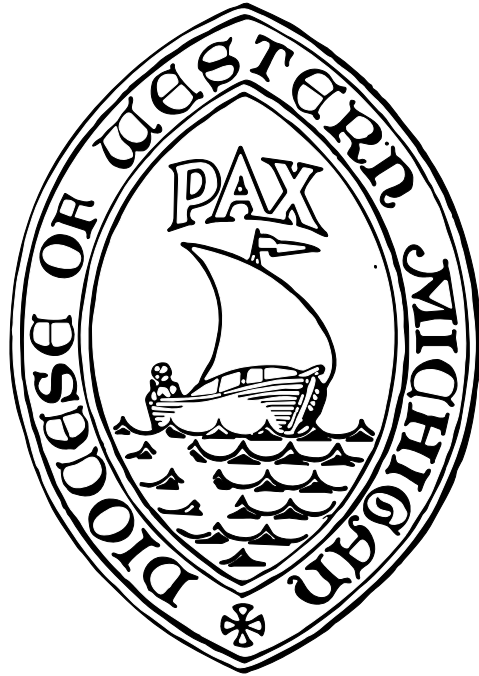


JOURNAL 2011

**One Hundred
and Thirty-Seventh
Annual Convention**



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

2011

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

of the

One Hundred and Thirty-Seventh Annual Convention

of the Diocese of Western Michigan of the Episcopal Church

which met in Traverse City, Michigan

Friday and Saturday

April 8-9, 2011

**THE ASSOCIATION
OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

The Association of the Diocese of Western Michigan is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan authorized by the civil and canon laws to receive and hold any property, real or personal, for the use and benefit of the diocese or of any parish affiliated with the diocese. Contributions to the Association are deductible from the income of individuals and corporations subject to Federal Income Taxes within the percentage limits established by the United States Internal Revenue Code. Such contributions are also deductible from the estates of individuals subject to the Federal Estate Tax, under current tax law.

Suggested Form of Bequest

I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the Association of the Diocese of Western Michigan, a Michigan nonprofit corporation, the sum of _____dollars.

PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Diocese of Western Michigan
Journal- 2011

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**THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
At the time of Convention 2011**

The Right Reverend Robert R. Gepert, Bishop

DIOCESAN OFFICE:

Episcopal Center
Diocese of Western Michigan
535 S. Burdick, Suite 1
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

THE BISHOP The Right Reverend Robert R. Gepert

CANON TO THE ORDINARYThe Rev. Canon William J. Spaid
Phone 269 381-2710 ext. 11
Fax 269 381-7067

BISHOP'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... Ms Nancy Calme
Phone 269 381-2710, ext. 14

ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP FOR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATIONMs Tammy Mazure
Phone 269 381-2710, ext. 12

DIOCESAN SECRETARY/ SECRETARY TO CONVENTION.....Ms Mary McGuire
Phone 269 381-2710, ext. 10

**ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES**..... Gennie Callard
Phone 269 381-2710 ext. 13

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELINGDr. Kenneth E. Reid
Phone 269 381-4442

HEALTH MINISTRY.....The Rev. Karen McDonald
Phone 269 381-2710 ext. 19

CHANCELLORMr. William J. Fleener Jr.

CONVENTION TREASURERMr. Ivan Egnatuck

ECUMENICAL OFFICERDr. E. Rozanne Elder

ASSISTANT ECUMENICAL OFFICERThe Rev. Robert A. Smith

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN PRESIDENTMs Char Camfield

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Rev. Robert Schiesler, President	(2013)
Mr. Don Davies	(2014)
The Rev. Paula Durren	(2014)
Mrs. Judy Fleener	(2012)
The Rev. Stephen Holmgren	(2012)
Ms. Janet MacKenzie	(2014)
The Rev. Cindy Nawrocki	(2012)
Mr. Brian Tillman	(2013)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Bishop.....	The Right Rev. Robert R. Gepert
Standing Committee Representative.....	The Rev. Stephen Holmgren
Youth Representative.....	David Bloom
Chancellor.....	Mr. William J. Fleener, Jr.

EASTERN DEANERY:

The Rev. Brian Coleman – Chair	(2012)
Mr. David Croal	(2014)
The Rev. Gretchen Weller	(2013)

GRAND VALLEY DEANERY:

The Rev. Laurel Dahill - Chair	(2012)
Mr. Wes Hackett	(2014)
The Rev. Nick Novitsky	(2013)

LAKESHORE DEANERY:

Mr. David Hawley-Lowry – Chair	(2013)
The Rev. Everett Klein	(2012)
The Rev. Joanie Smith	(2014)

ST. JOSEPH DEANERY:

The Rev. Rebecca Crise – Co-Chair	(2012)
Jodie Badder	(2014)
Mr. Tom Perrin – Co-Chair	(2012)

TRAVERSE DEANERY:

Ms Susan Lund-Coyle	(2013)
The Rev. Michael Bell	(2012)
The Rev. Marilou Schlotterbeck	(2013)

COMMITTEE ON CANONS: Mr. William J. Fleener, Jr., Chairperson

DIOCESAN CONSULTING TEAM

Mrs. Sarah Loomis
Mrs. Anne Davidson
The Rev. Bill Fleener
The Rev. David Meyers
Ms Carol Rickey
Mr. Ivan Egnatuk
Ms Nurya Parish

FORMATION

Formation Committee, Co-directors – Ms. Genevieve Callard, The Venerable Christine Tillman
Camp Planning Committee, Director Ms. Genevieve Callard

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Jubilee Committee Coordinator, The Rev. Cindy Nawrocki
Episcopal Relief and Development Fund Coordinator, Terry Dorcy

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Mr. John Bosserman - Chair	(2012)
Mr. Janet Klumpp	(2014)
Mr. Ron Martin	(2014)
Larry Manglitz	(2014)
Lynne Perrin	(2014)
The Rev. Jennifer Adams	(2012)

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. Ivan Egnatuck - Treasurer	
Ms Tammy Mazure	Diocesan Representative
Mr. David Croal	Executive Council Liaison

Ex Officio Members

The Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert

CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

In Order of Canonical Residence

John L. English	Jan 15,	1963	Eau Claire
Glen P. Williams	Sept 1,	1963	Louisiana
John B. Hills	Aug 15,	1965	Northern Indiana
Charles F. Frandsen	Jan 15,	1967	Nebraska
Joseph A. Howell	Feb 1,	1971	Chicago
William J. Fleener	July 1,	1971	Chicago
Jack D. Bowling	Oct 1,	1971	Northern Indiana
John W. Reishus	Jan 11,	1976	Chicago
Robert H. Walton	March 1,	1976	Michigan
D. Edward Emenheiser	June 1,	1976	Quincy
Warner C. White	Jan 15,	1977	Chicago
Charles F. Homeyer	April 1,	1980	Missouri
Joseph C. Neiman	Nov 15,	1980	Ordination
Wm B. VanValkenburgh	March 1,	1981	Newark
Hugh S. Hostetler	Jan 1,	1982	Northern Indiana
David R. Pike	June 5,	1982	Ordination
William C. Hamm	Sept 1,	1982	Montana
Jack B. Van Hooser	Sept 1,	1982	Chicago
John R. Kirkman	Jan 4,	1983	Restored
Kenneth L. Sherfick	Aug 23,	1984	Indianapolis
Thomas L. Toeller-Novak	Nov 19,	1984	Roman Catholic
Richard N. Clark	April 10,	1986	Arkansas
David C. Meyers	May 3,	1986	Ordination
Audra M. Nickerson	May 3,	1986	Ordination
Christine W. Tillman	May 3,	1986	Ordination
Claire K. Wolterstorff	Nov 16,	1986	Ordination
Richard L. Stravers	Dec, 6,	1986	Ordination
Gary J. Dorrien	Aug, 3,	1987	Albany
Henry Idema, III	Sept 1,	1987	Chicago
J. Robert Hector, Jr.	Sept 1,	1987	Milwaukee
Scott J. Anderson	Oct 1,	1987	West Missouri
William J. Spaid	Oct 19,	1987	Maryland
Robert A. Smith	Oct 1,	1988	Northern Michigan
Kenneth W. Taber	May 1,	1989	Connecticut
Philander L. Carter III	Aug 29,	1989	Central Florida
William M. Murphy	Sept 30,	1989	Northern Indiana
Edward A. Scully	Dec 1,	1989	Brandon
Louise Kountze	Jan 1,	1990	Chicago
G. Corwin Stoppel	Jan 29,	1990	Edmonton
Charles P. McCabe, III	Jan 30,	1990	West Virginia
Barbara Wilson	July 26,	1990	Michigan
Walter R. Draeger, Jr.	Sept 11,	1990	Michigan

Judith A. Neiman	Oct 13,	1990	Ordination
Margaret A. Nattermann	Dec 21,	1990	Ordination
John W. Inman, Jr.	Feb 23,	1992	NW Pennsylvania
Mary B. Smith	April 5,	1992	Ordination
Michael C. Fedewa	Sept 23,	1992	Western New York
Terry L. Haughn	Oct 1,	1992	Michigan
Kathleen R. Eickwort	Feb 19,	1993	Central New York
Leonard J. Brinkmoeller	Jan 12,	1994	Northern Indiana
Katherine Brower	May 7,	1994	Ordination
Jennifer Lin Adams	June 11,	1994	Ordination
Marilou Schlotterbeck	Aug 6,	1994	Ordination
LaRae J. Rutenbar	Sept 9,	1994	Atlanta
John S. David	Jan 1,	1995	Alaska
Ladd K. Harris	Feb 15,	1995	Central New York
Susan S. York	June 22,	1996	Ordination
Beth A. McLaren	July 1,	1996	Connecticut
Geraldine B. Carlson	July 7,	1996	Ordination
Daniel S. Grubb	Sept 30,	1996	Pittsburgh
Kimberly Hoop	Nov 16,	1996	Ordination
Carol A. Spangenberg	Jan 23,	1997	Michigan
William H. Smith	April 5,	1997	Kenya
Nancy L. Hotra	June 21,	1997	Ordination
Nancy C. Fulton	Sept 27,	1997	Ordination
Harold L. Comer	March 5,	1998	Northern Indiana
Stephen I. Bartlett	Oct 1,	1999	Michigan
R. Wayne Hutson	Jan 19,	2000	Chicago
Pamela J. Breakey	March 2,	2000	Pittsburgh
Thomas H. Guback	May 27,	2000	Ordination
Mary J. Frens	June 17,	2000	Ordination
Barbara J. Wagner	Dec 13,	2000	Eastern Michigan
Lynne A. Dukes	Feb 9,	2001	Florida
Nancy F. Barton	April 18,	2001	Lexington
Karen L. McDonald	April 4,	2001	Ordination
Mary E. Perrin	April 22,	2001	Ordination
Patricia A. Green	May 29,	2001	Northern Michigan
Gregory B.F. Brown	June 2,	2001	Ordination
Celine A. Burke	Oct 15,	2001	Iowa
Everett H. Klein	Dec 1,	2001	Ordination
Jason A. Fout	Jan 3,	2002	Chicago
Paula F. Durren	May, 26,	2002	Ordination
John R. Meengs	June 15,	2002	Ordination
Cindy Nawrocki	Sept 20,	2003	Ordination
Valerie Ambrose	Sept 3,	2003	Western Oregon
Meredith Hunt	Jan 26,	2005	Michigan
William Whiting	May 17,	2005	Massachusetts
Brad Allard	Nov 19,	2005	Ordination

Daniel Scheid	June 10,	2005	Ordination
Floyd Kunce	Dec 17,	2005	Ordination
Lily Marx	June 10,	2006	Ordination
Wayne Nicholson	Sept 26,	2006	New York
David Brower	Sept 31,	2006	Western New York
Zachariah Char	Dec 9,	2006	Ordination
Abraham Anei	Dec 9,	2006	Ordination
Thomas McPherson	Jan 9,	2007	Georgia
Robert Schiesler	May 15,	2007	Iowa
Stephen Holmgren	Nov 24,	2007	Louisiana
Pam Sten	Jan 3,	2008	Chicago
Rebecca Crise	March 1,	2008	Northern Indiana
James Croom	March 25,	2008	California
Nicholas Novitsky	June 21,	2008	Ordination
Beth Tomczak	June 21,	2008	Ordination
Dave Madsen	Dec 21,	2008	Ordination
Matthew Potts	Dec 21,	2008	Ordination
Laurel Dahill	Jan 6,	2009	Chicago
Brian Coleman	March 4,	2009	Los Angeles
Thomas Scott	May 12,	2009	Chicago
Jay Lawlor	Aug 30,	2009	North Carolina
Gretchen Weller	Oct 23,	2009	Ohio
Aaron Evans	Oct 23,	2009	Northern Indiana
Rachel Evans	Oct 23,	2009	Northern Indiana
Michael Ryan	Aug 24,	2010	Maine
Jared Cramer	Feb 3,	2010	Northwest Texas

CANDIDATES FOR HOLY ORDERS

Nurya Love Parish

POSTULANTS FOR HOLY ORDERS FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

Darlene Kuhn

Christian Baron

Jodi Baron

Linnea Stifler

CLERGY LICENSED TO OFFICIATE IN THIS DIOCESE

The Rev. Benjamin M. Baldus	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. Paul Brisbane	Colorado
The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Brook	Michigan
The Rev. Albert Hugh Dickinson	Pennsylvania
The Rev. Rob Dorow	Pittsburgh
The Rev. Marilyn K. Dressel	Eastern Michigan
The Rev. Patricia Eichenlaub	Michigan
The Rev. Richard Emrich	Chicago
The Rev. Mark Engle	Northern Michigan
The Rev. Gregory L. Flentje	Springfield
The Rev. William Gordon Forrest	Fond du Lac
The Very Rev. Charles Glidden	Fond du Lac
The Rev. Gary Hamp	Missouri
The Rev. William Heil	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. James B. Hempstead	Indianapolis
The Rev. Michael P. Herman	Eastern Michigan
The Rev. Dr. Kathleen L. Kircher	Southwest Florida
The Rev. John Laycock	Michigan
The Rev. David Lillvis	Michigan
The Right Rev. Andrew Marr, O.S.B.	Chicago
The Rev. Robert F. McDougall	Michigan
The Rev. William McGill	Central Pennsylvania
The Rev. David Mellor	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. Kenneth Micknay	ELCA – Slovak Zion Synod
The Rev. Sam Morrison	Fond du Lac
The Rev. Bill Nicholson	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. Tom Otis	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. Corydon Randall	San Diego
The Rev. Dennis Remenschneider	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. Deborah Semon-Scott	Michigan
The Rev. Richard E. Shinn	Michigan
The Rev. James Slack	Dallas
The Rev. Karen Yakimow	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)

PARISHES IN UNION WITH CONVENTION

Albion	St. James
Allegan	Good Shepherd
Battle Creek	Resurrection
Battle Creek	St. Thomas
Belmont	Church of the Holy Spirit
Benton Harbor	St. Augustine
Beulah	St. Philip
Big Rapids	St. Andrew
Boyne City	Nativity
Cadillac	St. Mary
Charlotte	St. John
Charleviox	Christ
Coldwater	St. Mark
Dowagiac	St. Paul
Elk Rapids	St. Paul
Fremont	St. John
Grand Haven	St. John
Grand Ledge	Trinity
Grand Rapids	Grace
Grand Rapids	St. Andrew
Grand Rapids	St. Mark
Grand Rapids	St. Philip
Greenville	St. Paul
Harbert	Church of The Mediator
Hastings	Emmanuel
Holland	Grace
Ionia	St. John the Apostle
Kalamazoo	St. Luke
Kalamazoo	St. Martin
Kentwood	Holy Cross
Lansing	St. David
Ludington	Grace
Manistee	Holy Trinity
Marshall	Trinity
Montague	St. Peter
Mt. Pleasant	St. John
Muskegon	St. Alban
Muskegon	St. Gregory
Muskegon	St. Paul
Newaygo	St. Mark
Niles	Trinity
Northport	St. Christopher
Orangeville	St. Francis
Paw Paw	St. Mark

Petoskey
Plainwell
Portage
Richland
St. Joseph
Saugatuck
South Haven
Sturgis
Texas Township
Three Rivers
Traverse City
Wyoming

Emmanuel
St. Stephen
St. Barnabas
St. Timothy
St. Paul
All Saints
Epiphany
St. John
Christ the King
Trinity
Grace
Holy Trinity

MISSION

Beaver Island

St. James

PARISH MISSION

Grand Rapids

Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church

SEASONAL CHAPEL

Harbor Springs
Leland
Onkama

St. John
St. Peter
St. Johns-by-the-Lake

RULES OF ORDER
137th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan

I. ORGANIZATION

- A. The President having the Chair, the Convention shall be called to order.
- B. Each session of the Convention shall be opened with suitable devotions.
- C. The [lay delegation or entire delegation lay and clergy] of any parish that has not properly turned in their parochial report for the preceding year, prior to the beginning of a diocesan or special convention, shall not have the right to vote at that convention. Such a parish shall retain its right to seat and voice.
- D. The Secretary of the preceding Convention (or, in his/her absence, the secretary pro tempore to be elected via vote) shall call out the names of the Parishes and Missions in union with the Convention; and the lay delegates from each shall present their certificates of election, which shall be referred to a committee on Credentials, appointed by the President, consisting of one presbyter or deacon and one lay person. However, at the discretion of the Bishop, certificates of election may be required to be sent in prior to the Convention and be referred to the Committee on Credentials immediately preceding the opening session of the Convention, thereby eliminating the reading of the names of the Parishes and Missions.
- E. If provision has not been made for registration of clerical members before the opening session of the Convention, the Secretary shall call out the names of the clergy entitled to seats in the Convention and shall enter into the Journal the names of those who are present.
- F. The Committee on Credentials shall report.
- G. Quorum and right to vote from time to time shall be determined on the basis of clergy who have registered or answered present and lay delegates who have theretofore been seated by the Convention after the above reports.

