

Proposed Amendments to Canon II, Canon III, Canon VI, and Canon XVIII

Article VI, Section 16 of the Constitution of the Diocese states: “*Each Mission recognized by the Bishop and not in union with Convention shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate chosen by its members.*” (Underline added for emphasis.)

The proposed changes to Canon II clarify these *missions not in union with Convention* as **Mission Centers**. Mission Centers exist and function separately from, but are related to, Mission Congregations in union with Convention. With these updates to Canon II in place, *The Theology of Mission: Policies and Procedures Manual for Missions in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles* can be revised and updated to address the needs, concerns, obligations, and resources available to both Mission Congregations and Mission Centers.

These changes to Canon II **DO NOT** create new types of communities within EDLA. The changes clarify what already exists and what is already recognized in the Diocesan Constitution and Canons. Historically, Mission Centers have been referred to as *mission stations, chapels of ease, emerging communities, new expressions of Episcopal community, preaching stations, and mission outreach centers*.

These communities are established only by consent of, and at the direction of the Bishop, and their common descriptor is that they are *not (yet) in union with Convention*. Some may move forward or return to Mission Congregation status and some may continue indefinitely as a Mission Center.

The changes to Canons III 3.02, VI 6.02, and XVIII 18.05 are necessary to keep consistent the defined use of “Mission” in the remaining provisions of the Canons.

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The Reverend Canon Kelli Grace Kurtz

Deletions in existing provisions are shown in strikethrough type and additions are in red and double underlined. The changes proposed to Convention are limited only to the stricken and double underlined materials and not to any other portion of the section or paragraph presented.

Proposed Canonical amendments require an affirmative vote by the majority of delegates at Diocesan Convention and become effective at the adjournment of the Convention at which they are adopted.

CANON II MISSIONS

~~BISHOP TO SUPERVISE~~

~~2.00~~

~~The Bishop shall have authority, supervision and control over all Missionary work within this Diocese. The Bishop shall establish and organize Missions under that authority with the assistance of the Program Group on Mission Congregations, appoint all Missionaries, and transfer, suspend or remove such Missionaries, all in accordance with the Canons.~~

~~MODE OF ORGANIZING~~

~~2.01~~

~~Fifteen or more adults, resident in any locality which is not in undue proximity to any existing Parish or Mission, may organize as a Mission, with the consent and approval of the Bishop and Standing Committee, given after presentation of an application in the manner provided in these Canons.~~

~~PAROCHIAL MISSION~~

~~2.02~~

~~A Parochial Mission, chapel, or branch Church school may be established and organized by a Parish, provided that the written consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee be first obtained in the manner specified in these Canons, and provided said Parish shall satisfy the Bishop and Standing Committee of its desire and ability to sponsor and financially support itself, and said Mission, chapel or Church school.~~

~~MISSION ORGANIZATION~~

~~2.03~~

~~A Mission shall be organized by the appointment by the Bishop of a Warden, who shall be a confirmed communicant of the Church in good standing. The Warden shall serve until a successor is appointed. Thereafter, an organizational meeting shall be called for the purpose of electing a Bishop's Committee which shall consist of the Warden and such additional number of persons as the Bishop may authorize. The Bishop's Committee may elect a Junior Warden from its own membership and shall elect a Clerk and a Treasurer who need not be members of the Bishop's Committee. The annual meeting of the Mission shall be called on a reasonable notice upon a date and place set by the official action of the Bishop's Committee at its discretion. At the discretion of the Bishop, a Mission may elect its Bishop's Committee on a rotational basis, with the exception of the Bishop's Warden. Only qualified Electors shall be eligible for the appointment or election to such office.~~

PAROCHIAL MISSION

2.04

~~The organization of a Parochial Mission shall be effected in the same manner as provided in Section 2.03, except that appointment shall be made by the Rector of the sponsoring Parish.~~

2.05

~~The election of the Bishop's Committee and eligible Mission officers shall be by ballot. No person shall be permitted to vote by proxy. Notice of this election shall be given during each regularly scheduled service on the Sunday preceding the day upon which the election is to be held, and the names of those elected shall be announced on the following Sunday, during each service.~~

TYPES OF MISSIONS AND THEIR ORGANIZATION

2.00

Throughout these Canons, "Mission(s)" refers to Diocesan Missions and Parochial Missions, in full union with Convention. "Mission(s)" does not refer to Mission Centers, not in full union with Convention.

