

## **Constitution**

As approved by the 101st Annual Diocesan Convention, meeting in St. James' Church, Wichita, Kansas, May 1-2, 1960, and as amended by subsequent Conventions.

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Diocesan Boundaries**

The Diocese of Kansas embraces all that part of the State of Kansas lying east of the western boundaries of Washington, Clay, Dickinson, Marion, Harvey, Sedgwick, and Sumner Counties, and as a constituent part of Christ's Holy Catholic Church known as The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, it accedes to the General Constitution and Canons of that Church, and acknowledges the authority of the same.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Ecclesiastical Authority and Governance**

Upon the death of the Bishop, a Suffragan Bishop, if there be one, of this Diocese may be placed in charge of the Diocese and become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof until such time as a new Diocesan shall be chosen and consecrated; and during the disability or absence of the Bishop, a Suffragan Bishop, if there be one, of this Diocese may be placed in charge of the Diocese and become temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof. The affairs of the Diocese shall be governed by a Convention as provided in Article IV hereafter and, between meetings of Convention, by a Council of Trustees constituted as provided in Article V hereafter.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Diocesan Convention Meeting**

**Sec. 1.** There shall be a celebration of the Holy Communion at each annual and special meeting of Diocesan Convention.

**Sec. 2.** An annual meeting of Diocesan Convention shall be held in each calendar year at such time and place within the Diocese as shall be designated by the Ecclesiastical Authority as provided by Canon.

**Sec. 3.** The Ecclesiastical Authority, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may call a special meeting of Diocesan Convention to be held within the Diocese as provided by Canon.

**Sec. 4.** Diocesan Convention shall have the power to raise money by apportionment on the parishes of the Diocese for the work of the Church.

**Sec. 5.** Written notice of the meeting of Diocesan Convention shall be given as provided by Canon to all clergy and laity entitled to membership therein and to all parishes entitled to lay representation.

**Sec. 6.** Written notice of any proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be given to the members of Diocesan Convention at the time and in the manner that notice of annual meeting is given.

**Sec. 7.** The notice of a special meeting of Diocesan Convention shall specify the purposes thereof, and no other business shall be transacted.

**ARTICLE IV**  
Diocesan Convention Organization

**A.Members of Diocesan Convention.**

**Sec. 1.** The following shall be ex officio members of Diocesan Convention: the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, the Suffragan Bishop, if there be one, all clergy canonically resident in the Diocese and not under discipline, lay members of the Council of Trustees, the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Vice Chancellors of the Diocese, the Treasurer of the Diocese, the Presidents of the Convocations, and deputies to General Convention.

**Sec. 2.** Lay delegates chosen as provided by Canon from the communicants of each parish entitled to representation shall be members of Diocesan Convention.

**B.Officers of Diocesan Convention.**

**Sec. 1.** The Bishop of the Diocese shall be the President of Diocesan Convention and shall preside at the meeting of Diocesan Convention. In the absence of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, shall preside. In the absence of both the Bishop and the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, the Suffragan Bishop, if there be one, shall preside. If there is no Bishop of the Diocese present, then the President of the Standing Committee shall preside.

**Sec. 2.** The Secretary of Diocesan Convention shall be elected annually by convention and shall hold office until successor is elected. If there be a vacancy or incapacity to act, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a Secretary pro tem.

**Sec. 3.** The Treasurer of the Diocese shall be elected by convention for an initial term of one year. Thereafter the Treasurer may be elected for successive three-year terms if so determined by Diocesan Convention. In case of the death of the Treasurer or an inability to act, the Council of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc. shall appoint a Treasurer pro tem to serve until the next annual meeting of Diocesan Convention.

**Sec. 4.** The Chancellor of the Diocese and two Vice Chancellors of the Diocese, all of whom shall be licensed to practice law in the State of Kansas, shall be appointed by the Bishop at the Annual Convention and shall serve until their successors are appointed.

**C.Terms of Office.**

All officers elected or appointed shall serve until their successors are duly elected or appointed and qualified. All lay officers of the Diocese must be communicants in good standing in the Church and canonically resident in the Diocese.

