



The Constitution and Canons  
of the  
Missionary Diocese of All Saints

*Adopted at the Inaugural Synod - April 27, 2011 - Ocean City, Maryland*



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**ARTICLE 1**

**ANGLICAN IDENTITY**

**Section 1.** The Missionary Diocese of All Saints (*hereinafter MDAS*) is a Diocese of the Anglican Church in North America (*hereinafter ACNA*), a Fellowship within the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, consisting of those duly constituted Dioceses, Clusters, Networks in communion with its Archbishop and such Anglican Provinces that have recognized the ACNA as, upholding and propagating the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Old and New Testaments and expressed in the Book of Common Prayer.

**Section 2.** We affirm the Declaration of Common Faith and Purpose of Forward in Faith North America (which is appended to the Constitution and Canons of the MDAS), 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 receive the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1571, as expressing the Anglican response to certain doctrinal issues controverted at that time, and as expressing fundamental principles of authentic Anglican belief. We also affirm the historic Faith and Order regarding the seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, Reconciliation, Matrimony, Holy Orders.

**Section 3.** 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 4.** The MDAS has no geographical boundaries. Parishes and Missions 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 2**

**DIOCESAN GOVERNANCE**

**Section 1.** The authority of the Diocese is vested in and shall be exercised by the Diocesan Bishop; a Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one; the Suffragan Bishop(s), if there be any; the Diocesan Synod, and the Bishop’s Council serving as the Standing Committee.

**Section 2.** The Bishop is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, and as ordinary he shall have original jurisdiction in all ecclesiastical causes and in religious or benevolent organizations within the Diocese, except as shall be reserved by civil or canon law to other authority.



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**ARTICLE 4**

**QUORUM**

At a meeting of the Diocesan Synod a quorum necessary to transact business shall consist of one-third (1/3) of the Clergy entitled to seats therein and Lay Delegates from one-third (1/3) of the Parishes and Missions in union with the Synod; but a smaller number shall have the power to adjourn from day to day until a quorum is obtained.

**ARTICLE 5**

**PRESIDENT OF SYNOD**

At every meeting of the Synod, the Bishop shall be presiding officer. In the Bishop's absence, or inability to act, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, shall be presiding officer. In the absence or inability to act of both the Bishop and the Bishop Coadjutor, the Suffragan Bishops, if there be any, in the order of seniority within the Diocese shall be presiding officer. In the absence or inability to act of any Bishop, the President of the Bishop's Council shall be presiding officer.

**ARTICLE 6**

**RULES OF SYNOD**

At the meeting of the Synod, the Clergy and Laity shall deliberate as one body. Each bishop, priest or deacon present and each Lay Delegate present shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Unless a vote by orders is determined, required or otherwise provided by the Constitution or Canons, a majority of the aggregate votes shall be decisive. Whenever a vote by orders is determined, required or otherwise provided, a concurrent majority in both orders shall be necessary. Upon demand of any seven (7) members of the Synod representing not less than three (3) Parishes or Missions of the Diocese, the vote shall be taken by orders.

The Synod may adopt rules of procedure to regulate and expedite the orderly disposition of its business, including elections.

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**ARTICLE 7**

**THE BISHOP’S COUNCIL**

The Bishop’s Council shall consist of those clergy and laity elected by Diocesan Synod in accordance with the Canons of this Diocese. Lay Persons eligible to serve shall be Confirmed Communicants in good standing in this Diocese at least eighteen (18) years of age and who shall possess such other qualifications as may be prescribed by Canon.

When there is a Bishop in charge of the Diocese, the Bishop’s Council shall be his Council of Advice. If there be no Bishop canonically authorized to act, the Bishop’s Council shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

Vacancies occurring prior to the expiration of the term of any member of this Council shall be filled by the Bishop with the advice of the remaining members of the Council.

**ARTICLE 8**

**ELECTION OF BISHOPS AND CALLING OF AN ASSISTANT BISHOP**

The election of a Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor, or a Suffragan Bishop for this Diocese shall take place at a duly called Synod for that purpose. A concurrent majority of the two orders shall be necessary to a choice if two-thirds (2/3) of all the Clergy entitled to vote and Lay Delegates from two-thirds (2/3) of the Parishes and Missions entitled to representation are present and voting; otherwise, two-thirds (2/3) of the votes in each order present shall be necessary to a choice. In any event, the election may not occur unless a quorum be and remain present.

The Bishop may call an Assistant Bishop in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the ACNA.

**ARTICLE 9**

**CANONS**

Diocesan Canons consistent with this Constitution, and the Constitution and Canons of the ACNA may be adopted, altered, amended, or repealed by the Diocesan Synod.

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**ARTICLE 10**

**CONSTITUTION AND CANONS OF  
THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA**

The Missionary Diocese of All Saints hereby recognizes the authority of the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Church of North America as adopted, June 22-23, 2009 in Bedford, Texas.

**ARTICLE 11**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

**Section 1.** Any proposed alteration, amendment or repeal of this Constitution shall first be submitted in writing to the Bishop, and shall be reported by him to the Synod.

