

The Constitution of the Diocese of Quincy

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**THE CONSTITUTION
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH
IN THE DIOCESE OF QUINCY
Adopted by The 132nd Synod, 2009**

PREAMBLE

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. We, the Bishop, Priests and Deacons, and the Laity, by their elected representatives, of the Church in the Diocese of Quincy, now assembled in Synod, hereby make the following Solemn Declaration: We declare this Diocese historically to have been, and desire that it shall continue to be, in full communion with the See of Canterbury and the Anglican Churches throughout the world, as being an integral portion of the one body of Christ composed of Churches which, united under the One Divine Head in the fellowship of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, hold the one Faith revealed by God and defined in the Creeds of the undivided primitive Church in the undisputed Ecumenical Councils; receive the same Canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as containing all things necessary to salvation; teach the same Word of God; partake of the same Divinely ordained Sacraments, through the ministry of the same Apostolic Orders; and worship one God and Father through the same Lord Jesus Christ, by the same Holy and Divine Spirit Who is given to them who believe, to guide them into all truth.

We are determined by the help of God to hold and maintain the Doctrine, Sacraments, Worship, and Discipline of Christ as the Lord has commanded in His Holy Word, and as the Church planted by God in this nation has received

and set forth in her several Books of Common Prayer, and to transmit the same unimpaired to our posterity.

To that end, therefore, we do solemnly declare and establish this Constitution of the Church in the Diocese of Quincy, relying upon the commission given by our Lord Jesus Christ to His Apostles to bind and to loose, that is, to declare what is forbidden and what is allowed. We believe that God thereby endowed the Church with authority and power to make laws for the orderly establishment of its way of faith and life and for the spiritual government of its members so that they, seeking to be ruled and guided by God, might pass through things temporal without finally losing the things eternal, and may become more truly what they already are: The People of God, that new Creation in Christ which finds its joy in adoration of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ARTICLE I

BOUNDS OF THE DIOCESE

Section 1. The Diocese of Quincy (hereinafter called the “Diocese”) comprises that portion of the State of Illinois lying south of the southern boundaries of the Counties of Whiteside and Lee, west of the western boundaries of the Counties of LaSalle and Livingston, north of the northern boundaries of the Counties of McLean and Tazewell and west of the Illinois River, and Woodford County.

Section 2. Section 1 shall not preclude a parish or mission outside the geographical boundaries of the Diocese that has separated from another Anglican jurisdiction from applying for admission to the Synod of this Diocese. Such a parish or mission may be admitted into the Synod upon meeting all requirements set forth in this Constitution and the Canons of this Diocese for such admission. Each parish or mission so admitted shall be subject to the assessment set forth in Canon 53.

ARTICLE II

ACCEDES TO PROVINCIAL CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

Section 1. Contingent upon the continuing consent of Diocesan Synod and consistent with the Preamble to and Article XVII of this Constitution, the Church in the Diocese accedes to the Constitution and Canons of that Anglican Communion Province with which this Diocese is affiliated.

Section 2. The Diocese shall seek to maintain its communion with the historic See of Canterbury by affiliation with a recognized and faithful Province of the Anglican Communion; provided that the Diocese may realign itself at any time when, in the judgment of the Synod, realignment is necessary to uphold the Preamble of this Constitution.

Section 3. Provincial membership shall be established, or changed, by a concurrent two-thirds majority vote in both orders at any Regular or Special Synod, and shall become effective upon the adjournment of that Synod.

ARTICLE III

ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY

Section 1. The authority of the Diocese is vested in and shall be exercised by the Bishop, the Diocesan Synod, and the Standing Committee.

Section 2. The Bishop is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, and as ordinary he shall have original jurisdiction in all ecclesiastical causes and in religious or benevolent organizations within the Diocese, except as shall be reserved by civil or canon law to other authority.

Section 3. Consistent with canonical and civil law the Bishop shall have the ultimate responsibility and authority to arbitrate and adjudicate, within the limits of this Constitution and canonical provisions, all controversies within the Diocese including, but not limited to, disputes between members of the

Clergy, between a Parish and its Vestry or Rector, or between a Vestry and its Rector.

Section 4. The Bishop may on occasion authorize a representative or representatives to act in his stead, provided that such authorization is not in conflict with the Provincial or Diocesan Constitution and Canons.

Section 5. In the event of the death of the Diocesan Bishop or his inability to exercise his authority, then in accordance with the Provincial Canons, that authority shall pass to the Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one, or the Suffragan Bishop, if there is one canonically authorized to act, or to the Standing Committee, in that order.

