



**The Ordinances (Canons) of the
Province of New England,
The Episcopal Church**

As Amended, December 17, 2022

Ordinances (Canons) of the Province of New England The Episcopal Church

Canon I. Vision; Purpose; Goals

Sec. 1. Vision

God calls us to partner in God's mission, and to share mutual support and fellowship in order to extend the Reign of God. The Church's provincial structure presents opportunities for collaboration within and among the dioceses of the Province in worship, ministry and mission to help realize this vision.

Sec. 2. Purpose

Canon I.9.2 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church states:

The primary purposes of the Provinces are to facilitate interdiocesan collaboration to achieve Diocesan and Episcopal Church goals, and to enable more effective communications and regional advocacy of significant programmatic efforts.

Our Province enables Episcopalians to share how the Holy Spirit is moving in these seven dioceses. We ask what we should be listening for and how we should resource initiatives across the range of ministries to which God is calling us. We wish to nurture local, regional and global partnerships for participation in God's mission.

Sec. 3. Goals

As a province, we are bound by the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church. We seek to create opportunities for innovative and compassionate collaborations to achieve the ministry and missional objectives of the dioceses of the Province.

Canon II. Governance

Sec. 1. Name

The name of the First Province shall be "The Province of New England," commonly known as "Province I."

Sec. 2. Provincial Canons

Canon I.9. Sec. 9 of The Episcopal Church authorizes each Provincial Synod "to enact Ordinances for its own regulation and government." Hereinafter such "Ordinances" are termed "Canons."

Sec. 3. Provincial Synod

(a) The Provincial Synod, hereinafter termed "Provincial Conference" or "Conference," shall have the power to enact its own Canons for its own regulation and government, consistent with the Canons of The Episcopal Church; to perform such other duties as may be committed to it by the General Convention; to deal with all matters within the Province; to adopt a budget for the maintenance of any provincial work undertaken by the Provincial Conference; and to create an Executive Committee with power to administer and carry on such work as may be committed to it by the General Convention, by the Presiding Bishop and the Executive Council, or by the Conference.

(b) The Provincial Conference shall not have authority to regulate or control the internal policy or affairs of any constituent diocese.

(c) All actions and proceedings of the Conference shall be subject to and in conformity with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Sec. 4. Membership

(a) As directed by Canon I.9. Sec 5 of The Episcopal Church, the Provincial Conference shall consist of a House of Bishops and a House of Deputies.

(b) The following shall have seat and vote in the House of Bishops of the Province: every Bishop Diocesan of this Church having jurisdiction within the Province, every Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, and Assistant Bishop, and every Bishop whose episcopal work has been within the Province, but who by reason of advanced age or bodily infirmity has resigned.

(c) Each Diocese within the Province shall be entitled to representation in the Provincial House of Deputies hereinafter termed "House of Delegates," by three Delegates and up to three Alternate Delegates, elected in such manner as their diocese may determine, consistent with this Canon. Neither the Delegates nor the Alternate Delegates may be all clergy or all lay. Each shall serve a term of three years, and shall be eligible for re-election, but may not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms without an intervening year. A Delegate who initially fills an unexpired term shall be eligible to be elected to two consecutive three-year terms. The terms of office of a diocese's Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be staggered so that, where possible, each year the term of office of one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate expires.

(d) Clergy Delegates and Alternate Clergy Delegates shall be canonically resident in the diocese. Lay Delegates and Alternate Lay Delegates shall be confirmed adult communicants of the diocese in good standing but not necessarily domiciled in the diocese. General Convention Deputies and Alternate Deputies are eligible for election as Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Conference.

(e) The Secretary of each Diocesan Convention shall promptly forward the names of the duly elected Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Provincial Coordinator of the Conference.

(f) Delegates to the Provincial Conference shall report the actions of the Conference to their respective Diocesan Conventions.

Sec. 5. Provincial Conference Officers

(a) The officers of the Conference shall be a President, a Vice President, and a Treasurer. The President and Vice President shall each be elected to a term of three years by the concurrent majority votes of the Conference's House of Bishops and its House of Delegates voting by orders, lay and clerical. Neither the President nor the Vice President may be elected to a successive term in the same office. The Treasurer shall be appointed by the President and Vice-President for a term of three years and may be appointed to a second full term to a maximum of six years.

(b) The President shall be either a member of the Conference's House of Bishops or its House of Delegates. The President's term of office shall begin at the close of the session on the day of the election and shall end when a successor is chosen and takes office. If the President dies, vacates or resigns the office, the Vice President ordinarily shall serve as President until the next annual meeting of the Conference, when a President shall be elected, in the manner prescribed by this section, to complete the current presidential term of office. If the Vice President is unable or unwilling to serve, the Executive Committee shall appoint the President *pro tempore*.