II. GENERAL

- A. Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by written consent from the nominee and sufficient copies of biographical material about the nominee for distribution to all delegates at the Convention.
- B. When nominations are made for any office, the names shall be recorded in the order in which they were presented.
- C. Elections
 - 1. The Elections Committee Chair shall cause all names proposed for offices which are to be filled by balloting to be printed on a separate ballot for each office. Separate ballots shall be taken for each office and shall be the order of the day from such hour as the Convention shall fix.
 - 2. In all elections, a ballot shall be void unless the number of votes cast on the ballot is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled.
 - 3. In order for any person to be elected to any office, he/she must receive a vote on a majority of ballots cast.

4. If all offices on a ballot have not been filled after two ballots, then the person who received the fewest number of votes on the second ballot will not appear on the third ballot. If balloting continues, the lowest vote getter will be removed from each successive ballot.
 5. A person named on a ballot may remove his/her name from the ballot at any time during the balloting process.
- D. In case the Bishop shall withdraw from the sittings of the Convention, he shall appoint a Presbyter to preside during his absence.
 - E. At any time before the final adjournment of the Convention, the President may, and if requested by any seven (7) members shall, call for the reading of the minutes of the sessions just completed; and after such reading the minutes shall be corrected, signed by the President and attested by the Secretary.
 - F. All substantive resolutions shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee by at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Convention. Resolutions arising out of the Bishop's Address, submitted by the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, are excluded from this rule. A majority vote shall be required to permit consideration of later resolutions.
 - G. No motion shall be considered as before the Convention until it is seconded and stated by the President.
 - H. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, unless it is to lay on the table, to move the previous question, to postpone to a set time, to commit, to amend, to substitute, to postpone indefinitely, or to divide it, and motions of any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order therein named.
 - I. A motion to amend by substitution shall be in order.
 - J. A motion to amend, to substitute, or amend by substitution must be in written form and presented to the Chair when the motion is made.
 - K. A motion to adjourn and a motion to lay on the table shall always be in order and shall be decided without debate. A motion to lay on the table shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present.
 - L. A question being decided, it shall not be reconsidered at the same convention without the consent of two-thirds of the members present nor without a motion being made by one of the majority on the prior decision.
 - M. Every member present, when a motion is put, shall vote thereon unless excused by the Convention.
 - N. The Convention shall vote by presentation of colored cards, except when requested by any delegate and supported by five others, the ballot shall be written. On the requisition of any two members, the yeas and nays shall be called and entered in the Journal. (Concerning the vote by order, see Articles III, Section 8, of the Constitution of the Diocese.)
 - O. All committees shall be appointed by the President unless otherwise ordered by the Convention, and when he may deem it advisable, he may appoint on a committee, to report to the next Convention, a person qualified to be a delegate who is not a member of the Convention.

- P. When a member desires to speak, he or she shall arise and stand at one of the designated places, using the microphone, address the President in an audible voice. If more than one member arises and stands at one of the designated places, the President shall determine the preference, alternating between those who wish to speak for and those who wish to speak against the issue on the floor, when feasible.
- Q. No member shall speak more than once on the same subject without leave of the Convention, except that the person making a motion may speak twice on that motion.
- R. Debate on any principle motion and on subsidiary motions addressed to it shall be limited to a total of two minutes per person, unless the limit shall be changed by majority vote of the Convention.
- S. No member shall withdraw from the Convention without leave asked and voted.
- T. These rules of order may be suspended on a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- U. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Convention, except as otherwise provided herein above.

NECROLOGY
April 2010 to April 2011

ALBION, ST. JAMES': *Edwin Lane, Charles Crupi, Gerri Metzler, Neil Henry, Mary Jane Abbott*

ALLEGAN, GOOD SHEPHERD: *Betty Guild, William "Bill" Northrup*

BATTLE CREEK, RESURRECTION: *Frances Barnes, Jack Biddlecome*

BATTLE CREEK, ST. THOMAS: *Ora Jane Wetzel, Merson Newman Ware, Betty J. Bailey, Wilson Super McLeod, Thin Nguyen-Thi Ackerman, Barbara L. Hansen, Margaret Bernice Edmonds, William Joel Strough, Thomas C. Roland*

COLDWATER, ST. MARK: *Jean Fenno, William Swallow, Charles and Janean (Grigg) Skutt, Jeanie Neuendorf, Welyn Ribble, Jarriet (Holtom) Smith*

GRAND RAPIDS, ST. ANDREW: *The Rev. Lester Thomas*

GRAND RAPIDS, ST. MARK: *Lillian Deike, Joseph Deike, Role Omedian, Kathy Lehr, Florence Barker, Maxine Alber*

HOLLAND, GRACE: *Evelyn Kennedy, Nate Bryant, Sue Bentley, Jack Wilson, Helen Logie, Carol McConkey, Jim Russell, Carol Botsis, Jennifer Young Tait*

KALAMAZOO, ST. LUKE: *Alice M. Bender, Lawrence J. Brink, Alma Dietz, Gillian S. Hanna, Mildred Lincoln, Daphne E. Schirripa, Melvin J. Tessin, Gerard Thomas, Maxine Vanderberg*

LANSING, ST. DAVID: *Kenneth Lorey Cole, Joanne Paton Strong, Harold Koorndyke, William Harold Payne, James William Dooley, Betty Jean Palmer Bottom*

MANISTEE, CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY: *Natalie Shoup*

MONTAGUE, ST. PETER-BY-THE-LAKE: *Richard G. Crane*

MUSKEGON, ST. PAUL: *Jean Borg, George Bartlett, Marion Buehrle, Helen Trethewey*

PENTWATER, ST. JAMES': *Delos Fred Hamlin Jr., Marjorie C. Pearce*

RICHLAND, ST. TIMOTHY: *Charles S. Pearce, Suzanne Parish*
ST. JOSEPH, ST. PAUL: *Gene Durren, James McDonald*

STURGIS, ST. JOHN: *Jessie S. Schaeffer, June R. Hendrix, Eleanor M. Gillespie, M.D., Adam Mayer, Jr., William H. Olney, Jr., Mary Elizabeth Olney, Thomas A. Fairchild, Angell V. Bucknell, Janice K. Chipman, Joy B. Hunt, James Phineas Trine II*

TRAVERSE CITY, GRACE: Anna J. Mapes, Corey A. Saylor, Katherine T. Wescott, Barbara Ann Falk, Mary Hoag, Dick Hoag, Saralue Wells, Jean Miller, Charles R. Bunn

WYOMING, HOLY TRINITY: Alice Kershaw, Violet Crews, Kathryn Young, Kurt "Buster" Riemenschneider, Nancy Newman

CLERGY REGISTERED AT THE 137th CONVENTION
The Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert, Bishop

Adams, The Rev. Jennifer L., Grace, Holland
Allard, The Rev. Brad
Bartlett, The Rev. Stephen I., St. Mark's, Coldwater
Bell, The Rev. Mike, Holy Trinity, Manistee
Brower, The Rev. David A., Holy Cross, Kentwood
Brown, The Rev. Gregory B. F., Emmanuel, Petoskey
Char, The Rev. Zachariah, Grace Sudanese, Grand Rapids
Coleman, The Rev. Brian, St. Thomas, Battle Creek
Comer, The Rev. Harold L., St. Philip's, Beulah
Cramer, The Rev. Jared, St. John's, Grand Haven
Crise, The Rev. Rebecca, St. Mark's, Paw Paw
Croom, The Rev. Jim, Holy Trinity, Wyoming
Dahill, The Rev. Laurel, St. Andrew's, Big Rapids
David, The Rev. John, Christ Church, Charlevoix
Drew, The Rev. Beth
Durren, The Rev. Paula, Church of the Mediator, Harbert
English, The Rev. John
Evans, The Rev. Aaron, Trinity, Grand Ledge
Evans, The Rev. Rachael, St. Gregory's, Muskegon
Fedewa, The Rev. Michael C., St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids
Fleener, The Rev. William
Frens, The Rev. Mary, St. Mark's, Newaygo
Fulton, The Rev. Nancy C.
Hempstead, The Rev. James (no vote)
Holmgren, The Rev. Stephen, Grace, Grand Rapids
Hunt, The Rev. Meredith, St. John's, Sturgis
Kirkman, The Rev. John R., St. Paul's, Greenville
Klein, The Rev. Everett H., St. Peters-By-The-Lake, Montague
Kountze, The Rev. Louise
Kunce, The Rev. Floyd
Lillvis, The Rev. David M. (no vote)
Marx, The Rev. Lily, St. Paul's, Muskegon

Meyers, The Rev. David C., Church of the Holy Spirit, Belmont
Morrison, The Rev. Sam (no vote)
Natterman, The Rev. Margaret A, Church of the Nativity, Boyne.
Nawrocki, The Rev. Cindy, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids
Neiman, The Rev. Joseph C.
Neiman, The Rev. Judith A.
Nicholson, The Rev. Wayne, St. John's, Mt. Pleasant
Ottis, The Rev. Tom, St. Christopher's, Northport (no vote)
Pike, The Rev. David R., St. David's, Lansing
Remenschneider, The Rev. Dennis, (no vote)
Richards, The Rev. Daniel, Grace, Grand Rapids
Ryan, The Rev. Michael, Church of the Epiphany, South Haven
Scheid, The Rev. Daniel, St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor
Schiesler, The Rev. Robert, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids
Schlotterbeck, The Rev. Marilou J., St. Philip's, Beulah
Scott, The Rev. Thomas, St. Paul's, Muskegon
Slack, The Rev. Jim, (no vote)
Spaid, The Rev. Canon William J., Diocesan Center
Sten, The Rev. Pamela V., St. Paul's, St. Joseph
Stoppel, The Rev. Dr. G. Corwin, All Saints', Sautauk
Tillman, The Rev. Christine, Holy Trinity, Wyoming
Toeller-Novak, The Rev. Thomas
Weller, The Rev. Gretchen, Emmanuel, Hastings
Whiting, The Rev. William R., Good Shepherd, Allegan
Wilson, The Rev. Barbara, St. Francis of Assisi, Orangeville
York, The Rev. Susan S., Church of the Holy Spirit, Belmont

LAY DELEGATES REGISTERED AT THE 137th CONVENTION

Albion, St. James': Mary Porter, Richard Porter
Allegan, Church of the Good Shepherd: Kandi Gibson, Norm Richards
Battle Creek, Resurrection: Harriet Cowan, Thomas Cowan
Battle Creek, St. Thomas': Thomas Kyvig, Diane Norman,
Belmont, Church of the Holy Spirit: James Byers, Michael Hirt, Donna Scott
Benton Harbor, St. Augustine's: Les Knickerbocker, Stephen Leonard
Beulah, St. Philip's: Leslie Gilbert, Mary Link
Big Rapids, St. Andrew's: Jack Korb, Julia Reges
Boyne, Nativity: Gen Barnum
Cadillac, St. Mary's: Nancy Foster, Dawn Paulin
Charlevoix, Christ Church: Don Collier, Francis (Brownie) Flanders
Charlotte, St. John's: Sharon Degner, Eric Pintar
Coldwater, St. Mark's: Audrey Croal, Dave Croal
Dowagiac, St. Paul's: Jennifer Frechette, Connie Plucienik
Elk Rapids, St. Paul's: Elaine Olson, Donald Sharpe

Fremont, St. John's: David Kemble, Phillie O'Neil
Grand Haven, St. John's: Bethany Cramer, Andrea Dickinson, Gillian Edwards, Joanie Smith
Grand Ledge, Trinity: Sallee Anderson, John Lanese
Grand Rapids, Grace: Dale Grogan, Lynne Perrin, Ken Ross, Bernie Sweetland
Grand Rapids, St. Andrew's: Christian Baron, Don Davies, BJ Heyboer, Donna Johnston
Grand Rapids, St. Mark's: Larry Manglitz, Michael Merren, Margaret Stretton
Grand Rapids, St. Philip's: William Buck, Pamela Chapman
Greenville, St. Paul's: James Degoede, Chris Ewell
Harbert, Mediator: Max Merrifield, Ruth Merrifield
Hastings, Emmanuel: Sue Radant, Georgette Schirmer
Holland, Grace: Joan Heneveld, David Hawley Loury, David Meier, Mary Remenschneider
Ionia, St. John's: Wesley Hackett, Alvin Hawley
Kalamazoo, St. Luke's: Jean Herbrandson, Donald Keller, Elizabeth Tompkins
Kalamazoo, St. Martin: Kay Hanson, Tom Perrin, Mike Wood
Kentwood, Holy Cross: Genia Brown, Ross Mast
Lansing, St. David's: Carol Abbott, Patricia Purol, Barbara Van Dyke
Ludington, Grace: Marg Dahlberg, Jere Healy
Manistee, Holy Trinity: Tabitha Bellinger, John Carter, Susan Lund Coyle
Marshall, Trinity: Margi Brown, Deberah Egnatuk
Montague, St. Peter's: George Howell, Rona Howell, Debbie Wilson
Mt. Pleasant, St. John's: Bordon Karen Varanauskas
Muskegon, St. Alban's: Shelby Schweri
Muskegon, St. Gregory's: Lynne Gill, Maribeth Picard
Muskegon, St. Paul's: Janine Dekker, Thomas George, Nancy Walling
Newaygo, St. Mark's: Ralph Gould, Ronald Stevenson
Niles, Trinity: Gayle Borst, Beth Winquist
Northport, St. Christopher's: Moonyeen Fitch, Edson Sheppard
Orangeville, St. Francis': Lynne Jacobson, Patricia Johns
Paw Paw, St. Mark's: Gerry Stackhouse, Nancy Wheatley
Pentwater, St. James': Ruth Bailey
Petoskey, Emmanuel: Mary Catherine Hannah, Karel Howse, Dave Penniman
Plainwell, St. Stephen's: Pauline Keiser
Portage, St. Barnabas': Anna Cushman, Albert Dixon, John Tucker
Richland, St. Timothy's: Betsy Barlow, Steve Schoenleber
Saugatuck, All Saints': Mary Ann Curtis, Patricia Dewey, Sue Thomas
South Haven, Epiphany: Joan DeHaven, Robert DeHaven
St. Joseph, St. Paul's: Betty Jennings, Dave Jennings
Sturgis, St. John's: Diane Kershner, Mary Kay Kunce
Texas Corners, Christ the King: Sally Roach, James Roach
Three Rivers, Trinity: Ernest Porath, Mary Lou Vernon
Traverse City, Grace: Elizabeth Blondia, Betty Lewis, Sandy Seppala, Candice Westerfield
Wyoming, Holy Trinity: Beth Smith, Brian Tillman

YOUTH DELEGATES REGISTERED AT THE 137th CONVENTION

John Baker
Madison Coté
Mac Gaikema
Grey Jackson
Ryan McCumber
Trevor Picard
Justin Pippel
Linda Zimmerman

**MINUTES OF
137th ANNUAL CONVENTION
THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

Friday, April 8, 2011

CONVENTION WAS CONVENED by Bishop Gepert on April 8, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.

The Bishop called upon William Fleener, Jr., Credentials Chairperson, who declared that a quorum was present in both the lay and the clerical order.

WELCOME AND GREETING – Nancy Foster from St. Mary’s, Cadillac on behalf of the Executive Council.

INTRODUCTION OF – Abbott Andrew our Chaplain, Fr. Mark Bozzuti-Jones our speaker, and David Louder Youth Ministries from Western Michigan University

INTRODUCTION OF BIBLE STUDY, by Bishop Gepert

INTRODUCTION of Diocesan Staff, Canon to the Ordinary – William Spaid; Bisop’s Assistant for Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministry – Gennie Callard; Bishop’s Assistant for Business and Finance – Tammy Mazure; Bishop’s Administrative Assistant – Nancy Calme; Diocesan Secretary – Mary McGuire; Deacon for Children and Youth Ministries – Christine Tillman; Deacon for Millenium Development Goals – Beth Drew; Pastoral Care and Counseling – Ken Reid; Treasurer – Ivan Egnatuk; Deacon – Karen McDonald

APPROVAL OF RULES OF ORDER Bill Fleener Jr., Chancellor, reminded everyone that Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by written consent from the nominee and sufficient copies of biographical material about the nominee for distribution to all delegates at the Convention. **Moved and supported.** Motion carried.