ARTICLE IV SYNOD

Section 1. There shall be a Synod of the Church in this Diocese (hereinafter, the "Synod") to act upon all matters presented to it consistent with the Faith and Order of the Church. With continuing existence, such Synod shall be convened each year at the Cathedral on the third Friday in October, unless a different place or day is appointed by the preceding Synod; but if there shall appear to the Bishop, acting with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, specific cause for changing the place or date so appointed, he shall appoint another place or date or both, for such a session.

Section 2. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall have power to call the Synod into special session, in accordance with the notice requirements of Section 3 herein, whenever the welfare of the Church in this Diocese so requires. The time, place and purpose of the special session of the Synod shall be designated by the Ecclesiastical Authority issuing the call, and no business other than that stated in the call shall be transacted except by consent of a three-fourths majority.

Section 3. The Secretary of the Synod shall give written notice of the convening of the Synod in either annual or special session, and such notice shall specify the time and place of the session and shall be sent by mail, not less than sixty days before the first day of the annual session and not less than thirty days before the first day of a special session, to each member of the Clergy canonically resident in this Diocese and to the Clerk of each Parish and Organized Mission in union with the Synod.

ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP OF SYNOD

Section 1. A member of the Clergy canonically resident in this Diocese shall be entitled to a seat, voice and vote in the Synod, subject to the provisions of Article XII, Section 2, or disciplinary action provided for by the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese. A member of the Clergy actively engaged in the work of the Ministry within the Diocese under license from the Bishop, but who is not canonically resident in the Diocese, shall be entitled to a seat and voice, but not a vote in the Synod.

Section 2. Parishes, Organized Missions, and Parochial Missions which have been admitted into union with the Synod of this Diocese shall be entitled to Lay representation with seat, voice and vote in this Synod, subject to disciplinary action provided for by the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese. Deputies and their Alternates shall be selected by the Parishes and Missions, with five Lay Deputies from each Parish, two Lay Deputies from each Organized Mission, and two Lay Deputies from each Parochial Mission.

Lay Deputies shall be qualified electors of the Congregations they represent and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting or a special meeting of their respective Congregations unless this authority is lawfully delegated by the Congregation to its Vestry or Bishop's Committee. Such Lay Deputies shall serve for both annual and special sessions of the Synod, and their terms of office shall expire at the Congregation's next annual meeting.

Any vacancy occurring in the Lay Deputation of a Parish or Mission between annual elections may be filled by election by the Vestry or Bishop's Committee.

If a duly certified Lay Deputy of a Parish or Mission has registered and assembled for Synod and is then called away or is otherwise unable to serve and no duly certified Lay Alternate is present, the remaining delegation, both Clerical and Lay, may petition the Synod for the seating of a Deputy not previously authorized by election in the Congregation or its Vestry or Bishop's Committee. Such a Deputy must meet the canonical qualifications for a Lay Deputy.

A qualified elector shall be a confirmed adult communicant in good standing, as defined by the canons of the diocese, of the Congregation in which he or she desires to vote and shall be able to certify same by enrollment in the Parish Register and the records of the Treasurer. Any appeals of disqualification from voting shall be forwarded in writing by the disputant to the Bishop within one week of the annual meeting, who shall make a determination of the person's status. In all cases, the decision of the Bishop shall be final, subject to the limits of due process established in Provincial and Diocesan Canons.

Section 3. The Registrar and the Secretary of Synod of the Diocese shall be members of the Synod ex officio, but shall not vote unless otherwise qualified. The Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor (if there is one) and the Treasurer of the Diocese shall be members of the Synod ex officio, but without vote.

Section 4. No person under ecclesiastical censure, whether a member of the Clergy or a Layperson, shall be entitled to a seat in the Synod.

Section 5. If, for whatever cause, a Parish or Organized Mission of this Diocese is not represented in any Synod, or in any of the sessions thereof, such Parish or Mission shall nevertheless be bound by all the acts of the Synod the same as if fully represented.

Section 6. A seat and voice may be granted to any person at a session of the Synod by its consent on recommendation of the Committee on Credentials. The privilege of the floor may be granted to any person by the Chairman of the Synod, the foregoing notwithstanding.

ARTICLE VI OFFICERS OF THE DIOCESE AND THE SYNOD

Section 1. The Bishop of the Diocese shall be President of the Synod and shall have every right of membership in the same, and may speak to any issue on the floor immediately prior to the casting of a ballot. In the absence of the Bishop or other proper Ecclesiastical Authority, the senior active Diocesan Priest in attendance shall call the Synod to order, and a President shall then be elected.

Section 2. The Secretary of the Synod (hereinafter the "Secretary") shall be appointed annually by the Ecclesiastical Authority, with the approval of the Synod, and shall discharge the duties appropriate to that office and such others as may be imposed by Canon or by action of the Synod.

An Assistant may be appointed by the Secretary with the approval of the Synod. Whenever there is a vacancy in the office of Secretary, the duties thereof shall become the responsibility of the Assistant, or if there is none, upon the Secretary of the Standing Committee.

