

This proposal has two parts. The first part would replace the eight-Deanery structure with a five-Mission District structure. Each Mission District would have two purposes: (i) to nominate and elect three Diocesan Council members and (ii) “to collaborate in ministry and mission and in furtherance of Diocesan strategic plans and initiatives, and to generally foster a closeness of community within the Mission District and across the Diocese.” Under the proposal, Council would have fifteen elected members instead of twenty-six.

The second part expressly authorizes congregations to elect delegates to Diocesan Convention at a special meeting instead of exclusively at the annual meeting. This proposal comes in response to concerns that some congregations have difficulty electing all necessary delegates and alternatives at the annual meeting, and need a subsequent special meeting to assure a full delegation for Convention.

## PART 1

### CANON 1.6: THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

1. The Diocesan Council shall consist of the Bishop as Chair, *ex officio*; the Bishop Coadjutor, *ex officio*; the Bishop Suffragan, *ex officio*; the Chancellor of the Diocese, *ex officio*; ~~and twenty-six (26) elected members and fifteen (15) members elected by the Mission District Electing Committees as provided in Canon 6A.~~ The Canon to the Ordinary and the Diocesan Treasurer shall have a seat and voice, but no vote. ~~Of the elected members, sixteen (16) shall be Deanery Members; eight (8) shall be At-Large Members; and two (~~

~~2) shall be Youth Members.~~

~~2. (a) AT-LARGE Members: At each Annual Convention four (4) At-Large Members shall be elected to two (2) year terms. At-Large Members may be of either Order, with the right to serve no more than two (2) consecutive elected terms.~~

~~— (b) YOUTH Members: At each Annual Convention two (2) Youth Members shall be elected to one (1) year terms with the right to serve no more than two consecutive elected terms. Youth Members shall be at least the age of sixteen (16) and under the age of twenty-one (21) at the time of their election.~~

~~— (c) DEANERY Members: On or before August 1 of each year and as provided in Canon 6A, each Deanery Chapter shall elect a lay or cleric member to a two (2) year term commencing upon the date of the next ensuing Annual Convention, and shall transmit the name of the member so elected to the Secretary of Convention. Deanery members shall have the right to serve no more than two consecutive elected terms.~~

~~— (d) VACANCIES: After two (2) consecutive unexcused or unexplained absences, any elected member's the seat of any member who is not an *ex officio* member may be declared vacant upon notice and majority vote of a quorum of Diocesan Council. All ~~vacancies~~ Vacancies created in this manner or by reason of resignation, death or the failure of a Mission District to elect, shall be filled by appointment by the Bishop for the remainder of the vacant unexpired term.~~

3. The Bishop (or, if there be none, the Standing Committee) and the Council shall exercise the executive powers of the Diocese between sessions of the annual Convention and shall be responsible for the promotion of the Mission of the Church. To that end, Council may take such actions, organize, supervise,

and coordinate such departments, commissions, task forces, and committees as Council may deem necessary. Council may also request every Parish and Mission to conduct periodic self-studies and draft statements of goals in light of the Diocesan Mission Statement. Council shall report its activities and recommendations to the annual Convention for action.

4. The Council, in consultation with the Treasurer of the Diocese, shall prepare a comprehensive budget each year for submission to the annual Convention for action. This budget shall include appropriations, as recommended by Council, necessary to promote the Mission of the Church and to maintain and operate the Diocese for the ensuing fiscal year.

5. The budget revenues from Parishes and Missions shall be computed by making an appropriation against the net operating income of each Parish and Mission. Net operating income is defined as the reported revenues available to a Parish or Mission for general purposes of that Parish or Mission, less any grants received directly from the Diocese. Revenues received for general purposes shall include, but not be limited to, plate and pledge income, contributions made by Parish or Mission organizations, investment and endowment income, and all other general purpose income (e.g., rentals and proceeds from fund raisers designed to support the general purpose and mission of the Parish or Mission).

6. The Council, acting through the Treasurer of the Diocese, shall be responsible for the collection and disbursement of the budget as adopted by the annual Convention. The Council may authorize the Treasurer of the Diocese to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the budget income, so that the budgeted appropriations and obligations of the Diocese may be paid when due.