SEATING EX-OFFICIO WITH SEAT AND VOICE, EXCEPT THOSE ENTITLED TO VOTE

BY OTHER OFFICE was **moved, supported and carried** for the Chancellor Bill Fleener, Jr.; lay members of the Standing Committee, Executive Council Laity; Licensed Interim Priests and Full-Time Licensed Assistants with their respective parishes; representatives from Seasonal Chapels.

APPROVAL OF CONVENTION OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011 was **moved, supported and carried** for Secretary Mary McGuire, Registrar Jane Puvogel, Chancellor Bill Fleener Jr. and Treasurer Ivan Egnatuk.

ADOPT SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER – for Consideration of the Revised Canons of the Diocese **moved and second Rules Adopted.**

INTRODUCTION of Sharon Buursma to present the new Diocesan/Mission/Values Statement. A showing of a Video on how it was made and a DVD and Framed copies (from the Diocesan Office) will be given to each Parish.

NOMINATIONS FOR STANDING COMMITTEE (I.3.10) one clerical, two lay for three-year term were **moved** by Nominations/Elections Chairperson Wes Hackett, **supported**. Nominations for clerical order was Paula Durren, (Mediator, Harbert); William Whiting, (Good Shepherd, Allegan) being no nominations from the floor, nominations were **closed**. Nominations for the lay order was Don Davies, (St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids) and from the Floor Janet MacKenzie, (Epiphany, South Haven) **moved** and **supported**. Being no other nominations from the floor nominations were **closed**. Voted by acclamation for the Lay Order. **Moved, supported**. Janet MacKenzie and Don Davies were **elected**.

NOMINATIONS FOR PROVINCE V SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES (I.9.7) one clerical, two lay for three-year term were moved by Nominations/Elections Chairperson Wes Hackett, supported. Nominations for clerical order was Cindy Nawrocki, (St. Mark's, Grand Rapids) being no nominations from the floor, nominations were **closed**. Nominations for the lay order was Pam Chapman, (St. Philip's, Grand Rapids) **moved** and **supported**. Being no nominations from the floor nominations were **closed**. Voted by acclamation for the Lay Order. **Moved, supported**. Cindy Nawrocki and Pam Chapman were **elected**.

ELECTIONS TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL were moved by Nominations/Elections Chairperson Wes Hackett, **supported** and **approved**. Traverse Deanery, Marilou Schlotterbeck, (St. Philip's, Beulah); and Susan Lund-Coyle, (Holy Trinity, Manistee); Lakeshore Deanery, Joanie Smith, (St. John's, Grand Haven); St. Joseph Deanery, Jodi Badder, (St. Paul's, Dowagiac); Eastern Deanery, Dave Croal, (St. Mark's, Coldwater); Grand Valley Deanery, Wes Hackett, (St. John the Apostle, Ionia).

AFFIRM APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSION ON MINISTRY John Bosserman, Chair (St. Mark's, Grand Rapids).

INTRODUCE NEW CLERGY AND CHANGES IN THE DIOCESE SINCE THE LAST CONVENTION: Kathleen Kingslight – transferred to Diocese of Olympia 6/2010; Rick Swanson – transferred to Diocese of Vermont 9/2010; Jared Cramer – trans. from Diocese of NW Texas (St. John's Grand, Haven) 8/2010; Knute Jacobson – moved to a parish in the Diocese of Missouri 9/2010; John Crean – transferred to Diocese of Los Angeles 10/2010; Cynthia Spencer – transferred to Diocese of Arizona 2/2011; Duncan Johnston – transferred to Diocese of Central Pennsylvania 2/2011; David Meyers – ordained as Priest 1/2011 Vicar, (Holy Spirit, Belmont); Dennis Remenschneider – interim at (St. Barnabas, Portage); Jay Lawlor – left (St. Luke's, Kalamazoo) 3/2011; Aaron Evans – (Trinity, Grand Ledge); Ken Tabor - (St. John the Apostle, Ionia); William Whiting – moved from Good, Shepherd, Allegan to (St. Timothy, Richland); Kenneth Michnay – Assisting Pastor at (St. John's, Grand Haven); Kathryn King – Assisting Pastor at (Grace, Traverse City); Sandra Castillo – Assisting Pastor Hispanic Ministry (St. John's, Sturgis).

INTRODUCTION OF INTERIM CLERGY WHO ARE PRESENT AND NOT CANONICALLY RESIDENT Dennis Remenschneider, (St. Barnabas', Portage)

CLERGY FAREWELL AND HAPPY RETIREMENT

Thomas McPherson (St. John's, "Fremont") and Carol Spangenberg (St. John's, Charlotte)

RECOGNITION OF CANDIDATE FOR HOLY ORDERS

Nurya Love Parish, (St. Paul's, Greenville) Candidate for priesthood

RECOGNITION OF POSTULANTS TO HOLY ORDERS

Postulant for priesthood; Darlene Kuhn, (St. Paul's, St. Joseph) Postulant for priesthood; Linnea Stifler, (St. Mary's, Cadillac) Postulant for priesthood; Christian Baron and Jodi Baron (St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids) Postulant for the priesthood.

MISSION MOMENT by Thomas Cowan (Resurrection, Battle Creek)

RESOLUTIONS presented by Jennifer Adams (Resolution Committee Chairperson)

R-1 *"A Just and Durable Peace Between Israel and the Palestinians"* **Moved and supported.** Resolution **passed.** (See Appendix)

R-2 *"Review for possible revision and or updating of the Constitution of the Diocese: Presented by Bill Fleener Jr., Canon's Committee.* **Moved and supported.** Resolution **passed.** (See Appendix)

R-3 *Minimum clergy Compensation Standard,* presented by Executive Council. **Moved and supported.** Resolution **passed.** (See Appendix)

BALLOT #1 STANDING COMMITTEE CLERICAL (See Appendix)

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BISHOP Grace, Traverse City giving 10,000.00 to St. Simone, Dominican Republic plus another 2,000.00 bequest from Anna Mapes.

DISPATCH FUNDS FROM SALE OF ST. MICHAEL'S, Susan Lund Koyle from Council how to implement designated funds

INTRODUCTION OF OUR SPEAKER Fr. Mark Bozzuti-Jones speaking on "Moving Beyond Ourselves".

MISSION MOMENT – Carol Abbott, St. David's, Lansing

CONVENTION WAS RECONVENED by Bishop Geper at 10:45 a.m., April, 8, 2011. Chancellor, William Fleener Jr., reported that a quorum was present in both orders.

DISPATCH OF BUSINESS Janet MacKenzie reported no carryovers from Friday and the agenda For the day.

BUDGET presented by Ivan Egnatuck, Treasurer of the Diocese. **Moved and supported.** Tammy Mazure Assistant to the Bishop for Business and Finance addressed the Budget. Budget **Approved.**

MISSION MOMENT – Jack Summers, Grace, Traverse City

INTRODUCTION OF Tom Perrin speaking on stewardship and the need for a Stewardship Committee.

INTRODUCTION OF the chancellor William Fleener Jr., to present the revised Canons. **Moved, supported.**

Jen Adams presented an amendment to Canon I.3.04. **Moved, and Supported.** Each parish or new congregation shall be. . . . Average Sunday Attendance 1-100 2 delegates, 101-150 3 delegates, 151+ 4 delegates. (See Canon). **Motion passed.**

Netty Cove presented an amendment to Title 1 Canon 6.06 Recusal. **Moved, and Supported.** Second paragraph, In addition, no clergy or lay. . . .required. **Motion passed.**

Motion to approve Revised Canons as amended **passed.** (See Canons).

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS presented by the Rev. Jennifer Adams, chairperson. **Moved, supported, and carried.** (see appendix).

INVITATION FOR THE 2012 DOCESAN CONVENTION was introduced by Nancy Foster, Convention Planning Committee for the 2012 and 138th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan to be held in Traverse City, April 20-21, 2012.

THANK YOU FROM BISHOP GEPERT to the people who finished their term on committees/commissions/council.

BISHOP GEPERT DECLARED THE CONVENTION ADJOURNED at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary McGuire
Convention Secretary

+ 

**APPENDICES
TO THE MINUTES
137th CONVENTION**

BALLOT RESULTS FOR STANDING COMMITTEE

Ballot #1 – Standing Committee Clergy

(182 votes cast, 3 invalid, 90 votes necessary)

Paula Durren 136, William Whiting 43 – Paula Durren elected in the clerical order

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED that this 137th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan, and his wife Kathryn and send greetings to Mrs. Marjorie Bennison, wife of the late Rt. Rev. Charles L. Bennison, fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan, wishing them well and communicating that they remain in our thoughts and prayers.

RESOLVED that this 137th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan offer our great appreciation to Rev. Brian Coleman, Rector of St. Thomas, Battle Creek for his wonderful work as liturgist for this Convention.

RESOLVED that this 137th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan extend our profound thanks to The Rev. Mark Buzzoutti-Jones for his presence with us as a dynamic Convention Preacher and Speaker.

RESOLVED that this 137th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan offer our sincere gratitude to Grace Church, Traverse City and the Northern Deanery of the Diocese for hosting this Convention.

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT
THE 137th ANNUAL CONVENTION
THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
APRIL 8-9, 2011**

1. **SUBJECT:** A Just and Durable Peace Between Israel and the Palestinians

ORIGINATOR: St. Timothy's Church, Richland

RESOLVED, that this 137th convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, out of concern for the Diocese of Jerusalem and our sisters and brothers who live there, calls upon our Bishop to appoint a task force on Palestine/Israel to:

1. Plan a series of forums throughout the diocese to inform and educate clergy and laity about conditions in Israel/Palestine and to discuss possible strategies to bring about a non-violent end to the occupation and the establishment of a just and lasting peace between the two peoples. The task force should work with the Episcopal Peace Fellowship's newly created Palestine-Israel Network, and any organizations, faith-based or secular, which can provide appropriate resources for this purpose.
2. Publicize and encourage opportunities for clergy and laypersons to visit Israel and the Palestinian territories to see the realities on the ground and meet with Christian, Jewish, and Muslim groups committed to achieving justice through nonviolent means.
3. Report back to the 138th convention of the diocese of Western Michigan, based on discussions in the forums, with suggested actions that individuals and parishes might undertake as well as ways that the U.S. might work more effectively to bring peace to the region.

St. Timothy's Parish, Richland

Passed unanimously at Vestry meeting, Jan. 18, 2011

As Christian people, it is important to ask, "What in the life and teaching of Jesus supports this resolution?" and "What part of our Mission/Vision/Values statement connects with this resolution?"

RATIONALE: Jesus throughout his life confronted injustice nonviolently. By example he taught us not to remain silent in the face of injustice and to serve the world. Our Christian values call for us to respect the dignity of every human being, to work for a safe, nurturing environment, and to promote reconciliation, acceptance and respect. In our baptismal covenant we promise to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." In the light of these values and commitments, we must be concerned with the ongoing suffering of God's children in the Holy Land.

In 2011 it appears that the Middle East “peace process” has broken down. Israelis have grown to fear Palestinians. Some Israelis worry about maintaining their democracy under conditions of long term strife. Their young people face long terms of army duties. Their entrepreneurs fear they may lose their economic edge with the diversion of men and women and materials to occupation and war. Palestinians meanwhile are concerned that their land is being confiscated (without compensation) during the long process of discussing borders. They are concerned that Palestinian homes are being demolished (24,000 homes since 1967, according to the Israeli Committee Against House Demotion) without compensation or help in relocation. A wall being built supposedly between Palestinian territory and Israel is far from the internationally agreed border, so farmers are being denied the chance to work their own fields, to their great impoverishment. The International Court has ruled the path of the wall illegal. Even the Israeli High Court has objected to the location of the wall, but the Israeli government has not observed the findings of either Court. International and Israeli human rights groups cite ongoing abuses by Israel in the West Bank and inside Israel. The Israeli response has been to propose a law that will permit human rights workers to be arrested and/or deported.

Our Christian commitment requires us to work for lasting peace, primarily for the sake of The inhabitants of this area. It is also in the political interest of the US; as a major supplier of Weapons to Israel, the US is blamed when US-supplied weapons are used to kill civilians in the West Bank or Gaza. If the diplomatic track is at an end, what can individuals and groups do to promote international law and durable peace agreement? What, if anything, can our government do? What can churches do? Group discussion may highlight possible actions.

Materials to facilitate discussion will be available at no charge to the diocese.

2. **SUBJECT:** Review for possible revision and or updating of the Constitution of the Diocese
ORIGINATOR: Canons Committee

RESOLVED, that this 137th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan Charges the Canons Committee with undertaking a review of the Constitution of the Diocese for possible needed updates or revisions and that the Committee report back to the 137th Convention of the Diocese with any suggested revisions.

RATIONALE:

The Constitution of the Diocese is one of our governing documents and as such is the Underpinning of all we do. The Canons Committee has just completed a complete review of the Canons of the Diocese and feels that a review of the Constitution is needed at this time to compete the work of updating our governing documents.

3. **SUBJECT:** Minimum Clergy Compensation Standard
ORIGINATOR: Executive Council

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Diocesan Canon 11.10.2., the 2012 Minimum Clergy Compensation Standard will be based on the cost of living percentage as provided by the Federal Government at the end of 2011.

Be it further resolved that the exact figures of minimum compensation for clergy will be communicated to parishes no later than November 1, 2011 and posted on the Diocesan Website www.edwm.org.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT

The Executive Council's primary task is to advise and aid the bishop in dealing with financial Matters that pertain to the diocese. One of the major accomplishments of the past year was the sale and transfer of the Cascade property. The Executive Council is most pleased with the diligence and commitment of one of its members, Wes Hackett, in bringing this successful sale to its conclusion.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Mike Bell, Vice Chair.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Standing Committee consists of eight elected members, four clerical and four lay. The Standing Committee serves as the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese in the absence of a bishop. It serves as The bishop's council of advice. The Standing Committee is requested to give consent for all bishops Elected in the Episcopal Church. It recommends persons for ordination. It gives the bishop advice and Consent on the purchase, sale, or encumbrance of any property held by a congregation or the diocese. It gives the bishop advice and consent as to any judicial sentence given to a clergy person or concurs in allowing a clergy person to cease functioning as a member of the clergy. It investigates and reports to the bishop on the charge that a deacon or priest has abandoned the Episcopal Church. The Standing Committee meets monthly in Grand Rapids and undertakes all the business as is presented.

Time is set aside each meeting for bible study to ensure our work is gospel centered.

These are some of the highlights of the work and issues addressed during this year:

- Requests for 3 candidates to the priesthood and 1 for Ordination.
- All clergy depositions and inhibitions throughout the National Church were heard along with the request for consents to election for Bishops.
- Finalized proposed changes to the Canons pertaining to Standing Committee and forwarded to Canons Committee.
- Property issues from four parishes have been handled – St. Mark's, Paw Paw, St. John's Grand Haven, St. Luke's Kalamazoo and Grace Church Ludington.
- A joint meeting was held with all members of Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee to finalize the document to clarify roles and expectations in the steps for postulancy and candidacy. A new document will be available to clarify all steps and requirements for those seeking information pertaining to the Ordination process.

- After investigation the Standing Committee advised the Bishop that Grace Church, Grand Rapids be declared a “distressed parish”. With the Bishop’s decision and unanimous approval by the Standing Committee, Canon 14 was invoked. An action plan has been presented to the parish in order for the Diocese and the parish to work together towards a healthy future. Following a request to the Bishop the Standing Committee heard from the Clergy and Vestry at St. Luke’s, Kalamazoo regarding their desire for dissolution of the pastoral relationship. Recommendation made to the Bishop and a plan was so ordered.
- Two meetings were held via conference calls to accommodate both the weather and members out of State – it is a viable option for dedicated, members some of whom drive a long way every month – these were meetings when we did not have guests scheduled to meet with the Committee.

As this report concludes my three years as President of the Standing Committee, and two terms, I Would like to take this opportunity to thank the Diocese, and all the members of the Standing Committee during this time, for their support and the opportunity to serve.

Sincere thanks to the current members of Standing Committee: Bob Schiesler, Stephen Holmgren, Jay Lawlor, Cindy Nawrocki, Anne Davidson, Judy Fleener and Brian Tillman.

