

The Constitution
of the
Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northwest Texas
as of Annual Diocesan Convention, 2017

**(With “nonsubstantive and technical changes” made by
the Constitution and Canons Committee in September 2017)**

October 2017

THE CONSTITUTION
OF
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST TEXAS

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Note: Other than in titles and subheadings, portions of the Constitution written in ***bold italics*** are taken directly from the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church; portions written in **bold** are paraphrased from the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church. Paragraph citations from the source documents appear in parentheses following such items. Citations from the Constitution of the Episcopal Church begin with “Art.” Otherwise, the citation is from the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE I

Title and Bounds of the Diocese

Section 1. Name. This diocese shall be known as "The Diocese of Northwest Texas."

Section 2. Territory. The territorial jurisdiction of the Diocese shall include the following counties of the State of Texas as designated by the General Convention October 12, 1910 and October 14, 1913.

Andrews	Dickens	Irion	Randall
Armstrong	Donley	Jones	Reagan
Bailey	Ector	Kent	Roberts
Baylor	Fisher	King	Runnels
Borden	Floyd	Knox	Scurry
Briscoe	Foard	Lamb	Shackelford
Callahan	Gaines	Lipscomb	Sherman
Carson	Garza	Loving	Sterling
Castro	Glasscock	Lubbock	Stonewall
Childress	Gray	Lynn	Swisher
Cochran	Hale	Martin	Taylor
Coke	Hall	Midland	Terry
Coleman	Hansford	Mitchell	Throckmorton
Collingsworth	Hardeman	Moore	Tom Green
Cottle	Hartley	Motley	Upton
Crane	Haskell	Nolan	Ward
Crosby	Hemphill	Ochiltree	Wheeler
Dallam	Hockley	Oldham	Wilbarger
Dawson	Howard	Parmer	Winkler
Deaf Smith	Hutchinson	Potter	Yoakum

ARTICLE II

Acknowledgement of Accedence

As a constituent part of the Episcopal Church, the Diocese of Northwest Texas accedes to the Constitution and Canons thereof as periodically adopted by the General Convention and acknowledges the authority of the General Convention and the *Book of Common Prayer*.

ARTICLE III

The Convention

Section 1. Function. The legislative functions of the Diocese shall be exercised by the Convention.

Section 2. Membership. The membership of the Convention shall be as follows:

- A. The Bishop; the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one; Suffragan and Assistant Bishops, if any; and any retired Bishops of the Diocese.
- B. All active Priests and Deacons canonically and actually resident within the Diocese and exercising a ministry recognized in writing by the Bishop.
- C. Retired clergy resident in the Diocese of Northwest Texas and serving a position within the Diocese as rector, vicar or priest-in-charge, whether on an ongoing or interim basis, and those exercising a specific Diocesan ministry recognized in writing by the Bishop.
- D. Lay delegates from each Parish and Mission in union with the Convention.
 - (1) Each such Parish or Mission shall be entitled to representation by its Wardens or Bishop's Wardens, and elected delegates in proportion of one delegate per fifty communicants or major fraction thereof as reported in the previous year's Annual Parochial Report; provided, however, that no Parish or Mission shall be represented by more than eight delegates or less than one delegate.
 - (2) Each Congregation, of whatever size and by whatever name it may be designated and which is contributing to the support of the Diocese, shall be entitled to one delegate to the Convention.
- E. Except in a Convention in which the election of a Bishop is the order of business, the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Treasurer of the Diocese, the Secretary of the Diocese, the lay members of the Standing Committee, the lay members of the Executive Council, and the Lay members of the Northwest Texas Episcopal Board of Trustees shall, ex-officio, be entitled to seat, voice and vote, provided they be confirmed communicants in good standing in the Church. The Vice-Chancellor shall serve ex-officio as a member of Convention with voice, but without vote, unless the Chancellor is not in attendance, in which case the Vice-Chancellor shall vote. No member of the Convention shall have more than one vote.

Section 3. Lay Alternates. Alternate lay delegates shall be elected by each congregation in such number as to ensure their full representation at each meeting of Convention. Alternates may attend the Convention but shall have no right to seat, voice or vote unless seated in replacement of an elected delegate.

