axe	Huron	St. Paul's	1881	1995
Bay City	Bay	St. Alban's	1965	1995
Bay City	Bay	Trinity	1854	1995
Bridgeport	Saginaw	St. Mark's	1962	1995
Cheboygan	Cheboygan	St. James'	1880	1995
Corunna	Shiawassee	St. Paul's	1865	1995
Davison	Genesee	St. Dunstan's	1953	1995
Dryden	Lapeer	St. John's	1902	1995
East Tawas	Iosco	Christ	1880	1995
Fenton	Genesee	St. Jude's	1860	1995
Flint	Genesee	Christ (inactive) **	1907	1995
Flint	Genesee	St. Andrew's	1915	1995
Flint	Genesee	St. Paul's	1839	1995
Flushing	Genesee	Trinity	1942	1995
Gaylord	Otsego	St. Andrew's	1954	1995
Gladwin	Gladwin	St. Paul's	1903	1995
Grand Blanc	Genesee	St. Christopher's	1941	1995
Grayling	Crawford	St. Francis'	1956	1995
Harrisville	Alcona	St. Andrew's-by-the-Lake	1956	1995
Harsens Island	St. Clair	St. Paul's	1926	1995
Higgins Lake	Roscommon	St. Elizabeth's	1959	1995
Hillman	Montmorency	Calvary	1884	1995
Indian River	Cheboygan	Transfiguration	1958	1995
Lapeer	Lapeer	Grace	1878	1995
Lexington	Sanilac	Trinity	1871	1995
Long Rapids	Alpena	Grace	1896	1995
Marine City	St. Clair	St. Mark's	1863	1995
Marysville	St. Clair	All Saints'	1953	1995
Midland	Midland	Holy Family	1957	1995
Midland	Midland	St. John's	1870	1995
Mio	Oscoda	St. Bartholomew's	1987	1995
Oscoda	Oscoda	St. John's (name change) ***	1880	1995
Otter Lake	Lapeer	St. John's	1883	1995
Owosso	Shiawassee	Christ	1858	1995
Port Huron	St. Clair	Grace	1840	1995
Rogers City	Presque Ile	St. Luke's	1942	1995
Rose City	Ogemaw	St. Andrew's	1948	1995
Saginaw	Saginaw	St. John's	1851	1995
Saginaw	Saginaw	St. Matthew's	1954	1995
Saginaw	Saginaw	St. Paul's	1854	1995
St. Clair	St. Clair	St. Paul's	1848	1995
Sand Point	Huron	St. John's	1957	1995
Sandusky	Sanilac	St. John's	1903	1995
Standish	Arenac	Grace	1901	1995
West Branch	Ogemaw	Trinity	1901	1995

**Now known as Christ Enrichment Center

***As of 2004 known as Hope-St. John's (with ELCA)

DIOCESAN CONVENTION – OCTOBER 23/24, 2015

CLERGY/DELEGATE REGISTRATION

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Alma	St Johns Episcopal Church	Davidson	St Dunstons Episcopal Church The Rev Sue Colavincenzo Ms Welma Jones
	Mrs Melba Demas Ms Barbara Gladding Mr Gerald Hamilton Mrs Shirley Hamilton	Dryden	St Johns Episcopal Church The Rev Sue Rich Mr Russ Underwood Mr Wes Wagester Mrs Kathy Wegester Mr Tim Wright
Alpena	Trinity Episcopal Church The Rev William McClure Mrs Marge Lakin Mr Robert Lakin Mr Daniel Maxwell Mrs Lori Maxwell	East Tawas	Christ Episcopal Church The Rev Rebecca D Owsley Ms Nancy Jo Beckley Mrs Sharon Huitema Ms Kathleen Nelkie
Atlanta	St Marks Episcopal Church The Rev Phil Seitz Mrs Naomi Deo Phyllis Seitz	Fenton	St Judes Episcopal Church The Rev Heather Barta Mr Paul Dolza Mrs Sarah Dolza Ms Josephine Feijoo Ms Angela White
Bad Axe	St Pauls Episcopal Church Delegation not present		
Bay City	St Albans Episcopal Church The Rev Sharon Voelker Ms Debra Blakely Mrs Debra Grochowski Ms Jan Martin Ms Anne Reaume	Flint	St Andrews Episcopal Church The Very Rev Jay Gantz Ms Catherine Barnes Ms Julie Edick Mrs Patricia Gearhart Mr Randy Hall
Bay City	Trinity Episcopal Church The Rev Ann Grady Ms Faith Culler Mr Anthony Hunsberger Mrs Michelle Hunsberger Mr Bruce Sherbeck	Flint	St Pauls Episcopal Church The Rev Daniel Scheid Mr Craig Leavitt Mrs Laura Meyer Mr Thomas Meyer Mrs Audrey Stephens
Cheboygan	St James' Episcopal Church Mr Don Gezon Mrs Trish Gezon Mrs Nancy Heaston Mrs Deb McClure	Flushing	Trinity Episcopal Church The Rev Michael Back Ms Ann James Mr Dave Krueger Ms Sharon Krueger Mrs Shirley St John
Corunna	St Pauls Episcopal Church The Rev Linda Ash	Gaylord	St Andrews Episcopal Church The Rev Pam Lynch

Ms Jan Hebekeuser
Mr Gary Schooley

Ms Stacy Bishop
Ms Janet Chynoweth
Skinner

DIOCESAN CONVENTION – OCTOBER 23/24, 2015
CLERGY/DELEGATE REGISTRATION

Davison	St Dunstons Episcopal Church The Rev Sue Colavincenzo Ms Welma Jones Ms Debbie Kekel Mr Donald R Steibel Ms Barbara Taylor	Gladwin	St Pauls Episcopal Church The Rev J Thomas Downs Mrs Merrill Downs Ms Karen Hatfield Mrs Priscilla Szerdi
Grand Blanc	St Christophers Episcopal Church The Rev Donald Davidson Mr Dean Bedford Mrs Linda Rathburn Mrs Ellen Safley Mrs Coleen Shrank	Long Rapids	Grace Episcopal Church Delegation not present
		Marine City	St Marks Episcopal Church Ms Maggie Heaslip Ms Lorna MacDonald
Grayling	St Francis Episcopal Church The Rev Elizabeth Chace Mr Paul Brunell Mrs Carol Moggo Mr Doug Pryor	Marysville	All Saints Episcopal Church The Very Rev Tracie Little Ms Mary Jones Dr Edward Ryan Ms Nancy Ryan Ms Debbie Turnbull
Harrisville	St Andrews-By-The-Lake Episcopal Church The Rev Nancy Harpfer The Rev Joe Jenney The Rev Sue Otto Mrs Jeanne Meskus Mrs Elaine Spencer Mrs Sue Wander	Midland	Holy Family Episcopal Church Mr Henry Mayer Ms Debbie Roth Mrs Betty Ujevich Ms Joyce Walker
Harsens Island	St Pauls Episcopal Church The Rev Sherry Young	Midland	St Johns Episcopal Church The Rev Kenneth Hitch The Rev Mary Jo Schuetz Ms Marcia Lee Ms Ellen McVey Mr Jim Schuetz Mr Michael Tate
Higgins Lake	St Elizabeths Episcopal Church The Rev Mary Short		
Hillman	Calvary Episcopal Church Mrs Judy Nichols Mr Michael Nichols	Mio	St Bartholomews Episcopal Church The Rev Allan Feltner Ms Sally Blamer Mrs Ramona Carter Mr Don De Walt Mrs Sue Feltner
Indian River	Transfiguration Episcopal Church The Rev James Harrison Ms Elinore Barney		

**CLERGY PRESENT AND ELIGIBLE TO VOTE,
NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE**

Ousley	Todd	Bishop
Kubbe	Anna Leigh	ArchDeacon
Fargo	Valerie	Clergy
Cavin	Barbara	Clergy
Diehl	Bob	Clergy
Diehl	Jane	Clergy
Fitzgerald	Mary	Clergy
Houle	Mike	Clergy
Naughton	Sharon	Clergy
Seely	Shirley	Clergy
Steele	Nancy	Clergy
Stuart	Charles	Clergy
Wood	Roger	Clergy

**CLERGY PRESENT NOT ELGIBLE TO VOTE,
NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE**

King	Edward	Clergy
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**, CLERGY NOT PRESENT, NOT ELGIBLE TO
VOTE, NOT LISTED ELSEWHERE**

Wilson	Michael	Clergy
Pressentin	Elsa	Clergy

**CLERGY NOT PRESENT, BUT
ELIGIBLE TO VOTE**

Anderson	Richard	Clergy
Baker	Robert	Clergy
Bennett	Franklin	Clergy
Breznau	Jack	Clergy
Breznau	Nancy	Clergy
Cannon	Daniel	Clergy
Carlsen	Vause	Clergy
Clapp	Schuyler	Clergy
Cominos	Peter	Clergy
Curtis	Chuck	Clergy
Delaney	Mary	Clergy
Elliott	William	Clergy
Kusky	Donna	Clergy
Lepley	Becky	Clergy
MacDonald	John	Clergy
Merrill	Russell	Clergy

Rehagen	Gerald	Clergy
Schneider	Ned	Clergy
Smith	Thomas	Clergy
Tepe	Don	Clergy
Thompson	Karen	Clergy
Vince	Gail	Clergy
Wallace	John	Clergy

COMMITTEE REPORTS SUBMITTED TO CONVENTION

As of October 19, 2015

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT

This past year COM reevaluated its role according to the canons and will now seek to actively support lay ministry development.

The following is the recently created *Mission Statement of the Commission of Ministry*:
To assist all individuals, alongside the Office of the Bishop, in fulfilling their call to ministry.

Scripture to support our Mission Statement:

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12

The means to accomplish our Mission:

1. *Provide resources to assist all God's people as they discern their gifts for ministry.*
2. *Support the ministry of all God's people.*
3. *Oversee the discernment of those seeking ordination.*
4. *Support the Bishop in articulating the ministry of Christ.*

This past year, COM has developed guidelines for persons serving internships in preparation for ordination. We are currently collaborating with the director of the Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry regarding the formation process of some people in the ordination process. We are actively involved in supporting the discernment process. In addition, we have developed a process of orientation for new COM members.

Since Oct. 2014, the bishop has taken the following actions after consulting with COM. The Rev. Dr. Val Fargo and the Rev. Allan Feltner were ordained as priests.

