

The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee

CANON 28. Of Congregations.

SECTION 1. All regularly-organized congregations within the Diocese shall be known and styled as "Parishes". Parishes may be incorporated and admitted into union with the Council of the Diocese as hereinafter provided.

SECTION 2. All Parishes which are unable to support a Rector without financial assistance, or which otherwise receive financial aid from the Diocese, and all Parishes which do not, because of temporary financial difficulties, pay fully their diocesan Asking (or a reduced Asking approved by the Executive Council) for a period of two (2) years, shall be under the direct pastoral oversight of the Bishop and the Executive Council, as provided in these Canons. The Bishop shall have the right to approve the selection of Wardens and Vestry members nominated to him by all such parishes. A member of the clergy appointed by the Bishop as his Vicar for any such congregation shall serve at the Bishop's pleasure, but shall otherwise have such rights and duties as are designated to Rectors by these Canons or those of General Convention. The Executive Council and other commissions and committees of the Diocese shall assist the parish to understand and to correct the financial problem beginning promptly with the first inability of a parish to accept and pay the full Asking. All disputes arising under the provision of this section shall be referred for settlement to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee shall meet with the Bishop, the officials of the parish concerned and other parties in interest, after giving due notice thereto, and shall then render final judgment. If the Standing Committee shall determine that the failure to accept and pay the full Asking is not the result of temporary financial difficulties, the parish shall be deemed to be receiving financial aid from the Diocese for purposes of these Canons.

SECTION 3. No new parish shall be formed within the Diocese without the written consent of the Bishop and of the Standing Committee. Parishes may be admitted into union with the Convention of the Diocese upon its vote, the Convention being satisfied by an appropriate committee that the necessary consents have been received and that the parish to be admitted has been properly incorporated as provided below.

SECTION 4. If a parish seeking to be admitted into union with the Convention of the Diocese has no corporate character, those persons intending to be members thereof shall, upon receipt of the consents specified above, meet, subsequent to due notice, for the purposes of (A) electing Wardens and Vestry members as provided in Canon 15, and (B) adopting such By-Laws as shall distinctly accede to the constitution and Canons and the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of the Diocese of Milwaukee, and which shall otherwise serve to govern the parish. The Wardens and Vestry members, when elected, shall proceed to incorporate the parish.

SECTION 5. In the event of the dissolution of any parish, all property, real and otherwise, owned by or held for the use of such parish shall be conveyed to and transferred to the custody of "The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Inc." and the parish corporation, if any, dissolved in the manner provided by law.

SECTION 6. Title to any real estate given to or purchased by any parish not yet admitted into union with the Convention of the Diocese as provided above shall be vested in "The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Inc." until such time as the parish shall be so admitted as provided above, whereupon title to such real estate shall be conveyed to the parish by the Diocese, as trustee.