**Section 2.** If approved by the Synod at its first reading, the proposed amendment shall be published in the minutes and held until the next Synod. Upon final consideration by the next Synod it shall be adopted if approved by a majority of both Orders, voting separately.

**Section 3.** Amendments to the Constitution shall take effect with the adjournment of the Synod by which they are finally adopted.



1 of the Order, may petition the Bishop Visitor or Protector for dispensation from those  
2 vows. In the event the petitioner is not satisfied with the ruling of the Bishop Visitor or  
3 Protector on such petition, he may file a petition with the Bishop of the Missionary  
4 Diocese of All Saints, who shall have the highest dispensing power for Religious Orders,  
5 and his ruling on the petition shall be final.

6 5. A Religious Order may establish a house in a Diocese only with the permission of the  
7 Bishop of the MDAS. This permission once granted shall not be withdrawn by him or any  
8 succeeding Bishop.

9 6. The Constitution of every Religious Order shall make provision for the legal ownership  
10 and administration of the temporal possessions of the Order, and in the event of the  
11 dissolution of the Order, or should it otherwise cease to exist, to provide for the  
12 disposition of its assets according to the laws governing non-profit religious organizations  
13 in the State wherein the Order is incorporated.

14 7. It is recognized that a Religious Order is not a Parish, Mission, Parish or Institution of  
15 the Diocese of MDAS and the canonical provisions thereof shall not apply to Religious  
16 Orders, provided that if the Religious Order includes parishes, missions and/or parishes,  
17 by a covenant between the Diocese and the Order, those parishes, missions and/or  
18 parishes so identified shall be considered parishes, missions and/or parishes in the  
19 Diocese, and subject to the canons and other provisions applying to parishes, missions  
20 and/or parishes of the Diocese.

21 **Section 2 - Concerning Christian Communities or Societies**

22 1. A Christian Community or Society of the MDAS under this Canon is defined as a  
23 society of Christians (Members of FiFNA) who voluntarily commit themselves for life or  
24 a term of years, in obedience to their Rule and Constitution.

25 2. To be officially recognized such a Christian Community or Society must have at least  
26 six (6) full members in accordance with their Rule and Constitution, and must be  
27 approved by the Bishop of the Diocese with the advice and consent of his Council.

28 3. Each such Christian Community or Society shall have a Bishop Visitor or Protector,  
29 who shall not necessarily be the Bishop of the Diocese in which the community or society  
30 is established. If, however, the Bishop Visitor or Protector is not the Bishop of the  
31 Diocese in which the Mother House of the Community or Society is established, he shall  
32 not accept election without the consent of the Bishop of the MDAS. The Bishop Visitor  
33 or Protector shall be the guardian of the Constitution of the Community or Society, and  
34 shall serve as an arbiter in matters which the Community or Society, or its members,  
35 cannot resolve through its normal processes.

36 4. Any persons under full commitment in such a Christian Community or Society, having  
37 exhausted the normal processes of the Community or Society, may petition the Bishop  
38 Visitor or Protector for dispensation from that full commitment. In the event the  
39 petitioner is not satisfied with the ruling of the Bishop Visitor or Protector on such  
40 petition, he may file a petition with the Bishop of the MDAS, who shall have the highest  
41 dispensing power for Christian Communities and Societies, and his ruling on the petition  
42 shall be final.

1 5. Each such Christian Community or Society may establish a house in a Diocese only  
2 with the permission of the Bishop of the MDAS.  
3 6. The Constitution of every such Christian Community or Society shall make provision  
4 for the legal ownership and administration of the temporal possessions of the Community  
5 or Society, and in the event of the dissolution of the Community or Society, or should it  
6 otherwise cease to exist, to provide for the disposition of its assets according to the laws  
7 governing non-profit religious organizations in the State wherein the Community or  
8 Society is incorporated.  
9 7. It is recognized that each such Christian Community or Society is not a Parish,  
10 Mission, Parish or Institution of the Diocese of MDAS and the canonical provisions  
11 thereof shall not apply to such Christian Communities or Societies, provided that if the  
12 Christian Community or Society includes parishes, missions and/or parishes, by a  
13 covenant between the Diocese and the Christian Community or Society, those parishes,  
14 missions and/or parishes so identified shall be considered parishes, missions and/or  
15 parishes in the Diocese, and subject to the canons and other provisions applying to  
16 parishes, missions and/or parishes of the Diocese.

17 ***Canon 3***  
18 ***Of Diocesan Governance***

19 ***Section 1 - Concerning the Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor***

20 The Bishop of the Diocese or Bishop Coadjutor shall be chosen and elected in conformity  
21 with the Constitution and Canons of the ACNA, by the concurrence of a majority of the  
22 clerical and lay delegates entitled to vote in Diocesan Synod casting votes by Orders. He  
23 shall be the chief pastor of all the members of the Church in this Diocese and the  
24 President of the Diocesan Synod. He shall make or provide for at least one Episcopal  
25 visitation to each parish and mission every two years, shall have the right to summon and  
26 attend meetings of parishes and missions within his jurisdiction and shall be ex officio a  
27 member of all diocesan committees and agencies.

28 ***Section 2 - Concerning Bishops Suffragan***

29 Bishops Suffragan may be elected and serve in accordance with the rules established in  
30 the Constitution and Canons of the MDAS and the ACNA.