COM currently has eleven members who have been appointed by the bishop, five lay persons and six clergy. The Canons provide for six lay persons and six clergy to serve on COM.

Members of COM in 2014-2015 included: The Rev Heather Barta, The Rev. Daniel Cannon, The Rev. Sue Colavincenzo, Ms. Missy Harrison, The Rev. Pam Lynch, Ms. Beverly Mills, The Rev. Sharon Naughton, Mr. Jon Steele, Ms. Doris Sutton, Ms. Joyce Thewalt, and The Rev. Sharon Voelker. Ex-officio member: The Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley

These members of COM have served with integrity, diligence, and generosity.

Sue Colavincenzo, Chairperson of COM for the Diocese of Eastern Michigan

COPPAGE-GORDON SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY

2015 has been a busy year for the Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry. In June we completed the first year of the Academy for Vocational Leadership, our new three-year program of preparation for ordination. In September five students began their second year at the Academy, and they were joined by 12 new first year students representing the dioceses of Eastern Michigan, Michigan, and Western Michigan. The Academy for Vocational Leadership is a joint program of the three dioceses and uses a curriculum created by the Iona Initiative in the Diocese of Texas. This curriculum provides a combination of academic and practical courses which are being taught by individuals from both Eastern Michigan and Michigan. There are currently 18 dioceses participating in the Iona Initiative.

The Academy gathers one weekend a month at the Colombiere Conference Center in Clarkston. The academic classes meet on Saturday and are open to anyone who is interested in exploring these topics: Holy Scripture and Church History. Typically we have 4 – 6 people join us for these Saturday classes.

In addition, this year Coppage-Gordon has provided two sessions of worship leader training, the preaching practicum, a workshop on pastoral care and end of life issues, and several Safeguarding God's People trainings. A joint workshop with the Diocese of Michigan on Music in the Small Church will take place on November 7.

We anticipate expanding our offerings in 2016 in the following areas: worship leader training focused on Holy Week; Listening Servants: Discernment for Everyone; and pastoral care. Also, we have been invited to participate in a pilot project with the Episcopal Preaching Foundation. This project focuses on peer learning groups for clergy ordained less than 10 years who will learn from each other as they share their experience of preaching.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo, Director Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry

CHEYENNE RIVER EPISCOPAL MISSION, SOUTH DAKOTA

The mission trip began on Saturday June 20, 2015. Our group consisted of 10 individuals from around the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. We gathered together at Trinity Church, West Branch at about 7:30 a.m. and loaded up for our trip. Prior to departure the ten of us, plus a few well-wishers, set aside our activities and shared in Morning Prayer.

In the past, the mission team borrowed a covered trailer that was used to haul tools and equipment to the reservation. However, this year a new cargo trailer was purchased for the trip, and the diocese now has an Episcopal Mission Team Trailer. The trailer has been outfitted with shelves for storage, and the exterior displays the Episcopal Shield, and the Diocesan Seal, along with the title Diocese of Eastern Michigan Mission Team. All of this is displayed on both sides of the trailer.

Our first two days were spent in travel, about 1,100 miles in all. We arrived in Mobridge S.D. about 6:00 p.m. mountain time. Our first priority was to gather for evening prayer and give thanks for safe travel. We then rested for the evening, and prepared for our first day at Blackfoot. However, we had heavy rain all night.

The parish warden called early to tell us that the road to Ascension Blackfoot was impassable, and we would need to wait until afternoon to venture out. We finally got to the church early afternoon on Monday, and proceeded to get organized. The remainder of the week went well and we were able to construct an exterior shelter adjacent to the church, and completely clear the cemetery of weeds, and heavy grass. There were many sightings of snakes about the area, but only one confirmed rattle snake sighting was made..... (Thanks be to God)

The team gave many long hours of hard work to accomplish the requested tasks. Part of our team worked on building the structure, and pouring concrete, while others worked to clean, and rake the 2+ acre cemetery, along with setting up head stones and cataloging the graves.

This year there was no VBS held. The reason was that the church at Blackfoot was so far removed that there were not enough children available to do the program. Ascension Blackfoot is located in the extreme north east corner of the reservation, and is approximately 80 – 90 miles from Eagle Butte. Therefore, it was not logistically possible to work in both locations. The trip, however, was a great success. We made many new friends, and strong loving relationships. We enjoyed working side by side, and as well as sharing daily Morning and Evening prayer with our Native American friends, along with Sunday Eucharist prior to our departure. Our worship time brought all of us together as one body in Christ, making lasting relationships.

We shared much of ourselves with our new friends, and they responded in a loving, caring manner that will be remembered for a lifetime. Of course we are already anticipating the mission trip for 2016. We are thankful for all the support that has been given over the years, and we pray for the continuing support by those in our diocese, that we may continue in our efforts to be a part of building God's Kingdom.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Allan Feltner, Mission Project Coordinator

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR

This is a report of the actions taken by the Bishop and/or the Standing Committee from August 1, 2014 to July 31, 2015. All records in the Diocesan office are in good order and preserved and recorded in a seemly manner.

Actions taken were:

Ordinations to the Priesthood	1
Ordinations to Deacon	1
Baptisms	0
Confirmations	11
Receptions	6
New Clergy Received	2
Clergy Transferred Out	1
Clergy Renunciations/Depositions	0
Clergy Funerals	2
Deconsecration of Buildings	0
Visitations	23
Celebrations of New Ministry	3

RECOVERY OUTREACH MINISTRY REPORT

The past year since the 2014 Diocesan Convention has been active in several areas for the Recovery Outreach Ministry. Time was spent on gaining more information regarding what parishes in the Diocese would like to have presented regarding substance abuse issues from the Ministry. The Ministry was also able to be involved in a consultation with one of the Diocesan parishes on how to handle interventions, which the parish found helpful.

The Ministry's most demanding project was to host a retreat for members of the various 12-Step Recovery Groups within the State. The theme focused on "Wounded Healers" and was attended by 22 people in various kinds of Recovery. The Diocese provided \$1000 in seed money so that partial scholarships could be given to allow some of the participants to afford the cost of the retreat. 6 individuals were able to benefit from this gift. The cost of the retreat was relatively low, yet it allowed for the Diocesan seed money to not be used. It is expected that there will be a larger number of participants for next year's retreat, given how well the 2015 retreat was received and enjoyed. It was made clear by the participants of the 2015 retreat that they wanted another one developed for the summer of 2016, and there have been a number of inquiries about this future retreat from interested parties who hadn't attended the 2015 retreat. As such, it is hoped that the Diocesan seed money could be kept and used for next year's retreat, allowing more members to attend on a partial scholarship who couldn't otherwise afford the full cost.

The Ministry's most recent endeavor was to review the resolutions presented during the General Convention that related specifically to the issue of substance abuse within the Church and ways to reduce the risk of this occurring. The Ministry found these resolutions rather helpful in confirming its own direction, and has been seeking to develop a resolution for the 2015 Diocesan Convention in support of these General Convention resolutions. The Ministry will be continuing its review of these General Convention resolutions, with the goal of seeking ways to encourage their implementation within the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

Respectfully Submitted, Doug Pryor, Recovery Outreach Ministry Coordinator

RETIRED CLERGY & SPOUSES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES REPORT

At the end of 2014 there were 29 Retired and Senior, Annually-licensed Clergy canonically and actually resident in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan; and of the 29, 14 remained active to some degree in ordained ministry in our congregations (as associates, interims, priests-in-charge, supply clergy, etc.). There were 13 Retired Clergy from other dioceses who live in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and of those 13, 6 are licensed and active to some degree in ordained ministry in our congregations. There are 13 Retired Clergy from the Diocese of Eastern Michigan who now live in other dioceses. There are 20 Surviving Spouses (widows or widowers of clergy) who live in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. There are 5 Surviving Spouses of clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan at the time of their deaths who now live in other dioceses.

*Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Charles E. Curtis
Bishop's Chaplain to Retired Clergy & Spouses and Surviving Spouses*

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK REPORT

The Episcopal Church has a commitment to maintain justice, contend against evil and oppose oppression. The Collect for Social Justice in our *Book of Common Prayer* reads: "...Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name...."

This prayer is the foundation of the newly formed Social Justice Network of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan. The network was formed early in 2015 when Archdeacon Kubbe brought together community activists and deacons from the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. In a group, those invited to the first meetings explored the formation of a network of social activism in the name of Christian love for our communities.

Prayer, commitment and the support provided through successful networking has helped the Social Justice Network of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan (SJN) take root and thrive. The network has established a Facebook page, incorporating the talents of our Diocesan Director of Communications and Public Engagement, Katie Forsyth. Invitations to participate in the SJN members' individual projects are extended. Members report on actions taken and to remind the people of Eastern Michigan that Jesus taught us to be fearless in our work.

The following are examples of the work the SJN has already begun.

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE: The SJN invites activism by planting the seeds of conversation and sharing. Several conversations on race have been held in both Port Huron and Flint. The ideal is to open eyes, hearts and minds. The goal is to invite activists in our conversations to work for change.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY, CLOTHING THE NAKED, PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE: SJN social activists deliver food, clothing, school supplies, and household items to those in our communities struggling to survive. Activists for justice advocate for changing the system which causes poverty. For example, SJN activists work for better funding of support services for victims of crime, improved economic justice through better schools and equitable economic policies to bring opportunity to the vulnerable poor.

ADVOCATING FOR REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE: The SJN has joined the Interfaith Reproductive Justice Coalition of Michigan. The Mission of the coalition is to bring reproductive justice to Michigan, and advocate for the social, economic, educational and health-based programs needed to raise healthy children through successful parenting.

RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE: The SJN, in collaboration with the Episcopal Peace Fellowship will sponsor a December 2015 event to commemorate the third anniversary of the Sandy Hook shootings.

Jesus said, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." The SJN has said, "Yes, we will follow you. And, we bring our nets with us."

TRUSTEES REPORT

The primary responsibility of the Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan is to manage the investment accounts of the diocese, which total over nine million dollars. We meet four times a year with our financial consultant John McDonald of Merrill Lynch to review our results and make appropriate changes in our investments.

The return on our investments has consistently exceeded most of the widely accepted industry benchmarks. Our total return in 2014 was 4.97% and our return as of September 1, 2015, was a positive 0.19%.