Respectfully submitted,
 Netty Cove, President

BISHOP WHITTEMORE FOUNDATION

The Bishop Whittemore Foundation was created as an independent non-profit corporation in May of 1952 and now is in its fifty-eighth year of service to the people of the Diocese of Western Michigan. The Foundation trustees meet quarterly to review loan and grant proposals in support of Diocesan and parish objectives. The following grants were funded during the calendar year 2010:

Church of the Holy Spirit, Belmont (handicap access for food pantry)	\$10,000
Trinity, Three Rivers (exterior brick repair)	\$ 8,000
St. Mark's, Grand Rapids (winter women's center)	\$ 5,000
St. Paul's, Muskegon (elevator compliance)	\$ 1,000
Holy Cross, Kentwood (youth pilgrimage)	\$ 3,000
Grace, Holland (7 parish Night Watch trip to NYC)	\$ 3,366
Grace, East Grand Rapids (Youth mission trip to P.R.)	\$ 7,500
DOWM (Youth camp)	\$ 9,300
DOWM (Spaid travel expenses)	\$ 1,500
St. Mark's, Newaygo (handicap accessibility)	\$10,000
St. John's by the Lake, Onekema	\$ 6,000
St. James, Albion (loan forgiveness)	\$19,700
St. Phillips, Grand Rapids (centennial celebration)	<u>\$ 4,000</u>
	\$93,376

As of December 31, 2010, the following grants have been approved, but not yet funded:

Trinity, Marshall (handicap accessible seating)	\$ 1,500
Trinity, Three Rivers (exterior repair)	\$ 4,000
St. Mark's, Grand Rapids (stove replacement)	<u>\$ 2,500</u>
	\$ 8,000

As of December 31, 2010, Foundation assets totaled \$1,867,715.02 consisting of \$80,300.50 in loans to parishes, \$1,752,474.08 in marketable securities and commodities and \$34,939.28 in cash equivalents. Total grants in any calendar year are limited to five percent of the Foundation's assets, computed annually on a rolling average of the ten previous quarters. The 2011 spending rule computation is attached. Loans to anyone parish are limited to \$100,000.00 and typically have a five year maturity with a twenty-year amortization.

The trustees of the Bishop Whittemore Foundation are committed to the growth of the endowed fund balance, the prudent investment of the trust corpus and the careful consideration of every grant application to insure the best use of available grant funds.

The Bishop Whittemore Foundation welcomes John Gork as a new trustee. Anyone interested in service as a trustee of the Bishop Whittemore Foundation is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Anyone making a contribution to the Bishop Whittemore Foundation can be assured that the contribution will be vigilantly guarded, carefully invested and wisely dispensed to fund worthy projects. Sunday, May 2, 2011 is Bishop Whittemore Foundation Sunday when all parishes are requested to remind their members of the good works of the Foundation and encourage gifts to the Foundation.

The Foundation trustees deserve recognition for their devoted service in support of the work of the people of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Stanton, President

BISHOP WHITTEMORE FOUNDATION #23-19186

Spending Rule Computation for 2011

Quarter	Market Value
09/30/08	\$ 1,901,818
12/31/08	\$ 1,496,392
03/31/09	\$ 1,320,392
06/30/09	\$ 1,520,401
09/30/09	\$ 1,707,483
12/31/09	\$ 1,729,606
03/31/10	\$ 1,783,381
06/30/10	\$ 1,552,057
09/30/10	\$ 1,729,554
12/31/10	\$ 1,867,715

Total Market Value: \$ 16,617,799

Average per valuation period: \$ 1,661,780

5% of average valuation period: \$ 83,089

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry is an important council of the diocese given canonical tasks to oversee the formation and ordination process in our diocese on behalf of the Episcopal Church. The commission interviews aspirants to Holy Orders, provides recommendations for postulancy, candidacy and ordination to the bishop and the Standing Committee, and suggests the various pathways to formation for ordained ministry. We are required by canon to “recommend” for advancement and “attest” to canonical proficiencies before candidates will be considered for ordination. In the course of 2010, we have seen the ordination to the priesthood of the Rev. Dr. David Meyers, the acceptance into candidacy for ordination of the Rev. Nurya Love Parish, and the admission to postulancy of Jodi and Christian Baron.

During the year since our last convention, the Commission on Ministry, thanks primarily to the efforts of the Rev. Jen Adams (Rector of Grace, Holland), has developed and prepared for publication a diocesan ordination manual which provides step-by-step guidance through the ordination process for persons who believe they are called to Holy Orders. This manual is in its final stages of proofing and will be uploaded to the diocesan website in the very near future.

In addition to and in support of the ordination manual, the COM has completed testing a discernment program which lays out in considerable detail the process by which persons feeling called into ministry may examine that call at the parish level. A development by John Bosserman (St. Mark's, Grand Rapids), this program, to be overseen by the COM, involves the formation of parish teams who will sit with individuals over a time-certain period of time with the view to providing for the Bishop and the COM a report on the "authenticity" of that call.

Furthermore, the Commission on Ministry, in recognition of the ministry of all the baptized and to honor those called to serve God outside orders, has begun work on a discernment process/program specifically for use by the laity. The individuals assigned this task are Lynne Perrin (Grace, Grand Rapids) and Janet Klumpp (Holy Trinity, Wyoming). The COM is seeking not only to lift up persons for lay leadership in parishes, in worship and in the councils of the church, but also to encourage persons to find in daily life those aspects of living that enrich the lives of others and further the works of God on Earth. We wish to help people identify the presence of God in themselves and help raise their awareness of how, through them, God is active in the world. We are hoping to provide ways for all of God's people to see in the selves the potentialities to ministry, to name those potentialities and to turn them into realities.

The Commission on Ministry meets on the second Tuesday of every month at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Wyoming. Persons who feel called to serve on this canonically important commission are invited to contact Bishop Gepert at the diocesan center.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Very Rev. James Croom-Holy Trinity, Wyoming
Chair of the Commission

EASTERN DEANERY

Diocesan convention delegates and clergy from the twelve congregations in the southeastern portion of the Diocese (including St. James', Albion; Trinity, Marshall; St. David's, Lansing; Trinity, Grand Ledge; St. John's, Charlotte; St. Mark's, Coldwater; St. Thomas, Battle Creek; Resurrection, Battle Creek; St. John's, Strugis; Emmanuel, Hastings; St. Timothy's, Richland; and St. Francis', Orangeville) meet at least three times a year to share ideas, successes, challenges and upcoming events in their congregations and prepare for diocesan conventions.

The deanery convocation is responsible for carrying out the following duties: a) Promoting and aiding in the implementation of cooperative ministries among the congregations in the Deanery; b) Identifying and communicating program and ministry ideas to the appropriate diocesan commission; c) Aiding diocesan commissions in the implementation of programs and ministries in the deanery; d) Raising funds as necessary to its activities; e) Disseminating and responding to diocesan communications relating to annual convocation concerns; f) Proposing names as required for membership on diocesan commissions.

Officers: Chair, The Rev. Brian Coleman, St. Thomas' Battle Creek; Vice-Chair: Barbara VanDyke, St. David's, Lansing; Treasurer: Eric Pintar, St. John's, Charlotte; Clerk: Debbie Egnatuk, Trinity, Marshall; plus parish delegates to diocesan convention elected at annual parish meetings in January, as well as youth delegates elected by the deanery convocation.

Elected representatives to Executive Council include: Brian Coleman (Deanery Chair-2012), Gretchen Weller (Clergy Representative-2013), and David Croal (Lay Representative-2014)

We welcomed new clergy to the deanery: The Rev. Fr. Aaron Evans, Rector at Trinity, Grand Ledge and The Rev. Sandra Castillo, Assistant at St. John's, Sturgis.

Much work is ongoing around potential collaborations in Battle Creek between St. Thomas and Resurrection; in the Lansing area between St. David's, Trinity, Grand Ledge and St. John's, Charlotte; and between Trinity, Marshall and St. James', Albion.

The Eastern Deanery was pleased to note at its last convocation that all parishes are contributing the Full apportionment to the diocese.

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Brian Coleman

ECCLESIASTICAL COURT

The Ecclesiastical Court is comprised of four clergy and three lay members, elected by the Convention. When it is necessary to hold a hearing concerning a complaint against a priest or deacon, the Court serves as the hearing panel. The full procedures are described in Title IV "Ecclesiastical Discipline" of the general canons and referenced by Title IV of the diocesan canons.

The Ecclesiastical Court met by conference call on October 28, 2010. The members of the Court elected a Presiding Judge, reviewed the existing procedures, and discussed the implementation of new procedures. Dave Penniman, lay member from Emmanuel (Petoskey) was elected to a second term as Presiding Judge.

The General Convention of 2009 enacted a new Title IV of the canons to replace the current Title IV, effective July 1, 2011. The new Title IV was prepared by a study committee, which was charged to give special attention to the theological and pastoral considerations of disciplinary procedures.

The roles and procedures outlined in the new Title IV are simpler, and give greater emphasis to reconciliation and pastoral responses. The new procedures are grounded in mutual responsibility and accountability. The new procedures seek to balance transparency of procedure with the duty of protecting the confidentiality of sensitive personal matters. The term "Ecclesiastical Court" will be replaced by the term "Disciplinary Board."

The Canons Committee of our Diocese is proposing a set of enabling canons to implement the new Title IV. The proposed canons call for a single Disciplinary Board, comprised of nine members, which will serve the Diocese of Michigan and our Diocese. If the proposed canons are adopted, the terms of service of all the current members of the Ecclesiastical Court will expire on June 30, and the new Disciplinary Board will begin on July 1. A budget has been proposed for the Board, which aims to provide funding for implementation, coordination, and training.

In the past year, we have seen sharp criticism of our Roman Catholic friends, not only for instances of Misconduct among clergy, but for failure of the organization to provide and follow appropriate procedures. Having relevant, clear, and fair procedures to respond to allegations of misconduct is an important part of our Church's care for its members and the wider community. Orientation and training for members of the Disciplinary Board has been compared to conducting fire drills at school. When the occasion arises that procedures are needed, we will be glad to have responsible and trained people to meet the need.

For the Court,
Dave Penniman (Emmanuel, Petoskey)
Presiding Judge

**CANONS OF
THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

As adopted by the
137th Diocesan Convention at Traverse City
Michigan, on April 9, 2011.
Effective April 9, 2011.

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CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

PREAMBLE

Diocesan Canons are an organizational, legal, and financial document, through which the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan is enabled to carry out its mission and vision. Our mission, rooted in the Anglican and Episcopal tradition, is to worship God, to follow Jesus Christ, to grow together in the Holy Spirit, and to serve the world. Our vision is to live our values and be healthy, mission-focused diverse parishes with innovative, collaborative engagement at all levels.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE I**

**TITLE I
ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

CANON 1

DEFINITIONS

Terms used in these Canons are defined, for purposes of this document, as follows:

- (a) "Bishop" refers to a Bishop Diocesan elected to that position as provided by the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.
- (b) "Calendar Year" refers to a year beginning at the first moment of the day on January 1 and ending at the last moment of the day on the following December 31.
- (c) "Church" refers to The Episcopal Church as a constituent member of the Anglican Communion.
- (d) A "Communicant in Good Standing" shall include all persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church. An "Adult Communicant in Good Standing" in a Congregation is a communicant in good standing who is sixteen (16) years of age or older in that Congregation.
- (e) The term "congregation" means a recognized body of worshipers in the Diocese.
- (f) "Diocesan Commission" refers to any and all institutions, councils, committees, commissions, task forces, ecclesiastical or other corporation, and any other group organized and performing a function for the Diocese, by whatever name or designation, as well as affiliated organizations and institutions.
- (g) "Diocese" refers to the Diocese of Western Michigan.
- (h) "Ecclesiastical Authority" refers to the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese. During times when the Diocese is without a Bishop Diocesan, or the Bishop Diocesan is incapacitated or away, the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.
- (i) The "fiscal year" of the Diocese, and of its constituent Parishes, Missions, and organizations, is the calendar year.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE I**

- (j) A "New Congregation" is a congregational ministry of the Diocese or of a sponsoring Parish; in the charge of the Bishop, or at the Bishop's discretion and pleasure, a presbyter.
- (k) A "Parish" is a self-governing and self-supporting congregation within the Diocese, permitted to incorporate or is incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan, in the charge of a Rector, and authorized to send lay delegates with voice and vote to Convention. The Governing Body of a Parish is a Vestry.
- (l) A "Seasonal Chapel" is any Summer or Seasonal Chapel within the confines of the Diocese which shall be under the control and direction of the Bishop; who, in turn, shall order the liturgical norm for such chapels and be responsible for appointing members of the clergy to officiate and celebrate, as the Bishop sees fit and proper. The Bishop has the discretion for purposes of administration, to appoint a presbyter, resident in the Diocese, as Priest-in Charge, to function and administer such a chapel. All assets and real properties of such chapels shall be vested in the Diocese as provided under Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.02, of these Canons.
- (m) The term "vote by orders" is a vote taken at a Convention or other occasion in which clerical and lay votes are counted and reported separately.
- (n) The "year" for terms of Diocesan office, shall begin at the close of the annual Convention, and extend to the close of the next annual Convention of the Diocese.
- (o) A person qualifies as a "youth delegate" if, in addition to being a member of a Parish and of this Church, that person is attending high school, or its equivalent.

CANON 2

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DIOCESE

Section 2.01. STATUS

The Diocese of Western Michigan is a non-profit, non-stock ecclesiastical trustee corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Michigan, and is custodian for the collection, holding, investment and management of:

- (a) All property and permanent funds of the Diocese except such as are or may be held by the Bishop as discretionary funds.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE I**

- (a) All property and funds which may be conveyed to and held by it in trust for specified congregations, societies, groups or committees.
- (b) All property and funds conveyed to it in trust for the furtherance of any religious, educational or charitable purpose of this Church.

Section 2.02. TITLE OF PROPERTY

All conveyances shall be made to, and title to all property belonging to the Diocese shall vest in the Diocese, to be held for such purposes as its articles provide, or as the Convention may direct by Canon or resolution, or as may be provided in any will, trust instrument or valid order of a court of competent jurisdiction; provided that title to such property may be conveyed to and held by the Bishop Whittemore Foundation, a Michigan Ecclesiastical corporation organized and operated for the purpose of furthering the work of the Diocese, whenever and to the extent the Diocesan Council deems it necessary or expedient, and subject to such terms and conditions, if any, as the Diocesan Council sees fit to impose.

A Parish or other entity of the Diocese must obtain the approval of both the Bishop and the Standing Committee before acquiring or disposing of real property, whether by purchase, gift, bequest, or otherwise. Title to real property shall be held *in trust* for the Diocese of Western Michigan, except as otherwise directed by the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Section 2.03. SECURITIES AND CONTRACTS

The Diocese shall have full authority to buy and sell investments, securities, notes, mortgages, and to enter into leases and other contracts upon the approval of the annual Convention or Diocesan Council.

Section 2.04. DIOCESAN FUNDS

The use of Diocesan funds shall be determined by the Diocesan Council.

Section 2.05. EXTENSION OF AGENCY SERVICE TO VESTRIES AND OTHERS

If any Vestry, society, guild, circle, or board of any congregation of this Diocese shall desire to avail itself of the services of the Diocese as an agency for the safekeeping and management of funds or securities, it may do so under such form of agency agreement as may be approved by the Diocesan Council. Application for such service shall be pursuant to resolution of the governing body of the applicant and shall have the written approval of the Rector.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE I**

**CANON 3
THE CONVENTION**

Section 3.01. ANNUAL CONVENTION

The date, time and place of annual Convention shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Section 3.02. SPECIAL CONVENTIONS

The Ecclesiastical Authority shall have power to call special conventions and shall do so when requested in writing by any five members of the Standing Committee.

Section 3.03. NOTICE OF ANNUAL OR SPECIAL CONVENTION

Written notice of the date, time and place of holding any annual or special Convention shall be transmitted by the Secretary, either by mail or electronically, to every member of the clergy in the Diocese and to the wardens of every Parish or new congregation without a Rector or Vicar at least thirty days before the date of meeting.

Notice of an annual Convention shall be accompanied by a copy of the provisions of the Constitution and Canons relating to the election of lay delegates and alternates. A form of certificate of election of lay delegates and alternates shall be made available electronically, which is to be completed and signed (actually or electronically) by the Rector or warden and by the secretary of the Vestry or the secretary of the annual meeting at which they were elected, and transmitted to the Diocesan Secretary in accordance with the instructions therefor.

Notice of a special convention shall specify the purpose or purposes thereof.

Section 3.04. SELECTION OF DELEGATES

Each parish or new congregation shall be entitled to representation by lay delegation at Diocesan Convention. Representation at Diocesan Convention by lay delegates shall be based upon the average Sunday attendance as reported in the annual parochial report filed in the current year. The number of delegates shall be determined by the following table:

Average Sunday Attendance	Authorized number of delegates
1-100	2 delegates
101-150	3 delegates
151+	4 delegates

CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE I

Lay delegates and alternates shall be chosen at a preceding annual meeting of the Parish or Mission in accordance with the Parish or new congregation By-Laws, unless there be a vacancy, in which case it shall be filled as prescribed by such By-Laws. At least one lay member of a Parish's delegation shall where possible be a member of the Vestry.

Youth Delegates at any Convention shall be selected as follows:

- (a) One youth delegate and one alternate from each of the five Deaneries shall be selected by each Deanery, at its first meeting following the preceding Diocesan Convention. The Deanery shall have the authority to fill any vacancies that occur in these two positions.
- (b) Five at-large Youth Delegates and five at-large alternates shall be appointed by the Bishop Diocesan with advice from relevant Diocesan committees. The Bishop Diocesan shall have the authority to fill any vacancies that may occur in these positions.