31 ***Section 3 - Concerning Assistant Bishops***

32 The Bishop of the Diocese may appoint any retired or resigned bishop of this Church or  
33 any bishop without jurisdiction received into membership of this Church, being resident  
34 in the Diocese, as an assistant bishop to perform such episcopal functions as shall be  
35 determined by the Bishop.

36 ***Section 4 - Concerning Diocesan Synod***

37 1. The Diocese shall be governed by a Synod meeting annually at a date and place  
38 established by Synod at its previous meeting, or for special reasons at other times at the

1 call of the Bishop and the Bishop's Council, or, during the vacancy of the see, by the  
2 Bishop's Council. Synod shall be comprised of the clergy in good standing and by a  
3 minimum of two lay delegates selected by each parish and mission listed on the most  
4 recent Annual Report. Additional delegates per parish will be entitled based on the  
5 number of confirmed adult communicants in good standing reported on the Annual  
6 Parochial Report for the year ending December 31 next preceding the Diocesan Synod  
7 according to the following table:

- 8 101 through 200 - 1 additional delegate
- 9 201 through 300 - 2 additional delegates
- 10 301 through 400 - 3 additional delegates
- 11 401 through 500 - 4 additional delegates
- 12 501 through 600 - 5 additional delegates
- 13 601 through 700 - 6 additional delegates
- 14 701 through 800 - 7 additional delegates
- 15 801 through 900 - 8 additional delegates
- 16 901 through 1000 - 9 additional delegates
- 17 1001 and over - 10 additional delegates

18 2. The selection of the Lay Delegates shall be certified in writing by the Secretary or  
19 Clerk of the Vestry or Rector's Council of the Parish or Mission; but, in the absence of  
20 the Secretary or Clerk, such certificates of selection may be signed by one of the  
21 Wardens, or by the Rector or Vicar of such Parish or Mission. The "Certificate of  
22 Election of Lay Delegates" shall show upon its face that their selection as Delegates has  
23 been made pursuant to this Canon.

24 3. Each Parish and Mission shall select Alternate Lay Delegates equal in number to the  
25 number of Lay Delegates to which entitled. In the absence of a Lay Delegate, an Alternate  
26 Lay Delegate from the same Parish or Mission shall have all rights and privileges of a Lay  
27 Delegate. The selection of Alternate Lay Delegates shall be certified in the same manner  
28 as provided for Lay Delegates.

29 4. The manner of selecting Lay Delegates and Alternates is determined by parish or  
30 mission bylaws.

31 5. The Rectors of Parishes and Vicars of Missions shall have authority to fill such  
32 vacancies as may occur in the list of Alternate Lay Delegates between the time of such  
33 selection and any meetings of The Synod.

34 6. Immediately before the meeting of each Synod, the Bishop, or in case of his death or  
35 inability to act, the Bishop's Council, shall prepare a list of the Clergy canonically  
36 resident in the Diocese, excluding those who have been suspended from the Ministry. The  
37 list shall be filed with the Secretary of the Synod on the first day of its meeting, and shall  
38 be prefixed to the Journal.

39 7. All clergy certified under Sec. 4.6 are voting members of this Synod.

40 8. Minutes of the Diocesan Synod shall be published and distributed to all clergy,  
41 parishes and missions of the Diocese within sixty days of the adjournment of the Synod.

1           **Section 5 - Concerning the Bishop's Council**

2           Between Synods, the administrative authority of the Diocese shall reside in the Bishop  
3           and the Bishop's Council. The membership of the Bishop's Council shall consist of the  
4           Bishop; the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one; the Bishops Suffragan, if there be any;  
5           three clergymen and three lay communicants of the Diocese elected by the Diocese at  
6           Synod, a treasurer and chancellor, who shall be communicant members of the Diocese  
7           appointed by the Bishop. The Bishop's Council shall meet at the call of the Bishop, or  
8           during a vacancy of the see, by the senior Suffragan Bishop or by its own resolution. The  
9           President of the Bishop's Council shall be elected by that body from among its members  
10          who are Priests. The Secretary of the Bishop's Council shall be elected by that body from  
11          among its members. The members of the Bishop's Council shall have seat, voice and vote  
12          in Diocesan Synod. The elected members of the Bishop's Council shall serve three year  
13          terms and may be nominated and serve for one succeeding term. No member of the  
14          Bishop's Council shall serve more than two terms without a three year interval. The  
15          Treasurer and Chancellor serve three year terms and may be appointed by the Bishop for  
16          succeeding terms.

17          **Section 6 - Concerning Finance and Budget**

18          1. The Bishop's Council, with the assistance of the Finance Committee, shall develop the  
19          program and budget of the Diocese based on commitments of the Parishes, Missions and  
20          other monies raised. The program and budget shall be presented annually to the Diocese  
21          for adoption. The Finance Committee shall consult with any Parish or Mission that is not  
22          able to meet the requested support of the Church.

23          2. The standard of financial support in this Diocese is the biblical tithe.