Respectfully submitted by Bruce L. Cook, Chairman

of The Diocese of Eastern Michigan

**as adopted by the Primary Convention,
October 28-29, A.D. 1994**

and

**as amended by Annual Convention
through
October 24, A.D. 2015**

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**THE CONSTITUTION
OF THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN**

**ARTICLE I
Territory**

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan embraces all that part of the Lower Peninsula of the State of Michigan lying within Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Gladwin, Arenac, Midland, Bay, Huron, Gratiot, Saginaw, Tuscola, Sanilac, Clinton (that portion north of Price Road), Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, and Oakland (that portion within Holly Township) counties.

**ARTICLE II
Loyalty**

As a constituent part of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the Diocese of Eastern Michigan accedes to, recognizes, and adopts the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, and acknowledges their authority.

**ARTICLE III
The Bishop**

A. The Bishop, an apostle of Jesus Christ, is the chief priest and pastor of this Diocese; in the exercise of this ministry the Bishop is its Ecclesiastical Authority. In case of the Bishop's absence or disability the Bishop may temporarily designate the Bishop Coadjutor as the Ecclesiastical Authority. If no Bishop is qualified and able to act, or in case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority.

B. Whenever the Constitution or Canons of this Diocese make provision for action by the Bishop, such action, except where otherwise specifically provided, shall be taken by the Ecclesiastical Authority as defined above.

C. The Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor of this Diocese shall be elected in an Annual Convention or in a Special Convention called for that purpose. Notice of such election shall be given at least sixty (60) days prior to such Convention. A two-thirds vote of those present and eligible to vote shall be required for election.

**ARTICLE IV
The Convention**

A. There shall be an Annual Convention of this Diocese as provided by Canon.

1. The Convention shall be composed of the following members with voice and vote: The Bishop, at least one lay delegate from each of the congregations in union with the Convention, and all deacons, presbyters, and other bishops canonically and actually resident within the Diocese. Any other baptized members of this Diocese who are present shall have voice but no vote.
 - a. The mode of determining the number of lay delegates, of electing lay delegates, and of admitting congregations into union with the Convention shall be prescribed by Canon.
 - b. The mode of identifying and determining those deacons, presbyters, and other bishops shall be prescribed by Canon.
 - c. Provision in the Canons may be made for the denial of vote at a Convention of which they may be members to lay delegates and clergy on the basis of failure to submit the Annual Parochial Report required in Title I, Canon 11, Section 2 (Of Parish and other Congregation Registers and Parochial Reports) of the Canons of this Diocese.

2. In all matters which shall come before the Convention, the lay delegates and clergy shall deliberate and vote in one body. A majority of those voting shall be required to approve any matter before the Convention, except proposals to amend the Constitution and Canons and to elect a Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor.

3. The President of the Convention shall be the Bishop, or in the Bishop's absence the Bishop Coadjutor, or in the absence of both the Bishop and the Bishop Coadjutor, if any, the President of the Standing Committee. In the absence of all the foregoing the senior presbyter (by length of time in canonical residence in this Diocese) present shall call Convention to order, and the Convention shall elect a President *pro tempore*.

4. At each Annual Convention a Secretary shall be chosen, and shall remain in office until the next Annual Convention and until a successor be chosen. The Secretary shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by Convention and by Canon. If a vacancy occurs it may be filled by the Bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee.

B. Special Conventions may be called:

1. by the Bishop or the Standing Committee, or
2. by the Standing Committee, if a petition to convene a Special Convention, signed by a majority of each of the governing boards (Vestry or Committee) of ten different congregations in union with the Convention of this Diocese, and also fifteen presbyters canonically and actually resident in this Diocese, is presented to the Standing Committee.

The convener shall notify the Secretary of the Convention specifying the purpose, date, time and place of the proposed Special Convention. The Secretary of the Convention shall give notice to the lay delegates and clergy of the Special Convention in a manner as provided by Canon. The business at such Special Convention shall be limited to the matters set forth in that notice.

C. Every Convention shall include such services of worship as shall be approved by the Bishop, including at least one celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

ARTICLE V Convocations

Regions of the Diocese to be known as Convocations shall be created as prescribed by Canon.

ARTICLE VI Canons

Canons, not in conflict with this Constitution, may be adopted by the Convention to implement the provisions of this Constitution and to prescribe the operation of this Diocese. Such proposed Canons or amendments thereto may be adopted, which shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present and eligible to vote at such Convention.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments

A. Any proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention at least one hundred twenty (120) days before the Convention at which it is to be considered. It shall then be filed by the Secretary of the Convention with any committee as determined by Canon, which committee shall report on the proposed amendment, with or without a recommendation, to the Secretary of the Convention not less than sixty (60) days

before the date of the Convention.

B. The Secretary shall mail copies of the proposed amendment, including any such report, to the lay delegates and clergy of the Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such Convention, and shall report the same to the Convention.

C. When such proposed amendment is before the Convention for first consideration, changes may be made during the debate and before the final vote.

D. If such proposed amendment, with any changes made during the debate, is approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present and eligible to vote, it shall lie over to the next Annual Convention for final approval or rejection.

E. When such a proposed amendment comes before the next Annual Convention for final approval, its reading shall be the first order of business. If the amendment is adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present and eligible to vote, such amendment shall be effective immediately and shall govern all matters coming before the same Convention and thereafter.

**THE CANONS
OF THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN**

TITLE I: ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

CANON 1 Of Lay Delegates

Sec. 1. Each congregation in union with the Convention is entitled to a maximum of four (4) lay delegates to the Convention, and to a corresponding number of alternate delegates. Immediately upon the admission of a congregation into union with the Convention its delegates shall be entitled to vote.

Sec. 2. Each lay delegate has one (1) vote in the Convention.

Sec. 3. Each lay delegate and alternate must be an adult (sixteen years of age or older) communicant in good standing (as defined by Title I, Canon 17, Sec. 2 and 3 (*Of Regulations Respecting the Laity*) of the Canons of the General Convention) in the congregation which they represent. No person under ecclesiastical censure is eligible to be a lay delegate or alternate to the Convention.

Sec. 4. The lay delegates and alternates are to be elected by a simple majority of the members present at the Annual Meeting of the congregation to serve from the time of election. The Clerk of the Vestry shall send a Congregational Data Form containing the names and addresses of the newly elected lay delegates and alternates to the Secretary of the Convention at the Diocesan Center on or before March 1 each year. If, at the time of the Annual or any Special Convention, a congregation has fewer than four (4) duly elected Delegates and Alternates willing to serve, the Vestry of that congregation may elect a sufficient number of qualified persons to so serve. The Clerk of the Vestry shall provide a list of such persons to the Secretary of the Convention before such persons may be recognized as Delegates and/or Alternates.

Sec. 5. The lay delegates of any congregation which has failed to file the annual report required by Title I, Canon 12, Sec. 2 on or before March 1 of any year shall lose their vote at the next Annual Convention and any intervening Special Conventions, except as determined by the Bishop with the consent of the Convention.

CANON 2 Of a List of the Clergy

Sec. 1. On or before the day of the meeting of the Diocesan Convention the Bishop, or if there be no Bishop, the President of the Standing Committee shall cause to be prepared a List of the Clergy, consisting of all bishops, priests and deacons, canonically and actually resident in the Diocese, annexing to the names of the deacons the name of the congregation, other community of faith, or non-parochial ministry to which the deacon is assigned as in Title III, Canon 7, Section 4 (*Of the Life and Work of Deacons*) of the Canons of the General Convention, and to the names of priests the name of the congregation, chaplaincy or other setting (non-parochial) to which the priest is appointed as in Title III, Canon 9, Section 3 (*Of the Life and Work of Priests*) of the Canons of the General Convention; but no clergy while under ecclesiastical discipline shall

have a place in such list. The list thus made shall be laid before the Convention immediately after it shall have been called to order. It shall also be appended to the Journal, and sent to the Secretary of the General Convention. For the purposes of interpreting the phrase "actually resident in the Diocese," those clergy whose respective congregations or other places of assignment or appointment noted above are located within the Diocese shall be deemed to be actually resident, the location of their domiciles notwithstanding; for all other clergy the location of their domicile shall so determine.

Sec. 2. If the right of any of the clergy to a seat in the Convention is disputed, the Convention shall determine whether his or her name should be inserted or deleted in the list aforesaid according to the provisions of the Constitution.

Sec. 3. Any of the clergy who shall have failed to submit the annual report required by Title I, Canon 12, Sec. 2 by March 1 of any year, shall lose their vote at the next Annual Convention and any intervening Special Conventions, except as determined by the Bishop with the consent of the Convention.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of all clergy having a vote in the Convention to attend every meeting thereof unless excused by the Bishop.

Sec. 5. Reference in the Canons of this Diocese to ordained persons or to clergy is intended to include bishops, presbyters, and deacons without any distinction or differentiation, except where reference to one or more of those orders is specifically made.

CANON 3 Of the Annual and Special Conventions

Sec. 1. The Diocese will hold an Annual Convention in accordance with Article IV of the Constitution. The date, time, and place shall be determined by the previous Convention; but if the date, time, and place shall not have been so appointed, it shall be determined by the Bishop. The Bishop or Standing Committee calling a Special Convention shall give the Secretary of the Convention reasonable notice as to the proposed date, time, place, and purpose of such Special Convention.

Conventions shall be held in various locations throughout the Diocese.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of the Convention shall give written notice of the date, time, and place of any Convention, annual or special.

(a) Notices will be sent to the lay delegates of the congregations in union with the Convention and to all clergy canonically and actually resident in the Diocese.

(b) Notices of Annual Conventions must be transmitted no less than ninety (90) days prior to the Convention date. Notices of a Special Convention must be sent at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention date and shall contain the purpose for which the Convention is being called. Notices of a Special Convention for the election of a Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor must be sent at least sixty (60) days prior to the Convention date and contain the purpose for which the Convention is being called.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of the Convention is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the agenda for the Convention.

Sec. 4. Lay delegates entitled to vote from no less than one-half of the congregations in union with the Convention and at least one-half of the List of Clergy prepared according to Title I, Canon 2, Section 1 constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

Sec. 5. The Bishop shall appoint members to the following committees. All committee members hold office from the close of the Convention at which they were appointed until the close of business of the following Annual Convention. The Secretary of Convention shall notify all members so appointed, and, with the exception of subsection (a) below, shall designate one of the members of each Committee to convene each Committee's first meeting. Each Committee shall then elect one of its members to serve as Chair. Vacancies will be filled by the Bishop.

