

## CANON 13 SYNOD

### 13.1 Annual Meeting:

#### **Current:**

The Synod shall meet between the First Day of May and the Thirtieth Day of June each year, at a place within the Diocese and at a time, designated by the Standing Committee. Notice of said meeting shall be given in writing to the constituent Parishes, and mailed no later than the preceding Ash Wednesday. Similar notice shall be given to the canonically resident clergy.

#### **Proposed Amendment:**

The Synod shall meet between the First Day of *June* and the *Thirty-first Day of July* each year, at a place within the Diocese and at a time, designated by the Standing Committee. Notice of said meeting shall be given in writing to the constituent Parishes, and mailed no later than the preceding Ash Wednesday. Similar notice shall be given to the canonically resident clergy.

**Rational:** We have not had a Synod during the month of May in recent memory. With the summer release of school getting later and later, having the Synod in late June or July would provide opportunity for greater attendance of parents with school aged children and those whose occupation is in the education profession.

### 13.3 Quorum and Voting

#### **Current:**

Provided that a majority of the constituent congregations of the Diocese are represented, a majority of the active members of the House of Clergy and a majority of the House of Laity, plus the Bishop Ordinary, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Synod, except as otherwise specifically provided in these Canons. The Synod shall deliberate in one body. Except where a larger percentage is required by the provisions of these Canons, a majority of those present and voting, a quorum being present, shall be sufficient for passage of matter brought before the Synod. Any member of the Synod may call for a vote by Houses (sometimes known as 'Vote by Orders'), in which case the required percentage shall be required in each House. No enactment or resolution in any meeting of the Synod shall have effect without the assent of the Bishop Ordinary, which shall not lightly nor without the gravest cause be withheld. The reason for any withholding of assent shall be given in writing.

#### **Proposed Amendment:**

Provided that *one-third (1/3)* of the constituent congregations of the Diocese are represented, *one-third (1/3)* of the members of the House of Clergy in *good standing* and *one-third (1/3)* of the House of Laity, plus the Bishop Ordinary, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Synod, except as otherwise specifically provided in these Canons. The Synod shall deliberate in one body. Except where a larger percentage is required by the provisions of these Canons, a majority of those present and voting, a quorum being present, shall be sufficient for passage of matter brought before the Synod. Any member of the Synod may call for a vote by Houses (sometimes known as "Vote by Orders"), in which case the required percentage shall be required in each House. No enactment or resolution in any meeting of the Synod shall have effect without the assent of the Bishop Ordinary, which shall not lightly nor without the gravest cause be withheld. The reason for any withholding of assent shall be given in writing.

**Rational:** First, to reduce the chance that we arrive at any Synod of the diocese and find that there is not a sufficient number of delegates to conduct business. Second, to make some of the verbiage regarding “active clergy” and “clergy in good standing” consistent.

## **CANON 19 MARRIAGE AND ANNULMENT**

### **19.1 Holy Matrimony**

#### **Current:**

Each priest of this Diocese and each party intending to contract a marriage shall comply with the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in America.

#### **Proposed Amendment:**

Matrimony is to be a lifelong union between one man and one woman as it is set forth in the Rite of Solemnization of Holy Matrimony in the Book of Common Prayer. Each priest of this Diocese and each party intending to enter into the estate of Holy Matrimony shall comply with the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church in America.

No Minister of this Church shall solemnize Holy Matrimony unless he shall have ascertained the right of the parties to contract the sacrament according to the laws of this Church, and not in violation of the impediments as listed in the Canons of the Anglican Church in America.

Every Minister of this Church shall conform to the laws of this Church governing the solemnization of Holy Matrimony.

No Minister of this Church shall sign a marriage license granted by civil government, in order to avoid acting as an agent for any level of civil government:

The minister may sign and issue a parochial “Certificate of Holy Matrimony” upon solemnization of a Holy Matrimony. Additionally, the minister should instruct the man and woman intending to enter into the estate of Holy Matrimony that it will be valid and recognized in the “eyes of the Church.” Should they desire a marriage be recognized by the State, they will need to seek out an agent of the state to perform a civil marriage.

**Rational:** With all the uproar lately about "freedom of religion" vs. gay rights, and the pending Supreme Court decision on the issue of so called gay “marriage”, it is opinion of the Diocesan Chancellor that it is time for the DMV and the ACA (and any other continuing church we may merge with) to expressly take a stand for the freedom of religion regarding the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. So long as priests sign the marriage license issued by the state, they are acting as agents of the state and conceivably could therefore be forced to perform the sacrament for a gay couple. As it stands now, most of the statutes exempt churches. However, that exemption could be rescinded at any time, and in the current trend of bending over backwards for the GLBT population.