Section 3. The Treasurer of the Diocese shall be appointed annually by the Ecclesiastical Authority, with the approval of each annual Synod, and shall serve ex officio as the treasurer of the Synod. The Treasurer shall discharge the duties imposed by Canon or by the action of the Synod and shall make an annual written report to the Synod of all moneys entrusted to the Treasurer's care. The Treasurer shall serve ex officio as a member of the Department of Finance and the Trustees of Funds and Property without office or vote.

Section 4. The Registrar of the Diocese shall be appointed annually by the Ecclesiastical Authority, with the approval of each annual Synod. The Registrar shall discharge the duties imposed by Canon or by the action of the Synod.

Section 5. The Chancellor of the Diocese shall be appointed annually by the Ecclesiastical Authority, with the approval of each annual Synod. The Chancellor shall be a Lay communicant of the Diocese in good standing and shall be licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois. The Chancellor shall be the legal advisor to the Bishop and the Synod and shall discharge any duties imposed by Canon. A Vice Chancellor equally qualified may be appointed annually subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

Section 6. These officers may be removed from office at any time by the Bishop with the approval of the Standing Committee.

Section 7. The terms of office of the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor (if there is one) shall begin immediately upon appointment, and shall terminate upon removal or when their successors shall have been duly appointed and approved. In the event of a vacancy in these offices, the Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee, may fill the vacancy.

ARTICLE VII CONDUCT OF THE SYNOD

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

Section 2. A majority of the parochial Clergy canonically resident and domiciled in the Diocese and a majority of the maximum number of Lay Deputies permitted under Article V, when duly assembled, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A smaller number may adjourn the Synod if a quorum is not present.

Section 3. When the word "majority" is used in reference to votes of Synod, it shall mean a simple or designated fractional majority of those Deputies who have been certified by the Committee on Credentials as entitled to seat, voice and vote in the Synod and who have properly registered prior to commencement of each session of Synod.

Section 4. At meetings of the Synod, the Clergy and the Lay Deputies shall deliberate and vote as one body, with the following exceptions:

A. At the election of a Bishop, or the election of Representatives or Members for the Provincial Assembly or Provincial Council, or upon amendment of this Constitution, the concurrence of both Orders shall be necessary.

B. At the request of any four members of the Clergy entitled to vote, or of any four Lay Deputies representing two or more different Congregations, the vote shall be taken by Orders. When a vote is taken by Orders, the concurrence of both Orders shall be necessary for affirmative action.

ARTICLE VIII THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be a Standing Committee of the Diocese which shall be a council of advice to the Bishop, and shall, along with the Bishop, constitute the Board of Directors of the Diocesan Corporation. If there is no Bishop canonically authorized to act, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese and it shall have such other rights and duties as provided by the Provincial and Diocesan Constitution and Canons. It shall consist of three Priests and three Laypersons to serve three-year terms, a Priest and a Layperson being elected annually.

Section 2. The members of the Standing Committee shall be elected from among the Priests of the Diocese who are qualified members of the Synod, domiciled or with cure within the Diocese, and from the Laypersons who are

qualified electors of a Congregation in the Diocese, except those pursuing an application for postulancy or ordination. No person shall be elected to a second successive full term. No person serving on the Standing Committee shall serve concurrently on the Diocesan Council, Ecclesiastical Court or Diocesan staff, or as Chancellor or Vice Chancellor.

Section 3. As soon as practicable after the adjournment of each annual Synod, the Standing Committee shall meet and shall elect a president and a vice president from among its Clerical members and a secretary from among its members, either Clerical or Lay. The Secretary shall keep a record of all the proceedings of the Standing Committee. The records shall be open at all times to inspection by the Bishop of the Diocese. The President or designated Committee member shall give a full report of the actions of the Standing Committee to each annual Synod.

Section 4. A majority of the members of the Standing Committee shall constitute a quorum and shall be competent to act unless the Canons shall require a larger number.

Section 5. The Standing Committee shall have power to fill vacancies in its own membership, with such appointments to run until the next annual Synod.

ARTICLE IX

DELEGATES TO THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL AND ASSEMBLY

The selection of Delegates and Alternate Delegates to any Provincial Council or Provincial Assembly at which the diocese is entitled to representation shall be provided by Canon.

ARTICLE X DIOCESAN COUNCIL

There shall be a Diocesan Council which, subject to the authority of the Bishop, shall guide the affairs of the Diocese as specified by Canon. It shall have the authority to act in the interim period between Synods, implementing the directives and policies of Synod; except that the Council shall not act in contravention of the expressed will of the Synod.