(a) CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, consisting of one (1) person, lay or ordained, responsible for certifying the lay delegates and clergy, including compliance with Title I, Canon 12, Sec. 2.

(b) COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS, consisting of three (3) ordained persons and three lay persons, plus the Chancellor of the Diocese, responsible for reviewing all proposed changes to the Constitution or Canons and recommending approval or rejection, insuring that the proposed change is in proper form and style and not in conflict with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention prior to presentation to Convention.

(c) RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE, consisting of two (2) persons, one (1) ordained person and one (1) lay person, responsible for presenting to Convention those resolutions offered to the Convention for consideration.

Sec. 6. Resolutions will be submitted to the Convention through the Resolutions Committee in the following manner: Resolutions may originate in the Diocesan Council, in the Standing Committee or in a petition from at least four (4) lay delegates to the Convention and four (4) ordained persons canonically and actually resident in the Diocese.

(a) All proposed resolutions must be received by the Resolutions Committee no later than thirty (30) days before the date of the Convention.

(b) For each proposed resolution, the Resolutions Committee will determine that the resolution complies with this Section as to origination and timeliness, and ensure that it is in the proper form and style (not altering its intent nor content, nor combining it with other resolutions), and present it to the Convention for action.

(c) The Resolutions Committee shall submit its report to the Secretary of the Convention at least fifteen (15) days before the Convention. The Secretary of the Convention shall forward this report to the lay delegates and clergy at least ten (10) days before the Convention.

(d) The Resolutions Committee shall submit a written report to the Convention of the title of proposed resolutions not received in a timely fashion according to this Section.

Sec. 7. An Annual Convention from time to time may adopt, alter, or delete permanent rules of order not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese for itself and subsequent Annual and Special Conventions. Where not otherwise provided, the rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order – Revised* shall govern the Convention in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese or the rules of order of the Convention.

CANON 4 Of the Secretary of the Convention

Sec. 1 There shall be a Secretary of Convention, elected upon nomination by the Bishop at the opening of the Convention. An Assistant Secretary may be appointed but need not be confirmed by the Convention.

Sec. 2 The Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of an accurate record of the Convention actions, and shall transmit a copy of the Journal of every Convention to the Clerk of the Vestry of every congregation in union with the Convention, each of the clergy entitled to vote in the Convention, the Chancellor, and two copies to the Secretary of the General Convention. The Secretary shall also perform such duties as are prescribed by the canons of this diocese.

Sec. 3. The expenses incurred by the Secretary in the performance of official duties shall be paid out of Diocesan funds.

Sec. 4. The Secretary shall notify, in writing, the members of all committees named as a result of any action of the Convention, within fourteen (14) days of their appointment.

CANON 5 Of the Clerk of Nominations of the Convention

Sec. 1. A Clerk, lay or ordained, shall be appointed by the Bishop at each Annual Convention to serve a term of one year, commencing with the close of Convention and ending at the close of the next Annual Convention.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of Convention shall notify the Clerk no more than thirty (30) days after an Annual Convention of those positions and offices due to be filled by election or appointment at the next Annual Convention. The Secretary of Convention also shall notify the Clerk in a timely manner of any changes to the positions and offices due to be filled by election or appointment.

Sec. 3. The Clerk of Nominations of the Convention shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Bishop, three (3) lay persons and (3) clergy to serve as a Discernment Committee. The Clerk shall chair the Discernment Committee, whose purpose is to discern, receive and verify nominations for Convention elections and appointments and any other bodies as prescribed by Canon, except nominees for the election of a bishop.

(a) The Clerk will forward to the Secretary of Convention a list of nominees for election and persons to be appointed, along with a picture, a brief biographical description and the signed consent of each nominee, at least sixty (60) days before the Convention at which said elections and appointments are to take place.

(b) The Secretary of Convention shall forward this report to the lay delegates and clergy at least thirty (30) days before that Convention.

(c) This report shall indicate that additional names may be added by petition to the Clerk signed by at least eight (8) members of the Diocese and received by the Clerk at least fifteen (15) days before that Convention. Any petition must include a picture of the nominee, a brief biographical description of the nominee and the signed consent of the nominee. The Clerk shall verify the qualification of each person so nominated.

CANON 6 Of Elections

Sec. 1. A Committee on Elections, consisting of three persons, lay and/or clergy, shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Convention. The Committee will provide for and manage the procedure of elections at Conventions of the Diocese and report on the results of the same in a manner consistent with these Canons and as approved by the Convention or the Standing Committee.

Sec. 2. In the election of a Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor the names of all persons nominated shall appear on each ballot, unless the President of the Convention is advised by the nominee or the nominee's authorized representative that the nominee desires to withdraw his or her name from the list of nominees on the ballot, in which case that nominee's name shall be withdrawn on subsequent ballots.

Sec. 3. In all other elections of the Convention the first ballot for an election shall contain the name of all persons as nominated by the appropriate Committee. Any person(s) receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

Sec. 4. Should fewer than the necessary number of persons to fill the positions of an office being elected receive a majority of the votes cast in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be prepared. The names of the remaining unelected nominees receiving the most votes shall, in order of most votes received, be placed on the second ballot in sufficient number to provide only twice the number of names as positions to be elected. Any person(s) receiving a majority of the votes cast in the second ballot shall be declared elected. Should fewer than the necessary number of persons to fill the positions of an office being elected be elected on the second ballot, a third ballot shall be prepared and taken as provided in this Section for the second ballot.

Sec. 5. Should an election by a majority vote be inconclusive after a third ballot, a deadlock shall be declared. Any persons elected on the first, second, and third ballots shall be declared elected, and the remaining unfilled positions shall be filled as provided for the filling of vacancies in the Canon governing that office. Should that vacancy be required to be filled by election at an Annual Convention of the Diocese, that vacancy shall hold over and the next subsequent

Annual Convention or Council meeting shall fill that vacancy by election; the person(s) then elected shall serve the unexpired remainder of the original term.

CANON 7 Of the Standing Committee

Sec. 1. There shall be a Standing Committee to perform the various functions and duties prescribed by the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.

Sec. 2. When the Standing Committee shall act as the Ecclesiastical Authority under Article III, Section A of the Constitution, it shall have the powers and duties normally performed by the Bishop in matters of discipline, the exception being those cases where the powers and duties are specifically designated to the ordained members of the Standing Committee, in which case such powers and duties shall be exercised by the ordained members alone.

Sec. 3. The Standing Committee shall present to the Annual Convention each year a report of its work and activities during the preceding year, except such as pertain to the exercise of its function as The Council of Advice to the Bishop.

Sec. 4. The Standing Committee shall be composed of six (6) persons serving three-year terms.

(a) Three (3) lay persons and Three (3) ordained persons shall be elected by the Annual Convention in 2013 with terms designated in each order as three- (3), two- (2), and one- (1) year based on number of votes received.

(b) In subsequent years, One (1) lay person and (1) ordained person shall be elected at the Annual Convention to serve three-year terms.

(c) A vacancy in the term of a person elected as provided above shall be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Standing Committee.

(d) Diocesan Staff (stipendiary or non-stipendiary) are not eligible to serve as members of the Standing Committee.

(e) No person can serve more than two consecutive terms as a member of Standing Committee.

Sec. 5. The Secretary of the Convention shall convene the first meeting of the Standing Committee following each Annual Convention. At that first meeting the Standing Committee shall:

(a) Elect from its own members a President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

(b) Determine the specified date, time, and place of its regular meetings. Such dates, times and places shall be posted at the diocesan office and on the internet. The Secretary of the Standing Committee shall notify all members of the specified date, time, and place of these regular meetings.

Sec. 6. Special meetings of the Standing Committee may be called in accordance with Title I, Canon 12, Section 1 (Of Standing Committees: Meetings) of the Canons of the General Convention, on forty-eight (48) hours notice; said notice may be waived by consent of the members of the Standing Committee.

Sec. 7. The Secretary of the Standing Committee shall keep faithful record of all its proceedings; preserve the originals of all papers and letters addressed to the Standing Committee; attest to its acts; and deliver to a successor all books and papers which, by virtue of that office, have been received. The minutes of the Standing Committee, and all papers in its hands relative to the Church, shall be subject to the examination of the Convention and the Diocesan Council.

CANON 8 Of the Diocesan Council

Sec. 1. There shall be a Diocesan Council to administer the secular affairs of the Diocese pursuant to the statutes of the State of Michigan and to perform the various functions and duties prescribed by the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.

Sec. 2. The Diocesan Council shall function as the governing authority of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, a Michigan ecclesiastical corporation. It shall prepare and adopt the annual financial budget of the Diocese.

Sec. 3. The Diocesan Council shall have full powers over all property conveyed or transferred to it, in trust or otherwise, or held or received by it, for or in connection with the work and business of the Church and the Diocese, or elsewhere, and to collect, pay out, and dispose of all income received or held by it for any such purpose aforesaid, subject, however, to the terms of the trust or trusts under which any such property or money may have been received by it.

Sec. 4. The Diocesan Council may create commissions, task forces, committees, and boards to carry out its work. These entities will operate under guidelines and time frames established by the Diocesan Council. Any committee, board, etc. created by the Diocesan Council can also be terminated by it.

Sec. 5. The Diocesan Council shall provide the following review, approval or disapproval: no congregation which receives financial aid from the Diocese, or which requires permission of the Bishop acting with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council to encumber property in order to finance any construction project, shall erect any new building or make changes in existing buildings until the plans for such erection or alteration shall have been approved by the Diocesan Council. Any such congregation that fails to comply with this provision shall render itself liable to the forfeiture of its aid, and/or liable to disapproval of the Diocesan Council to encumber property.

Sec. 6. The Diocesan Council shall monitor compliance with the requirements of Title I, Canon 8 (*Of the Church Pension Fund*) of the Canons of the General Convention in a timely and effective manner and work to resolve any deficiencies in that compliance.

Sec. 7. The Diocesan Council shall present to the Annual Convention each year a report of its work and activities during the preceding year. All rules and by-laws of the Diocesan Council shall be published annually in the Journal of the Convention.

Sec. 8. The Diocesan Council shall be composed of twelve (12) persons serving terms of three years each.

(a) All Members of the Standing Committee (6)

(b) Three (3) lay persons and Three (3) ordained persons shall be elected in by the Annual Convention in 2013 with terms designated in each order as three- (3-), two- (2-), and one- (1-) year based on number of votes received.

