

## #6 Revise Canons For Clarification

SPONSOR: Canons Committee, Diocese of Vermont

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RESOLVED, That the 193<sup>rd</sup> (2025) Convention of the Diocese of Vermont amend Canons 3.5, 6.6, 10.2.2, 10.2.3, 10.2.4, 10.2.5, and 18, to read as presented below the Explanation, the new text underlined and the deleted text overstruck; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in accordance with Canon 37, Section 2, these amendments will take effect upon adjournment of the October 30, 2025, Diocesan Convention.

*[Note: The following explanation of the Resolution is not included in the Resolution to be voted on. It is presented as an overview of the Resolution's proposed canonical changes, which follow.]*

### EXPLANATION

The Resolution proposes the following changes to add clarity to the affected Canons:

A. Amend Canon 3.5 (Convention Offices) to provide more flexibility in filling the role of the Treasurer of the Diocese when that office is vacant, by authorizing the Bishop to designate the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese to serve as Treasurer, *ex officio*.

B. Amend Canon 6.6 (Executive Council) to direct the Commission on Finance to assist Executive Council to collect and disburse the diocesan budget revenues, in consultation with the Treasurer of the Diocese. This models a collaborative effort.

C. Amend Canons 10.2.2 and 10.2.3 (Financial Statements; Audits) to use the correct name for Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center, Inc. The name was changed in the Brookhaven canon (Canon 29B) in 2024, and these are conforming amendments.

D. Amend Canons 10.2.4 and 10.2.5 (Annual Parochial Reports; Parish and Mission Assessments) to substitute “Commission on Finance” for “Diocesan Treasurer” in two places. This conforms to current practice which is working well.

E. Amend Canon 18 (Formation of Constellations) to substitute “priestly” for “clergy,” to be specific about the type of clerical leadership required in this context, and to correct a misspelling.

The resolution provides for the amendments 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.*

**From**  
**CONSTITUTION AND CANONS**  
**OF THE DIOCESE OF VERMONT**  
**As Most Recently Amended on November 14, 2024**

A. Canon 3.5 (Convention Offices; The Treasurer)

5. The Treasurer of the Diocese shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Convention for a term of three years. The Bishop, with the concurrence of the Executive Council, may fill a vacancy in the office of Treasurer between Conventions. Alternatively, during a vacancy in the office of Treasurer between Conventions, the Bishop may designate the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese to serve as Treasurer, ex officio. The Treasurer, *ex officio*, shall be a member of the Commission on Finance, with seat, voice and vote and, *ex officio*, a member of The Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc. with seat and voice but no vote on its Board of Trustees, and shall serve as Treasurer of the Convention. An Assistant Treasurer may be appointed by the Treasurer, with the approval of the Bishop. The Treasurer and the Assistant Treasurer shall be bonded in such sum as shall be determined by the Executive Council.

B. Canon 6.6 (The Executive Council; The Treasurer's Role)

6. The Executive Council, with the assistance of the Commission on Finance and in consultation with acting through the Treasurer of the Diocese:

(a) shall be responsible for the collection and disbursement of the budget as adopted by the annual Convention; and

(b) ~~The Executive Council~~ may authorize the Treasurer of the Diocese to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the budget income, so that the budgeted appropriations and obligations of the Diocese may be paid when due.

C. Canons 10.2.2, 10.2.3 (Property, Insurance, Audit and Finance; Diocesan Finances)

*2.2 Financial Statements.* The Diocese, each Parish and Mission, Diocesan Institution and the Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont shall operate on a calendar year basis. The Diocese's two Academic Institutions, Rock Point School and Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center~~School for Boys~~, Inc., may operate on a fiscal year basis. Financial statements shall be maintained either in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles or in accordance with the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs as promulgated by the Church. Financial statements shall include a statement of financial position (balance sheet) and a statement of activities (income and expenses statement), and shall include a statement of sources and applications of funds.

*2.3 Audits*

(a) *Academic Institutions.* The financial statements of each Diocesan Academic Institution, i.e., Rock Point School, Inc., and Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center~~Home For Boys~~, Inc., shall be audited annually by an independent certified public accountant in accordance with each Institution's Bylaws. All fees for auditing the financial statements of , Rock Point School, Inc.

and Brookhaven [Treatment and Learning Center School for Boys](#), Inc., shall be paid from their respective funds.