24          **Section 7 - Concerning Delegates to Provincial Council and Provincial Assembly**

25          1. The Diocesan Synod shall elect one Bishop, one member of the Clergy and two  
26          laypersons to serve as representatives to the Provincial Council of the ACNA. The term  
27          of office of the said delegates shall be five years. The Synod may select a replacement to  
28          serve for the unexpired term of any representative who does not serve the full term of  
29          office. A retiring representative is eligible for reelection for one additional term.

30          2. The Synod shall elect two members of the Clergy and two laypersons as representatives  
31          to the Provincial Assembly of the ACNA. The Synod shall also elect one additional  
32          layperson and one additional member of the clergy for each additional one thousand  
33          Average Sunday Attendance (*ASA*) of the Diocese. The Synod shall also elect one youth  
34          representative to the Provincial Assembly, in addition to its other representation in the  
35          Provincial Assembly. Youth representatives must be at least sixteen, but not older than  
36          twenty-six, years of age, at the time of the convening of the Provincial Assembly. The  
37          representatives shall serve until their successors are chosen and certified. The Bishop(s)  
38          of the Diocese shall also serve as Diocesan representative(s) to the Provincial Assembly.

1 **Canon 4**  
2 ***Of Parishes and Missions***

3 **Section 1 - *Concerning Parish Mission***

4 The fundamental agency of the mission of the Diocese to extend the Kingdom of God is  
5 the local parish. The chief agents of this mission are the people of God.

6 **Section 2 - *Concerning the Definition of Parish/ Mission***

7 A Parish of the Diocese is defined as having an Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) of 50  
8 and is financially self-sustaining. A Mission has an ASA less than 50 and may or may  
9 not be financially self-sustaining.

10 **Section 3 - *Concerning Affiliation***

11 Every parish of this Diocese is a member of the ACNA by union with this Diocese.

12 **Section 4 - *Concerning Organization***

13 Every parish shall be established in accordance with the laws of the State or jurisdiction  
14 where situated, shall handle its own finances, and shall carry appropriate insurance  
15 coverage.

16 **Section 5 - *Concerning Parish Clergy***

17 No parish Clergy may serve without being licensed by the diocesan Bishop.

18 **Section 6 - *Concerning Governing Boards***

19 There shall be a governing board of each parish, often known as the vestry, which is  
20 chosen and serves according to applicable laws, diocesan canon, and the parish by-laws.  
21 The Presbyter in charge of the parish shall always be a member of the governing board  
22 and its presiding officer except as provided by diocesan canon. The governing board is  
23 responsible for the temporalities of the parish and, except where otherwise provided by  
24 canon, supports the clergy in the spiritual leadership of the parish.

25 **Section 7 - *Concerning Property Ownership***

26 All parish property, real and personal, owned by a member parish of the Diocese is and  
27 shall be solely and exclusively owned by the parish and shall not be subject to any trust in  
28 favor of the Diocese or Province or other claim of ownership arising out of the canon law  
29 of the ACNA; neither may this Diocese assert any such claim over the property of any of  
30 its parishes without the express written consent of the parish. Where property is held in a  
31 different manner by this Diocese or grouping, such ownership shall be preserved.

32 **Section 8 - *Concerning Church Planting***

33 A parish, with the consent of the Bishop, should plant new churches whenever possible.  
34 In such case the parish shall provide spiritual cover and temporal assistance to the newly  
35 planted parish until it is self-sustaining. A newly planted parish is self-sustaining when it

1 is able to call and provide for its own Clergy and is acceptable to the Bishop.

2 **Section 9 - Concerning Annual Reports**

3 On or before March 1 of each year the rector and governing board of the parish shall  
4 prepare and forward to the Bishop a report, in a form specified from time to time by the  
5 Bishop's Council, reflecting the status and growth of the parish in terms of average  
6 Sunday attendance, tithes and offerings, baptisms, confirmations and receptions,  
7 marriages, burials, and other important categories of information concerning the  
8 preceding calendar year, including new initiatives for mission and ministry.

9 **Section 10 - Concerning Transfer or Withdrawal**

10 Parishes reserve the right to seek transfer between Dioceses of the ACNA with the  
11 permission of the Bishops involved. Parishes also reserve the right to disaffiliate from the  
12 MDAS after consultation with their Bishop. A parish joining or transferring into a  
13 Diocese becomes subject to the constitution and canons of that Diocese.

14 **Section 11 - Concerning Finances**

15 1. The biblical tithes is the minimum standard of giving to support the Mission of the  
16 Church, and should be taught and encouraged at every level in the Diocese.  
17 2. Financial responsibility and accountability are the obligations of the Church at every  
18 level. The Diocese, Parishes and Missions shall provide standards for record keeping,  
19 audits, insurance, investments and the bonding of financial officers.

20 **Canon 5**  
21 ***Of the Laity***

22 **Section 1 - Concerning Membership in the Church**

23 Membership requires that a person has received the Sacrament of Baptism with water in  
24 the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and that such a person be  
25 received by a parish of the MDAS in compliance with the Constitution and Canons of the  
26 Diocese. Such a person is a baptized member of the Church and so recorded in the Parish  
27 Register. A confirmed member is a baptized member who has been confirmed or received  
28 by a Bishop of the ACNA and so recorded in the Parish Register.