Section 3.05. FUNCTIONS OF CONVENTION

A convention, whether annual or special, except as limited by Constitution or Canon, has Power to:

- (a) Prescribe its own rules of procedure;
- (b) Amend the Constitution;
- (c) Enact, amend, or repeal Canons;
- (d) Elect a Bishop Diocesan, in case of vacancy;
- (e) Elect a Bishop Coadjutor or a Bishop Suffragan as provided by Constitution or Canon;
- (f) Elect officers and confirm appointments as provided by Constitution or Canon;
- (g) Appoint commissions, committees, agencies, ecclesiastical or other corporations, and boards, *ad hoc* or otherwise, as necessary for the business of the Convention, and to define their duties;
- (h) Admit a congregation into union with the Convention in the manner prescribed by Canon, and to terminate such union;

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE I**

- (I) Adopt, order filed, or reject reports of officers and other instrumentalities;
- (j) Adopt budgets; and
- (k) Approve resolutions.

**CANON 4
OFFICERS: ELECTED AND APPOINTED**

Section 4.01. QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible to serve as an officer of any Convention, member of the Standing Committee or Diocesan Council, deputy to the General Convention or Provincial Synod, any member of the clergy or lay person must be a communicant in good standing, except that a lay person may be elected who has not previously been elected a delegate to the annual Convention.

Diocesan officers (except for the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council) provided for in this Canon may be nominated by the Ecclesiastical Authority and, if there be no other nominations, elected by acclamation by the Convention.

All people who want to participate in the life, worship and governance of this Church shall be encouraged regardless of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by Canons. Every effort shall be made in every election or appointment process, to include members of under represented groups.

Section 4.02. PRESIDING OFFICER

The presiding officer shall be as provided in Article III, Section 5, of the Constitution. The presiding officer shall:

- (a) Control the order of business except as otherwise provided by rules prescribed by the Convention or by Canon,
- (b) Maintain order and decorum and accelerate the dispatch of business, and
- (c) Shall have no vote except in case of a tie.

CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE I

Section 4.03. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be elected by the annual Convention for a term of one year and shall have the duty to:

- (a) Attend to the giving of all notices of a Convention and shall perform all duties assigned by the presiding officer or by the Convention, or by Canon,
- (b) File and preserve all certificates of election of lay delegates and all written reports laid before the Convention;
- (c) Preserve in permanent form complete minutes of the proceedings of the Convention and all its records;
- (d) Deliver to the Bishop such documents of historical value as the Bishop may request;
- (e) Prepare, proofread and cause promptly to be printed, the Journal of the annual Convention, and shall transmit or disseminate a printed or electronic copy thereof throughout the Diocese at the direction of the Diocesan Council.

The Secretary may appoint an Assistant Secretary or secretaries with approval of the annual Convention.

Section 4.04. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be elected by the annual Convention for a term of one year. Prior to engaging in the duties of office, the Treasurer shall give bond as required by Canon of the General Convention. Such bond shall be deposited with the Bishop.

The Treasurer or the Diocesan Financial Officer shall have the duty to:

- (a) Receive and safely preserve and account for all monies and other things of value which come into the Treasurer's possession or control, and to make disbursement therefrom when, as, and only to the extent, duly authorized;
- (b) Maintain in books belonging to the Diocese an accurate record in detail of all receipts and disbursements of money or other things of value and to maintain a separate complete account of each fund:
- (c) Obtain and keep on file proper receipts and vouchers evidencing all disbursements;

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE I**

- (d) Present to the annual Convention, and deliver to the Diocesan Council upon request, a detailed report of the receipts and disbursements of each fund, and of the balance on hand;
- (e) Cause an audit satisfactory to the Diocesan Council to accompany the annual report;
- (f) Exercise diligence in the collection of all funds due and payable to the Diocese; and
- (g) Deliver promptly to a duly elected and qualified successor in office, all monies and other things of value which have come into the Treasurer's hands, or control and which have not been lawfully disbursed, together with all books, records, files, documents, receipts, vouchers, and correspondence pertaining to the office of Treasurer.

Section 4.05. ASSISTANT TREASURER

An Assistant Treasurer may be elected and shall give bond in the same manner as the Treasurer and shall assist the Treasurer as requested and perform the duties of Treasurer in case of absence or disability of the Treasurer.

Section 4.06. REGISTRAR

The Registrar shall be elected by the annual Convention for a term of one year and shall be the custodian of all diocesan documents and records not in the hands of the Bishop or required by Canon to be in the custody of some other officer.

Section 4.07. CHANCELLOR AND VICE CHANCELLORS

The Bishop shall appoint a Chancellor and may appoint such Vice-Chancellors as the Bishop deems necessary, all for a term of one year.

The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors shall have the duty to, promptly, upon request from the Bishop prepare to the Bishop an opinion of the law or procedure relating to any question of law or legal procedure relating to the affairs of the Diocese, or any Parish.

The Vice-Chancellors shall assist the Chancellor and act under the Chancellor's supervision. In the absence or disability of the Chancellor, the Bishop may designate one of the Vice-Chancellors to act.

Section 4.08. HISTORIOGRAPHER

The Bishop may appoint without necessity for confirmation an Historiographer to serve at the pleasure of the Bishop. As the historian of the Diocese, the Historiographer shall prepare and file with the Registrar accurate records, or copies thereof of important Diocesan events.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE I**

Section 4.09. STANDING COMMITTEE

The annual Convention shall elect by ballot a Standing Committee consisting of four members of the clergy and four adult communicants in good standing for no more than two consecutive terms of three years each as provided in Title I, Canon 6.

Section 4.10. DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The annual Convention shall elect members of the Diocesan Council as required under the provisions of Title I, Canon 7.

Section 4.11. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Bishop shall appoint members of a Nominating Committee subject to confirmation by the Diocesan Council, to assist in nominating persons for appropriate offices, to be elected by the annual Convention, and to assist in the conduct and tally of elections and voting at a Convention. The term of office for members of the Nominating Committee shall be from the time of appointment until the conclusion of the next subsequent annual Convention. No one who is a candidate for elective office shall serve on the Nominating Committee.

**CANON 5
DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION
AND PROVINCIAL SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES**

Section 5.01. ELECTION OF DEPUTIES AND ALTERNATES TO GENERAL CONVENTION

The annual Convention shall elect by ballot, not later than the next year preceding any General Convention, eight deputies to the General Convention, being four members of the clergy and four adult lay communicants in good standing together with an equal number of alternate deputies having like qualifications.

The four members of the clergy and four adult lay communicants in good standing first receiving a simple majority of the votes cast, shall be declared elected deputies. An election shall then be held for alternate deputies. The four members of the clergy and four adult lay communicants in good standing receiving the highest number of the votes cast, shall be declared elected alternate deputies. Alternate deputies are to be ranked in the order of their election.

Section 5.02. PROVINCIAL SYNOD

Every three years the annual Convention shall elect by ballot one member of the clergy and two adult lay communicants in good standing to serve as Diocesan representatives on the Provincial Synod for a period of three years. At the same time one member of the clergy and two adult lay communicants in good standing shall be elected to serve as alternate Diocesan representatives on the Provincial Synod for a period of three years. One representative,

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE I**

either clerical or lay, must be a deputy to General Convention.

Section 5.03. DUTIES

It shall be the duty of the Deputies to the General Convention and Provincial Synod to notify the Bishop and the Secretary of the Diocesan Convention at least three weeks before the session of the General Convention or Provincial Synod, as the case may be, whether or not they will attend the same; and it shall be the duty of the Bishop and Secretary, in case any deputies decline to attend such session, to notify the alternate deputies consecutively as provided in Canon 5, Section 5.01, above, of the vacancies as they occur, and to see that they are filled accordingly by some alternate deputy. If any vacancy shall occur in the delegation from the Diocese during a session of the General Convention or of the Provincial Synod, the Bishop, with the concurrence of such deputies or representatives as may be present, may appoint to fill such vacancy any person possessing the qualifications necessary for a deputy or representative, with preference to alternates present.

**CANON 6
THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

Section 6.01. COMPOSITION

In 2011, and every third year thereafter, one member of the clergy and two confirmed adult communicants shall be elected by the annual Convention, for three-year terms. In 2012, and every third year thereafter, one member of the clergy and one confirmed adult communicant shall be elected by the annual Convention, for three-year terms. In 2013, and every third year thereafter, two members of the clergy and one adult communicant in good standing, shall be elected by the annual Convention for terms of three years as terms expire. No person in the ordination process may serve on the Standing Committee.

Vacancies shall be filled at the next annual Convention by election for the remainder of the unexpired term, in addition to the positions elected as provided, above.

Section 6.02. ORGANIZATION

The Standing Committee shall elect at its first meeting following the annual Diocesan Convention a member to be president, a member to be vice-president and a member to be secretary. A majority shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6.03. EXPENSES

All necessary expenses incurred by members of the Standing Committee in attending its sessions shall be paid by the Treasurer from the General Fund.

Section 6.04. POWERS

During the interval between annual Conventions, the Standing Committee, by and with the approval of the Bishop, shall have the power to fill by appointment, any vacancy in any elective or appointive office of the Diocese, except as otherwise provided by Canon. Such appointment will be for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 6.05. DUTIES

The Standing Committee shall have the duty to:

- (a) Call a special Convention when there is no Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan.
- (b) Investigate and make a recommendation to the Bishop regarding any matter of difference arising between a member of the clergy and a congregation or Vestry, which matter is first referred to the Standing Committee by the Ecclesiastical Authority. Such recommendation shall be binding upon the Bishop's approval.
- (c) Preserve in a book belonging to the Diocese, correct minutes of all proceedings of the Committee which shall be signed by the secretary and countersigned by the president. Such record shall be at all times subject to inspection by the Ecclesiastical Authority and a summary thereof shall be presented at the annual Convention next following.
- (d) Within 30 days following a meeting of the Standing Committee, a copy of the minutes of that meeting (whether or not yet approved as presented or corrected) shall be provided to each member of the Diocesan staff and to each member of the Diocesan Council. These minutes may be provided by electronic means.

Section 6.06. RECUSAL

The clergy or any member of a Parish involved in any matter pending before the Standing Committee shall recuse himself or herself from discussion and vote on that matter. In addition, no clergy or lay person who is connected to a Parish implementing a plan to restore congregational health or connected to a congregation undergoing a dissolution will be eligible for election/appointment to Standing Committee and if that

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designation occurs during a member's term their resignation would be required.

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**CANON 7
THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

Section 7.01. COMPOSITION

The Diocesan Council shall be composed of the Bishop, a designated youth representative, the Chairperson of each Deanery Convocation, and two additional persons nominated by each Deanery and elected by annual Convention. The Bishop shall have the authority to appoint the designated youth representative on an annual basis or as vacancies arise. Each Deanery Delegation to Diocesan Council must include at least one lay person and at least one member of the clergy. The Chancellor and the Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* members of the Diocesan Council without vote.

Section 7.02. ELECTION

In the years in which a full term for Chairpersons of Deanery convocation begins, no other three-year term members will be elected to Council. In every other year, each convocation of the Deaneries shall nominate and the annual Convention shall elect one person, lay or clerical, to serve a three-year term on Diocesan Council. Members so elected to a three-year term shall not be eligible to succeed themselves more than once.

Vacancies between annual Conventions shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by election of the same Deanery convocation from which the member causing the vacancy was nominated. All persons elected to fill vacancies shall be confirmed by election at the next annual Convention.

Section 7.03. OFFICERS

The Bishop shall normally serve as presiding officer. The Council shall elect from its ranks annually a Vice President. A secretary, who need not be a member of the Diocesan Council, may be likewise elected.

Section 7.04. FUNCTION

The Diocesan Council shall function as the executive committee of the Diocese acting with the authority of and in the name of the Diocese between meetings of the annual Convention and in accordance with such direction and limits as may be set forth by the Diocese in its own articles of incorporation or by such resolutions or canons that may be passed by the Convention.

Section 7.05. DUTIES OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council shall:

- (a) Meet on sufficient occasions during the year on call of the presiding officer to enable it to carry out its function and duties;

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- (b) Have general supervisory oversight over the work of all commissions of the Diocese;
- (c) Develop strategy, policy and work in the name of the Diocese in conjunction with the Bishop and all other agencies of the Diocese;
- (d) Receive, control, and expend through the Treasurer, all monies of the General Fund, for purposes designated by the Budget adopted by Convention, and as permitted and required by Title I, Canon 9 of these Canons; and
- (e) Submit a written annual report of its work to the annual Convention.
- (f) The Diocesan Council shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, a system of retirement pensions for all lay employees of the Diocese, commensurate with the Canons and directives of the General Convention. All such programs shall be reviewed annually in light of changing economic conditions and needs of such employees. The Diocese also recognizes the right of lay employees to enter into individual or collective bargaining with the Diocese on any economic issue.
- (g) Within 30 days following a meeting of the Diocesan Council, a copy of the minutes of that meeting (whether or not yet approved as presented or corrected) shall be provided to each member of the Diocesan staff and to each member of the Standing Committee. These minutes may be provided by electronic means.

Section 7.06. COUNCIL MEETINGS TO BE OPEN AND PUBLIC

All meetings of the Council shall be held in open session, with time, date, and place being announced by appropriate means to the entire Diocese, and members thereof, clerical and lay, shall be invited and urged to attend such meetings. Executive sessions shall be permitted upon two-thirds vote of all Council members present and voting for the considerations of personnel matters. The ultimate resolution of such personnel matters shall be reported and ratified by vote in open meeting.

**CANON 8
DEANERIES AND CONVOCATIONS**

Section 8.01. COMPOSITION

The Diocese shall be divided into five Deaneries, the same to be determined by the Diocesan Council.

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Section 8.02. PURPOSE AND POWERS

The Deanery provides a vehicle for Parishes and new congregations in proximity to each other to undertake projects and activities in furtherance of their respective missions and the mission and vision of the Diocese, which would be too difficult for one Parish or new congregation to undertake alone, or which would so drain the resources of one Parish or new congregation as to make the effort impracticable.

The Deanery Convocation shall be responsible for carrying out the following duties:

- (a) Promoting and aiding in the implementation of cooperative ministries among the congregations in the Deanery;
- (b) Identifying and communicating program and ministry ideas to the appropriate Diocesan Commission;
- (c) Aiding Diocesan commissions in the implementation of programs and ministries in the Deanery;
- (d) Raising funds as necessary to its activities;
- (e) Providing a forum for discussion of upcoming Diocesan Convention business and disseminating and responding to Diocesan communications relating to Convention concerns;
- (f) Proposing names as required for membership on Diocesan Commissions; and
- (g) Performing such other duties assigned by these Canons or the Constitution.

Section 8.03. MEMBERS

The membership of each Deanery Convocation shall consist of the canonically resident clergy in that Deanery, the lay delegates to annual Convention from each congregation contained within the Deanery and the youth delegates to the annual Convention from congregations contained within that Deanery. Each Deanery Convocation may determine additional Deanery membership as desired.

Section 8.04. MEETINGS

Each Deanery Convocation shall meet not less than three times each year and such additional times as may be deemed necessary by the Chairperson or at the request of not less than 8 members of the convocation.

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Section 8.05. OFFICERS

Each Deanery Convocation shall elect the following officers:

- (a) A Chairperson to serve for a three-year term beginning immediately after the conclusion of the annual Convention commencing in 2012. The Chairperson may be lay or clerical, and shall be elected by secret ballot by the Deanery Convocation. In case of a vacancy, the Deanery Convocation shall fill the vacancy in the same manner for the remainder of the unexpired term. The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Deanery Convocation, and shall carry out such duties and communications as the Deanery Convocation or the Bishop may assign.
- (b) A Vice-Chairperson, who shall preside at convocation meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.
- (c) Either the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson must be a member of the clergy.
- (d) A Secretary and a Treasurer, who each shall perform the customary duties of their respective offices.

Diocesan Council members from the Deanery shall be nominated by the Deanery Convocation, as provided by Canon 7, at a meeting held no more than 60 days, and no less than 30 days, prior to the annual Convention.

**CANON 9
THE GENERAL FUND**

Section 9.01. PURPOSE

The General Fund shall include all unrestricted funds of the Diocese and shall be used for the share of the Diocese in the General Church Program of The Episcopal Church as adopted by the General Convention, support of Diocesan Parishes, new congregations and Commissions, the stipend and expenses of the Bishop and the salaries and expenses of the Diocese.

Section 9.02. SOURCES, RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

The General Fund shall be derived from income from designated and unrestricted endowment and trust funds and from the apportionments of each congregation. All monies due or accruing to the Fund shall be paid to the Treasurer, who shall pay no monies therefrom which have not been provided for by the Budget adopted at the annual Convention, unless authorized to do so by the Diocesan Council, or by the Bishop for expenditures under \$1,000.

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Section 9.03. PARISH APPORTIONMENT

The Program and Budget of the Diocese, including its obligation to The Episcopal Church, shall be funded by an annual apportionment of each Parish based on its Net Operating Income. This income shall be the total operating income as shown on the most current annual Parochial Report.

