

THE TRADITIONAL ANGLICAN CHURCH

CONSTITUTION & INTERIM CANONS

Adopted 4th May 1996

1. NAME

- 1.1 The Name of this Church is The Traditional Anglican Church.

2. FUNDAMENTAL DECLARATIONS.

- 2.1 The Traditional Anglican Church, being a part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, holds the Christian Faith as professed by the Church of Christ from primitive times and in particular as set forth by the Ecumenical Councils of the undivided Church and embodied in the Creeds known as the Nicene Creed, Athanasius' Creed, and that which is commonly called the Apostles' Creed.
- 2.2 This Church receives all the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as defined in Article VI of the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion as being the ultimate rule and standard of faith given by inspiration of God and containing all things necessary to salvation.
- 2.3 This Church will ever obey the commands of Christ, teach His doctrine, administer His sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, follow and uphold His discipline and preserve the three orders of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons in the sacred ministry, which orders in accordance with the example of Christ and the Apostles shall ever be reserved to adult males.
- 2.4 This Church retains and affirms the traditional orthodox doctrine and principles of the Church of England as embodied in the Book of Common Prayer (1662) together with the Form and Manner of Making, Ordaining, and Consecrating of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and in the Articles of Religion sometimes called the Thirty-nine Articles as being agreeable to the Word of God.

3. RULING PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 As a member church of the Traditional Anglican Communion, this Church accepts the Concordat of the Traditional Anglican Communion, the foundational Declaration made by loyal Anglicans gathered in the Congress of Saint Louis in the year 1977 generally known as the Affirmation of Saint Louis, and the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral (1888).
- 3.2 The standard of Faith and Worship of this Church is that expressed in the King James Version of the Holy Scriptures, sometimes known as the Authorized Version and in the Book of Common Prayer (1662) and the other authorized Prayer Books of the Member Churches of the Traditional Anglican Communion. For use in formal public worship in this Province, in addition to the aforesaid King James Version of the Holy Scriptures and the Book of Common Prayer (1662), a Parish may adopt the Holy Communion Liturgy of the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church of Scotland (1929) as an alternative to that of the Book of Common Prayer (1662) subject to the approval of the Bishop in Ordinary.
- 3.3 The sacramental life of this Church is affirmed as instituted by Christ, and as received by the Church of England in Article XXV of the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion and in the Catechism.
- 3.4 This Church recognizes lay, pastoral roles for women, together with their ancient orders including that of deaconess, as venerable vocations to which proper encouragement and reverence is due.

- 3.5 The doctrine and practice of this Church with regard to the estate of Holy Matrimony is that which has traditionally been taught and practised in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer.
- 3.6 No Council of this Church whether it be provincial, diocesan or parish shall take power or authority to itself to determine any question of faith and order nor any question of religious doctrine, ritual or ceremonial, the authority to determine such questions of faith, order, doctrine, ritual and ceremonial residing in the first instance with the Bishop or Bishops having diocesan jurisdiction in this Church and finally with the College of Bishops, in each case acting with such competent advice as may be available, and paying proper regard to the Fundamental Declarations of this Church.
- 3.7 This Church acknowledges its primary identity of history, character, and purpose with the Church of England since its first establishment as a Romano-British Church which by the year of Our Lord 314 was recorded as being represented at the Council of Aries by three Bishops of Britain - Eborius of York, Restitutus of London, and Adelfius of Colonia Londensium, and later under the Diocesan Authority of St. Augustine of Canterbury in the year of Our Lord 597 until the governing bodies of that Church impaired its witness and being by the formal promulgation of heterodox principles of belief and practice in the year of Our Lord 1994. The Traditional Anglican Church further identifies with those member Churches of the Traditional Anglican Communion throughout the world as an integral portion of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church namely: The Anglican Catholic Church in Australia, The Anglican Catholic Church of Canada, The Anglican Church in America, The Anglican Church of India (which is the legitimate successor to The Church of India, Pakistan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka), The Church of Ireland (Traditional Rite), The Orthodox Church of Pakistan (Anglican), The Anglican Church of South Africa (Traditional Rite), and those member churches of the Anglican communion that have remained constant in apostolic faith and order, preserving the unity of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. The Traditional Anglican Church will remain in communion with the aforesaid Churches so long as such communion is consistent with the Fundamental Declarations set forth in these Canons.
- 3.8 Subject to the essential principles safeguarded in the aforesaid canons and ever mindful of the duty defined in Article XXXIV of the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion to respect and understand that it is not necessary that tradition and ceremonies be in all places one, or utterly like, it shall be the desired aim of The Traditional Anglican Church to strive to embrace and safeguard the various traditions and ceremonies approved by lawful authority that we have received across the British Isles, which be not repugnant to the Word of God, and be ordained and approved by common authority.
- 3.9 This Church desires to be in full communion with the whole of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, and endeavouring to promote Christian Unity, shall regard as the minimum basis for such unity, the sharing of common Scriptures, Creeds, Sacraments, and Apostolic Ministry as identified in the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral of 1888.

