

The Episcopal Church in South Carolina Constitution and Canons Committee

Report of Committee for 2015

By: Michael L.M. Jordan
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Constitution

Article V, Section 4 – second sentence

The existing language of this sentence is:

... “Each canonically resident retired priest who served a church, an institution of the diocese, or on diocesan staff for at least five years immediately before retirement shall also be entitled to all privileges as a member of the Convention.”...

The clause correctly states the qualifications. No change is needed in the language. The clause requires that three conditions be met at the measuring time period, which is “immediately before retirement.” Those conditions are:

1. That the priest is canonically resident in the diocese.
2. That the priest is serving a church in the diocese, an institution of the diocese, or on diocesan staff.
3. The priest has met criteria “2” for not less than five years. There is no requirement that the service be continuous.

If these conditions are met, the priest is entitled to full privileges of the convention so long as the priest remains canonically resident.

Action: No change required.

Article VII, Section 1 and Section 1.1.

Proposal – Wherever the words “Assistant Chancellor” are used in the Constitution, change the words to “Vice Chancellor.”

Action: Recommend approval.

Canons

Title I, Canon 17 – Establishment of a Cathedral Church

There is a proposal to establish a cathedral church for the diocese.

The current Canon 17, as written, contemplates that a cathedral church can be established by written agreement. The Committee recommends that the Convention replace the existing Canon 17 with a new and expanded Canon 17 that creates the cathedral church. Attached to and incorporated in this report is the recommended text of the replacement Canon 17.

Action: Recommend adoption of replacement Canon 17.

Title III, Canon 1, Section 2.1 and Section 2.2

Proposal – Wherever the words “Assistant Chancellor” are used in the Canons, change the words to “Vice Chancellor.”

Action: Recommend approval.

Title III, Canon 1

The committee discussed the topic of who will have seat, voice, and vote in a convention for the election of a bishop. As currently written there are no special rules for the designation of delegates to the special convention. Therefore, the general rules set forth in Article V of the Constitution would control.

Action: No change required.

CANON 17

Establishment of a Cathedral Church

Section 1. - Concept of a Cathedral Church

Section 1.1. The Bishop and Convention of this Diocese adopt the concept of a cathedral church for the Episcopal Church in South Carolina to serve as a central or focal point for the administration and strengthening of the Diocese, and the Convention empowers the Bishop to designate Grace Church, Charleston, South Carolina, of this Diocese to be constituted a cathedral parish, in accordance with the provisions and requirements as set forth in this Canon. Upon such designation, said parish church shall become the cathedral church of the Diocese in accordance herewith.

Section 1.2. Grace Church, Charleston, when designated by the Bishop and constituted the cathedral church, shall be known as the "Grace Church Cathedral."

Section 2 - Grace Church Cathedral

Section 2.1. Grace Church, Charleston, herein designated as the cathedral parish wherein shall be located the cathedral church, shall not be deprived of any of the rights and privileges as provided by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and under the charter and By-Laws of Grace Church nor shall it be relieved of any of its obligations and responsibilities as a parish unless specifically set forth in this Canon. The cathedral parish as a parish of the Diocese and as a corporate body shall retain title to all parish property with full authority over and responsibility therefore, and as a cathedral parish shall have the same rights, representations, participation, obligations and responsibilities both in the parish and in the Diocese as a parish without cathedral status.

Section 2.2. The vestry of the cathedral parish shall be elected and function as a parish vestry in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina and the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, with the exception that the Dean of the cathedral shall be the rector of the cathedral parish and the proper title of the cathedral parish shall be "Grace Church Cathedral" or "The Dean, Wardens and Vestry of Grace Church Cathedral."

Section 2.3. When the office of Dean of Grace Church Cathedral is vacant, it shall be the duty of the Vestry to notify the Bishop of the fact, and also to elect and invite a Dean in accordance with and pursuant to the By-Laws of Grace Church but not without due regard to the opinion and advice of the Bishop.

Section 3 - The Diocese and the Cathedral

Section 3.1. Bishop and Diocesan Council, or a committee thereof, shall meet with the Vestry of the Grace Church Cathedral in the event it is necessary at any time to resolve any questions which may have arisen between the Diocese and Grace Church Cathedral.

Section 3.2. Bishop and Diocesan Executive Council shall not have any power or jurisdiction over the administration of Grace Church Cathedral.

Section 3.3. The Diocese shall be responsible for the expenses in connection with Diocesan functions, and for those portions of Diocesan or cathedral properties regularly occupied as Diocesan offices and any other extra expenses incurred by the Grace Church Cathedral by reason of its serving as the cathedral parish of the Diocese which are beyond the normal expenses of a church without cathedral status.

Section 4 - Services in the Cathedral

SECTION 1. The Bishop, upon due notice to and in consultation with the Dean, shall have the right to conduct services in the cathedral church and set the norm of ceremony and ritual to be observed on such occasions.

Section 5 - Canons of the Cathedral

Section 5.1. The number of Canons resident on the staff of Grace Church Cathedral may be determined by the Vestry. Their titular designation may be determined by the Bishop after consultation with the Dean.

Section 5.2. Honorary Canons may be appointed at the discretion of the Bishop.

Section 6 - Termination Of Cathedral Designation

Section 6.1. The designation of a cathedral parish and the consent and acceptance by the Vestry of a parish of such designation are intended and expected to continue so long as both the Diocese and parish exist. Nevertheless, either the Diocese or the parish shall have the right to terminate this designation and to return said cathedral parish to parish status through formal action of either the Bishop and Convention of the Diocese or the Vestry of the cathedral parish by giving one year's written notice thereof through formal action of either of said bodies.

Section 7 - Amendment

Section 7.1. This Canon may be amended just as other Canons of the Diocese are amended except as to any matter affecting the authority, rights, representation, participation, obligations and/or responsibilities of the cathedral parish in the Diocese and in the general church, which amendments must be ratified and accepted by the Grace Church Cathedral acting through its duly authorized body before same shall become effective.