Section 4. Appointment for Full Representation. In the event, that of those elected, less than the number permitted in Section 2.D. be able to attend the Convention, the Vestry or Bishop's Committee shall make such appointment as may assure full representation in the Convention. In failure of election or appointments heretofore provided, the Bishop shall make such appointment. Those so appointed shall have the same standing as those elected.

Section 5. Clergy, Non-Voting. All retired clergy with the exception of those set forth in Sections 2A and 2C above, and all clergy canonically but not actually resident in the Diocese shall be entitled to seat and voice, but not vote in the Convention. ***A Member of the Clergy serving a Cure having Congregations in more than one jurisdiction shall have such rights, including vote, in the Convention of the jurisdiction in which the Member of the Clergy has canonical residence as may be provided in the Canons of that diocese and may be granted seat and voice in the jurisdictions(s) in which the Member of the Clergy does not have canonical residence*** (I.13.1).

Section 6. Program and Development Chairs. The Chair of each of the program and development committees of the Diocese shall have seat and voice in the Convention but shall have vote only if otherwise entitled to vote.

Section 7. Visitors. The Convention may grant seat and voice to such persons as it deems appropriate. The privilege of the floor may be granted to any person by the Presiding Officer.

Section 8. Censure. No person under ecclesiastical censure shall be entitled to a seat in the Convention.

Section 9. Duty to Attend. It is the duty of every active member of the clergy having seat and vote in Convention to attend the Convention, and every congregation shall be represented by one or more delegates, except as otherwise provided.

Section 10. Qualifications. All lay delegates shall have attained the age of sixteen years, shall be confirmed communicants of the congregation which they represent, and shall be financial supporters of such congregation as shown on the records of the treasurer for the previous year. Delegates shall be elected at the annual meeting of each congregation for a term which shall commence immediately following the conclusion of such annual meeting.

Amended 1989, 1990, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2014

ARTICLE IV

Meetings of Convention

Section 1. Date. The Convention shall regularly convene once each calendar year at such time and place as shall be determined by the annual meeting of the Convention up to three years in advance of the Convention.

Section 2. Change of Date. For sufficient cause, the Bishop, with consent of the Standing Committee, shall have power to change the time or place, or both, of the annual meeting of the Convention, provided that notice of such change shall be given to all clergy and each congregation in union with the Convention.

Section 3. Special Meetings. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall have power to call special meetings of the Convention, provided that the notice of the time and place of same shall state the purpose for which it is called, and such notice is sent to all clergy and each congregation in union with the Convention at least thirty days prior thereto. No business other than that stated in the notice may be considered unless such consideration is approved by a two-thirds vote of the Convention.

ARTICLE V

Officers of the Convention

Section 1. President. The President of the Convention shall be the Bishop of the Diocese. In the absence of the Bishop, the Bishop-Coadjutor, if there be one, or if not, the Suffragan, if there be one, shall preside. In the case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, or in case no Bishop of the Diocese shall be present, the President of the Standing Committee shall convene the meeting of the Convention and serve as its president until the Convention shall elect a President pro tempore from among its members.

Section 2. Secretary. The Secretary of the Diocese shall be ex-officio the Secretary of the Convention and a member thereof, except as otherwise provided. The Secretary shall discharge the duties imposed upon the office by Canon or by action of the Convention, and shall make an annual report regarding same to the Convention.

Section 3. Treasurer. The Treasurer of the Diocese shall be ex-officio the Treasurer of the convention and shall be a member thereof, except as otherwise provided. The Treasurer shall discharge the duties imposed upon the office by Canon or by action of the Convention, and shall make an annual report regarding same to the Convention.

Section 4. Other Officers. The Convention shall have power to provide by Canon for the election or appointment of officers other than those mentioned in this Article.

Amended 2003

ARTICLE VI

Conduct of the Convention

Section 1. Holy Eucharist. The Holy Eucharist shall be celebrated at every Convention. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall take order for this and any other services of worship.

Section 2. Quorum. A majority of the clergy entitled to seat and vote, and lay delegates representing a majority of the Parishes and a majority of the Missions shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but less than a quorum may adjourn from day to day until a quorum is obtained.