4 MEMBERSHIP OF THIS CHURCH.

- 4.1 "Member of this Church" means a validly baptized person who regularly attends worship conducted under the jurisdiction of this Church and who declares that he is a member of this Church and that he accepts the jurisdiction of the Bishop or Bishops Ordinary in this Church PROVIDED THAT in individual cases of difficulty arising by reason of disability or distance of residence from places of worship the requirements as to frequency of worship may be determined by the Bishop or his Deputy in the light of particular circumstances.
- 4.2 "Communicant Member of this Church" means a member of this Church who has been validly Confirmed or who pending such Confirmation has been admitted lawfully to Holy Communion in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Common Prayer AND who is not an excommunicated person as far as this Church is concerned.
- 4.3 "Voting Member of this Church" means an adult Communicant Member of at least 18 years of age, whether Clergy or Laity who has signed such Declarations of Faith as are consistent with these Canons, and as the Bishop may determine.

5 OF PARISHES AND CONGREGATIONS.

- 5.1 A Parish shall consist of a congregation of twelve or more adult communicant members of this Church, and recognized as such by the Bishop.
- 5.2 A Provisional Parish shall consist of a congregation of not less than three adult communicant members of this Church, and recognized as such by the Bishop.
- 5.3 An Annual Meeting of the Parish shall be held during April of each year.

6 OF DIOCESES AND DEANERIES.

- 6.1 This Church upholds the principle of Episcopal integrity and so understands the Diocese to be the fundamental unit of the Church, notwithstanding the Anglican Church tradition of respecting, under episcopal authority, parochial integrity both in determining the worshipping identity of the parish, and in securing the independent living of a beneficed clergy, which, if in order, the Ordinary is bound to respect.
- 6.2 A Diocese is defined as the territorial unit of administration, or collection of parishes and congregations of a particular tradition as pertaining in England, Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, governed by a Bishop, and identified by a name which is deemed appropriate.
- 6.3 A Deanery is defined as the territorial unit of administration, or collection of parishes and congregations, administered by a Dean, and identified by a name which is deemed appropriate.
- 6.4 A Diocese may be divided into two or more Deaneries by Ordinary Canon of the Provincial Assembly as provided hereunder.
- 6.5 Until such time as a second or more dioceses of this Church be created, the Diocesan Assembly shall, ipso facto, be the Provincial Assembly of Great Britain.

7 OF THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY AND THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