(c) In subsequent years, One (1) lay person and (1) ordained person shall be elected at the Annual Convention to serve three-year terms.

(d) A vacancy in the term of a person elected as provided in (b) and (c) above shall be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Diocesan Council.

(e) Diocesan Staff (stipendiary or non-stipendiary) are not eligible to serve as members of the Diocesan Council.

(f) No person can serve more than two consecutive terms as a member of Diocesan Council.

Sec. 9. The Bishop, serving as President, shall convene the first meeting of the Diocesan Council following each Annual Convention. At that first meeting the Diocesan Council shall:

(a) Elect from its own members a Vice-President, and Secretary.

(b) Elect a Treasurer of the Diocese and such other officers, as it deems necessary.

(c) Determine the specified date, time, and place of its regular meetings. Such dates, times and places shall be posted at the diocesan office and on the internet. The Secretary of the Diocesan Council shall notify all members of the specified date, time, and place of these regular meetings.

Sec. 10. Special meetings of the Diocesan Council may be called by the Bishop or a two-thirds majority of the members of the Diocesan Council on forty-eight (48) hours notice - said notice may be waived by consent of the Bishop and a simple majority of the members of the Diocesan Council.

Sec. 11. The Secretary of the Diocesan Council shall keep faithful record of all its proceedings; preserve the originals of all papers and letters addressed to the Diocesan Council; attest to its acts; and deliver to a successor all books and papers which, by virtue of that office, have been received. The minutes of the Diocesan Council, and all papers in its hands relative to the Church, shall be subject to the examination of the Bishop and of the Convention.

CANON 9 Of the Chancellor of the Diocese

Sec. 1. There shall be a legal advisor to the Bishop to be known as the Chancellor of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, who shall be a resident communicant in good standing of some congregation of the Diocese and an attorney. The Chancellor shall take office upon nomination by the Bishop to, and receiving the approval of, the Annual Convention of the Diocese and shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop.

Sec. 2. The Bishop may, upon the request of the Chancellor, appoint a Vice-Chancellor and Assistant Chancellors of like qualification, to assist the Chancellor. These shall also hold office at the pleasure of the Bishop.

Sec. 3. If for any reason the Chancellor shall be unwilling or unable to act, the Vice-Chancellor, if there be one, shall succeed to the office of Chancellor until the next Annual Convention.

CANON 10 Of the Registrar

Sec. 1. There shall be elected annually by the Convention, upon nomination by the Diocesan Council, an officer to be called the Registrar of the Diocese, who shall hold office until a successor shall have been chosen. Should a vacancy arise in the office during the recess of the Convention, it may be filled by appointment by the Diocesan Council.

Sec. 2. The Registrar shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all registers, documents, and papers belonging to the Diocese and not required to be kept by any other person or officer, shall cause to be collected and preserved such materials as can be obtained relative to the history of the Diocese and of particular congregations, and shall so arrange, catalogue, and classify all such books, documents, and papers as to make their contents accessible for reference and use by the members of the Diocese, under such regulation as may be prescribed by the Bishop and the Diocesan Council.

Sec. 3. The Registrar shall also be responsible for the keeping of a book containing a record of all consecrations of church buildings, of all confirmations, with the names of the persons confirmed, of all ordinations, of all sentences and acts of deposition for offenses in the Diocese, of all admissions and dismissals of clergy into or from the Diocese, and of all deaths of clergy belonging thereto.

Sec. 4. The Registrar shall annually present to the Convention a report showing the condition of the collections for which the Registrar is responsible and the additions made to them, with suggestions concerning their preservation, arrangement, and increase, and concerning the best method of securing to the Church a knowledge of all matters of importance contained therein.

CANON 11 Of the Trustees of The Episcopal Church for the Diocese of Eastern Michigan

Sec. 1. The Trustees shall establish, maintain, and administer a Church Trustee Corporation

(Public Act A, No. 327, MCLA 450.159) composed of eight (8) Trustees elected from the Diocese (undistinguished as to ordained or not ordained). The Trustees shall elect from among themselves, a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers they deem necessary.

Sec. 2. Each Annual Convention shall elect from the persons nominated, two (2) persons to be Trustees for four-year terms. In the case of a vacancy, the Diocesan Council shall elect a person to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. No Trustee who has served for more than two years of an expiring term shall be eligible for re-election until at least one year shall have elapsed after the Trustee's second consecutive term of office shall have expired.

Sec. 3. The Trustees shall have full powers over all property devised, conveyed, or transferred to them in trust or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Church in this Diocese, or of any congregation, organization or institution therein, and to collect and receive all income there from, and to pay out such part of the principal and of the net income there from for the purposes aforesaid, pursuant and subject to the terms of the trust or trusts under which any such property or money shall have been received by them. The Trustees shall have such authority as is provided by the laws of the State of Michigan.

Sec. 4. The principal of the several trusts, or such part thereof as the Trustees deem advisable, unless the terms of such trust shall require separate investment, may be combined for the purpose of investment, in a single fund, and the income from such fund shall be paid over proportionately to the beneficiaries of the several trusts.

Sec. 5. The Trustees shall report to the Annual Convention each year, including in that report a statement of all sales, conveyances or mortgages of real estate made by them and all income, expenses, gains, and losses during the preceding year, and of the property held by them as Trustees.

CANON 12 Of Parish Registers and Parochial Reports

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of all clergy in this Diocese to record in the appropriate Parish Registers all those official acts listed in Title III, Canon 9, Sec. 5(c) (*Of the Life and Work of Priests: Rectors and Priests-in-Charge and Their Duties*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 2. A report of every congregation, and of every bishop, presbyter, and deacon whose report is not included in the report of a congregation of this Diocese, shall be prepared annually as required by and in the manner set forth in Title I, Canon 6, Sec. 1 and 2 (*Of the Mode of Securing an Accurate View of the State of this Church*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

CANON 13 Of Business Methods in Church Affairs

Sec. 1. Every congregation shall follow the standard business methods as outlined in Title I, Canon 7 (*Of Business Methods in Church Affairs*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 2. The Diocesan Council shall itself, or may designate a committee or other subdivision thereof, to exercise the duties and responsibilities of "The Finance Committee or Department of

Finance of the Diocese" as assigned in Title I, Canon 7 (*Of Business Methods in Church Affairs*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the treasurer of each congregation and of the treasurer of every organization within each congregation to present an annual report in written form to the annual meeting of the congregation. It shall further be the duty of the treasurer of each congregation to present a monthly written financial accounting of the affairs of such congregation to the Vestry thereof.

CANON 14 Of Diocesan Finance

Sec. 1. (a) The Diocesan Council shall prepare, for presentation at the Annual Convention, a Budget for the following year including its share for the support of The Episcopal Church. The Diocesan Council will then notify each congregation of that Diocesan Budget.

(b) Subject to the Constitution and Canons, the Diocesan Council shall have power, between the meetings of the Convention, to adjust at its discretion, any of the items in the Budget.

Sec. 2. The Budget of the Diocese shall be based in part upon the contribution of its congregations for the common mission and ministry of the Diocese. A congregation's Minimum Congregational Contribution shall be an amount equal to 10% of the average of its annual Total Operating Revenues (Unrestricted/Undesignated) for the preceding three years as reported by each congregation on Line "A" of the Annual Parochial Report. Total Operating Revenue includes pledges and open plate; transfers to the operating budget from unrestricted endowments, gifts, bequests, and interest; other operating income such as rental and building use donations; gifts from congregational organizations; and all other unrestricted income.

Sec. 3. The Treasurer shall inform each congregation by August 1 of its Minimum Congregational Contribution for the next calendar year as set forth in Sec. 2 above. Within sixty (60) days each congregation shall respond to the Treasurer in writing as to its commitment for the next calendar year. Each congregation not able to make a commitment equal to at least its Minimum Congregational Contribution should inform the Diocesan Council in writing of its desire to enter into a constructive dialogue pursuant to Title I, Canon 23, Sec. 3.

Sec. 4. Each congregation will forward by the 25th of each month to the Treasurer an amount equal to at least one-twelfth (1/12th) of its commitment for that calendar year.

Sec. 5. Each congregation shall institute a program of stewardship education (including tithing, the minimum standard of giving) designed to emphasize and ensure that stewardship is a continuing mission embracing all aspects of the Church's life.

Sec. 6. Any proposed resolution calling for a Diocese-supported or Diocese-conducted fund appeal must be submitted in accordance with Title I, Canon 3, Sec. 6.

Sec. 7. The Bishop, or the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, may make direct appeal to the congregations and members of the Diocese for response to emergency needs in extreme or

unusual circumstances.

CANON 15 Of The Church Pension Fund

Sec. 1. In conformity with Title I, Canon 8 (*Of the Church Pension Fund*) of the Canons of the General Convention, the Diocese of Eastern Michigan accepts and adopts the system of The Church Pension Fund.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of all clergy in the Diocese receiving a stipend, and of every congregation or other ecclesiastical organization paying a stipend or stipends, to furnish a statement thereof upon request to any committee charged by the Canons or Diocesan Council to report on compliance to the provisions of the Church Pension Fund.

CANON 16 Of Deputies to the General Convention

Sec. 1. The Annual Convention, at its meeting in the second year prior to the year of each triennial General Convention, shall elect, by ballot, four (4) lay members of the Church, each of whom is a communicant in good standing in some congregation of the Diocese, and four (4) presbyters and/or deacons, each of whom is entitled to vote in such Annual Convention, to act as Deputies from the Diocese to the General Convention (until their successors have been chosen).

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Deputies-elect to signify to the President of the Diocesan Council, at least sixty (60) days before the meeting of the General Convention, whether, or not, they will attend such meeting.

(a) Should a Deputy not be willing or able to so attend, the Diocesan Council shall fill such vacancy by appointing a Deputy.

(b) The Secretary of Convention shall convene the Deputies of General Convention, as soon as practically possible following their election, for the purpose of selecting a Deputation Chair. The Deputation Chair will be designated as Deputy L-1 or C-1, depending upon order, lay or clerical. The remaining members of the deputation will be designated based on number of votes received at the Annual Convention.

(c) Any duly elected Deputy who, though qualified for election at the time of the election, shall become unqualified as provided by this Canon after that election, may be removed from the Deputies by the Diocesan Council for that cause only, acting with the advice and consent of the Bishop.