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

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

(e) The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds collected under the authority of the Conference. The Treasurer shall be responsible for oversight of banking, budget preparation, financial reporting and investment management. The Treasurer shall keep books of account and render a financial accounting at meetings of the Executive Committee and at each annual meeting of the Conference. The Treasurer shall direct the conduct of an audit in accordance with these canons. The Treasurer shall be adequately bonded. The Executive Committee may hire a bookkeeping or an accounting firm to assist with financial administration.

Sec. 6. Province Coordinator

(a) The Conference may employ a Coordinator, who shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall determine the duties and terms of employment of the Coordinator, including salary, expense allowance, and pension, which items shall be

included in the provincial budget. The Coordinator shall hold office at the pleasure of the Executive Committee.

(b) The Coordinator shall be responsible for giving notice of all meetings of the Province, recording the proceedings of meetings of the Conference and shall perform such other duties as may be directed by the Executive Committee.

Sec. 7. Executive Committee

(a) The President, Vice President, Treasurer, and three at-large members elected by the Conference, shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Province and shall act on the Conference's behalf between its meetings. The Coordinator shall attend all meetings of the Executive Committee at the invitation of the Executive Committee.

(b) The Conference shall elect, from its House of Delegates, three at-large members of the Executive Committee, to terms of three years. An at-large member may be elected to a second full term, to a maximum of six consecutive years. If an at-large member of the Executive Committee is not re-elected by their diocese as a member of the Provincial House of Delegates, the Conference shall elect a replacement to fulfill the remainder of the at-large member's term. An at-large member of Executive Committee who initially fills an unexpired term shall be eligible to be elected to one consecutive three-year term. The terms of office of the at-large members of the Executive Committee shall be staggered so that each year the term of office of one at-large member expires.

Sec. 8. Conference

(a) The Conference shall meet at least once annually in person and/or electronically as designated by the Executive Committee. At least thirty days' notice shall be given to the members of the two Houses.

(b) Special meetings of the Conference may be called by the President on the written request of at least five members from each House. Notice of the time and place of a special meeting shall be given to each member at least thirty days before the meetings, stating the purpose thereof. No business shall be taken up other than that announced in the notice of the meeting.

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

(d) The House of Bishops and the House of Delegates shall ordinarily sit together, but either house may at any time resolve to sit separately.

(e) In a year in which General Convention meets, the Executive Committee shall convene a meeting of the Conference prior to the General Convention to discuss issues that will come before the Convention, and this gathering may serve as the Conference in that year.

Sec. 9. Transaction of Business

(a) To constitute a quorum in the House of Delegates for the transaction of business, there shall be present a simple majority of clerical Delegates and a simple majority of lay Delegates from a majority of the dioceses composing the Province. To constitute a quorum in the House of Bishops, there shall be present seated Bishops from a majority of the dioceses composing the Province. When there is a meeting of Provincial Conference immediately prior to General Convention, deputies elected to General Convention may be seated as members of the House of Delegates from their dioceses, with consent of their bishop diocesan, in order to constitute a quorum.

(b) Except as may be otherwise provided in these Canons, the vote of a majority of the members of the Conference present shall prevail.

(c) On any question of petitioning the General Convention or either of its houses, the numbers of votes pro and con shall be recorded in the minutes together with the text of the petition.

(d) The Conference shall adopt rules of order for its proceedings. At any meeting of the Conference the rules of order governing the previous meeting shall be in force until they are amended or repealed by the Conference.

(e) No person shall address the Conference more than twice on the same question without permission of the presiding officers.

Canon III. Other Gatherings and Convocations

From time to time, the Provincial Conference or the Executive Committee may convene non-legislative gatherings and convocations.

Canon IV. Matters referred by General Convention

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

Canon V. Executive Council of The Episcopal Church

Sec. 1. Election of Members of the Executive Council

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

Sec. 2. Terms of Provincial Members of Executive Council

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

Sec. 3. Vacancy of Provincial Members of Executive Council

(a) The term of a member shall become vacant

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

(b) In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Committee shall appoint a suitable person, canonically resident in a diocese of the Province (for a clergy member) and a member of a parish in the Province (for a lay member), to serve until the Conference shall by election fill the vacancy.

Canon VI. Financial Management; Indemnity

Sec. 1. Adoption of Budget

The Conference shall adopt an annual budget for the maintenance of any Provincial work, with funding to be raised in such manner as the Conference may determine.

Sec. 2. Grants and Donations

The Conference may apply for grants and donations from the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church and other sources to help fund the ministry of the Province and its dioceses.

Sec. 3. Annual Audit

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

Canon VII. Amendment

These Canons may be amended at any meeting of the Conference by the concurrent majority votes of the House of Bishops and the House of Delegates voting by orders, lay and clerical.

RESOLUTION

Resolved, That House of Bishops and House of Deputies (Delegates) of the Province of New England of The Episcopal Church, meeting in online Synod (Conference), on December 17, 2022, pursuant to the authority granted in Canon I.9.9 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church and Canon VII of the current Provincial Ordinances (Canons), adopt the proposed amendments to the Provincial Ordinances (Canons), to take effect on December 1, 2023.