A Parish may use as its Net Operating Income for this formula the average of the last three Parochial Reports, or the most recent Parochial Report, whichever is the smaller amount.

A Parish may then deduct from this amount the actual dollar amount of apportionment funds paid to the Diocese in the preceding year. This is the figure upon which the new apportionment is to be based.

The apportionment formula is as follows:

10% of the first \$75,000	(\$1 - \$75,000)
12% of the second \$75,000	(\$75,001 - \$150,000)
14% of the third \$75,000	(\$150,001 - \$225,000)
16% of any amount above	\$225,001

This apportionment shall be paid in twelve equal monthly payments.

The Diocesan office will inform each Parish of its apportionment in a timely manner. Each Parish will then have a maximum of 45 days to respond in writing. If a Parish believes itself to be unable to meet the apportionment it must indicate in writing why that is so. The Apportionment Review Committee will then contact the Rector/Senior Warden to meet with them and to connect them with those groups in the Diocese that are prepared to offer assistance.

If a Parish will not work in good faith with the Apportionment Review Committee and the supportive groups within the Diocese, with the goal of strengthening the Parish and meeting the apportionment goal, the Bishop and the Standing Committee will have the option of prescribing a course of action for the health of the Parish, pursuant to Title II, Canon 31.

Section 9.04. BUDGET

The Diocesan Council shall:

- (a) Be responsible for submitting to the annual Convention for approval, a balanced budget incorporating all the work and program of the Diocese. The proposed budget shall be distributed to all Convention delegates at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Convention.

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- (a) Advise the National Executive Council of the amount the Diocese intends to pay towards the National Church Program that year; and
- (b) Have the authority during the course of the year to modify the budget approved by the annual Convention in any manner it deems necessary to balance expenditures with anticipated resources.

Section 9.05. BUDGET PROCEDURE

- (a) Six months before the commencement of the next Diocesan Convention, the Diocesan Council will ask the chairs of each Diocesan commission to prepare a proposed budget for the following year and submit it to the Diocesan Council not later than four months before the commencement of the next Diocesan Convention.
- (b) A proposed budget will be prepared listing all proposed receipts and expenditures and shall be presented to the Diocesan Council not later than two months before the commencement of the next Diocesan Convention.
- (c) The Diocesan Council will review the report and initiate the process of balancing the proposed expenditures with the forecasted receipts. Not later than one month before the commencement of the next Diocesan Convention, the Diocesan Council will approve a proposed balanced budget for the following year. The proposed budget will be distributed to all Convention delegates at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Convention.

**CANON 10
THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS**

Section 10.01.

The Bishop shall appoint a Committee on Constitution and Canons to consist of such number of persons, clergy or lay, as the Bishop shall deem necessary. The Chancellor or a Vice-Chancellor shall serve as chairperson of the Committee. The members of the Committee shall serve a term commencing upon appointment by the Bishop and running through the close of the next subsequent annual Convention or until their successors are appointed.

Section 10.02. DUTIES

The Committee on Constitution and Canons shall review proposed revisions to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese referred to it by the Bishop. Such review shall be to determine the canonical propriety of said revision and the compatibility of the proposed revision with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and any other documents that may be relevant. The Committee shall report the results of such review to the Bishop, the Diocesan Council, and the annual Convention.

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**CANON 11
ELECTION OF A BISHOP**

Section 11.01. ELECTION OF A BISHOP

The election of a Bishop Diocesan, or of a Bishop Coadjutor, or of a Bishop Suffragan, shall be made at a Convention, either annual or special, as described by these Canons. If such election occurs at an annual Convention it shall be required that notice of the Convention include notice of the intent to elect such a Bishop, and that such notice be distributed to Convention delegates not less than 60 days prior to the Convention. Notification of a special Convention called for the purpose of electing a Bishop Diocesan, a Bishop Coadjutor, or a Bishop Suffragan shall be distributed to Convention delegates not less than 60 days prior to the special Convention, and such notice shall state the purpose of the special Convention.

Section 11.02. PROCEDURE

The election of a Bishop Diocesan, or of a Bishop Coadjutor, or of a Bishop Suffragan shall be in the following manner:

- (a) Nominations shall only be made as follows to the Standing Committee no later than the date specified by the Standing Committee:
 - (1) By the Search Committee appointed as directed by the Standing Committee; and
 - (2) By petition, the form of which shall be determined by the Standing Committee, signed by no less than three (3) clergy members canonically resident in no less than two (2) Deaneries and by no less than three (3) lay members in good standing of at least two (2) Deaneries. The person nominated must indicate such person's willingness to be nominated and consent in writing to the normal background checks no later than the date specified by the Standing Committee.
- (b) All nominees whose nomination has been made as set forth in subsection (a) hereof shall be eligible for election and no nominations may be made from the floor of Convention.
- (c) The members of clergy and lay delegates to Convention shall vote by ballot and by orders. A concurrence of a majority of both orders shall be necessary for an election. If in either

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order less than 60 percent of all entitled to vote are present, two-thirds of the votes of those present in that order shall be necessary to determine the election. Absent non-stipendiary members of the clergy and absent retired members of the clergy shall not be counted in determining the majority of clergy.

Section 11.03. FAILURE TO ELECT

In case of failure to elect upon any ballot as herein provided, the Convention shall continue to ballot until an election occurs or the Convention adjourns.

**CANON 12
THE BISHOP COADJUTOR**

The Bishop Coadjutor, if any, shall be *ex-officio* a member of all Diocesan commissions of which the Bishop Diocesan is *ex-officio* a member. In the absence or disability of the Bishop Diocesan to act, the Bishop Coadjutor shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the Bishop Diocesan prescribed in these Canons.

**CANON 13
COMMITTEES**

The Bishop may establish committees whose duties, membership and duration shall be designated from time to time by the Bishop with the advice and consent of Diocesan Council.

**CANON 14
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

The Commission on Ministry shall be appointed by the Bishop. The Commission shall consist of nine members appointed for three year terms from members of the laity, deacons, and presbyters. The duties of the Commission will be to advise and assist the Bishop in the implementation of Title III of the Canons of the General Convention. No person in the ordination process may serve on the Commission on Ministry.

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PARISHES

**CANON 20
EQUALITY OF CONGREGATIONS**

Section 20.01. EQUALITY OF CONGREGATIONS

All congregations, financially self-supporting or otherwise, shall be equal with respect to the Canons of the Diocese.

**CANON 21
ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CONGREGATIONS**

Section 21.01. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CONGREGATIONS

- (a) On recommendation of the Bishop and Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council may establish a new congregation, subject, however, to the provisions of Section 21.04 of this Canon.
- (b) If the gathering place for worship of the proposed new congregation be within ten miles of the church of any Parish in union with the Convention, the Bishop and Diocesan Council shall consult with the Rector and Vestry of each such Parish church before establishing the new congregation.
- (c) An application for establishment of a new congregation shall be made in writing to the Bishop. which application shall begin with a letter addressed to the Bishop, in form substantially saying:

"We, the subscribers, baptized, adult persons, residents of the town of _____ in the State of Michigan, request, pursuant to Title II, Canon 21, Section 21.01 of the Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan that a new congregation be established at _____, to be known as _____. We promise obedience to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan, and to the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

The following items shall be attached to the application:

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- (1) A description of the group (which may be identified by native language, ethnic group, geographic location, or other affinity) to be served by the proposed new congregation;
- (2) An explanation of the reasons why such group would be better served by the establishment of the proposed new congregation than by other existing parishes;
- (3) A description of the physical facilities to be used by the proposed new congregation;
- (4) A description of the arrangements proposed for taking charge of the spiritual affairs of the proposed new congregation;
- (5) A description of the relationship contemplated between the sponsoring Parish or Diocese and the proposed new congregation, including the arrangements for supervision of the financial affairs of the new congregation and any expectations for eventual self-sufficiency of the proposed new congregation; and,
- (6) An affirmation to the effect that the proposed new congregation will, if established, obey the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan, and the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

The application shall include any additional information the Bishop may require to determine the need, and the adequacy of the arrangements, for such proposed new congregation.

- (d) After establishment of a new congregation under this Canon, the Bishop shall appoint a presbyter to have charge of the spiritual affairs of the new congregation under direction of the Bishop. The presbyter's salary shall be fixed within the approved Diocesan guidelines for clergy compensation. A new congregation established under this Canon shall not place itself under the charge, temporary or permanent, of any person without the consent of the Bishop Diocesan.
- (e) The Bishop and presbyter shall appoint an advisory committee from the members of the new congregation to serve until the new congregation holds its first annual meeting.
- (f) A meeting of the new congregation shall be held annually during the month of January on such date as may be fixed by the by-laws. The first annual meeting will be set by the Bishop or by the presbyter in charge of the congregation. The first annual meeting shall adopt bylaws; and the first and each subsequent annual meeting shall be held for the following purposes:

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- (1) The election of wardens, secretary, treasurer and not more than six other persons having the qualifications of voters, to constitute the advisory committee;
 - (2) Consideration and action upon recommendations of the presbyter or advisory committee concerning secular business of the new congregation;
 - (3) Reception of reports;
 - (4) Consideration and action upon proposed amendments to the by-laws; and,
 - (5) If admitted into union with the convention, election of the authorized number of lay delegates to represent the new congregation at the convention, as determined according to Title I, Canon 3, Section 3.04 of these Canons, together with the same number of alternates. Delegates must have the same qualifications as prescribed for delegates from parishes. If not so elected, the advisory committee may appoint delegates and alternates to the convention.
- (g) Special meetings of the new congregation may be called by the presbyter or advisory committee for purposes to be stated in the notice of the meeting.
- (h) Notices of the annual and all special meetings shall be given in accordance with Title II, Canon 22, Sections 22.03 and 22.04 of these Canons.
- (i) Qualification of voters is the same as provided in Title II, Canon 22, Section 22.05, of these Canons. The wardens, secretary and treasurer shall have such duties as conform as nearly as practicable to those of the corresponding officers of a Parish. The treasurer shall give bond under the circumstances and in the form required by the Canons of this Diocese and of the General Convention, satisfactory to the Bishop and Standing Committee.
- (j) New congregations shall be incorporated under the Michigan statutes permitting incorporation of Protestant Episcopal Churches when they show evidence of being financially self-sufficient for at least one year. Title to all personal property given to or purchased by or for new congregations established under this Canon, and to monies contributed for operating purposes, shall vest in the treasurer of the new congregation and his or her successors in office, in trust for the new congregation, subject to use by the presbyter in his or her canonical administration.

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- (l) The Diocese of Western Michigan shall hold title to all real estate given to, or purchased by or for, a new congregation established under this Canon. Donations of real estate for the benefit of a new congregation shall not be accepted except by consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan, as provided by Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.02 of these Canons.
- (m) National League Title to endowments and invested funds given or bequeathed for the use or benefit of a new congregation established under this Canon shall be held by the Diocese of Western Michigan, which shall administer the same for the purposes directed in the instrument of gift or trust, unless some other Trustee shall be named in such instrument and shall accept the trust.
- (n) When a new congregation is replaced by an incorporated Parish, such Parish shall be deemed the lawful successor of the new congregation and all property held in trust for the new congregation shall be conveyed to such Parish, provided such conveyance is not inhibited by the provisions of the trust, and provided further, that the provisions of Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.02 of these Canons are complied with.
- (o) Before any church, Parish house or other buildings shall be built by such a new congregation, or structural alterations made to any existing building, satisfactory drawings thereof shall be submitted to and approved by the Bishop Diocesan and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan, in conformance with Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.02 of these Canons.

Section 21.02. SUPERVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The financial affairs of the new congregation shall be supervised by the Diocese.

Section 21.03. DISSOLUTION OF A NEW CONGREGATION

On recommendation of the Bishop, the Diocesan Council may close a new congregation after giving the officers of the new congregation a reasonable opportunity to be heard. In such case, the real estate and invested funds held by, or for, the Diocese of Western Michigan for the benefit of such new congregation shall be administered for the benefit of the evangelical work of the Diocese and may be leased, mortgaged, sold or otherwise disposed of, with the advice and consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee, as provided by Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.03 of these Canons. All personal property and funds in the custody of the new congregation treasurer shall be turned over, in such case, to the Treasurer of the Diocese, to be used under the direction of the Bishop and Diocesan Council for the evangelical work of the Diocese.

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Section 21.04. CHANGE FROM NEW CONGREGATION STATUS TO PARISH STATUS

- (a) To become a Parish, a new congregation must make an application to the Bishop, which application shall begin with a letter addressed to the Bishop, in form substantially saying:

"We, the subscribers, baptized, adult persons, members of the new congregation of _____, request that the status of the new congregation be changed to a Parish, to be known as _____. We continue to promise obedience to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan, and to the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

The application shall provide the basis by which:

- (1) A need exists for the establishment of such a Parish;
- (2) A building has been acquired, or the use of a building provided.
The following items shall be attached to the application:
 - (3) A copy of the congregation's proposed, or existing, Articles of Incorporation;
 - (4) The congregation's application for, or acceptance of, incorporation under the laws of the State of Michigan permitting incorporation as an Ecclesiastical corporation for Protestant Episcopal Churches;
 - (5) A copy of the congregation's by-laws;
 - (6) Documentation establishing the congregation's tax-exempt status;
 - (7) A copy of the previous year's audited financial records of the congregation; and,
 - (8) Any additional information the Bishop may require.
- (b) If the location of the place of worship of the proposed Parish is within ten miles of the church of any existing congregation in union with this Diocese, the Bishop and the Diocesan Council shall obtain the consent from the Rector and Vestry of each such existing congregation before approving the change of status of the new congregation to a Parish.

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- (c) The Bishop shall consult with the Diocesan Council and the Standing Committee regarding the merits of the application, and then shall submit a recommendation to Convention.

Section 21.05. APPROVAL BY CONVENTION

If, after the recommendation required by Title II, Canon 21.03 (c), above, the next annual Convention of the Diocese shall approve the same, the congregation shall thereby be admitted into union with the Diocese. If such recommendation shall not receive approval of the annual Convention of the Diocese, the annual Convention shall by resolution determine the disposition of the new congregation.

Section 21.06. CERTIFICATE OF UNION

Upon approval of the recommendation by the annual Convention, as provided by Title II, Canon 21, Section 21.04, above, the Bishop Diocesan shall issue a certificate of union. The Bishop's certificate that said union has been effected shall be retroactive to the close of the Convention which approved the recommendation, and shall be final and conclusive.

**CANON 22
PARISH MEETINGS**

Section 22.01. BY-LAWS

All by-laws adopted by any congregation shall be consistent with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.

Section 22.02. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

A Parish meeting shall be held annually in each congregation within the month of January. Such annual meeting shall:

- (a) Elect qualified adult communicants in good standing to the Vestry;
- (b) Consider and act upon recommendations of the Vestry concerning secular business of the Parish;
- (c) Receive reports of the Rector, secretary, treasurer, and other officers of the Parish and of its organizations; and,
- (d) Consider and act upon proposed amendments, if any, to the articles of incorporation or bylaws of the Parish.

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Section 22.03. NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice of the date, hour and place of holding each annual meeting shall be given at a regular service on each of the two Sundays next preceding such meeting, by the Rector, or in the Rector's absence by a warden; or notice may be given with like effect by such publishing, posting, mailing or electronic means as the Vestry may direct.

Section 22.04. SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Special meetings of a congregation may be called by:

- (a) The Rector; or,
- (b) Written consent of two-thirds of the Vestry; or,
- (c) Written consents of a majority of the Vestry if the Rector approves; or,
- (d) Consent of a majority of the Vestry if there be no Rector.

Notice of a special meeting shall state the purpose or purposes thereof and may be given in the same manner as notice of an annual Parish meeting.

Section 22.05. QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

At all Parish meetings, whether annual or special, the right to vote shall be limited to baptized persons:

- (a) not less than 16 years of age,
- (b) whose baptisms have been duly recorded in said Parish,
- (c) who for a period of not less than six months preceding have been regular worshiper in the Parish; and,
- (d) who for not less than six months preceding have been bona fide regular contributors to its support, according to the method used in the Parish. Physical disability or absence from the Parish during the preceding six months shall not disqualify an otherwise qualified voter.

Before any vote has been taken, the presiding officer shall state to the persons present the foregoing qualifications of voters. The Rector and the wardens shall be judges of the qualifications of voters. If a warden is absent, the presiding officer may appoint a member of the Vestry to act in place of the warden. The judges of an election shall not permit an unqualified person to vote. Proxy ballots shall not be accepted.

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Section 22.06. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Unless otherwise provided by by-law or resolution, the presiding officer shall control the order of business. The presiding officer may appoint tellers and other assistants. The secretary shall preserve a list of the names of all persons who voted for Vestry members. The list shall be signed by the judges of election.

**CANON 23
THE VESTRY: ITS OFFICERS, MEETINGS, AND DUTIES**

Section 23.01. ORGANIZATION OF VESTRY

The Vestry of a Parish shall consist of not less than six nor more than fifteen lay members. Within these limits the number may be fixed by by-law. Members of the Vestry shall be adult communicants in good standing as defined by Title I, Canon 17, Sections 2 and 3 of the General Convention, and shall be qualified voters of the congregation. Vestry members may not be related to or reside in the same household as the Rector or any other Vestry member.

