CONSTITUTION

OF THE

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF UTAH

Canonical changes were made at the 120th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Utah, October 17-18, 2025
The second pass is required and will go into effect on January 1, 2027, if passed.
Effective January 1, 2026.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF UTAH

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CONSTITUTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE
DIOCESE OF UTAH

ARTICLE I
TITLE AND TERRITORY

This diocese shall be known as the "Diocese of Utah," and shall consist of the State of Utah, exclusive of any portion included in Navajoland, and the portion of Arizona consisting of the City of Page and the area surrounding Page served by the Church of St. David.

ARTICLE II
ACCEDING TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL CONVENTION

Section 1. The Diocese accedes to the General Constitution and General Canons of the Episcopal Church and recognizes the authority of the General Convention.

Section 2. This Constitution is the fundamental law of this Diocese under and in subordination to the General Constitution and General Canons and laws of the United States and of the State of Utah.

ARTICLE III
AUTHORITY

The authority of the Diocese is vested in the Bishop, the Convention and the Standing Committee. Authority in specific areas may be delegated to the Council, the Board of Trustees and officers of the Diocese.

ARTICLE IV
THE ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY

The Bishop is the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese or in the absence of the Diocesan, the Bishop Coadjutor shall be the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese if there be one, or, if there is no Bishop Coadjutor, the Standing Committee shall be the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese in the absence of a bishop.

ARTICLE V
THE CONVENTION

Section 1. The legislative power of the Diocese is vested in the Convention.

Section 2. The Convention shall be composed of the Bishop, Presbyters, Deacons, and Lay Delegates as herein provided.

Section 3. The following clergy shall be voting members of the Convention.

(1) Every Clergy Person not under ecclesiastical discipline who is and has been canonically resident within the Diocese and performing the duties of office on a regular basis for a period of six calendar months prior to the first day of the month in which the Convention is held, and who is and has been for the same period:

(a) regularly elected or appointed to, and officiating in, a parish, mission, or institutional ministry within the Diocese, or

(b) regularly assigned by the Bishop for ministry within the Diocese, or

(c) regularly working with the consent of the Bishop in whatever occupation and who has, within the preceding twelve months, complied with Title III, Canon 9, Section 3(e) of the General Canons of the Episcopal Church.

(2) Every Clergy Person not under ecclesiastical discipline who is and has been canonically resident within the Diocese for a period of six calendar months prior to the first day of the month in which the Convention is held, who retires from active service by reason of age or permanent disability according to the records of the Church Pension Fund; and

(3) A Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese not under ecclesiastical discipline who has resigned and who resides within the Diocese.

Section 4. Lay Delegates shall consist of delegates from each Parish and Mission. Delegates from Parishes and Missions shall be adult Communicants in Good Standing in the respective Parish or Mission they represent and are entitled to vote for members of the Vestry or Bishop's Committee of the Parish or Mission. The number and selection of delegates from each Parish or Mission shall be as specified in the Canons. In addition, if authorized by the Canons, Institutions or other groups may elect delegates. The qualifications and election of other delegates as authorized by the Canons shall be as specified by the Canons.

Section 5. The Convention shall be the final judge of the qualification of its members.

Section 6. Lay Members of the Council and Standing Committee, the Chancellor, the Treasurer, and the Secretary shall have seat and voice in the Convention but be without vote unless otherwise entitled to vote**.**

ARTICLE VI
MEETINGS OF CONVENTION

Section 1. There shall be an annual meeting of the Convention in each calendar year at such time and place as the ecclesiastical authority shall appoint.

Section 2. The ecclesiastical authority shall have the power to call a special meeting of the Convention (and shall call a special meeting upon the request of the Standing Committee), designating the time, place, and purpose of such meeting. No business, other than that stated in the call, shall be transacted except by unanimous vote.

Section 3. Notice of the time and place of every annual or special meeting of the Convention shall be given by the Secretary. Notification shall be sent at least twenty-five days before the time appointed for the meeting unless otherwise stipulated in this Constitution or the Canons.

ARTICLE VII
RELIGIOUS SERVICES AT THE CONVENTION

The ecclesiastical authority shall order all religious services in the Convention.

ARTICLE VIII
PRESIDENT OF CONVENTION

Section 1. The Bishop is ex officio president of the Convention or in the absence of the Diocesan, the Bishop Coadjutor if there be one.

Section 2. In the absence of a bishop, the president of the Standing Committee shall serve as the president pro tempore of the Convention.

ARTICLE IX
QUORUM

One-third of the Clergy entitled to seat, voice, and vote in the Convention and Lay Delegates from a majority (50% + 1) of the Congregations entitled to representation, when duly assembled, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE X
TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS

Section 1. The Convention shall deliberate and act as one body, except as provided elsewhere in this Constitution.

Section 2. All elections shall be by written or electronic ballot unless a voice vote is approved by unanimous consent of the Convention or is otherwise provided for in this Constitution or the Canons.

Section 3. Except in the case of the election of a bishop when a vote by orders is required, a vote by orders may also be required by a majority of the Lay Delegates from any three Congregation or by three or more Clergy with seat, voice, and vote who, as a group, are associated with at least three different Congregations or Institutions. In a vote by orders, a concurrent majority in each Order shall be necessary for an affirmative action or election unless a greater vote is required by this Constitution or the Canons for such action or election.

Section 4. No vote may be cast by proxy in the Convention or in any annual or special meetings of a Parish or Mission of this Diocese.