**D.Quorum.**

One-third of the clergy entitled to membership and lay representation from one-third of the congregations entitled to representation shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of Diocesan Convention.

**E.Voting.**

On all matters which come before the meeting of Diocesan Convention, the clerical and lay members shall deliberate in one body and shall vote as individuals. Any five members may request a vote by orders, in which case the concurrence of the votes of the two orders, by not less than a majority in each order, shall be necessary to carry a proposal.

**ARTICLE V**  
The Council of Trustees

**Sec. 1.** During the period between Conventions of the Diocese, there shall be an interim governing body, answerable to the Convention, which shall govern the affairs of the Diocese and, in the absence of the Bishop, as specified in the General Canons, shall constitute the Ecclesiastical Authority. This interim body shall be styled The Council of Trustees.

**Sec. 2.** The Council of Trustees shall constitute the Standing Committee and the Finance Committee of the Diocese and exercise all powers and responsibilities placed upon such committees by the Constitution and General Canons of the Episcopal Church.

**Sec. 3.** The Council of Trustees shall constitute the Trustees of the not-for-profit religious corporation known as The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc., established under the laws of the state of Kansas.

**Sec. 4.** The membership of the Council of Trustees shall consist of the following:

(a) One member of the clergy and one lay person elected by each of the boards of the several convocations of the Diocese.

(1) Those elected under this Section shall be elected to three-year terms; a lay person shall be elected by each convocation to take office following the Annual Convention of the Diocese in years evenly divisible by three; a clergy member shall be elected by each convocation to take office in the following year; there shall be no election (unless to fill a vacancy) in the third year.

(2) These elections shall take place at the convocation board meetings immediately preceding the Annual Convention of the Diocese.

(3) Those elected to membership on the Council under this Section shall be confirmed by majority vote of all delegates and clergy attending the next Annual Convention of the Diocese.

(4) Those elected to membership on the Council under this Section shall be both geographically and canonically resident in their respective convocations and, if they are not members of their convocation board, shall have seat, voice, and vote on that board and the executive committee thereof for the term of their office as Trustee.

(b) Three members of the clergy and three lay persons elected by the Annual Convention of the Diocese; they shall be elected to staggered three-year terms. One clergy member and one lay person shall be elected at each Annual Convention.

(c) The Bishop shall be an ex-officio member of the Council of Trustees and shall preside at its meetings.

**Sec. 5.** The following shall be advisors to the Council of Trustees, entitled to seat and voice, but not vote, at the meetings thereof:

(a) The Treasurer of the Diocese;

(b) The Chancellor of the Diocese;

(c) No more than two members of the Bishop's staff as designated by the Bishop;

(d) A Clerk of the Council of Trustees, if elected by the Council from other than its elected membership;

(e) Such specialists as the Council of Trustees may, by majority vote, appoint to assist it in its work; such appointments must be renewed annually at the meeting of the Council immediately following the Annual Convention of the Diocese.

**Sec. 6.** The Council of Trustees of the Diocese of Kansas shall meet regularly, not less frequently than quarterly, and the minutes of its meetings shall be published and one copy distributed to all parishes and congregations of the Diocese for reproduction and distribution to their clergy and lay delegates.

**Sec. 7.** In the event of a vacancy on the Council of Trustees:

(a) Of a member elected by a convocation: The board of the convocation shall elect, at its next regular meeting, a replacement member of the appropriate Order to serve the remainder of the term; a member so elected shall be confirmed by majority vote of all clergy and delegates attending the Annual Convention of the Diocese next following his or her election.

(b) Of a member elected by the Annual Convention: The Council of Trustees shall appoint a temporary replacement member of the appropriate Order to serve until the next Annual Convention of the Diocese; at that Convention there shall be a special election to fill the remainder of the term.

**Sec. 8.** Limited Term of Office:

(a) Subject to the provisions of Paragraph (b), below, no elected member of the Council of Trustees shall serve more than two full elective terms in succession without taking two years absence from the Council.

