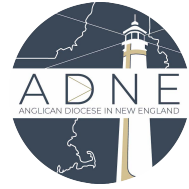


# Constitution



P. O. Box 440  
Amesbury MA 01913  
(978) 388-0009  
[adne@adne.org](mailto:adne@adne.org)  
[www.adne.org](http://www.adne.org)



# ***Article I***

## **Faith, Affiliation and Jurisdiction**

**Section 1.** The Church in The Anglican Diocese in New England (the “Diocese”) is a constituent member of the Anglican Church in North America (“ACNA”), a participant in the worldwide Anglican Communion, a Fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. We affirm the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) Statement, the Jerusalem Declaration issued June 29, 2008, and the seven elements identified as characteristic of the Anglican Way and essential for membership in the ACNA, as set forth in Article I of the Constitution of the ACNA. We adopt, and recognize the authority of, the Constitution and Canons of the ACNA; and in case of conflict over the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, the Constitution and Canons of the ACNA take precedence.

**Section 2.** We accept the mission of the ACNA as set forth in Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution of the ACNA and commit to do the work of the ACNA as set forth in Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution of the ACNA.

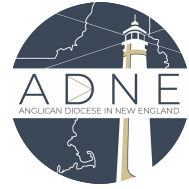
**Section 3.** The Diocese embraces the states of Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Parishes, Missions and House Churches outside the boundaries of the aforementioned states may be considered for admission into union with the Diocese, upon recommendation of the Bishop and approval of the Synod, and provided that they meet all other requirements set forth in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

# ***Article II***

## **Meeting of Synod**

**Section 1.** The Synod shall be the principal governing body of the Diocese and shall have the authority to establish the program and budget of the Diocese

**Section 2.** There shall be a meeting of the Synod each year during the month of October or November at such time and at such place within the Diocese as shall be fixed by the preceding Annual Synod.



**Section 3.** For any sufficient cause occurring after the designation of the place of meeting of the Annual Synod, the Bishop may appoint another time or place, or both, for the meeting of the Synod, provided that no less than thirty days' notice is given to the officers, Clergy and Lay Delegates. If the Bishop is incapable of acting or there is a vacancy in the Episcopate, and there is no Bishop-Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop, the Standing Committee may appoint a time and/or place for the meeting.

**Section 4.** The Bishop has the authority to call a special Synod. If the Bishop is incapable of acting or there is a vacancy in the Episcopate, and there is no Bishop-Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop, the Standing Committee may call a special Synod. The Clergy and congregations in the Diocese shall be given no less than thirty days notice of the special Synod by a circular letter. A special Synod shall be held at the place designated by the Ecclesiastical Authority. No business other than that stated in the circular letter shall be transacted at the special Synod.

## ***Article III***

### **Members of Synod**

**Section 1.** The Synod shall be composed of Clergy and Lay Delegates.

**Section 2.** All Clergy, in good standing, who are canonically resident in the Diocese, and are actively engaged in the parochial, missionary, or educational work of the Church, under the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, shall be members of the Synod.

**Section 3.** Each congregation (including Parishes, Missions and House Churches duly admitted into union with the Synod) shall be entitled to representation in the Diocesan Synod by Lay Delegates as provided in the Diocesan Canons.

**Section 4.** Every member of the Standing Committee who is not otherwise a member of the Synod shall be seated with voice and vote.

## ***Article IV***

### **Officers of the Synod**

**Section 1.** President

The Bishop of the Diocese shall preside, *ex-officio*, in the Synod and shall be entitled to a vote. The Bishop-Coadjutor, when there is one, shall have a seat and a vote in the Synod, and in the absence of the Bishop, shall preside. Any Suffragan Bishop, when there is one, shall have a seat



and a vote in the Synod, and in the absence of the Bishop and a Bishop-Coadjutor, shall preside.

In case of vacancy in the Episcopate or in the absence of the Bishop, Bishop-Coadjutor and Suffragan Bishop, or of their inability to act, the Chair of the Standing Committee shall preside.

### **Section 2. Secretary**

There shall be a Secretary of the Synod, who shall be elected by the Annual Synod for a term of two years. The Secretary shall perform the duties of the office as established by Diocesan Canon.