29 **Section 2 - Concerning Ministry**

30 The people of God are the chief agents of the Mission of the Church to extend the  
31 Kingdom of God by so presenting Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit that people  
32 everywhere will come to put their trust in God through Him, know Him as Savior and  
33 serve Him as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. The effective ministry of the Church  
34 is the responsibility of the laity no less than it is the responsibility of Bishops and other  
35 Clergy. It is incumbent for every lay member of the Church to become an effective  
36 minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ, one who is spiritually qualified, gifted, called, and  
37 mature in the faith. The Diocese may establish standards for the ministry of the laity.

1       **Section 3 - Concerning Duties of the Laity**

2       It shall be the duty of every member of the Diocese:

- 3       1. To worship God, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, every Lord's Day in a  
4       Church unless reasonably prevented;
- 5       2. To engage regularly in the reading and study of Holy Scripture and the Doctrine of the  
6       Church as found in Article I of the Constitution of the ACNA;
- 7       3. To observe their baptismal vows, to lead an upright and sober life, and not give scandal  
8       to the Church;
- 9       4. To present their children and those they have led to the Lord for baptism and  
10      confirmation;
- 11      5. To give regular financial support to the Church, with the biblical tithe as the minimum  
12      standard of giving;
- 13      6. To practice forgiveness daily according to our Lord's teaching;
- 14      7. To receive worthily the Sacrament of Holy Communion as often as reasonable;
- 15      8. To observe the feasts and fasts of the Church set forth in the Anglican formularies, as  
16      authorized by the Bishop of the Diocese;
- 17      9. To continue his or her instruction in the Faith so as to remain an effective minister for  
18      the Lord Jesus Christ;
- 19      10. To devote themselves to the ministry of Christ among those who do not know Him,  
20      utilizing the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives them, for the effective extension of Christ's  
21      Kingdom.

22      **Section 4 - Concerning Deaconesses**

- 23      1. A woman of devout character and proved fitness may be set apart to the lay order of  
24      Deaconess by any Bishop of this Diocese.
- 25      2. The duty of a Deaconess is to assist the Minister in the care of the poor and sick, the  
26      religious training of the young and others, and the work of moral reformation, but shall  
27      not include the performance of any liturgical function as reserved to those in Holy Orders.
- 28      3. No one shall be appointed Deaconess until she shall be at least twenty-three years of  
29      age; nor until she shall have laid before the Bishop testimonials certifying that she is a  
30      communicant of this Diocese in good standing, and that she possesses such characteristics  
31      as, in the judgment of the persons testifying, fit her for at least one of the duties above  
32      defined. The testimonial of fitness shall be signed by two Presbyters of this Diocese, and  
33      by twelve lay communicants of the same, six of whom shall be women. The Bishop shall  
34      also satisfy himself that the applicant has had an adequate preparation for her work, both  
35      technical and religious, which preparation shall have covered the period of two years.
- 36      4. No Deaconess shall accept work in this Diocese without the express authority, in  
37      writing, of the Bishop of this Diocese; nor shall she undertake work in a Parish without  
38      the like authority from the Rector of the Parish.
- 39      5. When not connected with a Parish, the Deaconess shall be under the direct oversight of  
40      the Bishop of this Diocese or his delegate.
- 41      6. A Deaconess may at any time resign her office to the Ecclesiastical Authority of this  
42      Diocese in which she is canonically resident, but she may not be suspended or removed

1 from office except by the Bishop for cause, with the consent of the Standing Committee,  
2 and after a hearing before the Bishop and Standing Committee.  
3 7. No woman shall be recognized as a Deaconess until she has been set apart for that  
4 office by an appropriate service, to be prescribed by the Diocesan Bishop.

5 **Title II**  
6 **Worship and the Administration of Sacraments**  
7 *(see canons of the ACNA)*

8 **Title III**  
9 **Of Ministers, Their Recruitment, Preparation, Ordination,**  
10 **Office, Practice and Transfer**  
11 *(see canons of the ACNA)*

12 **Canon 1**  
13 ***Of Holy Orders in the Missionary Diocese of All Saints***

14 The MDAS affirms what traditional Anglicanism has always held, namely the normality  
15 of the threefold pastoral ministry of Bishop, Presbyter and Deacon. Only males may be  
16 admitted to the office of Bishop, Presbyter or Deacon in this Diocese, and allowed to  
17 exercise any of these offices, who have been called, examined, and ordained according to  
18 an authorized ordinal of the ACNA, or ordained in some church whose Orders are  
19 recognized and accepted.

20 **TITLE IV**  
21 **Ecclesiastical Discipline**

22 **Canon 1**  
23 ***Ecclesiastical Discipline***

24 All clergy under the authority of the Bishop who exercise ministry in the Diocese shall be  
25 subject to the disciplinary provisions of Title IV of the Provincial Canons and to the  
26 provisions of these Diocesan Canons.

27 **Canon 2**  
28 ***The Rights of the Respondent***

29 Any member of the clergy against whom disciplinary measures are initiated shall be pre-  
30 sumed innocent until he has been determined guilty according to the provisions and pro-  
31 cedures described herein. All disciplinary procedures shall be undertaken speedily in a  
32 manner consistent with principles of fairness, due process, and natural justice.

