

**PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION**  
**OF**  
**THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

|                             |                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>PRESENT CONSTITUTION</b> | <b>PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|

**PREAMBLE**

Dedicated to the worship and service of Almighty God, this Constitution is ordained and established for the Diocese of Western Michigan.

**PREAMBLE**

Dedicated to the worship and service of Almighty God in the Anglican and Episcopal tradition, this Constitution is ordained and established for the Diocese of Western Michigan.

|  |
|--|
| <b>COMMENT:</b> Present provision changed to add "in the Anglican and Episcopal tradition", otherwise unchanged. This addition conforms to the terminology in the Preamble to the 2011 Canons. |
|--|

**ARTICLE I**

**ACCESSION TO PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

This Diocese is a constituent of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, otherwise known as The Episcopal Church (which name is hereby recognized as also designating The Church) and accedes to the doctrine, discipline, worship, constitution, canons and authority of that Church.

This Diocese is a constituent of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, otherwise known as The Episcopal Church (which name is hereby recognized as also designating The Church) and accedes to the doctrine, discipline, worship, constitution,

PRESENT CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION

canons and authority of The Episcopal Church, and recognizes the authority of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

COMMENT: Present provision changed to recognize the authority of the General Convention.

ARTICLE II

TERRITORY IN DIOCESE

The Diocese of Western Michigan embraces substantially the western half of the Lower Peninsula, including thirty-three counties and the islands jurisdictionally attached to any thereof, and extends north from the south line of said state a distance of three hundred miles, more or less, to the Straits of Mackinac, and is bounded west by the west line of said state opposite the western tier of counties hereafter named, and is bounded on the east by the east line of the several counties of Branch, Calhoun, Eaton, Ionia, Montcalm, Isabella, Clare, Missaukee, Kalkaska, Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmett, and includes all of the territory within said counties, and includes as well all of the territory within the counties of Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Allegan, Barry, Ottawa, Kent, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Manistee, Wexford, Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau.

The Diocese of Western Michigan embraces substantially the western half of the Lower Peninsula, including thirty-three counties and the islands jurisdictionally attached to any thereof, and extends north from the south line of said state a distance of three hundred miles, more or less, to the Straits of Mackinac, and is bounded west by the west line of said state opposite the western tier of counties hereafter named, and is bounded on the east by the east line of the several counties of Branch, Calhoun, Eaton, Ionia, Montcalm, Isabella, Clare, Missaukee, Kalkaska, Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmett, and includes all of the territory within said counties, and includes as well all of the territory within the counties of Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Allegan, Barry, Ottawa, Kent, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Manistee, Wexford, Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau.

PRESENT CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION

**COMMENT:** Present provision unchanged.

ARTICLE III

ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY

**Section 1. ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY**

The Bishop Diocesan is the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese, or in the absence of the Bishop 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 Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor.

**COMMENT:** New Article. Subsequent articles renumbered. This provision is taken from the Constitution of the Diocese of Utah, and establishes the ecclesiastical authority within this Diocese. The definitional provision in the 2011 Canons should be adjusted to reflect this formulation, or eliminated as duplicative.

PRESENT CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IV

CONVENTIONS

**Section 1. AUTHORIZATION**

An Annual Convention shall be, and special Conventions may be, called and held in his Diocese, as shall be provided by Canon.

**Section 1. AUTHORIZATION**

An Annual Convention shall be, and special Conventions may be, called and held in his Diocese, as shall be provided by Canon.

**COMMENT:** Present provision unchanged.

**Section 2. COMPOSITION OF CONVENTION**

The Annual Convention shall be comprised of clerical and lay delegates as follows:

- (a) The Bishop;
- (b) Each member of the clergy canonically and actually resident and having pastoral charge, or engaged in work requiring the exercise of clerical duties;
- (c) Each member of the clergy canonically and actually resident in the Diocese but not exercising clerical duties solely by reason of age or sickness;

**Section 2. COMPOSITION OF CONVENTION**

The Annual Convention shall be comprised of clerical and lay delegates as follows:

- (a) The Bishop;
- (b) Each member of the clergy canonically and actually resident and having pastoral charge, or engaged in work requiring the exercise of clerical duties;
- (c) Each member of the clergy canonically and actually resident in the Diocese but not exercising clerical duties solely by reason of age or sickness;

**PRESENT CONSTITUTION**

- (d) Each member of the clergy canonically resident in this Diocese but who is on active duty in the Chaplain's Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States of America;
- (e) Each abbot, prior or acting head of a monastic community who is canonically and actually resident in the Diocese;
- (f) Professed and ordained members of a monastic community canonically and actually resident in the Diocese and having pastoral charge of a parish in the Diocese;
- (g) Lay delegates shall be adult communicants in good standing chosen as prescribed by Canon. Each congregation in union with Convention shall be entitled to not more than four lay delegates nor less than one lay delegate as prescribed by Canon. Congregations shall be intentional about the inclusion of Persons of Color as delegates;
- (h) Youth delegates shall be adult communicants in good standing, between the ages of 16 and 21 years. Each Deanery shall select one (1) youth delegate and an additional five (5) youth delegates shall be selected as prescribed by Canon. Congregations shall be intentional about the inclusion of Persons of Color as delegates.

**PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION**

- (d) Each member of the clergy canonically resident in this Diocese but who is on active duty in the Chaplain's Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States of America;
- (e) Each abbot, prior or acting head of a monastic community who is canonically and actually resident in the Diocese;
- (f) Professed and ordained members of a monastic community canonically and actually resident in the Diocese and having pastoral charge of a parish in the Diocese;
- (g) Lay delegates shall be adult communicants in good standing chosen as prescribed by Canon. Each congregation in union with Convention shall be entitled to not more than four lay delegates nor less than one lay delegate as prescribed by Canon.
- (h) Youth delegates shall be adult communicants in good standing, between the ages of 16 and 21 years. Each Deanery shall select one (1) youth delegate and an additional five (5) youth delegates shall be selected as prescribed by Canon.
- (i) All people who want to participate in the life, worship and governance of this Church shall be encouraged regardless of

**PRESENT CONSTITUTION**

**PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION**

race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by Canons. Every effort shall be made in every election or appointment process to include members of underrepresented groups.

**COMMENT:** Last sentence of sub-sections (g) and (h) deleted and new sub-section (i) added. Deleted sentence sought to address one issue, while new sub-section (i) is intended to be broadly inclusive and states the position of the Church in positive terms. See Title I, Canon 4, Section 4.01 of the Diocesan Canons and Title I, Canon 17, Section 5 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church.

**Section 3. QUORUM**

A majority of the clergy entitled to vote and a majority of the qualified lay delegates entitled to vote, duly assembled in Convention shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the voting members present may adjourn the Convention from time to time.

**Section 3. QUORUM**

A majority of the clergy entitled to vote and a majority of the qualified lay delegates entitled to vote, duly assembled in Convention shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the voting members present may adjourn the Convention from time to time.

**COMMENT:** Present provision unchanged.

PRESENT CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION

**Section 4. OTHERS WHO MAY BE SEATED**

Provision may be made by Canon for seating any officer of the Diocese in the Convention, but without right to vote unless otherwise qualified.

**Section 4. OTHERS WHO MAY BE SEATED**

The Convention may seat with voice, but without right to vote unless otherwise qualified, of any person not listed in Article III, Section 2, above.

**COMMENT:** Present section rewritten. Present section modified to permit seating any person in Convention. Not limited to "officer of the Diocese".

**Section 5. OFFICERS OF CONVENTION**

The Bishop shall be the presiding officer at any Convention. In the absence of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if any, shall preside, or in the Bishop Coadjutor's absence the Suffragan Bishop, if any, shall preside. Otherwise, the Convention shall elect a president pro tempore from among its clerical members or a Bishop performing episcopal functions in the Diocese as provided by Canon. In case of a tie in any vote, the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote.

The Convention shall elect annually by ballot:

- (a) members sufficient to fill any vacancy on the Standing Committee, such committee to consist of four clergy and four lay adult communicants in good standing whose terms shall be delineated under the provisions of Title 1, Canon 3, Section 11, and shall elect annually

**Section 5. OFFICERS OF CONVENTION**

- (a) The Bishop shall be the presiding officer at any Convention. In the absence of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if any, shall preside, or in the Bishop Coadjutor's absence the Suffragan Bishop, if any, shall preside. Otherwise, the Convention shall elect a president *pro tempore* from among its clerical members or a Bishop performing episcopal functions in the Diocese as provided by Canon.
- (b) The Convention shall elect annually by ballot members sufficient to fill any vacancy on the Standing Committee, whose eligibility and terms shall be delineated under the provisions of Title 1, Canon 6, Section 6.01.

**PRESENT CONSTITUTION**

**PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION**

(b) a secretary,

(c) a treasurer,

(d) an assistant treasurer, and

(e) a registrar.

A chancellor shall be nominated annually by the Bishop, subject to confirmation by the Convention.

There shall be elected, or appointed, such other officers, committees, boards and trustees as shall be required by Canon, wherein their respective powers and duties shall be defined.