## ***Article V***

### **Board of Directors of the Diocesan Corporation**

The members of the Standing Committee shall constitute the Board of Directors of the Diocese.

## ***Article VI***

### **Officers of the Diocesan Corporation**

**Section 1.** President. The Bishop shall be the President and spiritual head of the Diocese, with the powers and authority of Chief Executive Officer.

**Section 2.** Treasurer. There shall be a Treasurer of the Diocese, who shall be elected in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese.

**Section 2.** Secretary. There shall be a Secretary of the Diocese, who shall be elected in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese.

## ***Article VII***

### **Ecclesiastical Authority**

Whenever in the Constitution or Canons of this Diocese provision is made for action by the Bishop, such action, in case of the absence or disability of the Bishop, shall devolve



upon the Bishop-Coadjutor if there be one; but if there be none, or in the absence or disability of the Bishop-Coadjutor, shall devolve upon the Suffragan Bishop, if there be one; or if there be none, shall devolve upon the Standing Committee.

## ***Article VIII***

### **Standing Committee**

**Section 1.** The Standing Committee shall consist of the Bishop, the Secretary of the Synod, the Chancellor of the Diocese, Deans of the Deaneries (if any), the Treasurer, and six Synod Delegates (3 Clergy and 3 Lay) to be elected in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese. In addition, the Bishop may appoint one member of the Clergy and one Lay person to serve three year terms.

**Section 2.** The Diocese-in-Formation Synod of 2009 shall elect the initial members of the Diocesan Standing Committee from among the members of the Diocese-in-Formation Standing Committee. If the total number of open seats exceeds the number of persons currently on the Standing Committee, nominations and elections shall come from Lay and Clergy active in the Diocese-in-Formation.

**Section 3.** The elected members of the first Standing Committee of the Diocese shall be assigned staggered terms by the Bishop as follows: one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall serve for one year; one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall serve for two years; and one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall serve for three years. At each Synod thereafter one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall be elected for a period of three years. If a member of the Standing Committee resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the three-year term, the Synod may elect a replacement for the remainder of the member's term. No member of the Standing Committee shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself until the next Synod following the expiration of term of office.

**Section 4.** The Standing Committee shall be a council of advice to the Bishop and prepare and report to each Synod the mission and proposed budget for the coming year, for adoption by the Synod.

**Section 5.** The Standing Committee shall have such additional rights, duties and powers as may be conferred on it by the Synod through enactment of an appropriate canon.



## ***Article IX***

### **Deans, Deaneries and Archdeaconries**

Deans may be appointed and Deaneries and Archdeaconries established by the Bishop, subject to Canon.

## ***Article X***

### **Admission of Parishes, Missions and House Churches**

Any congregation (including a Parish, Mission or House Church) formed and desiring union with the Diocese, and organized according to the Canons, may be admitted, upon the recommendation of the Bishop and a subsequent majority vote of the Synod; provided that any such congregation shall have laid before the Synod its governing documents, as defined in the Diocesan Canons or certified copies thereof, wherein any such congregation expressly adopts, and recognizes the authority of, the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese and the Constitution and Canons of the ACNA, and provided, also, that it shall have complied with the canonical requirements for such admission.

## ***Article XI***

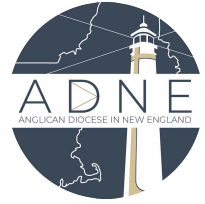
### **Property Ownership**

All congregational property, real and personal, owned by member congregations, shall be solely and exclusively the property of the individual congregation and shall not be subject to any trust or other claim of ownership arising out of canon law or otherwise.

## ***Article XII***

### ***Ecclesiastical Trial Court***

The Diocese shall have an Ecclesiastical Trial Court for the trial of any Presbyter or Deacon subject to the jurisdiction of the Diocese. The Diocese shall provide by Canon for the establishment of such court and the mode of conducting trials.



## ***Article XIII***

### ***Amendment of the Constitution***

This Constitution, or any part thereof, may be amended in the following manner only: The proposed amendment shall be submitted by the Bishop in writing to the annual meeting of the Synod, and if approved by a two-thirds vote, shall lie over to the next annual meeting of the Synod, and if again approved by a two-thirds vote, the Constitution shall then stand amended as proposed.