ARTICLE XI MODE OF ELECTION

Section 1. The election of all officers and representatives provided for in this Constitution shall be by ballot, unless the Synod shall dispense with this requirement by a two-thirds majority consent.

Section 2. The election for all offices or positions shall be by majority vote of all Deputies unless a ballot by Orders is required.

Section 3. Balloting shall continue until the required number for such office or position has been elected, provided that the Synod may, by a vote of a two thirds majority, adopt an alternate form of voting procedure.

Section 4. Except for balloting during the election of a Bishop, when a vote is taken by Orders, after the third ballot by Orders, the Synod may by a two-thirds majority of the Synod voting as a single house and not by Orders, suspend voting by Orders in favor of Section 3 to fill remaining vacancies.

ARTICLE XII THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

Section 1. The election of a Bishop for this Diocese shall be made by Synod. The Secretary of Synod shall give at least sixty days' written notice of the same to all members of the Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese and to all Wardens, Vestries and Bishop's Committees of every Congregation in the Diocese.

Section 2. The election of a Bishop shall be, without exception, by Orders and by ballot. Members of the Clergy entitled to vote shall be qualified in conformity to Article V, Section 1; provided that no member of the Clergy shall be entitled to vote in the election of a Bishop unless that member of the Clergy shall have had the right to vote under the provisions of Article V for the whole period of three months immediately preceding such episcopal election.

Section 3. If two-thirds of all the Clergy entitled to vote are present, and two-thirds of the maximum number of Lay Deputies permitted under Article V, Section 2 are present, a concurrent majority of both Orders, voting separately, shall determine a choice. If less than two-thirds of either Order is present, a two thirds concurrent majority in each Order shall be necessary, a quorum being certified prior to the balloting.

Section 4. The Synod shall have power, by Canon or by resolution, to prescribe the method of nominating for election to the Episcopate; provided sufficient opportunity is given for nominations from the floor of the Synod.

Section 5. The election of a Bishop-Coadjutor shall be governed by this Article.

Section 6. The election of a Suffragan Bishop shall be governed by this Article, provided however, that the Bishop of the Diocese may withdraw his consent for such election at any time before such an election, and prior to the casting of each ballot.

ARTICLE XIII

ADMISSION OF PARISHES AND MISSIONS

Section 1. The Synod shall prescribe by Canon the qualifications by which a Congregation may be recognized as an Organized Mission, Parish or Parochial Mission of the Church in this Diocese and admitted to its Synod.

Section 2. No mission shall be established within the bounds of any existing Parish which shall be within a radius of five miles from the altar of that Parish, without the consent of the Rector and Vestry thereof, previously given in writing; provided, that when such consent shall have been refused, if the Bishop wishes to pursue the formation of a new mission, he shall refer the matter to the Standing Committee for their advice and consent, and may proceed if he receives the consent of a majority of all the members thereof. The advice and consent of the Standing Committee shall be given only after a hearing before it which permits judgment on the subject of any conflicts existing, and at which representatives from both the existing Parish and the proposed mission shall be permitted to present full evidence for their positions.

ARTICLE XIV

ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. The Synod shall have power to raise money by assessment on the Parishes and Missions of the Diocese, by Canon or resolution, for the necessary and proper expenses of the Diocese. Special assessments for purposes not provided for by Canon nor included in the budget canonically adopted shall require a two-thirds majority consent of the Synod.

Section 2. The Synod shall have power, subject to the Canons, to impose such penalty for neglect to pay assessments as it may deem appropriate, provided that such penalties are consistently applied.

ARTICLE XV
AUTHENTICATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Section 1. A copy of this Constitution as adopted, together with the certificate of adoption signed and attested by the Bishop and the Secretary of the Synod, and similarly attested copies of all subsequent additions, alterations and amendments shall be in the care and custody of the Registrar of the Diocese.

Section 2. All previous Constitutions, in whole and in the several Articles thereof, adopted by any Synod or Convention of this Diocese are hereby annulled and repealed.

ARTICLE XVI
ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The Synod shall provide by Canon for a Committee on Constitution and Canons, to serve continuously, and shall prescribe its membership, organization and functions.

Section 2. Any proposed alteration, amendment or repeal of this Constitution shall first be submitted in writing to the Committee on Constitution and Canons, and shall be reported by them to the Synod, with their recommendations.

Section 3. If approved by the Synod at its first reading, the proposed amendment shall be published in the Journal and held until the next Synod. Upon final consideration by the next Synod it shall be adopted if approved by a majority of both Orders, voting separately, and concurred in by the Bishop. If not concurred in by the Bishop, he may be overruled by a two-thirds majority vote in both Orders.

Section 4. Amendments to the Constitution shall take effect with the adjournment of the Synod by which they are finally adopted; provided, that by a two-thirds vote of the Synod, they may take effect immediately.