1 **Canon 3**  
2 ***The Canonical Investigator***

3 The Bishop’s Council of the Diocese shall appoint a canonical investigator to ascertain  
4 the merit of any accusations made against clergy of the Diocese and to make a  
5 recommendation to the Standing Committee as to whether further juridical process should  
6 be pursued.

7 **Canon 4**  
8 ***The Ecclesiastical Trial Court of the Diocese***

9 **Section 1 - Ecclesiastical Trial Court Established, Composition, Number of Members,**  
10 ***Mode of Election and Term of Office***

11 There shall be an Ecclesiastical Trial Court (“Court”) of the Diocese consisting of five  
12 members elected by the Synod of the Diocese upon the nomination of the Standing  
13 Committee for a term of three years. Two members shall be chosen from the laity and  
14 three from the clergy. No member may serve more than two consecutive terms. Staggered  
15 terms may be provided.

16 **Section 2 - Court Advisor**

17 The Bishop may appoint an attorney at law to advise the Court as to its procedures.

18 **Section 3 - Court Officers and Recorder of Proceedings**

19 The Court shall elect its President and Secretary from its members, and shall appoint a  
20 recorder of proceedings, which recorder may be a court reporting agency not affiliated  
21 with the Diocese.

22 **Section 4 - Quorum and Composition of Court**

23 A panel of no fewer than five members of the Court shall be necessary for the conduct of  
24 a trial or for a judgment. Any panel of the Court shall comprise an odd number of  
25 members with one more clergy than laity.

26 **Section 5 - Judgment of the Court**

27 An affirmative vote of sixty percent of the members of a panel of the Court shall be  
28 required for any judgment.

29 **Canon 5**  
30 ***The Trial Attorney***

31 The Bishop shall appoint a Trial Attorney who shall have the responsibility of preparing  
32 all presentments and presenting the evidence to the Court.

1 ***Canon 6***  
2 ***Attorney for the Respondent***

3 The Respondent shall have the right to an attorney. The Bishop’s Council may, in its  
4 discretion, authorize the payment in whole or in part of the legal fees incurred by a  
5 Respondent.

6 ***Canon 7***  
7 ***Court Rules and Procedures***

8 The rules governing proceedings in the Court are set forth in Appendix B to these  
9 Diocesan Canons.

10 ***Canon 8***  
11 ***Clergy Under Ecclesiastical Authority in Another Jurisdiction***

12 Regardless of whether any member of the clergy under the authority of the Bishop is also  
13 under the authority of another bishop, whenever it is believed that such a member of the  
14 clergy may have committed a canonical offense in this Diocese, the same shall be  
15 reported by the Bishop to the other bishop or Archbishop who also has ecclesiastical  
16 authority over such member of the clergy. Such member of the clergy shall be subject to  
17 disciplinary proceedings in this Diocese in accordance with Title IV of the Diocesan  
18 canons.

19 ***Canon 9***  
20 ***Of Sentences***

21 Upon any conviction, the Bishop shall pronounce sentence as outlined in Title IV, Canon  
22 8 of the Provincial Canons, which shall include the implied authority of the Bishop to  
23 prohibit the convicted member of the clergy from serving in the Diocese.

24 **TITLE V**  
25 **Enactment, Amendment, and Repeal of Canons**

26 ***Canon 1***  
27 ***Of Enactment, Amendment, and Repeal***

28 **Section 1 - Concerning New Canons**

29 No new canon shall be enacted or existing canon amended or repealed, except by majority  
30 vote of the Bishop’s Council and ratification of such action by majority vote of the  
31 Diocesan Synod.

1       **Section 2 - Concerning the Repealing of Canons**  
2       Whenever a canon which repeals another canon, or part thereof, shall itself be repealed,  
3       such previous canon or part thereof shall not thereby be revived or re-enacted without  
4       express provision to that effect.

5       **Section 3 - Concerning the Form of Amendment**  
6       The following form shall be used in all cases of enactment or amendment of existing  
7       canons:  
8       “Title \_\_\_, Canon \_\_\_, Section \_\_\_ is hereby [enacted] [amended] to read as follows:  
9       [Here insert the new reading].”  
10      In the event of the insertion of a new canon, or of a new section or clause in a canon, the  
11      numbering of the canons or divisions of a canon which follow shall be changed  
12      accordingly.

13      **Section 4 - Concerning the Form of Repeal**  
14      The following form shall be used in all cases for the repeal of a canon:  
15      “Title \_\_\_, Canon \_\_\_, Section \_\_\_ [or Canon \_\_\_ in its entirety] is hereby  
16      repealed.”  
17      In the event of the repeal of a canon, or of a section or clause in a canon, the numbering  
18      of the canons or divisions of a canon which follow shall be changed accordingly.

19      **Section 5 - Concerning Effective Dates**  
20      Any amendment to these canons, or repeal thereof, shall not become effective until ninety  
21      (90) days following ratification by the Diocesan Synod. In the case of the adoption of the  
22      initial set of canons by the inaugural Synod, such canons shall become effective  
23      immediately upon their ratification by majority vote of the Synod.