CANON 17 Of Deputies to the Provincial Synod

In the year preceding a General Convention, the Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan shall elect from among the current General Convention Deputies, in as equal numbers Lay and Clerical as may be practical, such Deputies as may, from time to time, be needed to represent the Diocese at the Synod Council of the Fifth Province.

CANON 18 Of Convocations and Missional Networks

Sec. 1. The Diocese shall be divided into geographic areas, to be known as Convocations. The Bishop shall establish and may alter the list of congregations within each Convocation with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council.

Sec. 2. The Diocese, from time to time, may be organized into various networks for strategic missional purposes. These Missional Networks may be established by the Bishop in consultation with the Diocesan Council or by any collaboration of individuals, congregations, agencies, or mission partners.

Sec. 3. The Diocesan Council shall establish a Social Service Council comprised of lay and ordained representatives from around the Diocese for the purpose of administering the common diocesan social service ministry, according to guidelines established by the Diocesan Council.

CANON 19 Of the Organization of New Congregations

Sec. 1. (a) The written consent of the Bishop, acting with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council, shall be sufficient authority for the formation of a new congregation. The Bishop shall notify the three closest congregations of such intent before granting permission.

(b) No new congregation shall be organized or regular services instituted in any location without the approval of the Bishop acting with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council.

(c) The site of any existing congregation shall not be changed without the consent of the Bishop acting with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council; and further, no building thereon may be removed, taken down or otherwise disposed of for any worldly or common use, except as provided in Title I, Canon 22, Section 3.

Sec. 2. An Organizing Fellowship may be formed in accordance with Sec. 1 of this Canon by:

(a) at least six adult members of this Diocese, or

(b) a person authorized by the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council, to start a new congregation.

Sec. 3. (a) An Organizing Fellowship must apply in writing to the Bishop for Recognition by the Annual Convention at least ninety (90) days before the next Annual Convention.

(b) If the Bishop approves such Application for Recognition, the Bishop shall so inform, in writing, the Secretary of the Convention at least sixty (60) days prior the date of such Convention.

(c) The Secretary of the Convention shall notify the lay delegates and clergy of the Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such Convention of such Application, and shall report the same to the Convention.

(d) Upon approval by the Convention of such Recognition, the Secretary shall add this Organizing Fellowship to the List of Recognized Organizing Fellowships. As provided in Article IV.A.1 of the Constitution, the members of Recognized Organizing Fellowships who are present and otherwise qualified shall have voice, but no vote, in the Annual Convention of the Diocese.

Sec. 4. A Recognized Organizing Fellowship which does not apply for Admission as a Congregation into Union with the Convention of this Diocese within three (3) years from the date of its Recognition may be removed from the List of Recognized Organizing Fellowships by the Secretary of the Convention, upon direction of the Bishop.

CANON 20 Of the Admission of a Congregation into Union with the Convention of this Diocese

Sec. 1. (a) A congregation may request Admission into Union with the Convention of this Diocese by submitting, in writing, to the Secretary of the Convention at least ninety (90) days before any Annual Convention, an Application for Admission and also the following:

(i) The minutes of a meeting of the members applying to become a congregation showing that a majority of the members present has voted in favor of making such application and has elected at least three members to act as incorporators of the congregation;

(ii) A certificate from the Bishop acknowledging the intention of said congregation to incorporate, and approving the Application of such congregation.

(iii) Proof that the provisions for notification in Title I. Canon 19 have been satisfied.

(iv) Proof that the Basic Standards in Sec. 2 of this Canon can be met.

(b) At the Convention at which Application for Admission is made, the proofs required in Sec. 1. (excepting the Report in Sec. 2.i) shall be presented covering at least one full calendar year prior to that of the Convention. A copy of the proposed Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws shall also be submitted.

(c) Should the Convention accept this Application, the congregation desiring to be admitted shall then immediately complete its incorporation and also submit a Parochial Report for the year in which the application is accepted.

Sec. 2. The Basic Standards for congregations shall be:

(a) A congregation will conform to the doctrine, discipline and worship of The Episcopal Church .

(b) A congregation, as a constituent part of The Episcopal Church, and the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, will accede to, recognize and adopt the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

- (c) A congregation will order its common life in concert with the Published Policies set forth by the Bishop and the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.
- (d) A congregation will offer a weekly worship opportunity, with the Holy Eucharist being the principal act of worship on the Lord's Day whenever possible, and at minimum once a month.
- (e) A congregation will elect a Vestry of at least six (6), but not more than fifteen (15), members.
- (f) A congregation will be incorporated according to the laws of the State of Michigan, and a copy of their current Articles and By-Laws will be filed with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.
- (g) A congregation will call and retain a Rector, or be placed in the charge of a Priest-in-Charge, Pastoral Leader, or commissioned Baptismal Ministry Team by the Bishop, in accordance with the Published Policies of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.
- (h) A congregation will have representation present at the Diocesan Conventions.
- (i) The Vestry will approve an Annual Budget and present it at the Annual Meeting. The Vestry will complete a yearly audit, submit a Parochial Report, and demonstrate the ability to pay its bills.
- (j) A congregation will contribute to the Diocese at least ten percent (10%) of its Total Operating Revenue, as outlined in Title I, Canon 14, Sec. 2.

Sec. 3. At the next Annual Convention, following the Convention's acceptance of the Application for Admission, all of the evidence and documents required by Sec. 1, including a certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation, appropriate reports covering the time between the Annual Conventions, and proof that the Basic Standards in Sec. 2 of this Canon have been met, shall be presented. That Convention may then take final action to confirm acceptance or reject the Application of said congregation; if confirmed, the Convention thereby admits the congregation into Union with the Convention effective immediately.

CANON 21 Of Congregational Meetings

Sec. 1 The first meeting of a congregation after its Articles of Incorporation have been duly filed may be called by any three or more incorporators, as soon as practical. Notice shall be given to all incorporators and interested parties.

- (a) The incorporators and any persons sixteen (16) years of age or older who are baptized shall be entitled to vote at that meeting, provided that all those so voting first signify an intention of becoming attached to such congregation.
- (b) Those entitled to vote shall

(1) choose a person to preside at the initial meeting and appoint a secretary and two persons to judge elections.

(2) elect Vestry members of the congregation by a majority of all votes cast. No person may be elected to the Vestry unless they are sixteen (16) years of age, baptized and a regular worshiper for six (6) months prior to the election .

(3) adopt a set of By-Laws to govern the management of the temporal affairs of the congregation. The By-Laws shall conform to the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese and of the General Convention and to the laws of the State of Michigan.

Sec. 2. At all subsequent meetings of the congregation, the right to vote shall be confined to such persons who are sixteen years of age or older, for six months prior to the meeting have been regular worshipers in such congregation, are baptized, and are physically present at the meeting.

Sec. 3. An annual meeting shall take place in January of each year. Notice shall be given by the Rector, or in the Rector's absence by either Warden, on each of two Sundays immediately preceding the meeting.

(a) At each annual meeting sufficient numbers of persons shall be elected to constitute a Vestry consisting of not fewer than six (6) nor more than fifteen (15) members.

(1) The congregation may decide to classify Vestry members into three equal classes;

(i) Except for the first election, their terms shall be for three (3) years.

(ii) On the first election, one class shall hold office for one year, one for two years, and one for three years.

(iii) Each annual meeting will elect successors to fill the places made vacant.

(iv) Members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive three (3) year terms.

(2) If Vestry members are elected for a three-year term, no Vestry members so elected shall be eligible for re-election until one year after his or her second consecutive three year term expires.

(i) Except at the initial meeting, the Wardens, when present, shall be the judges of the election. A majority of all persons present and eligible to vote is necessary to elect.

(ii) The Rector, when present, shall preside at all congregational meetings.

(b) A full and complete record of all meetings of the congregation shall be kept by the Clerk of the Vestry.

(c) The congregation may conduct such other business as may be brought before it. Unless otherwise required by the By-Laws all issues voted upon shall be passed by a majority of those present and eligible to vote.

Sec. 4. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the Vestry, the Wardens, or the Rector, upon seven (7) days notice to the Vestry and to the congregation at a regular Service of the Church and a posting of a conspicuous notice at the church building; the purpose of the special meeting shall be incorporated in a notice.

CANON 22 Of the Vestry

Sec. 1. (a) The Vestry members shall annually choose by ballot from their own body two members to be Wardens and one member to be Clerk.

(b) The Vestry shall appoint a Treasurer and may appoint a Secretary and such other agents as may be required at their discretion (who need not be members of the Vestry).

(c) A schedule of regular meetings of the Vestry shall be established at the first meeting of the Vestry after the Annual Meeting, and it shall be posted in a conspicuous place.

(d) Special meetings of the Vestry may be called by the Rector or by one-third of the Vestry members by giving notice thereof at a regular service of the Church and by mail or personal notice to all members of the Vestry.

Sec. 2. A majority of the Vestry members shall constitute a quorum. The Rector, or such other member of the Vestry designated by the Rector, shall preside at all meetings of the Vestry. In the absence of a Rector, one of the Wardens, or a Vestry member chosen by the Wardens, shall preside.

(a) The Rector shall have no vote at the meeting except when presiding, and then only in the event of a tie.

(b) All vacancies in the Vestry may be filled by the remaining Vestry members at any meeting, and the person so elected shall hold office for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

(c) Only those members present may cast a vote on any matter coming before the meeting.

(d) The Clerk shall (i) note and record, in a book provided for that purpose, the minutes of the proceedings of the Vestry meetings (which duty may be delegated to a Secretary appointed by the Vestry). (ii) attest to the public acts of the Vestry, (iii) preserve all

records and papers belonging to the Congregation and not required to be kept by any other person or officer, and (iv) perform such other duties as may be assigned. The Clerk shall faithfully deliver into the hands of his or her successor all books and documents belonging to the Congregation that may be in his or her possession.

(e) The Treasurer shall receive all monies collected under the authority of the Vestry and shall disburse the same under the direction of the Vestry.

Sec. 3. Subject to the Canons of this Diocese and the General Convention and the laws of the State of Michigan,

(a) The Vestry shall have authority

(1) in the corporate name of the Congregation, to lease or to purchase and hold such real estate as shall be reasonably necessary for the Congregation's purposes.

(2) to erect, alter, enlarge, take down, or remove and rebuild any church or other building belonging to the Congregation provided such Vestry shall have first obtained the consent of said Congregation.