(b) *The Diocese, the Rock Point Commons Board, the Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc., and Mission Farm.* The collective financial statements of the Diocese, the Rock Point Commons Board, the Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont and Mission Farm shall be audited annually by an independent certified public accounting firm chosen by the Commission on Finance with the concurrence of the Executive Council. All audit reports, reviews, complete financial statements, management letters and responses to management letters shall be delivered by the Commission on Finance to the Bishop, the Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc., the Rock Point Commons Board, and Mission Farm, the Executive Council and the Secretary of Convention. All fees for auditing the financial statements of the Diocese, Mission Farm and the Rock Point Commons Board shall be paid from Diocesan funds on order of the Commission on Finance. All fees for auditing the financial statements of the Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc., Rock Point School, Inc. and Brookhaven [Treatment and Learning Center School for Boys](#), Inc., shall be paid from their respective funds.

#### D. Canons 10.2.4, 10.2.5 (Annual Parochial Reports; Parish and Mission Assessments)

##### *2.4 Reports*

*Annual Parochial Reports.* Each Parish and Mission shall annually prepare a parochial report in the form required by the Church. In every Parish, the preparation and delivery of this Annual Parochial Report shall be the joint duty of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, and the Vestry; in every Mission, the preparation and delivery of the Parochial Report shall be the joint duty of the Priest-in-Charge and the Executive Committee of the Mission. The Annual Parochial Report shall include the membership, attendance, service, stewardship and financial information defined in the forms and workbooks titled “Report of Episcopal Congregations and Missions” provided to each Parish and Mission, with instructions, by the General Convention of the Church. The Parish or Mission shall submit its Annual Parochial Report to the Bishop, or, if there is no Bishop, to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, by March 1 of the following year. As the Bishop may direct, such reports or parts of such reports may be presented to the Convention or printed as an appendix to the Convention Journal. The [Commission on Finance](#) ~~Diocesan Treasurer~~ shall report annually to the Executive Council listing Parishes or Missions not in compliance with this requirement. The Executive Council shall take such action as may be necessary and appropriate to encourage compliance.

*Annual Diocesan Reports.* Under the direction of the Bishop, the annual report of the Diocese shall be prepared in the form required by the Church. The report shall include statistical information concerning the Parishes and Missions of the Diocese, the Clergy and other ministries, and such other ministries and organizations of the Diocese as may be appropriate; together with the financial information required by Church Canon I.4.6(i). It shall also include information concerning implementation by the Diocese of resolutions of the previous General Convention which have been specifically identified as calling for Diocesan action.

##### *2.5 Assessments and Offerings*

*Parish and Mission Assessments.* Each Parish and Mission shall pay an annual assessment to support the Diocesan budget, computed as an appropriation against the net operating income of each Parish and Mission. Net operating income is defined as the reported revenues available to a Parish or Mission for general purposes of that Parish or Mission, less any grants received directly

from the Diocese. Revenues received for general purposes shall include, but not be limited to, plate and pledge income, contributions made by Parish or Mission organizations, investment and endowment income, and all other general-purpose income (e.g., rentals and proceeds from fund raisers designed to support the general purpose and mission of the Parish or Mission. The assessment shall be determined by the Convention upon the recommendation of the Executive Council and shall be paid in 12 equal monthly installments throughout the year, unless otherwise scheduled by the Executive Council. The [Commission on Finance](#)~~Diocesan Treasurer~~ shall report at least annually to the Executive Council listing Parishes and Missions not in compliance with this requirement. The Executive Council shall take such action as may be necessary and appropriate to encourage compliance.

#### E. Canon 18 (Formation of Constellations)

### CANON 18: FORMATION OF CONSTELLATIONS

A constellation is a formal agreement between at least two worshipping communities, i.e., of Parishes and/or Missions, who share [priestly eergy](#) leadership and other services. This agreement is approved by the Bishop and is formed with the facilitation of [owne](#) or more Canons to the Ordinary as determined by the Bishop, and may be assisted by the Commission on Missional Vitality. A constellation is a dynamic structure in which mission can be better furthered by the close mutual support of its members.