DIOCESAN MISSION

(a) Diocesan Missions are traditional worshipping congregations in full union with the Convention. Fifteen or more adults, resident in any locality which is not in undue proximity to any existing Parish or Mission, may organize as a Mission with the consent and approval of the Bishop and Standing Committee, given after presentation of an application in the manner provided in these Canons. They shall be organized by the appointment by the Bishop of a Warden, who shall be a confirmed communicant of the Church in good standing. The Warden shall serve until a successor is appointed. Thereafter, an organizational meeting shall be called for the purpose of electing a Bishop's Committee which shall consist of the Warden and such additional number of persons as the Bishop may authorize. The election shall be by ballot. No person shall be permitted to vote by proxy. The Bishop's Committee may elect a Junior Warden from its own membership and shall elect a Clerk and a Treasurer who need not be a member of the Bishop's committee. The annual meeting of the Mission shall be called on reasonable notice upon a date and place set by the official actions of the Bishop's Committee at its discretion. At the Discretion of the Bishop, a Mission may elect its Warden. Only qualified Electors shall be eligible for the appointment or election to such office.

PAROCHIAL MISSION

(b) A Parochial Mission, chapel, or branch Church school is established and organized by a Parish, provided that the written consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee be first obtained in the manner specified in these Canons, and provided said Parish shall satisfy the Bishop and Standing Committee of its desire and ability to sponsor and financially support itself, and said Mission, chapel or Church school. The organization of a Parochial Mission shall be effected in the same manner as a Diocesan Mission except that appointment of the Warden and discretion to elect the Warden, shall be made by the Rector of the sponsoring Parish.

MISSION CENTER

(c) In the manner specified in these Canons, the Bishop may consent to the establishment of Mission Centers that are non-traditional worshipping and service communities with alternative or innovative approaches to organization, outreach, service, and community. These Mission Centers

are established and maintained at the direct pleasure of the Bishop Diocesan. Mission Centers are not in full union with convention.

BISHOP TO SUPERVISE

2.01

The Bishop shall have authority, supervision, and control over all Missions and Mission Centers within the Diocese. The Bishop shall establish and organize Missions and Mission Centers under that authority with the assistance of the Program Group on Mission Congregations, appoint all missionaries, and transfer, suspend or remove such missionaries, Missions, or Mission Centers in accordance with the Canons.

MISSIONS MANUAL

2.02

The Program Group on Mission Congregations shall present to the Bishop *A Theology of Mission: Policies and Procedures Manual for the Missions of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles* (“*Missions Manual*”) which shall govern the operations of Missions and Mission Centers on approval by the Bishop. The *Missions Manual* shall be in accordance with these Canons. Amendments to the *Missions Manual* may be proposed by the Program Group on Mission Congregations and will become effective on approval by the Bishop and 30 days posting on the Diocesan website.

2.03-2.05 RESERVED

CANON III

CHANGE OF STATUS FOR A PAROCHIAL MISSION

3.02

A Parochial Mission may organize as a ~~diocesan~~ Diocesan Mission by complying with the requirements for the organization of a Diocesan Mission under ~~Canon 2.03~~ Canon 2.00; or may organize as a Parish under Canon 3.01. In either case, however, the written application shall also include:

- (a) Evidence that the application is approved by two-thirds of all qualified Electors under Canon 2.06;
- (b) Evidence that the application is approved by a majority vote of qualified Electors present and constituting a quorum at a Parish meeting of the sponsoring Parish duly called for that purpose; and
- (c) A statement of the financial status of the Parochial Mission, certified by the treasurer of the sponsoring Parish.

CANON VI

FINANCIAL REPORTS TO BE AUDITED

6.02

(a) The financial portion of the Annual Parochial Report of each Parish or Mission, ~~including Mission and Congregations not in union with Convention,~~ shall be audited annually by an

independent certified public accountant, independent licensed public accountant or by an independent committee appointed by the Vestry or Bishop's Committee under the guidelines established by Diocesan Council. A certificate or report of the audit and the audited financial records, which will include, but are not limited to, the year-end Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Statements, shall be filed with the Secretary of Convention for transmittal to the Treasurer of the Diocese in accordance with the provisions of Title I, Canon 7, Section 1(f) and (g) of the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

CANON XVIII

DIOCESAN TASK FORCES

18.05

The Bishop shall establish and appoint such Diocesan Task Forces as seem necessary and useful to the ~~Mission~~ mission of the Diocese. Such Task Forces shall report on their activities to Diocesan Council annually and to the Bishop as the Bishop shall direct. Unless otherwise provided herein, the Bishop shall define the function of these Task Forces of the Diocese, and shall consult with them from time to time to give them advice and counsel respecting their activities. The Bishop shall designate a person to chair each such Task Force. Such other officers as seem necessary shall be elected by the Task Force. The terms of membership, the designation of members from an existing Program Group on the Diocese, and the specific time to implement the task subscribed shall be determined by the Bishop and Chair of the Task Force. The Bishop may terminate any such Task Force at his discretion. This Canon shall in no way detract from or conflict with the right of the Bishop to appoint special Advisory Committees which shall report solely to the Bishop.