

Revise Canons to Amend Canon 29B: Brookhaven Home for Boys

SPONSOR: Canons Committee, Diocese of Vermont

CONTACT PERSONS: Thomas A. Little, tlittle@vsac.org; (802) 238-4989; Steven Marshall; marshall.law@comcast.net; (802) 868-3367

RESOLVED, That the 191st Convention of the Diocese of Vermont amend Canon 29B of the Diocese of Vermont to read as presented below, the new text underlined and the deleted text overstruck; and be it further

RESOLVED That in accordance with Canon 37, Section 2, this amendment will take effect upon adjournment of the November 14, 2024 Diocesan Convention.

CANON 29B: BROOKHAVEN ~~HOME FOR BOYS~~ TREATMENT AND LEARNING CENTER, INC.

1. Brookhaven ~~Home for Boys~~Treatment and Learning Center, Inc. is a Diocesan Institution in the fullest and most comprehensive sense of the term; the Diocese is wholly responsible for its proper management ~~as a Home~~.
2. The management of the ~~Home~~Center and its affairs shall be in the hands of a Board of Trustees consisting of the Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont and nine others, two-thirds of whom must be members in good standing of the Diocese, three members elected each year. The Bishop is *ex officio* a member of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees shall be elected by the annual Convention, three members elected each year to serve for a full term of three years each. No member of the Board of Trustees shall be eligible to serve for more than two consecutive terms. Vacancies on the Board may be filled by the Board until the next annual Convention.
3. The Board of Trustees shall have the right to elect its own officers and adopt its own bylaws and rules. It shall have full jurisdiction and authority over the management and operation of the ~~Home~~Center, including the program, discipline and regulation, and the engagement or dismissal of the faculty and nonprofessional staff. However, the Priest or other person in charge of the ~~Home~~Center, may only be engaged or dismissed with the consent of the Bishop. The nine Trustees shall not have final say either in the engagement or the dismissal of the Priest or other person appointed to be in charge of the ~~Home~~Center. The Board of Trustees shall make a full report to each annual Convention of the Diocese.
4. The Board of Trustees shall have authority to amend the Articles of Incorporation of the ~~Brookhaven Home for Boys~~Center so that its Articles of Incorporation will be in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Vermont.
5. (a) The Chapel of Christ the King, which serves the ~~Home~~Center, and, as well, has a congregation from outside the ~~Home~~Center, is hereby granted one Lay Delegate to Convention with voice and vote, to be elected by the Annual Meeting of the Chapel from among the Episcopalian communicant members of the Chapel.

(b) The Chapel Meeting shall be the official governing body of the Chapel Congregation.

In the event the Diocese shall establish independent missionary work in the area, this section shall be considered null and void.

EXPLANATION

This resolution proposes simple changes in the current Canon 29B to affirm a decision by the Brookhaven Board of Trustees on October 29, 2024, to rename the Brookhaven Home for Boys to Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center, a name under which it has been operating informally for several years. The formal name change to one that is more accurately descriptive of Brookhaven's current mission will help ensure access to a variety of important funding sources. The change requires a concurrent change in the Canons of the Diocese.

Established as in 1952 in Chelsea, Vermont, as an institution of the Diocese of Vermont, Brookhaven is committed to providing quality clinical and educational programming for youth ages 6 - 14 with emotional/behavioral disturbances and learning difficulties. Trauma-informed services offered at Brookhaven include therapeutic residential care; individual, group, and family therapy; case management services; psychopharmacological support; and specialized education.

The Brookhaven Learning Center is a Vermont Approved Independent Therapeutic School providing both general and special education services to attending students. In addition to the youth residing at Brookhaven, students from surrounding school districts are also accepted to attend Brookhaven's co-educational classes when identified as needing an alternative education placement.

For the first time in Brookhaven history, the Center is now able to accept all children into the residential program. This has been long contemplated and in certain ways long overdue. It also now aligns with the co-educational status in the school program. While retaining its origins of being a "Home for Boys," the Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center's services can now be more expansive and inclusive and able to respond to the growing needs of the community and outreach to a greater number of families and youth.

The resolution also provides for the amendment to take effect at the conclusion of this Convention in accordance with Canon 37: AMENDMENTS TO CANONS. The relevant section reads:

2. The Committee on Canons may submit proposed amendments to these Canons at any annual Convention for immediate adoption, instead of deferring action for one year, provided the submission of such proposed amendment is approved by a concurrent vote, by Orders, of two-thirds of those present and voting in each Order.