(b) The Vestry shall have the power to alienate or encumber any assets of the Congregation; except that it shall have no power or authority to alienate or encumber real estate without first being authorized to do so by: 1) a vote of the members of the Congregation at an annual or special meeting called for such purpose, and 2) the prior consent of the Bishop acting with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese. Should the Vestry encumber real property, it shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, prepare and furnish the Bishop and the Diocesan Council with a statement showing the date and principal amount of such note and mortgage, the rate of interest thereon, the date and terms of payment of the principal and interest, the date of maturity thereof, and the name(s) and address(es) of the mortgagee(s). The Vestry shall make annual reports to the Bishop and the Diocesan Council as to the status of said mortgage payments until said mortgage is fully paid.

(c) Except for the refinancing of an existing indebtedness, no indebtedness shall be incurred by a Congregation without the approval of the Bishop and the Diocesan Council with these two exceptions:

(1) When the indebtedness is to be incurred for permanent improvements, replacements or additions to real estate or equipment, and where the amount of such indebtedness, together with all other indebtedness of the Congregation, shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the average annual receipts of such Congregation during the previous three (3) years.

(2) When the indebtedness is to be incurred for current expenses, and where the amount of such indebtedness, together with all existing indebtedness for current expenses shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total current receipts of such Congregation during the preceding year, and the payment of all

indebtedness for current expenses shall be provided for in the budget of the next two (2) years with reasonable expectation of its payment. The principal of endowments and bequests and receipts for purposes other than current expenses shall be excluded from computing receipts under this provision. Whenever approval is required, the Congregation requesting such approval shall furnish a statement of the amount and terms of payment of said indebtedness, the reason for its necessity, and a plan for its retirement.

Sec. 4. (a) All documents requiring corporate signature shall be signed, in the name of the Corporation, by one of the Wardens and by the Clerk, or by such other members of the Vestry as shall be authorized to do so by resolution of the Vestry.

(b) The Vestry shall be responsible for the maintenance of the assets of the Congregation. It shall elect, call and provide for the maintenance of the Rector, keep order in the church during divine worship, and in general act in support of the Rector in whatever is appropriate for the furtherance of the Gospel.

(c) The Vestry shall keep a record of its proceedings together with a record of the meetings of the Congregation. Such records shall be kept open for inspection of the Rector, of any person qualified to vote at the annual meetings of the Congregation, and of the Bishop or the Bishop's designee.

(d) Whenever a Congregation shall fail to fill the vacancies in the Vestry or fail to elect Vestry members, fail to organize or be without a qualified and acting Vestry for a period of two years, it shall be the duty of the Bishop to appoint the proper number of Wardens and Vestry members with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council. These appointees shall constitute the Vestry of such Congregation until such Congregation is dissolved or a Vestry is duly elected and organized.

(e) Should any member of the Vestry be absent from the regularly scheduled meetings of the Vestry for a period of three consecutive months, the remaining members of the Vestry may, at their discretion and with the advice and consent of the Rector, declare that seat to be vacant and elect a qualified person to fill the unexpired term. In the absence of a Rector, the advice and consent of the Bishop shall be secured.

(f) Any Vestry member under ecclesiastical discipline may be expelled from the Vestry upon the Vestry's determination that the Vestry member so accused is guilty of the violations charged with two-thirds of the Vestry concurring. The person expelled shall have the right to appeal to the Bishop, whose decision shall be final.

Sec. 5. (a) The control of the worship and spiritual jurisdiction of the Congregation shall be under the exclusive direction of the Rector with the godly counsel of the Bishop.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Vestry, when the Congregation is without a Rector, to provide for regular public worship and the instruction of the Congregation led by clergy or by lay persons as circumstances may permit.

CANON 23 Of the Renewal of Congregations

Sec. 1. (a) Written notification to the Bishop of a congregation's possible inability to live into the Basic Standards for Congregation (Title I, Canon 20.2) may be made by the Rector or Priest-in-charge, the Pastoral Leader, the commissioned Baptismal Ministry Team, the Vestry, the Standing Committee, or the Diocesan Council.

(b) Upon receipt of such Notification the Bishop shall then notify the Vestry of such congregation and the Diocesan Council of such possible inability within ten (10) days. The Vestry of such Congregation shall then so notify the members of such congregation within twenty (20) days of its receipt of notice from the Bishop. The Bishop shall, within ten days, communicate in writing to the Vestry of such congregation the date of the next regular meeting of the Diocesan Council at least thirty (30) days thereafter.

Sec. 2. Members of the affected congregation may give witness to the desire to work through the difficulties or for closure.

Sec. 3. The Bishop, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, may recommend that the congregation be facilitated into living into the Basic Standards for Congregations.

(a) The Bishop, three (3) members of the Diocesan Council, and the leadership of the congregation will be the primary participants in developing a plan of action.

(b) Progress reports shall be made to the Diocesan Council every ninety (90) days until the Basic Standards for Congregations are met, or a decision to close the congregation is made.

Sec. 4. The Bishop, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, may recommend closure of the congregation.

CANON 24 Of the Closure of Congregations

Sec. 1. If the Bishop, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, recommends closure of the congregation in accordance with Title I, Canon 23, the Bishop will notify the Congregation within ten (10) days of such decision.

Sec. 2. A service for the celebration of the life and ministry of the congregation shall be scheduled, and, if appropriate, a rite for the secularizing of a consecrated building shall be included.

Sec. 3. All assets shall become the property of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan. Financial and non-financial assets, real and personal property, including restricted funds, memorial funds, trusts, etc., will be property of the Diocese to be managed, allocated and disposed of by the Diocesan Council.

Sec. 4. The Bishop shall encourage and assist the communicants of the closing congregation in transferring their membership to other nearby Episcopal congregations.

Sec. 5. A congregation shall not be closed solely on the basis of noncompliance with Published Policies (Title I, Canon 20.2.c) without a minimum of one (1) year of dialogue with the proper ecclesiastical authority and without an opportunity to challenge the policy before the Annual Convention of the Diocese.

CANON 25 Of Chapels

Sec. 1. A Chapel shall be a church without a resident congregation of Members or one which is open only part of the year.

Sec. 2. The title to the property of such Chapel shall be vested in the Diocese. An Offering shall be taken on at least one Sunday of each season for the missionary work of the Diocese.

Sec. 3. A Chapel Committee may be appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Diocesan Council, which will work with the Bishop on the ministry and mission of the Chapel. Such a Committee shall report to the Bishop at least annually on its activities and finances.

CANON 26 Of Clergy and Congregations Seeking Affiliation with This Diocese

Sec. 1. Whenever a Congregation of Christian people located within the boundaries of this Diocese shall seek affiliation with The Episcopal Church under the provisions of Title I, Canon 16 (*Of Clergy and Congregations Seeking Affiliation with This Church*) of the Canons of the General Convention, the Bishop shall report to the Secretary of the Convention of this Diocese when such affiliate status has been granted by the Presiding Bishop.

Sec. 2. The Secretary shall report to the Convention and list such Congregations separately as "Affiliate Congregations" in reports and listing of Congregations. The Clergy and members of "Affiliate Congregations" shall have seat and voice in the Annual Convention of this Diocese until such time as a) that status is revoked by the Presiding Bishop, b) the oversight of such Congregation no longer rests with the Bishop of this Diocese, or c) such Congregation is admitted into union with the Convention of this Diocese under the provisions of Title I, Canon 20 of the Canons of this Diocese. Should such a Congregation be admitted into Union with the Convention of this Diocese, the clergy thereof may be given vote in the Convention of this Diocese only by admission to the List of the Clergy (Title I, Canon 2) in accordance with the provisions of Title III, Canon 10 (*Of Reception of Clergy from Other Churches*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

CANON 27 Of the Jurisdiction of the Bishop in Communicant Status and Marital Status and the Solemnization of Marriages

All matters which are subject to review under Title I, Canons 17 (*Of Regulations Respecting the Laity*), 18 (*Of the Solemnization of Holy Matrimony*), and 19 (*Of Regulations Respecting Holy Matrimony*) of the Canons of the General Convention may, upon written application, be inquired into, reviewed and disposed of by the Bishop (or, otherwise, in accordance with Article III of the Constitution of this Diocese) in a manner as determined by the Bishop.

CANON 28 Of the Camp Chickagami Board

Sec. 1. The operation of Camp Chickagami shall be under the direction of the Camp Chickagami Board.

Sec. 2 The Camp Chickagami Board shall consist of nine (9) persons. At least seven (7) of the members must reside in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and at least five (5) of the members must be communicants in good standing of a congregation in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. All members shall be appointed by the Diocesan Council to three year terms, beginning and ending immediately following the Annual Convention. Diocesan Council minutes will reflect all names proposed or considered for membership on the Board. No member having served two or more consecutive terms shall be eligible for appointment to an immediate succeeding term. All members shall serve until a successor is installed.

Sec. 3. Initial appointees in 2013 will have staggered terms of service with subsequent annual appointments following the guidelines delineated in Section 2 above

Sec. 4. The Board shall have such powers and duties as may be assigned to it by the Diocesan Council. The Board may, subject to the Diocesan Council, adopt its own procedures and rules for the performance of its duties and functions, provided that it shall in all matters be governed by the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, the actions of the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and all pertinent policies of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan adopted by the Annual Convention, the Bishop, and/or the Diocesan Council.

Sec. 5 The Board shall file with the Bishop and with the Diocesan Council a copy of the Minutes of each meeting, and it shall submit a written report to the Annual Convention, to be filed with the Secretary of the Convention at least sixty (60) days before the Convention.

TITLE II: WORSHIP

CANON 1 Of Ordering the Worship of the Church in this Diocese

The Bishop, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, may appoint such bodies as deemed appropriate to further the provisions of Title II (*Worship*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

TITLE III: MINISTRY

CANON 1 Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons

This Diocese shall make provision for the development and affirmation of the ministry of all baptized persons in the Church and in the world.

CANON 2 Of the Commission on Ministry

Sec. 1. Duties: There shall be a Commission on Ministry whose duties shall be to advise and assist the Bishop, as prescribed by Title III, Canon 2, Section 2 (*Of Commissions on Ministry*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

(a) The Commission shall have authority to appoint sub-committees, drawn from and beyond its own membership.

(b) The Commission shall make a report concerning its work to each Annual Convention of the Diocese.