24      **We certify that the foregoing is the text of the Canons of the Missionary Diocese of**  
25      **All Saints of the Anglican Church in North America adopted and ratified with**  
26      **amendments by the Diocesan Synod at its meeting at Ocean City, Maryland, on the**  
27      **27th day of April in the Year of our Lord 2011.**

1 APPENDIX A

2 **Forward in Faith North America**  
3 **Declaration of Common Faith and Purpose**

4 In the Name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
5 Amen.

6 I, \_\_\_\_\_, a Lay Member/Deacon/Priest/Bishop of  
7 the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, affirm the following so that faithful witness  
8 to apostolic Faith and catholic Order may be continued within the Churches of Anglican  
9 heritage:

10 \* I believe our Lord Jesus Christ, has given His Church an Order which claims the loyalty  
11 of faithful Christians above and beyond any deviation sanctioned by any humanly-  
12 invented institution, whether secular or ecclesiastical.

13 \* I accept the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as "containing all things  
14 necessary to salvation," and as being the rule and ultimate standard of faith and morals.

15 \* I accept the Apostles' Creed as the Baptismal Symbol; and the Nicene Creed as the  
16 sufficient statement of the Christian faith.

17 \* I accept the two Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself -- Baptism and the Supper of  
18 the Lord -- ministered with unfailing use of Christ's words of Institution, and of the  
19 elements ordained by Him.

20 \*I accept the historic episcopate, locally adapted in the methods of its administration to  
21 the varying needs of the nations and peoples called of God into the Unity of His Church. I  
22 do not consider that the churches of the Anglican Communion have authority to change  
23 the historic tradition of the Church that the Christian ministerial priesthood is male, and I  
24 will refrain from any and all actions which might signify acceptance of such purported  
25 change.

26 \* I will do what God grants me the strength to accomplish to uphold the Church's Order,  
27 both materially and spiritually.

28 \* I will resist all present and future attempts to compromise the integrity of this Order,  
29 without regard to the temporal consequences that may be inflicted by any agency.

30 \* In making this Declaration, I accept all the responsibilities which pertain to the common  
31 witness of all who participate in this endeavor, and I ask God's blessing upon our labors.

1 APPENDIX B

2 **ECCLESIASTICAL TRIAL COURT RULES OF**  
3 **PROCEDURE**

4 ***Rule 1: Application and Scope of Rules***

5 These Rules govern procedure in the Ecclesiastical Trial Court (the “Court”) in all  
6 presentment actions. They shall be construed and administered to secure the just, speedy,  
7 and inexpensive determination of every such action.

8 ***Rule 2: Institution of Presentment Action***

9 (a) **Form.** A presentment proceeding authorized by the Court shall be instituted  
10 by the service of a Summons, together with a copy of the Articles of Presentment. The  
11 Summons and Articles of Presentment shall be signed by the President of the Court,  
12 identify the Court and all the parties to the proceeding, be directed to the Respondent and  
13 state the name and address of the Trial Attorney representing the Diocese. It shall state  
14 the time within which the Respondent must file with the Court an Answer to the Articles  
15 of Presentment, and notify the Respondent that failure to do so may result in a Judgment  
16 that an Offense was committed by the Respondent and place the Respondent at risk for a  
17 Sentence to be pronounced at a later date. The Court may allow the Summons to be  
18 amended.

19 (b) **Service.** The service of the Summons and Articles of Presentment shall be made  
20 either by hand or certified mail with return receipt. The Respondent may waive personal  
21 service in writing.

22 (c) **Proof of Service.** The person effecting service of the Summons and Articles of  
23 Presentment shall make proof of service by affidavit or sworn statement to the Court. If  
24 service is waived, the written waiver of service shall be filed with the Court.

25 ***Rule 3: Service and Filing of Pleadings and Other Papers***

26 Except as otherwise expressly provided in these Rules, every pleading, paper, motion and  
27 notice subsequent to the Summons and Articles of Presentment required to be served on a  
28 party shall be served upon either the party or the attorney that enters an appearance for the  
29 party, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Service shall be made by hand delivering a  
30 copy to the party or the party’s attorney or by mailing it to the party’s or the attorney’s last  
31 known address. Service by mail is complete upon mailing. The filing of papers with the  
32 Court shall be made by filing them with the President of the Court unless otherwise  
33 directed by the Court. The parties may by agreement approved by the Court also provide  
34 for service by other means such as electronic mail and/or facsimile transmission.

1 ***Rule 4: General Rules of Pleading***

2 (a) **Articles of Presentment.** The Articles of Presentment shall contain a short  
3 and plain statement of each Offense with express reference to applicable provisions of  
4 Canon 2 of Title IV of the Canons of the Province, and a plain and concise statement of  
5 the facts upon which each such allegation is made.

6 (b) **Answer.** The Answer shall state in short and plain terms the Respondent's  
7 response to each allegation of the Articles of Presentment, including any defense thereto,  
8 and shall admit or deny the factual allegations of the Articles of Presentment. If the  
9 Respondent is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
10 of any factual allegation, the Respondent shall so state and this has the effect of a denial.  
11 Denials may also be made in part or with qualification.

