

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
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ARTICLE IV

The Ecclesiastical Authority

Section 1. The Bishop is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

Section 2. If the Bishop is unable to exercise Ecclesiastical Authority, (first the Bishop Coadjutor then the Bishop Suffragan) shall assume the duties of the Bishop, subject to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese.

Section 3. If the Bishop Coadjutor or the Bishop Suffragan, are unable to exercise Ecclesiastical Authority, the Standing Committee shall assume such authority in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.

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 (the Bishop Coadjutor, the Bishop Suffragan), Presbyters, Deacons and Laypersons as herein provided.

Section 3. The Bishop (the Bishop Coadjutor, the Bishop Suffragan), the Chancellor, and the Treasurer shall each have a seat, voice and vote in the Convention.

Section 4. Clergy in good standing who are actually and canonically resident in the Diocese, and clergy of churches in full communion with the Episcopal Church who are in charge of a congregation in this Diocese and actually resident in this Diocese, shall have seat, voice and vote in the Convention.

Section 5. Lay members shall consist of delegates from each Parish or Mission, in union with the Convention. They shall be adult communicants in good standing in the respective Parish or Mission they represent and are entitled to vote for Vestrypersons or officers in the same. The number of delegates from each Parish or Mission shall be based on the Congregational Range which is published each year by the Board of Trustees according to the following formula:

<i>Congregational Range</i>	<i>Delegates Allowed</i>
A	3
B	3
C	4
D	5
E	6
F	7
G	8*

Ecclesiastical Authority. This canon does not apply to the election of a Bishop, nor to a member of the clergy serving in, or a lay person who is a communicant in good standing in a parish or organized mission in union with the convention of the Diocese of Northern California.

ARTICLE VII
Religious Services at Convention

Section 1. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint and order all religious services in the Convention.

ARTICLE VIII
President of Convention

Section 1. The Bishop is ex officio President of the Convention.

Section 2. If the Diocesan Bishop is unable to act as President, such duty shall fall to the Bishop Coadjutor or next, the Bishop Suffragan.

Section 3. In the absence of a Bishop, the President of the Standing Committee or other Clerical member of the Convention shall call the Convention to order, and a President Pro-Tempore shall be elected from among the Presbyters with seat and vote in the Convention.

ARTICLE IX
Quorum

Section 1. Thirty percent (30%) of the Clergy entitled to seat and votes 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.

Section 2. In the event that a quorum is not present at any meeting of Convention or of any Committee or Commission, the members present may adjourn from time to time until a quorum is obtained.

ARTICLE X
Transaction of Business

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

ARTICLE XII

The Standing Committee

Section 1. The Standing Committee of the Diocese shall consist of four Lay Members and four Presbyters or Deacons elected by the Convention for a term of four years. Each annual meeting of Convention shall elect one Lay Member and one Presbyter or Deacon to the Standing Committee unless it is necessary to elect an additional member to fill the position of a member who is unable to complete a four year term. Upon expiration of a member's term, a period of one year must elapse before that person may serve as a member of the Standing Committee.

Section 2. When this Diocese is without a Bishop, or in absence or inability of the Bishop (Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan) to act, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority for all purposes declared in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese.

Section 3. Lay Members of the Standing Committee shall be confirmed adult communicants in good standing in this Diocese. Presbyters and Deacons shall be canonically resident in this Diocese with seat, voice and vote in the Diocesan Convention.

Section 4. The Standing Committee shall have power to fill vacancies occurring in its membership, through any cause, until the next annual meeting of the Convention when such vacancies shall be filled by an election for the unexpired term, subject to Section 1, above.

Section 5. The powers, functions and duties of the Standing Committee shall be those prescribed in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese.

ARTICLE XIII

Deputies to General Convention

Section 1. At the annual meeting of the Convention two years preceding the regular meeting of the General Convention, four Clerical and four Lay Deputies shall be elected by a vote by orders to represent this Diocese in said General Convention who shall continue in office until their successors are chosen. The Clerical Deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons entitled to seat and vote in the Convention of this Diocese, and the Lay Deputies shall be Communicants in good standing and actually and canonically resident within the Diocese.

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.

contributed 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 of the Diocese.

ARTICLE XVII

Alteration of Constitution

Section 1. The method of altering this Constitution shall be as follows:

- a. A proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Committee on Constitution and Canons at least sixty (60) days prior to the date set for annual Convention.
- b. The Committee on Constitution and Canons shall file a report on the proposed amendment with the Secretary of the Convention for inclusion in that officer's report as required by ARTICLE VI of this Constitution.
- c. 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.
- d. The proposed amendment may be altered or added to before its adoption by a majority (50% + 1) of the first and second Conventions.

Section 2. This Constitution and any amendments thereto shall be authenticated by the Certification of the President and Secretary of Convention, adopting the same, and shall be recorded in the book entitled, "Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Northern California."

ARTICLE XVIII

Repeal of Former Constitutions

Section 1. All previous Constitutions of this Diocese are hereby annulled and repealed.

Section 2. Any case of violation of a prior Constitution committed before the date of the adoption of a later Constitution, shall be governed by the Constitution in effect at the time of the violation.