The by-laws of a Parish shall provide for multi-year Vestry terms, arranged so that an equal number of members are elected each year. An election of Vestry members shall be preceded by nomination. No voter shall vote for more candidates than the total number of Vestry members to be elected. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect.

Immediately following the annual meeting (unless otherwise provided by by-law) the newly constituted Vestry shall meet and elect for a term of one year:

- (a) a senior warden,
- (b) a junior warden,
- (c) a secretary,
- (d) a treasurer, and
- (e) the authorized number of lay delegates to represent the Parish at the Convention, as determined according to Title I, Canon 3, Section 3.04, together with the same number of alternates.

The secretary and the treasurer shall be *ex-officio* the secretary and treasurer, respectively, of the Parish, unless otherwise provided by by-law.

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Section 23.02. QUALIFICATIONS

The wardens shall be Vestry members. The secretary and treasurer shall be qualified voters of the congregation who may or may not be members of the Vestry. The delegates and alternates shall be qualified voters of the congregation.

Section 23.03. VESTRY MEETINGS

Unless otherwise provided by by-law, the Vestry shall meet as often as once in each month in ten months of the calendar year at such day, place and hour as shall be fixed by resolution or by-law. Notice of a stated meeting, although desirable, shall not be legally necessary. The Rector, when present, shall preside at all Vestry meetings but shall have no vote except in the case of a tie. In the Rector's absence from the meeting, one of the wardens, if present, shall preside. In the case of a vacant cure, the Senior Warden, if present, shall preside, and if the Senior Warden not be present, the Junior Warden shall preside.

A special meeting of the Vestry may be called by the Rector at any time, upon notice given in any practical manner to each Vestry member. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated as a part of the notice. In a vacancy of the Rectorate, a special meeting may be called by either warden at any time upon notice given in any practical manner to each other Vestry member.

No notice of any meeting at which the Rector and all members of the Vestry are present shall be necessary. Any or all members may waive notice in writing either before or after the meeting has been held. All waivers of notice shall be kept on file by the secretary.

A majority of the members of the Vestry, not counting the Rector, when duly assembled, shall constitute a quorum. Less than a quorum may transact business if there be no objections, but any business so transacted is subject to ratification at the next regular meeting of the Vestry.

Section 23.04 DUTIES OF VESTRY

The Vestry shall have the duty to:

- (a) Be helpful to the Rector;
- (b) Prepare, approve and present a balanced budget to the Annual Meeting of the Parish;
- (c) Employ and fix the compensation of all employees of the Parish provided that no person shall be employed or retained except by and with the approval of the Rector;
- (d) Provide maintenance for the Rector and such compensation as shall be agreed upon for employees of the Parish;

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- (e) Elect and call a Rector in conformance with Title III, Canon 9, Section 3(a) of the Canons of the General Convention, and under procedures adopted by the Bishop Diocesan, in consultation with the Standing Committee;
- (f) Have charge, care and management of all property and temporal affairs of the Parish;
- (g) Supervise collection, control, and disbursement of all monies held by or for the benefit of the Parish;
- (h) Keep all buildings, structures, and tangible property of the Parish adequately insured against loss;
- (i) Assure that all treasurers and custodians of funds (other than banking institutions) obtained, contributed, held, or accumulated for the benefit of the Parish, or of any of its activities, shall be adequately bonded;
- (j) Assure that all treasurers and custodians of funds maintain records sufficient to enable proper accounting and audits;
- (k) Deposit all trust funds, permanent funds and all securities, which come under their control, using the Parish name and tax identification number, with a national bank, a state bank, the Diocesan Council pursuant to Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.05, or some other custodian approved by the Finance Committee of the Diocese, under a suitable deposit arrangement requiring not less than two signatures upon all checks and orders for withdrawals;
- (l) Manage trust funds and income therefrom strictly in accordance with the lawful express requirements of the instruments creating the trust;
- (m) Sell and convey unneeded personal property of the Parish when deemed for the best interest of the Parish to do so;
- (n) Pursuant to a vote of the congregation, at a meeting duly called, sell and convey real estate of the Parish, when deemed for the best interest of the Parish to do so, but only pursuant to written consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee first obtained. Acting within the limitations upon debt contained in Title II, Canon 27, and in compliance with the requirements of that Canon, to do any of the following acts, namely to:
 - (1) Cause necessary repairs to be made upon the Parish property;
 - (2) purchase necessary furnishings and equipment;

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- (3) Mortgage real estate when deemed for the best interest of the Parish to do so, but only pursuant to written consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee first obtained; and
- (4) acquire appropriate real estate; and, on real estate held in fee simple by the Parish pursuant to consent of the congregation given at a Parish meeting duly called and held, take down and remove or alter existing buildings, and erect, construct, or reconstruct, a church building, chapel, Rectory, and/or Parish house. This subsection shall not be held to apply to alterations which do not involve major structural changes to the buildings in question.

The foregoing duties of the Vestry shall always be subject to the authority of the Rector to direct the spiritual activities of the congregation subject to the Bishop or other person acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority and to Canon Law and the Rector's right to possession, use and control of the property of the Parish as provided by the canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Section 23.05. DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF VESTRY

- (a) **WARDENS.** In case the congregation be without a Rector, the wardens shall preside at meetings of the congregation and of the Vestry, shall provide public worship as circumstances shall permit, and shall perform the duties required by Title I, Canon 6 and Title III, Canon 9 of the Canons of the General Convention.
- (b) **SECRETARY.** The secretary shall keep correct minutes of all meetings of the Vestry and of the congregation and shall sign the same and deliver the same to his or her successor. The records of the congregation and the Vestry at all times shall be safely and permanently kept open to inspection by the Bishop, the Rector, and all qualified voters of the congregation. The secretary shall be the custodian of the bond of the treasurer. The secretary shall assure that proper timely notice is given of all meetings of the Vestry and of the congregation.
- (c) **TREASURER.** The treasurer shall follow the Episcopal Church *Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs*. The treasurer shall report to the Vestry at each stated meeting thereof, and whenever requested, all receipts and disbursements and the condition of the all Parish cash and investment balances. The treasurer shall make a like report to the annual Parish meeting. The treasurer shall give bond for the faithful performance of his or her duties. The treasurer's records shall be and open to inspection by the Bishop and shall be kept at the Parish office and promptly delivered to the treasurer's successor in office.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE II**

**CANON 24
REGISTERS AND PAROCHIAL REPORTS**

Section 24.01. DUTIES

It shall be the duty of all Rectors, vicars, and other clergy of the Diocese to record in the appropriate register all the official acts listed in Title I, Canon 6, of the Canons of the General Convention. In the case of a vacant cure, the senior warden shall perform this duty, and if the senior warden should not be available, the junior warden shall perform this duty.

Section 24.02. REPORTS

A report of every congregation and of every bishop, presbyter, and deacon not officially attached to a congregation shall be prepared annually as required by and in the manner set forth by Title I, Canon 6, of the Canons of the General Convention.

**CANON 25
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CONGREGATIONS**

Section 25.01. ELIGIBILITY

Any congregation in union with the Diocese may make application for financial assistance from the Diocese. Such application shall be made through the Diocesan Council or such committee(s) as it may designate.

Section 25.02. PROCEDURE

The Diocesan Council shall establish and administer a process whereby congregations may apply for financial assistance from the Diocese. Such process shall be communicated to all congregations in the Diocese in an appropriate and timely manner and shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Dates and deadlines for applications and/or steps within the application process.
- (b) Method of reporting from the applying congregation of:
 - (1) Conduct of a stewardship program for the support of the congregation and the Diocese;
 - (2) Activity and worship in the congregation in the preceding year; and,
 - (3) Expectations for the future of the congregation.
- (c) Method of accountability for use of assistance fund.

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Section 25.03. FINAL APPROVAL

The final decision on all financial assistance grants shall be made by the Diocesan Council.

Section 25.04. FUNDING

Funds for financial aid to congregations within the Diocese shall be identified by the annual Convention as a part of the budget of the General Fund as described in Title I, Canon 9, Section 9.04, in a line item entitled, "Aid to Congregations." In any given fiscal year, the total of all financial assistance granted by the Diocesan Council shall not exceed the total of the amount allocated for "Aid to Congregations."

**CANON 26
DISSOLUTION OF CONGREGATIONS**

Section 26.01. DISSOLUTION

Whenever any congregation shall choose to dissolve or be determined by the Bishop and Diocesan Council to be virtually extinct, the Convention may exclude it from union with the Diocese, but without prejudice to subsequent application for readmission in the manner prescribed by Title II, Canon 21 for original admission.

In such case the real estate and invested funds that may be held by the Diocese or the Bishop Whittemore Foundation for the benefit of such congregation shall be administered for the benefit of the general missionary work of the Diocese and may be leased, mortgaged, sold or otherwise disposed of by the Bishop and the Diocesan Council pursuant to Title II, Canon 21, Section 21.03 of these Canons and pursuant to the requirements of the Canons of the General Convention. All personal property and funds in the custody of the treasurer of the congregation shall be turned over to the Treasurer, to be used under the direction of the Bishop and the Diocesan Council for the general missionary work of the Diocese.

**Section 26.02. REORGANIZATION OF CONGREGATION AFTER
DISSOLUTION**

A dissolved congregation may be reorganized by the same procedure prescribed in these Canons. After reorganization has been completed, the reorganized congregation shall be entitled to the accrued investment funds derived from the predecessor congregation. The invested funds then continuing to be held by the Diocesan Council, and not in the meantime disposed of, shall be held for the benefit of such reorganized congregation, subject to such encumbrances as may have been created thereon in the meantime by action of the Diocesan Council or otherwise.

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**CANON 27
CONGREGATIONAL INDEBTEDNESS**

Section 27.01. LIMITATIONS ON DEBT

No indebtedness shall be incurred by any congregation without the approval of both the Bishop and the Standing Committee, except:

- (a) Indebtedness for permanent improvements, replacement or additions to real estate or equipment, where the amount of such indebtedness, plus indebtedness of every kind already existing, shall not exceed 150% of the average annual receipts of such congregation during the three years then last preceding;
- (b) Indebtedness for current expenses where the amount of such indebtedness, plus all indebtedness heretofore incurred for current expenses and still existing, shall not exceed 20% of the total current receipts of such congregation during the preceding fiscal year; and the payment of all such indebtedness shall be provided for in the budget of the next ensuing fiscal year with reasonable expectation of its payment out of the receipts of the next two years; or,
- (c) Indebtedness incurred to finance existing loans, provided the total amount thereof be not increased.

In computing receipts under subsections (a) and (b) hereof, income from endowments, devises and bequests available for general purposes may be included; but principal and income not available for payment of debts, and receipts earmarked for non-parochial purposes shall be excluded.

Section 27.02. PLAN OF PAYMENT REQUIRED

Where approval of proposed indebtedness is required, the application therefore shall be accompanied by a plan of payment, and such approval shall not be granted in any event unless such a plan is deemed feasible by the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Section 27.03. EXISTING INDEBTEDNESS

This Canon shall not apply to the refinancing of existing indebtedness, provided the total existing indebtedness is not increased.

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TITLE II**

**CANON 28
AUDITS AND INSURANCE**

Section 28.01. AUDITS

As soon as may be after the close of each fiscal year, the accounts of all officers handling funds, whether of the Diocese or its auxiliaries, or of congregations and their auxiliaries, shall be audited in accordance with the Episcopal Church *Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs*. Copies of audit reports shall be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer for review by September 1 following the close of the fiscal year.

Section 28.02. INSURANCE

- (a) All buildings and tangible personal property, owned or held in trust by the Diocese or by any congregation, shall be insured under the Diocesan Insurance program; including but not limited to hazards to be insured against, amount and sufficiency of such insurance for each congregation, and insurance carrier or carriers, shall be as prescribed by the Diocesan Council. Each congregation insured under this program shall pay to the Treasurer its fair share of the cost of the total Insurance program, which fair share shall be determined by the Diocesan Council.

- (b) Each congregation shall provide health insurance through the denominational health plan for all eligible clergy and eligible lay employees.

**CANON 29
MINIMUM COMPENSATION STANDARDS FOR CLERGY**

Section 29.01. ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS

There is hereby established a minimum standard of compensation for all members of the clergy exercising a full-time, parochial, stipendiary ministry in the Diocese of Western Michigan. Compensation is defined as stipend, housing/housing allowance, and utilities.

The establishment of a minimum compensation standard is not meant to prevent a congregation from providing additional forms of compensation.

Section 29.02. ADOPTION, SCALE

The Diocesan Council shall adopt an annual Clergy compensation minimum for the next ensuing fiscal year. For those who have been ordained more than one year, the minimum standard shall be increased by an amount, to be determined by the Diocesan Council, for each year of ordained ministry beyond the first year to a limit of ten years.

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Section 29.03. FAILURE TO COMPENSATE

In any case where compensation provided is below the minimum standard the position will be regarded as less than a full-time position. The Bishop, or the Bishop's representative, shall assist in negotiating a mutually agreeable solution.

Section 29.04. OTHER BENEFITS

Consideration for adequate reimbursement shall also be given by vestries in the areas of:

- (a) Reimbursement of automobile expenses;
- (b) Continuing education; and
- (c) Other professional expenses.

**CANON 30
PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS**

Section 30.01.

Except upon mandatory resignation by reason of age, a Rector may not resign as Rector of a Parish without the consent of its Vestry, nor may any Rector canonically or lawfully elected and in charge of a Parish be removed therefrom by the Vestry against the Rector's will, except as hereinafter provided.

Section 30.02.

If for any urgent reason a Rector or Vestry desires a dissolution of the pastoral relation, and the parties cannot agree, either party may give notice in writing to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. Whenever the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, it shall request the Bishop of another Diocese to perform the duties of the Bishop under this Canon.

Section 30.03.

The provisions of Title III, Canon 9, Section 12 of the Canons of the General Convention apply to pastoral relations in this Diocese.

The Bishop and the Standing Committee will have the option of prescribing a course of action for the health of the Parish, pursuant to Title II, Canon 31.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE II**

**CANON 31
RESTORING CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH**

Section 31.01. PURPOSE

This Canon is intended to address the exceptional case of a Parish whose continued viability as a self-sustaining entity appears to be in jeopardy, such that a degree of Episcopal intervention or oversight is needed as a means of restoring the health of the congregation. It is not intended to derogate from the traditional right and responsibility of Parishes in the Episcopal Church to govern themselves. In those cases where an inquiry is initiated, and where a plan to restore congregational health is implemented is declared, it shall be the duty and obligation of all parties to strive to accomplish the speedy end or substantial amelioration of the conditions that led to the inquiry or to the implementation of a plan to restore congregational health, and to restore the congregation to spiritual and temporal health.

Section 31.02. INITIATION OF INQUIRY

An inquiry by the Ecclesiastical Authority leading to the implementation of a plan to restore congregational health under this Canon may be initiated only in one of the following ways:

The Bishop, believing that one or more of the conditions in Section 4 may exist, may initiate such inquiry;

The Standing Committee by vote of two-thirds of its members, believing that one or more of the conditions in Section 4 may exist, may petition the Bishop to initiate such inquiry; or if the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it may initiate such inquiry by unanimous vote;

The Rector, both Wardens, or a majority of the Vestry of such Parish, believing that one or more of the conditions in Section 31.04 may exist, may petition the Ecclesiastical Authority to initiate such inquiry.

Section 31.03. INQUIRY BY ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY

Upon proper initiation as provided in Section 31.02, the Ecclesiastical Authority, either itself or through persons it may designate, shall conduct such inquiry into the condition of the Parish as it deems appropriate. Such inquiry shall include conversations with persons in the Parish, and may also include written or oral questions to the Parish or members thereof and examination of any books and records of the Parish. The Parish must cooperate in the inquiry by answering such questions fully, accurately, and promptly, and by making available the books and records of the Parish upon reasonable notice. If, after such inquiry, the Bishop finds that one or more of the conditions in Section 31.04 exist in the Parish, the Bishop may, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Standing Committee, implement a plan to restore congregational health. If the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it may make such implementation following inquiry, by unanimous vote.

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Section 31.04. CONDITIONS IN THE PARISH

No plan for restoring congregational health may be made except upon a finding, following inquiry, that one or more of the following conditions exist in the Parish:

- (a) The failure of the Parish, for two years or more, to consist of at least twenty-five adult Communicants of the Church or, for two years or more, to be financially self-supporting.
- (b) The failure for at least two years to elect a Vestry or a Rector (where the Parish is without a Rector).
- (c) The failure to pay the minimum clergy compensation as required by Canon; or the failure to make timely payment of premium under the clergy pension system as required by Canon, or of premium for any other obligatory insurance for clergy.
- (d) The refusal or willful failure to arrange for representation of the Parish at an annual Convention of the Diocese.
- (e) The failure or neglect to make canonically-required reports, including the annual parochial report to the Bishop, the annual pledge to the Diocese, and Parish audit report; or to pay duly-assessed Diocesan apportionments or assessments. Voluntary giving shall not be considered a Diocesan apportionment or assessment.