- 7.1 There shall be a Diocesan Assembly of each Diocese of this Church to advise and assist the Bishop Ordinary of each Diocese in the government thereof.
- 7.2 The Diocesan Assembly shall consist of:
- (a) The Bishop Ordinary, and all other Bishops holding his licence and canonically resident in the Diocese in addition to those Bishops nominated under the terms of Canon (10.4).
 - (b) All Priests holding the licence of the Bishop or his formal permission to officiate.
 - (c) All Deacons holding the licence of the Bishop or his formal permission to officiate.
 - (d) Two lay voting members nominated from the congregation of each Parish and Provisional Parish, PROVIDED THAT each Parish and Provisional Parish may also nominate a substitute Member of the Diocesan Assembly who may have a seat and voice in the Assembly if a member nominated is unable to be present or is disqualified from membership;
 - (e) Not more than three other persons appointed by the Bishop.
- 7.3 Pursuant to Canon 7.2 (d) above the nomination by Parishes and Provisional Parishes shall take place at their respective Annual Meetings.
- 7.4 Those lay members nominated pursuant to Canons 7.2 (d) and 7.2 (e) shall hold office for a term of three years unless they be reappointed or otherwise resign, die or be disqualified from such office, or unless the Diocesan Assembly be dissolved upon the See becoming vacant.
- 7.5 The Diocesan Assembly shall be convened and chaired by the Bishop. It shall meet at least once every year provided that:
- (a) During not more than two successive years, the Bishop may submit to the members of the Diocesan Assembly the Agenda giving notice of a proposed meeting, including the exact terms of any proposed Resolutions supported by all relevant information, and accompanied by a Voting Paper including the terms of such proposed Resolutions, and upon such voting papers being delivered by post or otherwise to the Registrar or other officer of the Diocesan Assembly appointed by the Bishop for the purpose, the Meeting of the Diocesan Assembly shall be deemed to have been held on the date appointed by the Bishop for the return of such voting papers.
 - (b) The date and place of every other meeting shall be determined by the Bishop after whatever consultation he may find expedient.
 - (c) A Resolution shall be deemed to have been agreed if accepted by not less than 75% of the votes cast.
- 7.6 The enactment of Ordinances and Rules.
- (a) The Diocesan Assembly may enact such Ordinances and Rules for the good order and government of its Diocese as are not inconsistent with these Canons.
 - (b) No Ordinance shall have or be of any effect unless and until it receives the formal assent of the Bishop.
 - (c) An Ordinance shall be a statute for the good order and government of the temporal affairs of the Diocese.
 - (d) The enactment of an Ordinance may be initiated by the Diocesan Assembly or the Diocesan Council.

- 7.7 In each Diocese there shall be a Diocesan Council to advise and assist the Bishop in the government of the Diocese. Unless other provision be made by canon such Council shall consist of the Bishop Ordinary together with:
- (a) Any other Bishops holding episcopal office in the Diocese;
 - (b) Each Dean holding office in a Deanery, if there be one, of the Diocese;
 - (c) Not less than two other clergy appointed by the Bishop;
 - (d) Not less than three lay voting members appointed by the Bishop; and
 - (e) One lay voting member nominated from each Deanery and appointed by the Bishop.

7.8 Unless the See be vacant, a Diocesan Council may be known as Bishop-in-Council.

8 OF THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL.

- 8.1 Provision is hereby made for a Provincial Assembly of the British Isles, or part thereof, in the event that some such body shall be deemed to be desirable for the good life and government of this Church by the Traditional Anglican Communion College of Bishops, consequent to the proper consultation with, and enactment by, each aforesaid Diocesan Assembly.
- 8.2 Immediately upon the creation of the Provincial Assembly as aforesaid, the Diocesan Assembly defined in Canon 6.5 shall cease to be the Provincial Assembly.
- 8.3 Where there be two or more Bishops in Ordinary of this Church, the one that shall have first been consecrated Bishop shall normally assume Primacy and be Metropolitan of this Church unless the Primate in Council with the College of Bishops shall deem otherwise.
- 8.4 The purpose of the Provincial Assembly shall be to advise and assist the Convocation of this Church comprising the Metropolitan and the Bishops of each member Diocese of this Church in addition to those Bishops nominated under the terms of Canon (10.4) in the government and sound administration thereof.
- 8.5 The enactment of Canons, Ordinances, and Rules.
- (a) The Provincial Assembly may enact such Canons, Ordinances, and Rules for the good order and government of this Church as are not inconsistent with these Canons.
 - (b) No Canon or Ordinance shall have or be of any effect unless and until it receives the formal assent of the Metropolitan if there be one, otherwise the Bishop.
 - (c) A Canon shall be a statute for the good order and government of the temporal affairs and godly discipline of this Church.
 - (d) The enactment of a Canon may be initiated by the Provincial Assembly, or the Provincial Council.
 - (e) An Ordinance shall be a statute for the good order and government of the temporal affairs of this Church.
 - (f) The enactment of an Ordinance may be initiated by the Provincial Assembly, or the Provincial Council.