7. The Council shall review the minimum stipend and travel allowance of the Clergy of the Diocese and shall recommend the same to the Convention with regard to the proper support of the ministry. Such a minimum stipend shall be binding on all Parishes and Missions upon ratification by the Convention. The Council shall also annually review the stipend or stipends of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor or the Bishop Suffragan, if there be either or both, together with their expenses for housing, house maintenance, travel, secretarial or office expenses, which shall be paid from the Episcopal Fund and Diocesan Assessments.

8.8- The Council shall meet regularly between sessions of the Convention and shall also meet on call by the Bishop or any three other members of the Council.

#### CANON 1.6A: ~~DEANERIES~~ THE MISSION DISTRICTS

1. ~~The Diocese of Vermont~~ There shall be divided into eight (8) Deaneries ~~five Mission Districts in the Diocese, constituted of no more than eight (8) neighboring parishes and missions; as determined from time to time by the Bishop and Diocesan Council, in consultation with these the parishes and missions. The purpose of the Mission Districts shall be to nominate and elect fifteen members of Diocesan Council, to collaborate in ministry and mission and in furtherance of Diocesan strategic plans and initiatives, and to generally foster a closeness of community within the Mission District and across the Diocese.~~

2. ~~Each Deanery shall be governed by a Deanery Chapter composed of all clergy canonically resident within the Deanery and no more than three (3) lay persons elected by each member, parish, and mission at annual meeting, one of whom shall be a member of the vestry or executive committee at the time of their election. Elected chapter members shall serve for two (2) year terms with the right to serve no more than two (2) consecutive elected terms. The Chapter shall~~

~~elect its own officers, including a Dean as presiding officer. Deanery Chapters shall meet and carry out such programs, policies, and directives as they deem appropriate, in consultation with the Bishop and Diocesan Council.~~ The membership of a Mission District is comprised of the communicants age sixteen and older who are members in good standing of congregations in the Mission District together with all Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese and residing or serving in the Mission District. A member of the Clergy residing in one District but serving a congregation in another District shall be a member only of the District in which the Clergy member serves.

~~3. On or before August 1 of each year, each Deanery Chapter shall elect a lay or clerical member to Diocesan Council for a two (2) year term. The term shall commence upon the date of the next ensuing annual Convention and shall continue notwithstanding the expiration of the member's term to the Deanery Chapter. Deanery members shall have the right to serve no more than two consecutive terms.~~ Each Mission District shall have an Electing Committee comprised of (i) the District Clergy who have seat and vote at Convention under Canon I.1.3 and (ii) the Lay Delegates elected pursuant to Canons I.1.4 and III.13.4 to represent each congregation in the District at Convention. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in Canons 6 or 6A, or elsewhere in these Canons;

~~(i) the terms of those Members elected at the 164th Annual Convention in 1997 shall expire at the 166th Annual Convention in 1999;~~

~~(ii) the following Members shall be elected at the 165th Annual Convention in 1998:~~

~~—— a. Eight (8) Members to one (1) year terms, adhering to the criteria of former Canon 6(2)(b);~~

~~—— b. Two (2) Youth Members shall be elected for one (1) year terms; and~~

~~(iii) the following Members shall be elected at the 166th Annual Convention in 1999:~~

~~—— a. Convention shall elected four (4) Members for one (1) year terms, and four (4) Members for two (2) year terms.~~

~~—— b. Each Deanery shall elect one Member for a one (1) year term, and one Member for a two (2) year term.~~

~~—— c. Convention shall elected two (2) Youth Members for one (1) year terms; and~~

~~(iv) annually thereafter, commencing with the 167th Annual Convention in 2000, the following Members shall be elected:~~

~~—— a. Convention shall elect four (~~

~~4) Members to two (2) year terms;.~~ Each Mission District shall have a Nominating Committee comprised of a Chair selected by the Bishop from among the membership of the Electing Committee and two other members selected by the Chair from among the members of the Electing Committee. There shall be at least one Clergy and one Lay member of the Nominating Committee. Each Nominating Committee shall reach out to the congregations and members of its Mission District to solicit nominations of Lay and Clergy District members to be the District's representatives to Diocesan Council for election under section 4 of this Canon by the District's Electing Committee. The Chair of each Nominating Committee shall convene a meeting of the Nominating Committee prior to the deadline established by the Convention Dispatch of Business Committee. At this meeting, the Nominating Committee shall collect all Council nominations and review them to assure that the nominees are eligible under Section 2 of this Canon. Promptly following the meeting, the Chair shall forward the names of all eligible nominees to the Nominating Committee of the Convention in the manner prescribed by that Nominating Committee, and those names shall be the slate of nominees for that District.