Section 3. Voting in General. In all matters which shall come before the Convention, unless otherwise specified in this Article or elsewhere in this Constitution and Canons, the clergy and laity shall deliberate in one body and vote as individuals; each delegate and member present being entitled to one vote and no more; and unless otherwise provided, a majority of the votes of the two orders jointly shall be decisive. In the event of a tie vote, the President of the Convention shall be entitled to cast a vote.

Section 4. Voting on Elective Offices.

- A. All members of Convention entitled to vote, both clerical and lay, shall cast their ballots at one voting for all elective offices. If there be but one nominee for a single office, the secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for the convention. Except for members of the Standing Committee, Northwest Texas Episcopal Board of Trustees, Executive Council and Deputies to General Convention, the election of all officers shall be by plurality.
- B. In the case of members of the Standing Committee, Northwest Texas Episcopal Board of Trustees, Executive Council and Deputies to General Convention, voting shall proceed by separate ballot until the requisite number of offices have been filled by a majority of those voting provided, however, that if such offices remain unfilled after two ballots, the Convention may, upon a two-thirds vote, resolve that the following ballot shall elect by a plurality vote.

Section 5. Voting by Orders. Except where Article VI., Section 4 above governs, on the call of any five members of either order, the two orders shall vote separately, and a concurrence of a majority of each order shall be necessary to constitute a decision.

Amended 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2011, 2015

ARTICLE VII

Officers of the Diocese

Section 1. Trustees. The members of the Northwest Texas Episcopal Board of Trustees shall be officers of the Diocese, with election, duties and term of office as provided elsewhere in this Constitution and Canons.

Section 2. Secretary. At the annual meeting of the Convention a Secretary shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Convention upon nomination by the Bishop for a term of three years, commencing at the adjournment of the annual meeting of the Convention at which such nomination and confirmation occurs and continuing in office until the adjournment of the annual meeting at which the successor is nominated and confirmed. The Secretary shall serve ex-officio as Secretary of the Executive Council and as Secretary of the Convention, and shall be an ex-officio member of both the Executive Council and the Convention, except as otherwise provided.

Section 3. Treasurer. At the annual meeting of the Convention a Treasurer shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Convention upon nomination by the Bishop for a term of three years, commencing at the adjournment of the annual meeting of the Convention at which such nomination and confirmation occurs and continuing in office until the adjournment of the annual meeting at which the successor is nominated and confirmed. The Treasurer shall serve ex-officio as the Treasurer of the Executive Council and as Treasurer of the Convention, and shall be an ex-officio member of the Executive Council and the Convention, except as otherwise provided.

Section 4. Chancellors.

- A. The Chancellor of the Diocese shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Convention upon nomination by the Bishop for a three- year term. The Chancellor shall be a lay person and practicing attorney in the State of Texas and shall be the legal advisor of the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Convention, the Executive Council, the Northwest Texas Episcopal Board of Trustees and all officers and agencies of the Diocese. The Chancellor shall serve as an ex-officio member, without vote, of the Northwest Texas Episcopal Board of Trustees. The Chancellor shall serve ex-officio as a member of the Executive Council and the Convention, except as otherwise provided.
- B. The Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Convention upon nomination by the Bishop for a three-year term. The Vice-Chancellor shall be a lay person and practicing attorney in the State of Texas and shall act in the absence or unavailability of the Chancellor at the request of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. When requested to act by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, the Vice-Chancellor shall be the legal advisor in the same manner as the Chancellor and shall have the same powers, duties, and responsibilities as the Chancellor. The Vice-Chancellor shall serve ex-officio as a member of the Executive Council and the Convention with voice, but without vote,

unless the Chancellor is not in attendance, in which case the Vice-Chancellor shall vote, except as may be otherwise provided.

Section 5. Registrar. The Registrar of the Diocese shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Convention upon nomination by the Bishop for a three-year term. The Registrar shall serve as historiographer of the Diocese and shall discharge the duties imposed by Canon or by action of the Convention.

Section 6. Qualifications. All officers of the Diocese shall be at least eighteen years of age and a confirmed communicant in good standing, canonically resident but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese, or a Priest or Deacon canonically resident, but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese.

Section 7. Vacancies. A vacancy in the office of Secretary, Treasurer, Chancellor or Registrar shall be filled by appointment of the Bishop with approval of the Executive Council. A vacancy in the office of Trustee shall be filled by the remaining Trustees until the next Convention.