- 8.6 The Provincial Assembly shall consist of:
- (a) The Bishops comprising the aforesaid Convocation of this Church;
 - (b) Four clergy nominated from each Diocesan Assembly in the Province holding the licence of the Bishop or his formal permission to officiate.
 - (c) Four lay voting members nominated from each Diocesan Assembly, PROVIDED THAT each Diocese may also nominate a substitute Member of the Provincial Assembly who may have a seat and voice in the Assembly if the member nominated is unable to be present or is disqualified from membership;
 - (d) Not more than three other lay persons appointed by the Bishop.
- 8.7 Pursuant to Canon 8.6 (c) above the nomination by each Diocese shall take place at their respective Annual Meetings.
- 8.8 Those lay members nominated pursuant to Canons 8.6 (c) and 8.6 (d) shall hold office for a term of three years unless they be reappointed or otherwise resign, die or be disqualified from such office, it being noted that the Provincial Assembly shall not be dissolved upon the Primacy or Metropolitan office becoming vacant.
- 8.9 The Provincial Assembly shall be convened and chaired by the Metropolitan. It shall meet at least once every year provided that:
- (a) During not more than two successive years, the Metropolitan may submit to the members of the Provincial Assembly the Agenda giving notice of a proposed meeting, including the exact terms of any proposed Resolutions, and accompanied by a Voting Paper including the terms of such proposed Resolutions, and upon such voting papers being delivered by post or otherwise to the Registrar or other officer of the Provincial Assembly appointed by the Bishop for the purpose, the Meeting of the Provincial Assembly shall be deemed to have been held on the date appointed by the Metropolitan for the return of such voting papers;
 - (b) The date and place of every other meeting shall be determined by the Metropolitan after whatever consultation he may find expedient;
 - (c) A Resolution shall be deemed to have been agreed if accepted by not less than 75% of the votes cast.
- 8.10 Upon the establishment of the aforesaid Provincial Assembly there shall also be a Provincial Council to advise and assist the Metropolitan in the government of this Church. Unless other provision be made by Canon, such Council shall consist of the Metropolitan together with:
- (a) The next most senior Bishop in Ordinary holding episcopal office in this Church;
 - (b) Not less than two other clergy appointed by the Metropolitan;
 - (c) Not less than two laymen being adult communicants appointed by the Metropolitan.
- 8.11 Unless the Office of Metropolitan be vacant, the Provincial Council may be known as the Metropolitan-in-Council.

9 OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

- 9.1 On any matter affecting the good order and government of this Church concerning which there is insufficient canonical provision, the Metropolitan, if there be one, otherwise the Bishop may make Regulations pending the making and enactment of a canon or ordinance to provide for that matter.
- 9.2 (a) The Bishop may appoint a Vicar-General and so many Suffragan Bishops and Deans as he deems appropriate to provide pastoral and episcopal oversight in his Diocese.
- (b) The Vicar-General, Suffragan Bishops, and Deans shall be responsible for providing such administration services to the Diocese as the Bishop may delegate to them.
- (c) In the event of the Bishop being unable to act through absence or incapacity, the Senior Suffragan Bishop, and in the absence of such, the Vicar-General shall assume the executive management of the Diocese and shall exercise all the administrative functions of the Bishop for the good order and government of the Diocese.
- 9.3 In the event of the Bishop, Suffragan Bishop, and the Vicar-General being absent from the Diocese for a period exceeding one month or of the Bishop, Suffragan Bishop, and the Vicar-General being unable through illness or other serious disability or incapacity to act, the Diocesan Council shall assume the management of the Diocese pro-tem and may appoint a priest as Acting Vicar-General who shall share with it responsibility for taking whatever measures may be necessary to maintain the good order and continuity of the life of this Church.
- 9.4 (a) In a new parish, provisional parish or other parish which has no clergyman in charge, the Bishop, or in the event of the absence or incapacity of the Bishop or Suffragan Bishop, the Vicar-General may appoint by letter a qualified adult communicant member of this Church as Bishop's Warden, to be responsible for the care and development of the parish until such time as a clergyman may be appointed, and under such terms as may be set out in the Letter of Appointment.
- (b) Such Letters of Appointment may be revoked by the Bishop or his Suffragan without notice and without any cause being assigned.
- 9.5 No person shall purport to act as Chairman or Convenor of any Diocesan, Parish, or other Ecclesial Body without proper authority.