~~—— b. Each Deanery shall elect a Member to a two (2) year term; and~~

~~—— c. Convention shall elect two (2) Youth Members to one (1) year terms.~~

5. Subject to the transition provision in Section 6 of this Canon, at each annual Convention at a time set by the Dispatch of Business Committee, each Mission District Electing Committee shall gather and elect a nominee to serve on Diocesan Council for a three-year term. Nominations from the floor of an Election Committee gathering shall be in order. At all times, including during the transition period, there shall be at least one Lay and one Clergy member from each Mission District serving on Diocesan Council. An elected member of Council may serve not more than two consecutive three-year terms but shall be eligible to serve again following a hiatus of at least one year.

6. At the 179<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of the Diocese in 2011, each Mission District Electing Committee shall elect three District members to serve on Diocesan Council, as follows: one member for a term of one year, one member for a term of two years, and one member for a term of three years. Annually at each Convention thereafter, each Mission District Electing Committee shall elect one member for a three-year term.

7. Each Mission District shall carry out such programs, policies and directives as it deems appropriate, in consultation with the Bishop and the Diocesan Council and under the convening leadership of the District's Diocesan Council members.

#### Canon I.4.4

At an appropriate time following the calling of the annual meeting of the Convention to order, except as provided below, the Bishop shall appoint the following Standing Convention Committees, each of which shall have both Lay and Clergy members:

...

4. Nominating Committee, consisting of eight persons. Five members of the Nominating Committee shall be the Chairs of the Mission District Nominating Committees, *ex officio*, as appointed by the Bishop pursuant to Canon I.6A.3. The Bishop shall appoint the other three members of the Nominating Committee, taking care to assure that the Committee has both Lay and Clergy members. The Committee shall solicit canonically-resident Clergy persons and Lay communicants in good standing sufficient to yield an appropriate slate of candidates for each office or position to be elected by vote of the Delegates at Convention. All candidates for these offices shall be placed in nomination before the Convention by the Committee. The Convention, however, retains the right to permit nominations from the floor, except in the case of the Council members to be elected by the Mission District Electing Committees under Canon I.6A.4.

PART 2

Title III, Canon 13, Section 4.

Every Parish shall meet on the second Monday in January of each year or on one of the fifteen days following the second Monday, for the purpose of electing by ballot at least one-third of the Vestry to serve for a term of three years. The meeting shall also elect Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the annual Convention or any Special Convention within their term of office. The election shall be by ballot in accordance with Canon 1, Section 4 of these Canons. One of the Delegates elected to the annual Convention shall be a member of the Vestry and, if possible, one of the Delegates shall have served as a Delegate at the previous annual Convention. In the event that the annual meeting neglects or fails to elect a sufficient number of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to assure full representation at the Convention, or if full representation is unlikely because the ranks of the Delegates and Alternate Delegates are diminished by resignation, death or some other cause, then a special meeting of the Parish may elect a sufficient number of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to assure full representation at the Convention; provided, however, that any such special meeting shall take place no later than sixty days prior to the opening date of the Convention.

Title III, Canon 15, Section 7.

7. At the annual Meeting of the Mission, Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be elected to the annual Convention or any Special Convention held within their term of office. The election shall be by ballot and shall be in accordance with Canon 1, Section 4 of these Canons. Those entitled to vote are as defined in Canon 13, Section 6. One of the Delegates elected to the annual Convention shall be a member of the Executive Committee of the Mission and, if possible, one of the Delegates shall have served as a Delegate at the previous annual Convention. Delegates may be elected to a term of office not to exceed three (3) years. . In the event that the annual meeting neglects or fails to elect a sufficient number of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to assure full representation at the Convention, or if full representation is unlikely because the ranks of the Delegates and Alternate Delegates are diminished by resignation, death or some other cause, then a special meeting of the Mission may elect a sufficient number of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to assure full representation at the Convention; provided, however, that any such special meeting shall take place no later than sixty days prior to the opening date of the Convention. Within thirty (30) days of the adjournment of the Convention, the delegation shall give to the Mission a summary report of the doings thereof.