12 (c) **Style.** Pleadings are to be plain and concise. No technical forms of pleadings  
13 or motions are required.

14 (d) **Construction.** All pleadings shall be so construed as to do substantial justice.

15 (e) **Form of Pleadings.** Every pleading shall identify the name of the Court, name  
16 of the Respondent, and file number, if any. All allegations in the Articles of Presentment  
17 and the Answer thereto shall be made in separately numbered paragraphs. Exhibits may  
18 be attached and identified by reference within the pleading.

19 (f) **Signature.** All pleadings shall be signed by the attorney for the party on whose  
20 behalf it has been prepared, or the party if not represented by an attorney. Each paper  
21 shall state the signer's address and telephone number.

22 ***Rule 5: Defenses and Objections***

23 (a) **When Presented.** Unless a different time period is prescribed, a Respondent  
24 shall serve an Answer to the Articles of Presentment upon the Trial Attorney and file it  
25 with the Court within 30 days after being served with a Summons and Articles of  
26 Presentment.

27 (b) **How Presented.** The following defenses may be asserted either in the Answer  
28 or by motion: (1) insufficiency of service or process; (2) lack of jurisdiction; (3) failure to  
29 state the factual basis of an Offense; and (4) expiration of the applicable period of  
30 limitations as stated in Canon 3 of Title IV of the Canons of the Province. The  
31 Respondent may also move for a more definite statement before filing an Answer if the  
32 Articles of Presentment are so vague or ambiguous that Respondent cannot reasonably be  
33 required to frame a responsive pleading.

34 ***Rule 6: Amended and Supplemental Pleadings***

35 The Court may, in the interest of justice, permit the filing of amended and supplemental  
36 pleadings.

1 **Rule 7: Voluntary Disclosures, Discovery**

2 (a) **Voluntary Disclosures.** The parties shall provide to each other and the Court  
3 not later than sixty days prior to trial a list of all the witnesses expected to testify at trial,  
4 including the name and address of each witness; and copies of all documents and exhibits  
5 intended for use at trial.

6 (b) The parties may conduct discovery through written or oral depositions or  
7 written interrogatories. The Court may limit the number, length and scope of depositions  
8 or interrogatories. The Respondent shall not be required to make any statement or  
9 admission against himself in any discovery procedure.

10 **Rule 8: Taking of Testimony**

11 In all Court proceedings, the testimony of witnesses shall be taken orally in open Court by  
12 the Recorder of proceedings, unless otherwise provided by the Court. Such testimony  
13 shall be given under oath or solemn affirmation.

14 **Rule 9: Summary Judgment of Offense**

15 (a) **How Made.** If the Respondent fails or refuses to Answer the Articles of  
16 Presentment or otherwise respond by motion, except for reasonable cause to be allowed  
17 by the Court, the Trial Attorney may, no sooner than thirty days after the Answer is due,  
18 move with or without supporting affidavits for Summary Judgment. A Respondent may  
19 also move, with or without supporting affidavits, for Summary Judgment on part or all of  
20 the allegations of the Articles of Presentment.

21 (b) **Opposing Affidavits.** Prior to the day of any hearing set by the Court on a  
22 Motion for Summary Judgment, the Respondent may submit affidavits in support of his  
23 response to the Motion.

24 (c) **Proceedings Thereon.** The court shall convene a hearing to consider any Motion  
25 for Summary Judgment and may, in the Court's discretion, receive oral testimony at any such  
26 hearing. If the Articles of Presentment, together with affidavits, if any, and any oral  
27 testimony or other admissible evidence presented to the Court show that there is no genuine  
28 issue as to any fact material to a determination that the Respondent committed an Offense,  
29 the Court shall render Summary Judgment as sought by the Motion for Summary Judgment.

30 (d) **Form of Affidavits.** Supporting and opposing affidavits, and any oral testimony,  
31 shall be made on the basis of personal knowledge, shall state such facts as would be  
32 admissible in evidence, and shall show affirmatively that the affiant is competent to testify  
33 as to the matters stated. Copies of papers referred to in an affidavit shall be attached to and  
34 served with the affidavit.

35 (e) **Defense Required.** When a motion is made and supported as provided in this  
36 rule, the opposing party may not rest upon mere allegations or denials of the adverse party's  
37 pleading but must, by affidavits or otherwise provided in this rule, set forth specific facts to  
38 show that there is a genuine issue for trial.

1        ***Rule 10: Trials***

2        Each Respondent is entitled to a speedy and just trial of the allegations set forth in the  
3        Articles of Presentment. Each Respondent is entitled to confront the evidence against  
4        him. The facts alleged in the Articles of Presentment must be proved by clear and  
5        convincing evidence and the Diocese bears the burden of going forward and of proof as  
6        to each and every allegation in the Articles of Presentment. Trials shall be governed by  
7        the Federal Rules of Evidence and, where applicable under those rules, the rules of  
8        evidence of the state in which the Diocese has its principal office.

9        ***Rule 11: Judgment***

10       The Court shall render its Judgment no later than sixty days after the date of the conclu-  
11       sion of the hearing upon a Motion for Summary Judgment or trial.