(b) A member of the Council appointed under Section 7 to fill an unexpired term of less than eighteen months shall be eligible to serve two full elective terms before the requirements of Paragraph (a) of this Section shall apply; a member appointed under Section 7 to fill an unexpired term of more than eighteen months shall be eligible to serve only one full elective term before being required to take a two-year hiatus from service on the Council.

## **ARTICLE VI<sup>1</sup>**

### **Deputies to the General Convention and to the Provincial Synod**

**Sec. 1.** At the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention next preceding the deadline for certification of deputies to each General Convention, the Convention shall elect by a majority vote four clergy and four lay persons as deputies and a like number of provisional deputies to represent the Diocese in the General Convention. Clerical deputies shall be members of this Convention. Lay deputies shall be adult communicants in good standing within the Diocese. Provisional deputies shall serve as necessary according to the order of their election. The Ecclesiastical Authority may at any time appoint additional provisional deputies to represent the Diocese in the General Convention in the event neither the elected deputies nor the elected provisional deputies are able to attend.

**Sec. 2.** The deputies and provisional deputies elected to represent the Diocese in the General Convention shall serve as deputies and provisional deputies to the Provincial Synod until the election of their successors. The Ecclesiastical Authority may at any time appoint additional provisional deputies to represent the Diocese in the Synod in the event neither the elected deputies nor the elected provisional deputies are able to attend.

**Sec. 3.** Deputies shall be elected as required by General Canon. Upon the election of an appropriate number of deputies, all nominees not elected shall be listed on a single ballot for the purpose of selecting provisional deputies who may be elected by plurality vote.

**ARTICLE VII**  
Election of a Bishop

The election of a Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor, or a Suffragan Bishop shall take place in a meeting of Diocesan Convention only and by a concurrent vote by orders. Written notice of such election shall be mailed by the Secretary of the Standing Committee at least sixty days prior to the date of the Convention to all clergy and congregations entitled to representation in the meeting of Diocesan Convention. Each clerical and lay member of Diocesan Convention present shall be entitled to one vote. If three-fourths of all the self-governing parishes and one-third of all other parishes or congregations entitled to representation be present, a majority of votes cast in each order shall determine a choice. Otherwise, two-thirds of the votes cast in each order shall be necessary to determine a choice.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
Diocesan Corporations and Institutions

**Sec. 1.** All real property of the Church within the Diocese of Kansas not held by incorporated parishes canonically organized and all personal property of the Church within the Diocese of Kansas not held by parishes and missions shall be diocesan property and title thereto shall be vested in The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, Inc.

**ARTICLE IX**  
Amendment

Amendments to this Constitution must be approved by two successive meetings of annual Diocesan Convention by a majority vote of each order.

Amendments to this Constitution become effective at the beginning of the calendar year following the annual Diocesan Convention at which said amendments are finally approved, unless another date is specified in the motion to adopt.

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<sup>i</sup> An amendment to Article VI was adopted on its first reading by the 164th Convention on October 21, 2023. It will be considered again at the 165th Convention, October 18-19, 2024, if adopted it would take effect January 1, 2025. As amended, Article VI would read:

**ARTICLE VI**  
Deputies of the General Convention and to the Provincial Synod

**Sec. 1.** At the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention next preceding the deadline for certification of deputies to each General Convention, the Convention shall elect, in a manner adopted by the Council of Trustees, four clergy and four lay persons as deputies to represent the Diocese in the General Convention and the Provincial Synod. The Convention shall elect from the remaining nominees four clergy and four lay persons as alternate deputies. Clerical deputies shall be members of this Convention. Lay deputies shall be adult communicants in good standing within the Diocese. Alternate deputies shall serve as necessary according to the order of their election.

**Sec. 2.** The deputies and alternate deputies shall serve until the election of their successors. If fewer than four of an order's elected deputies or alternate deputies are able to attend a meeting of the General Convention or the Provincial Synod, the Ecclesiastical Authority may at any time appoint additional alternate deputies to ensure full representation from the Diocese.