Persistent and significant instability or decline in the financial or temporal condition of the Parish, as evidenced by, for example, substantial invasion of the principal portion of endowment or trust funds, to such a degree that, in the judgment of the Bishop and two-thirds of the Standing Committee, the long-term viability of the Parish as a self-supporting entity is in jeopardy.

Persistent failure or neglect to conform to the business methods in church affairs required by the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church or of the Diocese, including those requirements relating to the bonding of treasurers or other custodians of funds, proper record keeping, proper maintenance of books of account, annual audit, and the maintenance of adequate insurance.

- (h) Persistent failure to provide for and fund health insurance through the denomination health plan for all eligible clergy and lay employees.
- (i) Persistent failure to keep all buildings, structures, tangible property of the Parish adequately insured against loss under the Diocesan insurance program or to pay any premiums coming due.

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- (j) The purchase, use, or conveyance of property of the Parish, or the incurring of debt, other than in conformity with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese, except where such non-conformity was inadvertent and resulted in no substantial prejudice to the property or temporal interests of the Parish.
- (k) The failure to cooperate in an inquiry under this Canon, or in connection with any other canonical inquiry by the Ecclesiastical Authority or its designee, including the failure or refusal to provide full and accurate information on the state of the Parish and its affairs.
- (l) The failure to implement in good faith any plan or arrangement agreed to by the Parish under this Canon.
- (m) Apart from the foregoing, any deliberate and manifest breach of obligation of the Parish, set out in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church or of the Diocese, but only if the following additional conditions are met:
 - (1) the Bishop shall have transmitted to the Parish a written warning summarizing the conduct or failure to act by the Parish which constitutes the deliberate and manifest breach under this section, indicating the reasons why such conduct or failure to act constitutes such breach, and explicitly directing the Parish to cease and desist from the conduct which constitutes the breach, or to act affirmatively as the canonical obligation requires; and
 - (2) within 30 days following transmittal of the warning and direction, the Parish shall have failed or refused to conform to the directive so provided, or shall have failed or refused to provide to the Bishop a written plan and agreement satisfactory to the Bishop to bring its conduct into prompt conformity with its canonical obligation.

Section 31.05. PERMITTED ACTIONS

If a plan for restoring congregational health is implemented in accordance with this Canon, the Bishop, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Standing Committee, may require the application of one or more of the actions below, anything in the articles of incorporation or by-laws of such congregation to the contrary notwithstanding. The actions shall be considered independent actions with no requirement of exhaustion of certain actions before the application of others. If the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it may require one or more of the following actions by unanimous vote.

- (a) A plan for the Parish to cure the conditions which led to the implementation of the plan for restoring congregational health, agreed to by the Parish within 90 days, and implemented thereafter in accordance with its terms.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE II**

- (b) Appointment by the Ecclesiastical Authority of five or more adult communicants temporarily to govern the affairs of the Parish as Warden and Vestry, notwithstanding any other canonical or other provision for such governance, until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.
- (c) Designation of the Rector or the Parish Clergy-in-charge, until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.
- (d) Conveyance of title of all real property of the Parish to the Diocese, which shall preserve and control such property in trust until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.
- (e) Such other measures as the Ecclesiastical Authority shall determine with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Standing Committee (or as determined by the Standing Committee acting unanimously, if it be the Ecclesiastical Authority), until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.

CANONS 32 - 39 RESERVED

**TITLE III
ORGANIZING FOR MINISTRY**

**CANON 40
ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN**

Section 40.01. AUTHORITY

The Diocesan Council, which is representative of the five deaneries of the Diocese of Western Michigan, shall create such commissions, committees, and departments as shall be deemed appropriate to the mission and ministry of the Diocese. Each shall have a stated Mission, membership, and program and, when necessary, budget, which collectively shall be deemed the Administrative Plan for that year.

Section 40.02. ACCOUNTABILITY

Except for staff groups accountable directly to the Bishop, all such commissions, committees and departments shall be directly accountable to the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council shall provide supervision, interpretation, clarification, and direction to such groups as the Diocesan Council may deem necessary.

Section 40.03. COMMISSION REPORTS

Each commission shall report annually and in writing to the Diocesan Council and at other times the Council deems reports necessary. Copies of these reports shall also be sent to the Bishop as Presiding Officer. The Bishop and the Council shall submit in writing an annual report of their work to the annual Convention, including the annual report of the Treasurer.

Section 40.04. REPORT TO CONVENTION

The Diocesan Council shall report each year to the annual Convention on the Administrative Plan, providing the names, mission, membership, and budget for each commission, committee, and department which it has created to meet the mission and ministry needs of the Diocese.

Section 40.05. STAFF GROUPS

Staff groups are advisory committees appointed by the Bishop to assist diocesan staff persons who work directly under the supervision of the Bishop.

CANONS 41 - 49 RESERVED

**TITLE IV
ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE**

**CANON 50
TITLE IV OF GENERAL CANONS**

Section 50.01.

Those provisions of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church which are applicable to the Diocese are hereby incorporated as part of this Title. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Title are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV, the provisions of Title IV shall govern. The Canons in this Title shall take effect on July 1, 2011. The terms of previously elected members of the Diocesan Review Committee and the Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall terminate on June 30, 2011, except with respect to cases in progress on that date.

**CANON 51
DIOCESAN COOPERATION**

Section 51.01. DIOCESAN COOPERATION

The Dioceses of Western Michigan and Michigan plan to cooperate in the disciplinary process of any matter in any of these Dioceses going to the Disciplinary Board. When any General Canon shall allow information to be given to a Bishop, the only Bishop to whom information about a charge may be given shall be the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident. The venue of any proceedings shall be in the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident.

**CANON 52
DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

Section 52.01. DISCIPLINARY BOARD

The Disciplinary Board shall consist of nine persons, five of whom are members of the Clergy and four of whom are Laity. A member of the Standing Committee of any Diocese may not serve on the Disciplinary Board.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE 111**

Section 52.02. DIOCESAN REPRESENTATION

Each of the Dioceses listed in Canon 51.01 shall have two clergy and two lay members on the Disciplinary Board. In addition, each Diocese shall take turns electing one additional clergy member.

Section 52.03. SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Members of the Disciplinary Board, sufficient to fill any upcoming vacancies, shall be selected by the Bishop in consultation with the Standing Committee and approved by the annual Convention of the Diocese.

Section 52.04. TERMS

The initial terms of the members of the Disciplinary Board shall begin on July 1, 2011. Each member of the Disciplinary Board shall serve a two-year term. Except for the initial terms, each term shall begin on January 1 following election. At the first meeting of the Disciplinary Board after July 1, 2011, the members shall draw lots to determine which two members (at least one clergy and one lay) will be serving until December 31, 2011; and, which two members (at least one clergy and one lay) will be serving until December 31, 2012. Thereafter, each Diocese shall elect replacements for members of that Diocese whose terms have ended.

Section 52.05. SUCCESSIVE TERMS

Members may serve no more than two successive terms, after which they must vacate the office for at least one year before being reelected. If a member is appointed to fill a vacancy, the term of such member shall be the unexpired term of the member being replaced or until the next annual Diocesan Convention, whichever time is shorter. A member appointed to fill a vacancy, if otherwise qualified, will be eligible for election to complete the vacated term, and then eligible for reelection to a further full term. If the term of the vacated term would have concluded at the next annual Diocesan Convention, the member appointed to fill a vacancy, if otherwise qualified, will be eligible for election to two successive terms.

Section 52.06. CLERGY MEMBERS

The clergy members of the Disciplinary Board must be canonically and geographically resident within the Diocese, and remain so for the duration of their term of office.

Section 52.07. LAY MEMBERS

The lay members of the Disciplinary Board shall be adult communicants in good standing of a congregation within the Diocese, and remain so for the duration of their term in office.

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TITLE V**

Section 52.08. VACANCIES

Vacancies on the Disciplinary Board shall be filled as follows:

- (a) Upon the determination that a vacancy exists, the President of the Disciplinary Board shall notify the Bishop of the vacating member's Diocese of the fact of vacancy and request appointment of a replacement member of the same order as the member to be replaced.
- (b) That Bishop shall appoint a replacement Disciplinary Board member in consultation with the Standing Committee.
- (c) Persons appointed to fill vacancies on the Disciplinary Board shall meet the same eligibility requirements as apply to otherwise appointed Disciplinary Board members.
- (d) With respect to a vacancy created for any reason other than pursuant to a challenge as provided below, the term of any person selected as a replacement Disciplinary Board member shall be until the next annual Diocesan Convention. With respect to a vacancy resulting from a challenge, the replacement Disciplinary Board member shall serve only for the proceedings for which the elected Disciplinary Board member is not serving as a result of the challenge.

Section 52.09. PRESIDENT

As soon as practicable after the First day of January of each year, but no longer than 60 days after the First day of January of that year, the Disciplinary Board will meet and elect from its membership a President, who may be a member of the clergy or lay person, and who shall serve for a term of one year (until the replacement is elected).

Section 52.10. CLERK

The Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Disciplinary Board Clerk to assist the Disciplinary Board with records management and administrative support. The Clerk may, but need not, be a member of the Disciplinary Board.

Section 52.11. PRESERVING IMPARTIALITY

In any proceeding under this Title, if any member of a Conference Panel or Hearing Panel of the Disciplinary Board shall become aware of a personal conflict of interest of undue bias, that member shall immediately notify the President of the Board and request a replacement member of the Panel. Respondent's Counsel and the Church Attorney shall have the right to challenge any member of a Panel for conflict of interest or undue bias by motion to the Panel for disqualification of the challenged member. The members of the Panel not the subject of the challenge shall

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE IV**

promptly consider the motion, and any testimonial or written evidence in support of the motion, if any, and determine whether the challenged Panel member should be disqualified from participating in that proceeding.

**CANON 53
INTAKE OFFICER**

Section 53.01. INTAKE OFFICER

One or more Intake Officers for the Diocese shall be appointed from time to time by the Bishop, according to the needs of the Diocese. The Bishop shall publish the name(s) and contact information of each Intake Officer throughout the Diocese.

**CANON 54
INVESTIGATOR**

Section 54.01. INVESTIGATOR

The Bishop shall appoint an Investigator in consultation with the President of the Disciplinary Board on an as-needed basis. The Investigator may, but need not be, a member of the Church.

**CANON 55
CHURCH ATTORNEY(S)**

Section 55.01. CHURCH ATTORNEY(S)

The Bishop, with the consent of the Standing Committee, shall appoint one or more attorneys to serve as Church Attorney(s). The Church Attorney shall be appointed no later than 30 days after the filing of a Charge with the Disciplinary Board. The person(s) so selected may, but need not, be members of the Church; but, must be a duly licensed attorney in the State of Michigan, and need not reside within the Diocese. The Church Attorney may be removed for cause by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
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**CANON 56
ADVISORS**

Section 56.01. ADVISORS

In each proceeding under this Title, the Bishop shall appoint an Advisor for the complaining party and an Advisor for the Respondent. Persons serving as Advisors shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Title, and shall not include the Chancellor or any Vice-Chancellor of this Diocese or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding. The role of the Advisor is found in General Canon IV.2 and is not meant to act necessarily as an attorney. The complaining party and the Respondent are each free to engage an attorney at their own expense.

**CANON 57
COSTS AND EXPENSES
INCURRED BY THE CHURCH**

Section 57.01. COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE CHURCH

The reasonable costs and expenses of the Disciplinary Board, the Intake Officer, the Investigator, the Church Attorney, the Disciplinary Board Clerk and the Pastoral Response Coordinator shall be the obligation of the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident, unless the alleged offense took place elsewhere and the respective Bishops agree on a different cost allocation. Other costs shall be the responsibility of the individual parties incurring them.

**CANON 58
RECORDS**

Section 58.01. RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS

Records of active proceedings before the Disciplinary Board, including the period of any pending appeal, shall be preserved and maintained in the custody of the Disciplinary Board Clerk, if there be one; otherwise by the Diocesan office in which the Respondent is canonically resident.

Section 58.02. PERMANENT RECORDS

The Bishop shall make provision for the permanent storage of records of all proceedings for clergy canonically resident in this Diocese under this Title at the Diocese and the Archives of The Episcopal Church, as prescribed in Title IV of the General Canons. The records may, but need not, be stored in electronic formats.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
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**CANON 59
INVOLVEMENT OF THE CHANCELLOR**

Section 59.01. INVOLVEMENT OF THE CHANCELLOR

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Western Michigan shall be available to provide advice and counsel to the Disciplinary Board on matters of procedure or on any matter touching upon ecclesiastical or civil law, to the extent such involvement is not inconsistent with the responsibilities of the Chancellor under Title I, Canon 4, Section 4.07, or Title IV, Canon 6, Section 56.01, above. However, the Chancellor shall not express a view on or have any involvement in the merits of a particular case before the Board.

**CANON 60
POLICIES OF THE DIOCESE**

Section 60.01. POLICIES OF THE DIOCESE AND DISCIPLINE

The Convention of the Diocese may adopt policies that require periodic training or certification. The failure to abide by these policies and attend any required training or certification process shall subject a person or congregation to the sanctions and discipline as provided in these Canons and in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE V**

CANONS 61 - 69 RESERVED

**TITLE V
AMENDMENT, CONSTRUCTION, PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

**CANON 70
AMENDMENT OF CANONS**

Section 70.01. AMENDMENT OF CANONS

Any proposal to amend any Canon of the Diocese shall be submitted in writing to the Bishop not less than ninety days in advance of the meeting of the Convention at which time the same is to be offered. The Bishop shall cause the proposed amendment to be published not less than thirty days in advance thereof, to each member of the clergy entitled to seat and vote at the Convention, the lay delegates to Convention, if known, and a warden of each Parish in union with the Diocese. Such a proposal may be referred to an appropriate person or committee prior to the Convention if the Bishop feels that expert analysis and comment would be useful and enlightening to the Convention. Any persons or Committee so appointed may be asked to report to the Convention. If such amendment shall then be approved by vote of the Convention in accordance with Article III, Section 8 of the Constitution, the amendment shall become effective as of the close of the day of final adjournment of the Convention.

**CANON 71
CONSTRUCTION**

Section 71.01. CONSTRUCTION

These Canons, and this Diocese and its organizations, are subject to the Constitution and Statutes of the United States of America, the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Michigan, and the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in the United States, as the same may, from time to time be amended or changed, and these Canons should be construed as being consistent therewith, anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding.

Section 71.02. CATCH LINE HEADINGS AND COMMENTS

The table of contents, index, cross-reference tables, catch line headings and comments, to the extent published with these Canons, are not part of the text of the Canons, and are not to be used in the construction of these Canons.

Section 71.03. SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS

Should any court of competent jurisdiction, whether civil or ecclesiastical, determine that any provision of these Canons is contrary to any governing law as identified in Title VII, Canon 70, Section 70.01, above, such provision shall be null, void and of no effect from such point forward; but, such determination shall have no effect on any remaining Canon. Each Canon is severable from the remainder, and shall continue in force until repealed or amended.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE V**

**CANON 72
PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Section 72.01. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority at all meetings of the Diocese and any of its Parishes and organizations, unless modified.

Section 72.02. SUSPENSION OR MODIFICATION OF RULES

At any meeting of the Diocese and any of its Parishes and organizations, a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote, provided that a quorum has been determined to be present, may vote to suspend or modify the Rules of Order for that meeting only; and, provided that the suspension of the Rules shall not interfere with the ability of the meeting to adjourn.

**CANON 73
PRESUMPTION AGAINST CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Section 73.01. PRESUMPTION AGAINST CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No contract of the Diocese, or of any Parish or constituent organization of the Diocese made with any member of the Diocese or of any Parish or constituent organization of the Diocese, or with a partnership or other group or association of which any such member shall be a member or with any corporation of which such member may be a member or director and no contract between this Diocesan corporation and any other corporation having common directors shall be invalid because of such facts alone.

**CANON 74
REPRESENTATION OF POSITION OF DIOCESE**

Section 74.01. REPRESENTATION OF POSITION OF DIOCESE

No public statement respecting a position on any issue attributed to the Diocese, any Parish in the Diocese, or any organization of the Diocese, may be made unless in full compliance with the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, and the prior approval of the Bishop. The Bishop has the authority to issue blanket approvals, or to delegate this power by written authorization.

**CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
TITLE V**

**CANON 75
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS**

Section 75.01. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS [Reserved]

- (a) Each congregation that provides employee health insurance shall provide that coverage through the organization providing coverage to Diocesan employees. The diocesan employee plan will provide a range of benefit plans that are financially sound, providing high quality care, and in a range of prices. Failure to comply with this subsection may result in the Diocese no longer providing a group health insurance plan. At that point, each Parish would have to seek its own health insurance coverage. This provision shall expire and be deleted, without the necessity of amendment, on January 1, 2013.

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