Amended 1987, 2003, 2005, 2015, 2017

ARTICLE VIII

Northwest Texas Episcopal Board of Trustees

Section 1. Purposes and Responsibilities. The Northwest Texas Episcopal Board of Trustees, a Texas non-profit corporation, shall hold, manage and administer funds and property heretofore or hereafter donated, devised, bequeathed or otherwise accruing to or for the use and benefit of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America of the Diocese of Northwest Texas, or any particular mission therein, or for any religious object under the auspices of said Church. The Board may render advisory assistance upon request respecting the management of property held for similar uses and purposes by other custodians. All actions and advice of the Board shall be agreeable to the doctrine and discipline of this Church and shall aid and support public worship.

Section 2. Membership and Duties. The Board shall consist of no less than three and no more than nine voting Trustees selected in accord with the Canons of the Diocese, and the duties of the Board shall be set out in said Canons. The Trustees shall be officers of the Diocese.

Amended 2003

ARTICLE IX

The Ecclesiastical Authority

Section 1. Authority. The Ecclesiastical Authority is the Bishop Diocesan. *The Bishop Coadjutor, or the Bishop Suffragan if the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese so provide, or, should there be none, the Standing Committee may at any time become the Ecclesiastical Authority upon the written request of the Bishop and continue to act as such until the request is revoked by the Bishop Diocesan in writing* (III.12.4.c).

Section 2. Absence. *The Bishop Diocesan shall not be absent from the Diocese for a period of more than three consecutive months without the consent of the Convention or the Standing Committee of the Diocese* (III.12.4.b). *A Bishop Diocesan, whenever leaving the Diocese for six consecutive months, shall authorize in writing, under hand and seal, the Bishop Coadjutor, the Bishop Suffragan if the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese so provide or, should there be none, the Standing Committee of the Diocese, to act as the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof during the absence* (III.12.4.c).

Section 3. Action. Whenever in this Constitution or the Canons of the Diocese, provision is made for action by the Bishop, such action, except as otherwise specifically provided, shall be taken by the Ecclesiastical Authority as herein defined.

Amended 1999, 2014

ARTICLE X

Office of the Bishop

Section 1. Call for Election. The election of the Diocesan Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan shall take place at the annual meeting of the Convention, when notice of such intention to elect has been given by the Standing Committee at least thirty days prior to the meeting, or at a special meeting of the Convention which has been duly called by the Standing Committee for that specific purpose. When a vacancy in the Episcopate occurs more than six months before the next annual meeting of the convention, the Standing Committee shall call a special meeting of the convention. After nominations have been presented to the Convention, balloting shall be by order with a majority of each order on the same ballot required to elect. The election shall be in full accordance with Article II of the Constitution and Title III.11 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Section 2. Retirement Date. *The retirement date of the Bishop Diocesan shall not be more than thirty-six months after the consecration of the Bishop Coadjutor* (Art. II.1).

Section 3. Chief Pastor. The Bishop is the Chief Pastor of the Diocese and may officiate in the liturgical offices of the Church throughout the Diocese. The duties of the Bishop shall be as authorized in Title III.12 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Section 4. Episcopal Visitation.

- A. *A Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, or Assistant Bishop of the Diocese shall visit the Congregations within the Diocese at least once in three years. Interim visits may be delegated to another bishop of this Church* (III.12.3(a)).
- B. *At every such visitation the visiting Bishop shall preside at the Holy Eucharist and at the Initiatory Rites, as required, preach the Word, examine the records of the Congregation required by Canon III.9.6(c) of the Episcopal Church, and examine the life and ministry of the Clergy and Congregation according to Canon III.9.6 of the Episcopal Church* (III.12.3(a)(1)).
- C. The Bishop may confer with the Rector with or without the presence of the Wardens or Vestry. The Bishop may require the Rector, Wardens or Vestry to give information of the state of the congregation; and inquire as to what offerings are being taken for Missionary purposes. The Bishop may examine the books of the Treasurer. It is the right of the Bishop to exercise oversight of Church buildings, rectories and other corporate property and to prevent their misuse, neglect or alienation.

Section 5. Assistants. The Bishop may appoint one or more Canons or other assistants, by whatever title, whose duties shall be designated and published by the Bishop. The Executive Council shall establish the salary and other benefits of such assistants as affirmed by Convention in the approval of the budget.