(c) There shall be elected, or appointed, such other officers, committees, boards and trustees as shall be required by Canon, wherein their respective powers and duties shall be defined.

**COMMENT:** Section structure revised. Canonical reference to Standing Committee updated. Last sentence of present first paragraph removed. Obligation to elect specified officers removed because covered in last paragraph. Size of Standing Committee left to Canon.

**Section 6. LEGISLATION**

The Convention shall have power to adopt such Canons and other legislation as it shall deem beneficial to Diocese, and to amend or repeal the same, provided that such legislation shall be consistent with

**Section 6. LEGISLATION**

The Convention shall have power to adopt such Canons and other legislation as it shall deem beneficial to this Diocese, and to amend or repeal the same, provided that such legislation shall be consistent with

**PRESENT CONSTITUTION**

**PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION**

this Constitution and with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and not in conflict with any valid law established by civil authority.

this Constitution and with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and not in conflict with any valid law established by civil authority.

**COMMENT:** The word "this" is added in the second line for grammatical purposes.

**Section 7. PARISHES**

Provision shall be made by Canon for the organization of congregations as parishes and for their admission into union with the Diocese, and for their continuation therein or exclusion therefrom, or dissolution.

**Section 7. CONGREGATIONS**

Provision shall be made by Canon for the organization of congregations and for their admission into union with the Diocese, and for their continuation therein or exclusion therefrom, or dissolution.

**COMMENT:** Present provision changed to delete references to "parishes". Title changed to reflect change in terminology.

**Section 8. VOTING**

A simple majority vote shall be sufficient for the adoption of any motion, resolution or legislation, except as shall be otherwise required by Constitution or by Canon, or upon request of any seven members entitled to vote, the two orders shall vote separately, and concurrence

**Section 8. VOTING**

A simple majority vote shall be sufficient for the adoption of any motion, resolution or legislation, except as shall be otherwise required by Constitution or by Canon, or upon request of any seven members entitled to vote, the two orders shall vote separately, and concurrence

PRESENT CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION

of the requisite majority of each order shall be necessary for adoption.

of the requisite majority of each order shall be necessary for adoption.

**COMMENT:** Present provision unchanged.

ARTICLE V

ELECTION OF A BISHOP

The procedure for election of a Bishop shall be as provided by Canon, and the same procedure shall be applicable to election of a Bishop Coadjutor or a Suffragan Bishop. At any such election, a motion to go into committee of the whole shall be of highest privilege after the first ballot and shall be carried by one-third of the votes of each order.

The procedure for election of a Bishop shall be as provided by Canon, and the same procedure shall be applicable to election of a Bishop Coadjutor or a Suffragan Bishop. At any such election, a motion to go into committee of the whole shall be of highest privilege after the first ballot and shall be carried by one-third of the votes of each order.

**COMMENT:** Present provision unchanged.

PRESENT CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE V

NOTICE

Notice of any meeting or action shall be valid if given as provided by Canon.

COMMENT: Present Article deleted.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution or any part thereof may be amended in the following manner only: At least ninety days in advance of the annual Convention then next ensuing, the proposal to amend shall be submitted to the Bishop in writing, who shall cause the substance of the proposed amendment to be mailed, not less than thirty days in advance of the Convention, to each member of the clergy entitled to seat and vote and to each parish in union with the Diocese. The Bishop shall refer such proposal to an appropriate committee, which shall report to the Convention. After hearing the report of the

This Constitution or any part thereof may be amended in the following manner only: At least ninety days in advance of the annual Convention, the proposal to amend shall be submitted to the Bishop in writing, who shall give notice of the substance of the proposed amendment, not less than thirty days in advance of the Convention, to each member of the clergy entitled to seat and vote and to each congregation in union with the Diocese. The Bishop shall refer such proposal to an appropriate committee, which shall report to the Convention. After hearing the report of the committee, the

**PRESENT CONSTITUTION**

committee, the amendment may be considered by the Convention and, if approved, or approved with change, then shall lie over until the next annual Convention. If the amendment is adopted at the Second Annual Convention by a majority of each order, the Constitution shall stand amended accordingly from and after the close of the day of final adjournment of the Convention at which such adoption occurs.

**PROPOSED 2013 CONSTITUTION**

amendment may be considered by the Convention and, if approved, or approved with change, then shall lie over until the next annual Convention. If the amendment is adopted at the second Annual Convention by a majority of each order, the Constitution shall stand amended accordingly from and after the close of the day of final adjournment of the Convention at which such adoption occurs.

**COMMENT:** Present provision changed to change reference to "parish" to "congregation", to delete requirement of mailing notice, and to make other grammatical changes.