10 OF BISHOPS.

- 10.1 A Bishop shall be above thirty years of age, not less than five years a Priest of a member church of the Traditional Anglican Communion, and otherwise qualified to be a Bishop in the Church of God.
- 10.2 Any Bishop appointed to the office of Bishop Ordinary desirably shall be for life, but he shall be required to offer his resignation on his seventieth birthday and on each succeeding birthday thereafter until it be accepted.
- 10.3 Each Suffragan or Assistant Bishop shall be appointed by the Bishop Ordinary and during the period of his appointment he shall bear such title as the Bishop Ordinary may determine and shall perform such Diocesan duties and exercise such episcopal authority in the Diocese as the Bishop Ordinary may from time to time require.

- 10.4 This Church accepts the protective jurisdiction of the Primate of the Traditional Anglican Communion as its Bishop Ordinary, and an Episcopal Visitor of the International Anglican Fellowship, or other nomination of the Primate as its Suffragan Bishop until such time as a resident Bishop Ordinary be appointed to this Church.
- 10.5 At such time as the Primate deems it appropriate for a resident Bishop Ordinary to be appointed to this Church a vacancy shall be deemed to have arisen and the procedures to seek the nomination and appointment of a Bishop Ordinary shall be invoked.

11 VACANCY IN THE SEE, BISHOPRIC OR DIOCESE.

- 11.1 The See, Bishopric, or Diocese (hereinafter referred to as "the See") shall become vacant upon:
- (a) The resignation, retirement or death of the Bishop thereof; or
 - (b) The determination of the Diocesan Council, upon the Bishop being absent from the Diocese without leave of the Diocesan Council for a period exceeding six consecutive months, if in the opinion of the Diocesan Council there appears to be no realistic likelihood of the Bishop resuming his duties in the immediate future; or
 - (c) The determination of the Diocesan Council upon receipt of written certification from at least two registered medical practitioners that the Bishop is so seriously physically or mentally incapacitated that he is unlikely to be able to resume and effectively discharge his duties within the ensuing twelve months.
- 11.2 (a) In the event of the See becoming vacant as aforesaid the office of Vicar-General shall also become vacant but there shall be an Administrator of the Diocese, who shall be:
- (i) The Bishop-coadjutor if there be one, who shall also become Bishop-elect; or if there be no Bishop-coadjutor then
 - (ii) The clergyman holding office as Vicar-General at the time the See became vacant; or if there be no Vicar-General at such time then
 - (iii) Such clergyman who shall be elected to office as Administrator at a meeting of the Diocesan Council convened by the Secretary for the purpose of such election,
- (b) The Administrator taking office in accordance with this clause shall remain in office as such until such time as the new Bishop Ordinary has been duly installed and enthroned.
- 11.3 In the event of the See becoming vacant as aforesaid, the Diocesan Assembly shall ipso facto be dissolved until such time as the succeeding Bishop Ordinary has taken such action as is necessary to reconstitute it.
- 11.4 In the event of the See becoming vacant as aforesaid, responsibility for the nomination, election, and appointment of a new Bishop thereof shall be vested in an Electoral College which shall be the College of Bishops of the Traditional Anglican Communion acting upon the terms of these Canons, to whom as many copies of these Canons as may be reasonably required shall be furnished. The procedures for the nomination of a candidate to the See shall be as set out in Canon 12, and for his election and appointment shall be as set out in Canon 13.