Section 6. Honorary Canons. The Bishop may appoint honorary Canons as the Bishop deems appropriate and may assign their duties and responsibilities.

Amended 2003, 2005, 2011, 2014

ARTICLE XI

The Standing Committee

Section 1. Membership. The Standing Committee shall consist of three clerical members and three lay confirmed communicants at least eighteen years of age of the Diocese. At each annual meeting of the Convention one clerical member and one lay person shall be elected to serve for a three-year term. In the event of a vacancy occurring more than sixty days before the Annual Convention, the Standing Committee shall fill the vacancy. The Annual Convention shall fill the unexpired term. No member of the Standing Committee shall be eligible for re-election until one year after ending a full term of office.

Section 2. Officers. As soon as practicable after the election *the Standing Committee shall elect from their own body a President and a Secretary* (I.12.1).

Section 3. Meetings. *The Standing Committee may meet in conformity with their own rules from time to time, and shall keep a record of their proceedings; and they may be summoned to a special meeting whenever the President may deem it necessary. They may be summoned on the requisition of the Bishop, whenever the Bishop shall desire their advice; and they may meet of their own accord and agreeably to their own rules when they may be disposed to advise the Bishop* (I.12.1).

Section 4. Quorum. *In all cases in which a canon of the General Convention directs a duty to be performed, or a power to be exercised, by a Standing Committee, or by the Clerical members thereof, or by any other body consisting of several members, a majority of said members, the whole having been duly cited to meet, shall be a quorum; and a majority of the quorum so convened shall be competent to act, unless the contrary is expressly required by the canon* (I.12.2).

Section 5. Duties. The Committee shall perform the duties assigned to it by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Canons of the Diocese, and by the Diocesan Convention. *When there is a Bishop in charge of the Diocese, the Standing Committee shall be the Bishop's Council of Advice* (Art. IV.).

Section 6. Episcopal Vacancy. *If there be no Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan canonically authorized to act, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese for all purposes declared by the General Convention* (Art. IV.).

Section 7. Reports. The Committee shall report all of its official acts, in writing, to each annual meeting of the Convention.

Section 8. Documents. *Any document required to be signed by members of the Standing Committee or by the Clerical members thereof, or any other body consisting of several members may be signed in counterparts each of which shall be deemed an original* (I.12.3).

Section 9. Ineligibility. No member of the Standing Committee, during the member's term of office, is eligible for nomination, election or appointment to the Executive Council.

Amended 1989, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2011, 2012, 2014

ARTICLE XII

The Executive Council

Section 1. Authority. There shall be an Executive Council, established by the Canons, which shall exercise all the powers of the Convention between meetings thereof, implementing the directives and policies of that body, initiating and developing new work, but not acting in conflict with the expressed will of the Convention.

Section 2. Finance Committee. The Executive Council shall serve as the Finance Committee of the Diocese.

Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities. The Executive Council shall perform duties and responsibilities as prescribed by appropriate Canons adopted by the Convention.

Section 4. Reports. The Executive Council shall submit to each annual Convention a report of its work and activities for the preceding year.

ARTICLE XIII

Parishes, Missions and Congregations

Section 1. Formation and Recognition. The Convention shall define by Canon an orderly procedure for the formation and recognition of Parishes, Missions and Congregations.

Section 2. Union. Parishes, Missions and Congregations may be admitted to union with the Convention by majority vote of the convention, provided that each shall produce satisfactory evidence of its status pursuant to the Canons.

Section 3. Disestablishment. The Convention shall define by Canon an orderly procedure to follow in the event a Parish, Mission, or Congregation no longer qualifies for each status.

Section 4. Suspension or Disestablishment. The Convention may suspend or dissolve the union with Convention of a Parish, Mission or Congregation by a two-thirds vote of each order if:

- A. The congregation fails to conduct its affairs in accordance with this Constitution and the Canons of the Diocese or with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church; or
- B. A congregation is, in the opinion of the Bishop, essentially defunct.