ARTICLE XI
OFFICERS

Section 1. At each annual meeting of the Convention, the Convention shall elect a Treasurer. The Convention, upon nomination by the Bishop, shall elect a Secretary, a Registrar, a Chancellor, and one or more Vice-Chancellors. The Convention shall elect such other officers as may be required by Canon. The election of officers who are nominated by the Bishop shall be by voice vote. Officers designated in this section shall perform the duties prescribed in this Constitution, the Canons, and the resolutions of the Convention. Officers elected by the Convention shall remain in office until their successors are elected and assume office or until removed in accordance with the Canons.

Section 2. The Secretary shall be elected from among the members of the Convention**.**

Section 3. The Treasurer shall be an adult Communicant in Good Standing of a Congregation or a member of the Clergy with seat, voice, and vote in the Convention and have such additional qualifications as may be prescribed by Canon.

Section 4. The Registrar shall be elected from among the members of the Convention.

Section 5. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors shall be learned in the law and shall be either adult Communicants in Good Standing of a Congregation or a member of the Clergy with seat, voice, and vote in the Convention.

Section 6. In the case of an officer elected by the Convention who is unable to act for any reason, the Council, upon nomination by the Bishop, shall fill the vacancy until the next annual Convention. Persons thus appointed shall meet all requirements for such office in the Constitution and Canons.

ARTICLE XII
THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Section 1. The powers, functions, and duties of the Standing Committee shall be those prescribed in the General Constitution, General Canons, the Constitution, the Canons, and the Convention.

Section 2. The membership of the Standing Committee shall be as provided in the Canons.

Section 3. Lay Members of the Standing Committee shall be adult Communicants in Good Standing of a Congregation. Presbyter members shall be canonically resident in this Diocese with seat, voice, and vote in the Convention.

Section 4. The Standing Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies occurring in its membership, through any cause, until the next annual meeting of the Convention.

ARTICLE XIII
THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Section 1. The powers, functions and duties of the Council shall include those prescribed in the Constitution, the Canons and the Convention.

Section 2. The membership of the Council shall be as provided in the Canons.

Section 3. Lay Members of the Council shall be adult Communicants in Good Standing of a Congregation. Clergy members shall be canonically resident in this Diocese with seat, voice and vote in the Convention.

Section 4. The Council shall have the power to fill vacancies occurring in its membership, through any cause, until the next annual meeting of the Convention.

ARTICLE XIV
DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION

Section 1. At the annual meeting of the Convention two years preceding the regular meeting of the General Convention, four Clergy and four Laity shall be elected to be delegates to represent this Diocese in the General Convention who shall continue in office until their successors are chosen. The Clerical deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons entitled to seat, voice, and vote in the Convention, and the Lay deputies shall be Communicants in Good Standing of a Congregation.

Section 2. The Convention shall also elect the same number of alternate deputies from each order whose qualifications shall be the same as those of deputies.

Section 3. In case of the inability of deputies or alternates to attend the General Convention, the Bishop shall have the power to appoint persons to serve, provided they meet all requirements of the Constitution and Canons.

Section 4. Deputies and alternates to the General Convention shall serve as deputies and alternates to the Provincial Synod. In the case of the inability of deputies or alternates to attend the Provincial Synod, the Bishop shall have the power to appoint persons to serve, provided they meet all requirements of the Constitution and Canons, and further provided, that if any elected deputy or alternate is thereafter able to serve such appointment shall lapse.

ARTICLE XV
ELECTION OF A BISHOP

Section 1. Election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan shall be made only in an annual meeting of the Convention or in a special meeting called for the purpose. The object of such special meeting shall be stated in the notice sent by the Secretary to all Clergy canonically resident in this Diocese and to the clerk of every Congregation. Notification of such a special meeting shall be made at least sixty days before the meeting.

Section 2. Election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan shall be made in the following manner: The Clergy and Lay Delegates shall vote by orders and election shall be by ballot. A quorum for the election of a Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor shall require the presence of Lay Delegates from two-thirds of all Congregations entitled to vote and one-third of all Clergy entitled to vote. An election shall require a majority (50% +1) in both orders.

Section 3. Election of a Bishop Suffragan shall be made only with the approval of the Bishop.

ARTICLE XVI
PARISHES AND MISSIONS

Section 1. Every Parish and Mission in this Diocese at the time of the adoption of this Constitution shall be considered in union with and entitled to representation in the Convention, unless hereafter deprived of such standing and right by vote of the Convention in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and the Canons.

Section 2. The Convention, by Canon, may prescribe terms and conditions for the organization of Parishes and Missions.

ARTICLE XVII
ASSESSMENT

The Convention shall establish a formula for the contribution of each Parish and Mission to the greater church. The Convention shall have the power to set the assessment and the timing of payments. If a Parish or Mission fails to make its contribution, the Diocese shall take such action as prescribed by the Canons.

ARTICLE XVIII
ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION

The method of altering this Constitution shall be as follows:

(1) A proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Committee on Constitution and Canons at least sixty (60) days prior to the date set for the annual Convention.

(2) The Committee on Constitution and Canons shall file a report on the proposed amendment with the Secretary for inclusion in the notice of the meeting as required by Article VI of this Constitution.

(3) The proposed amendment shall be considered at the Convention and if approved by a majority (50% + 1) vote, shall lie over until the next annual Convention. If again approved by two-thirds of each order voting separately and by the Bishop, the amendment shall be adopted and shall be in force from the date of adoption unless some future date is specified in the amendment. The proposed amendment may be altered or added to before its adoption by a majority (50% + 1) of the first Convention or before its final approval at the second Convention.

(4) Provided, if such proposed amendment is altered or added to at the second Convention by a majority (50% + 1) vote, it shall lie over until the next annual Convention. If again approved by two-thirds of each order voting separately and by the Bishop, the amendment shall be adopted and shall be in force from the date of adoption unless some future date is specified in the amendment.