- 11.5 Upon the appointment to the See being made of a Bishop-elect not already in episcopal Orders, the Diocesan Council in consultation with the Electoral College shall take order to secure the consecration of the Bishop-elect to the episcopate.
- 11.6 Upon an appointment to the See being made of a Bishop-elect already in episcopal Orders, or upon the consecration of such other Bishop-elect, the Administrator shall take order for the installation and enthronement of the Bishop-elect as Bishop of the Diocese.
- 11.7 In the event of any provision in this Canon (11) proving to be insufficient or incapable of fulfilment, the Diocesan Council may take whatever lawful measures may be appropriate to secure the proper episcopal oversight to the Diocese.
- 11.8 So far as may be possible, all procedures in connection with or arising from this Canon (11) should be carried out with earnest prayer and due consideration.

12 NOMINATION OF A BISHOP.

- 12.1 Upon the See becoming vacant as aforesaid, the Secretary of the Diocese shall notify the Electoral College and the Members of the former Diocesan Assembly forthwith in writing:
 - (a) The name of the Administrator of the Diocese;
 - (b) The names of any candidates proposed in accord with these Canons already received;
 - (c) The date, being two months from the date of the notification sent in accord with this Canon (12.1), by which the names of any further suitably qualified candidates being proposed in accord with these Canons, from the British Isles or elsewhere, should be notified to the Secretary.
 - (d) The date, being three months from the date of the notification sent in accord with this Canon (12.1), by which any candidate wishing to decline his candidature should be notified to the Secretary.
- 12.2
 - (a) Every Priest holding a licence in the Diocese who in the opinion of the Administrator of the Diocese is not disqualified under the terms of Canon 10.1 shall ipso facto be deemed to be a candidate for nomination.
 - (b) Where a candidate from a jurisdiction other than The Traditional Anglican Church is proposed, such proposal shall be accompanied by Letters Testimonial from the Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese in which the candidate is canonically resident testifying to his suitability for nomination and a letter from the candidate accepting such nomination.
 - (c) Each such proposal shall include true and sufficient details of the candidate's name, place and date of birth, places and dates of baptism, confirmation and ordination, academic and other qualifications and curriculum vitae, shall be signed by the proposer and seconder, both of whom shall be members of the former Diocesan Assembly, and shall be submitted to the Secretary.

- 12.3 Upon the passing of the closing date for nominations, a meeting, the proceedings of which shall be and remain confidential, to be held in camera, shall be convened by the Secretary of those members of the Diocesan Council as are not candidates, for the purpose of examining those candidates nominated in accord with Canon 12.2, and listing in order of preference, the names of not more than three candidates which have been accepted in accord with Canon 12.2 together with sufficient copies of the nomination papers of those candidates not having declined candidature for submission to the Electoral College.
- 12.4 No candidate shall be present during the deliberations of the Council, except for purposes of interview, and no minutes shall be kept of the meeting, save for a record of the time, date and place of each meeting, the names of those present, and the outcome of any final ballot to determine the order of preference of the names of the candidates to be submitted to the Electoral College.
- 12.5 Upon the final two or three candidates (as the case may be) having been determined in accordance with the provisions of Canon 12.3, the Chairman shall require from each of those candidates such written Declarations as the law or custom of this Church may require.
- 12.6 Upon such Declarations being furnished by the candidates, the Chairman shall declare those candidates to be nominated to the Electoral College for appointment (if elected thereby) to the See, Bishopric or Diocese, and shall cause to be conveyed to the Electoral College a Certificate to this effect signed by himself together with two other members of the Diocesan Council as determined by the Council.