Section 5. Suspension of Representation. Provision may be made by Canon to suspend a congregation from the right of representation in Convention for failure to pay its apportionment or assessment, failure to provide to the Diocesan Office a copy of the congregation's preceding year's audit, failure to file on time the required Parochial Report for the previous year, or to comply with this Constitution and the Canons of the Diocese or with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Section 6. Status. Provision may be made by Canon for the reversion of Parishes to the status of Missions, and Missions to the status of Congregations.

Amended 1999, 2002, 2015

ARTICLE XIV

Apportionments and Assessments

Section 1. Authority. The Convention shall have power to raise money by assessment and apportionment on the Parishes and Missions of the Diocese for the necessary and proper expenses of the Diocese and for any other purposes which from time to time the Convention may authorize.

Section 2. Penalties. The Convention shall have power to impose such penalty as it may see fit, within its lawful authority, for neglect to pay such apportionment or assessment when imposed.

ARTICLE XV

Deputies to General Convention and Provincial Synod

Section 1. Deputies. At every annual meeting of the Convention held in the second year preceding a meeting of the General Convention, ***not more than four ordained persons, Presbyters or Deacons, canonically resident in the Diocese and not more than four Lay Persons, confirmed adult communicants of this Church, in good standing in the Diocese but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese*** (Art. I.4), shall be elected by ballot in accordance with ARTICLE VI. Section 4.B. of the Constitution of the Diocese of Northwest Texas as Deputies of this Diocese. A person elected as a General Convention Deputy shall also be a Provincial Synod Deputy.

Section 2. Alternates. Following the election of the last Deputy to General Convention, one ballot shall be taken (unless further voting shall be necessary because of a tie) for the election of not more than four clerical and not more than four lay alternates to General Convention, from whom the Bishop may designate in order of their election one or more as necessary to supply any deficiency in the Diocesan representation. The four persons receiving the highest number of votes in each order shall be declared elected. If there be no Bishop, the power of designation shall be exercised by the Standing Committee. Alternate Deputies shall have the same qualifications as Deputies. A person elected as General Convention Alternate shall also be a Provincial Synod Alternate.

Section 3. Chair of the Diocesan Deputation. The Chair of the Diocesan Deputation shall be appointed by the Bishop.

Section 4. Certification of Change of Status. Change of Status forms may be signed by the Bishop of the Diocese, the Secretary of the Diocese, or the Chairman of the Diocesan Deputation.

Section 5. Full Representation. At times not provided for by Section 2 of this Article, to assure a full representation of this Diocese in the General Convention or the Provincial Synod, the Bishop, in consultation with the other clerical and lay Deputies, shall appoint qualified representatives to supply any deficiency, and such appointment shall have full force and effect of election by Convention.

Section 6. Report to Diocese. ***It shall be the duty of each seated Deputy to communicate to the electing jurisdiction the actions taken and the positions established by the General Convention. It shall be the responsibility of each Diocese to provide a forum in which the Deputies to the General Convention from that jurisdiction have opportunity to report*** (I.4.b.c).

Amended 1988, 1989, 2003, 2014

ARTICLE XVI

Canons

The Convention may enact, amend or repeal Canons upon such matters as it may deem proper, but which shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XVII

Amendment

Section 1. Two Conventions. An amendment to this Constitution shall require concurrent action by two successive annual meetings of the Convention.

Section 2. Voting. At the initial annual meeting of the Convention, any proposed amendment shall be introduced by written resolution and if approved by a two-thirds vote of each order voting separately thereon, shall be held over until the annual meeting of the Convention next following.

Section 3. Transmission. The resolution as approved shall be transmitted to the Vestries of all Parishes, the Bishop's Committees of all Missions, and to each Congregation.

Section 4. Second Convention. If at the subsequent annual meeting of the Convention, the amendment shall be adopted by two-thirds vote of each order voting separately thereon, the amendment shall be adopted.

Section 5. Effective Date. Each amendment so adopted shall become effective upon adjournment of Convention, unless a future date shall be specified in the amendment itself.

Approved, First Reading, November 3, 1984; Second Reading October 26, 1985

President

Secretary

Dates of Amendments to the Constitution:

October 1986	October 2001
October 1987	October 2002
November 1988	October 2003
October 1989	October 2004
October 1990	October 2005
October 1993	October 2006
October 1996	October 2010
October 1997	October 2013
October 1998	August 2014
October 1999	October 2015
October 2000	October 2017