Sec. 2. Members: The Commission on Ministry shall consist of six (6) appointed members of the Clergy who are canonically resident in the Diocese; and of six (6) appointed Lay Persons, each of whom is over sixteen (16) years of age, confirmed, a regular attendant in good standing, and a contributor for at least twelve (12) months to the support of a congregation in the Diocese.

Sec. 3. Appointment:

(a) Members shall be appointed by the Bishop for terms of three (3) years. The Bishop shall appoint two (2) laypersons and two (2) ordained persons each year and fill any vacancies as needed, reporting such appointments at the opening of each Annual Convention.

(b) No member may serve more than four (4) successive 3-year terms.

CANON 3 Of the Election of a Bishop

Sec. 1. The election of a Bishop or a Bishop Coadjutor of this Diocese shall be in an Annual Convention, or in a Special Convention called for that purpose in accord with Title III, Canon 11 (*Of the Ordination of Bishops*) of the Canons of the General Convention. The concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the Convention present and voting shall constitute an election.

Sec. 2. Whenever the Bishop of this Diocese shall call for the election of a Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor, the Diocesan Council shall work with the Presiding Bishop and the Office of Pastoral Development to establish a process of discernment and election that follows recommended best practices for episcopal elections. In following said best practices, honor will be given to the unique culture of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, with particular attention paid to participation of all the baptized.

CANON 4 Of the Calling of Rectors

Whenever a Rectorate becomes open the Vestry shall fill such Rectorate according to the provisions of Title III, Canon 9, Section 3.a (*Of the Life and Work of Priests: The Appointment of Priests: Rectors*) of the Canons of the General Convention; provided, however, that no election

shall be had unless and until all requirements of the Church Pension Fund in that congregation shall be paid in full, and the current Diocesan policy on Salary and Benefits be met unless other arrangements are approved by the Bishop.

CANON 5 Of the Reconciliation of Disagreements Affecting the Pastoral Relation

When the pastoral relationship in a Congregation between a Rector and the Vestry or congregation is imperiled by disagreement or dissension, and the issues are deemed serious by the Rector or by a majority vote of the Vestry, either party may petition the Bishop, in writing, to intervene and assist the parties in their efforts to resolve the disagreement in accordance with the provisions of Title III, Canon 9, Section 12 (*Of the Life and Work of Priests: Reconciliation of Disagreements Affecting the Pastoral Relation*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

CANON 6 Of the Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation

Sec. 1. Except upon mandatory resignation by reason of age, a Rector may not resign as Rector of a Congregation without the consent of its Vestry, nor may any Rector canonically or lawfully elected and in charge of a Congregation be removed therefrom by the Vestry against the Rector's will, except as provided in Title III, Canon 9, Section 13(a) (*Of the Life and Work of Priests: Dissolution of Pastoral Relation*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 2. If for any urgent reason a Rector or Vestry shall desire a separation and dissolution of the pastoral relation, and the parties cannot agree respecting a separation and dissolution, either party may act in conformity with and subject to Title III, Canon 9, Section 13(b) and following (*Of the Life and Work of Priests: Notice to Ecclesiastical Authority*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 3. In regards to the provisions of Title III, Canon 9.13(e) (*Of the Life and Work of Priests: Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation*) of the Canons of the General Convention, the provisions of subsection (e) shall apply in the case of a Rector. In the case of a Vestry, the Bishop may act in accordance with Title I, Canon 23, Section 1(b) of these Canons, said failure constituting a failure to live into the provisions of Title I, Canon 20, Section 2(a).

CANON 7 Of Priests-in-Charge

Sec. 1. All Clergy called or appointed to authority in a congregation, who are not called as Rectors in accordance with Title III, Canon 9, Section 3.a (*Of the Life and Work of Priests: The Appointment of Priests: Rectors*) of the Canons of the General Convention (as provided in Title III, Canon 4 of these Canons), shall be appointed by the Bishop as Priest-in-Charge in accordance with Title III, Canon 9, Section 3.b (*Of the Appointment of Priests: Priests-in-Charge*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 2. This Canon shall also apply to any member of the clergy, by whatever title designated, who is called to a congregation for a stated period of time, or whose service to a congregation is limited to a stated period of time by Title III, Canon 9, Section 7 (*Of the Life and Work of Priests*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 3 . Priests-in-Charge may have a letter of agreement with the Bishop setting forth the mutual responsibilities of the appointment. The Bishop may also have a letter of agreement with the Vestry of the congregation setting forth mutual responsibilities regarding the ministry of a Priest-in-charge.

TITLE IV: ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

CANON 1 Of the Administration of Ecclesiastical Discipline

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan adopts by reference Title IV (*Ecclesiastical Discipline*) of the Canons of the General Convention, as adopted in 2009, effective July 1, 2011, and as amended from time to time, applicable to the Ecclesiastical Discipline of Priests and Deacons, and as it pertains to the practices and procedures set forth. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Title are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV (*Ecclesiastical Discipline*) established by the General Convention, the Canons of the General Convention shall govern.

CANON 2 Of the Discipline Structure

Sec. 1. Disciplinary Board

(a) The Board shall consist of not fewer than seven persons, the majority of whom shall be priests and/or deacons, but by no more than one.

(b) The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council. The ordained members of the Board must be canonically and geographically resident in this Diocese. The lay members of the Board shall be adult communicants in good standing, and geographically resident in this Diocese. Members shall be appointed for a three-year term, beginning on the first day of the year following their appointment. Membership on the Board shall meet the limitations set forth in Title IV, Canon 5, Section 3 (*Of Disciplinary Structures: Rules of operation*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

(c) Vacancies on the Board shall be filled by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council, upon notice by the President of the Board of such vacancy.

(1) Persons appointed to fill vacancies shall complete the vacated term and shall be of the same order as the Board member replaced.

(2) Should a vacancy occur as a result of a challenge, a replacement Board member shall serve only for the proceeding for which the regular Board member is not serving as a result of the challenge, and shall be of the same order.

(d) The Board shall elect from its members a President and one or more Vice-Presidents. The Board shall also appoint a Clerk, who shall be custodian of all records and provide administrative services as needed by the Board. The Clerk may be a

member of the Board.

(e) The REFERENCE PANEL shall be composed of an Intake Officer, the Bishop Diocesan, and the President or a Vice-President of the Disciplinary Board. The Reference Panel shall review the Intake Report to determine how to refer the Report for further considerations. All deliberations shall be confidential, except as required by the law or as deemed pastorally appropriate by the Bishop.

(f) A HEARING PANEL of three members of the Disciplinary Board, selected by the President of the Board, shall serve as the body before which a hearing is held as provided by Title IV, Canon 13 (*Of Hearing Panels*) of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 2. Personnel

(a) INTAKE OFFICER. An Intake Officer shall be appointed from time to time by the Bishop after consultation with the Board. The Bishop may appoint one or more Intake Officers according to the needs of the Diocese. The Bishop shall publish the names and contact information of the Intake Officer(s) throughout the Diocese, with methods and means of reporting information concerning alleged offenses. All communications shall be confidential, except as required by law or as deemed pastorally appropriate by the Bishop.

(b) INVESTIGATOR. The Bishop shall appoint an Investigator, in consultation with the President of the Board. The Investigator may, but need not be, a member of the Church. The Investigator shall be skilled and able to conduct investigations under this Title.

(c) CHURCH ATTORNEY. Within 60 days following each Annual Convention, the Diocesan Council, in consultation with the Bishop and Disciplinary Board, shall appoint an attorney to serve as Church Attorney for the following calendar year. The person so selected must be a member of the Church and a duly licensed attorney, but need not reside within the Diocese. The Church Attorney will represent the Church in proceedings under this Title.

(d) PASTORAL RESPONSE COORDINATOR. The Bishop may appoint a Pastoral Response Coordinator, to serve at the pleasure of the Bishop in coordinating the delivery of appropriate pastoral responses provided for in Title IV, Canon 8 (*Of Pastoral Response*) of the Canons of the General Convention and this Title. The Pastoral Response Coordinator may be an Intake Officer, but shall not be a person serving in any other appointed or elected capacity under this Title.

(e) ADVISORS. In each proceeding under this Title, the Bishop shall appoint an Advisor each for the complainant and for the respondent. A person serving as an Advisor shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Title; and shall not include persons serving as Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors, or Assistant Chancellors of this Diocese, or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding. An Advisor shall be available for purposes of support, assistance, consultation, and advice regarding

the process provided in this Title and the pertinent rights, responsibilities, consequences, and alternatives.

(f) CONCILIATOR. The Bishop shall appoint a Conciliator to assist in reconciling the parties and issues involved. The Conciliator shall be a person skilled in dispute resolution and without conflict of interest in the matter.

CANON 3 Of Inter-diocesan Agreements

This Diocese may agree with one or more of the Dioceses in the State of Michigan to develop and share resources necessary to implement this Title, including all boards, panels, and personnel, and administrative and financial support for proceedings under this Title. Such agreement may be established by the Diocesan Council, with the advice and consent of the Bishop, and subject to such changes to this Title as may be necessary to realize full implementation of such an agreement.

TITLE V: CANONICAL LEGISLATION

CANON 1 Of Additions and Amendments to the Canons

Sec. 1. All proposed amendments or additions to the Canons shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention at least one hundred twenty (120) days before the Convention at which they are to be considered.

(a) They shall then be filed by the Secretary of the Convention with any committee as determined by Canon, which committee, if any, shall report on the proposed amendments, with or without recommendation, to the Secretary of the Convention not less than sixty (60) days before the date of the Convention.

(b) The Secretary shall mail copies of the proposed amendments or additions, including any such report, to the lay delegates and clergy of the Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such Convention, and shall report the same to the Convention.

(c) No amendment or addition to the Canons shall be considered by the Convention unless so reported to it by the Secretary.

Sec. 2. When any proposed amendment or addition is before the Convention for consideration, changes may be made by a majority vote during the debate and before final vote. No amendment or addition to the Canons shall be finally adopted and approved unless concurred in and adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

Sec. 3. New canons, deletions of whole canons, and additions to, amendments of, and deletions from existing canons, unless otherwise expressly ordered, shall take effect on the first day following the adjournment of the Convention at which they were enacted or made.

**Adopted by the Primary Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, October 28-29, A.D. 1994,
and as amended by Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan through October 18,
A.D. 2014.**