13 THE ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF A BISHOP.

- 13.1 The Electoral College may order its appointment and proceedings, and make such inquiries in relation to its appointment and proceedings as it sees fit.
- 13.2 Upon the Electoral College receiving the final list of nominated candidates as furnished by the Returning Officer in accordance with the provisions of the Canon 12.6, and determining the preferred order of those candidates offered for appointment as Bishop, the Bishop presiding therein shall offer the appointment to whomsoever the Electoral College, being ever mindful of its overriding collective responsibilities to safeguard and pass on the true Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and none other, shall deem fit from among those that be eligible as required by Canon 12, having first given full and proper consideration to the preferred candidates nominated by the Returning Officer of the Diocese concerned. Notwithstanding the consideration required of the Electoral College, both to safeguard the orthodox passing on of the true Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the due ordering of His One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, and there be no just cause why some other be appointed, the aforesaid Electoral College shall normally be expected to concur with the preferred wish of the Diocese concerned as determined in Canon 12.
- 13.3 In the event of the first candidate declining the appointment, the Bishop presiding in the Electoral College shall convey the offer of the appointment to the next preferred candidate.
- 13.4 In the event of all the candidates nominated by the Diocesan Council declining the appointment, the Bishop presiding in the Electoral College shall inform the Administrator accordingly, and upon the effluxion of three months from the date upon which such advice is received by the Administrator the procedures required by Canon 12.1 shall be repeated once.
- 13.5 Upon one of the candidates accepting the offer of the appointment, the Bishop presiding in the Electoral College shall advise the Administrator, the Secretary, and the Registrar of the Diocese accordingly and in writing as soon as possible.
- 13.6 In the event of the procedures carried out in accordance with the provisions of Canon 13.5 proving inconclusive, the Electoral College may elect a clergyman of its own choice to the See, subject to ratification by postal ballot of such election and appointment by a 75% majority of the Members of the former Diocesan Assembly.
- 13.7 In the event of the Members of the former Diocesan Assembly failing to ratify such election and appointment as provided in Canon 13.6, an appointment to the See may be made by the Primate of the Traditional Anglican Communion.

14 ALTERATION OF THESE CANONS.

- 14.1 These Canons shall not be altered except in accordance with this Canon (14).
- 14.2 Neither this Church nor any Assembly, Council or other authority of or in this Church takes any power whatsoever under these Canons or otherwise to alter Canon 2 or Canon 14.1 or this Canon (14.2) and for the purpose of interpreting this Canon the word "alter" shall always be taken to

include in its meaning "amend" and "repeal". It is the purpose of this Canon to ensure that Canon 2 remains unchanged in any way whatsoever.

- 14.3 (a) This Church takes no power under these Canons to alter, amend or repeal Canon 3 and this Canon (14.3) except only by Special Canon duly adopted by a Special Session of the Provincial Assembly.
- (b) At such Special Session of the Provincial Assembly the only items of business shall be those proposed resolutions dealing with the terms of any such proposed Special Canon.
- (c) In order to be enacted by the Provincial Assembly any proposed Special Canon shall be passed with the affirmative votes of not less than nine-tenths of the votes cast.
- 14.4 Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Canon (14) any other Canon may be amended, altered or added to from time to time by Ordinary Canon of the Provincial Assembly.

15 TERM AND EFFECT OF THESE CANONS.

- 15.1 These Canons shall come into effect on and from the 4th day of May 1996 for an interim period of five years.
- 15.2 As soon as may be expedient prior to the expiry of the first interim period of five years specified under Canon 15.1 or any of the extension interim periods of three years each provided for under Canon 15.3 the Bishop shall convene a meeting of the Diocesan Assembly the business of which shall include a review of these Canons and following the adoption of any amendments the Diocesan Assembly may ratify these Canons as amended, deleting the term "Interim" from its title.
- 15.3 In the event of these Canons not being ratified prior to the expiry of the first interim period of five years in accordance with the provisions set out in Canon 15.2, these Canons shall continue in force as Interim Canons for farther periods of three years each until such time as these Canons are ratified in accordance with the provisions set out in Canon 15.2.

16 INTERPRETATION.

- 16.1 In the case of lay but not clerical persons words in these Canons importing the masculine shall include the feminine.
- 16.2 Unless the context or subject matter indicates otherwise, "The Bishop" means the Bishop Ordinary as defined in Canon 10.4 or his lawful and canonical successors in office of a Diocese or Dioceses in The Traditional Anglican Church.
- 16.3 Unless the context or subject matter indicates otherwise, "Parish" means Parish or Provisional Parish.

Printed and Published by The Traditional Anglican Church