

## **Transitional Canons**

**Canon 1: Timeframe** These Transitional Canons will have immediate effect upon adoption and remain in effect until the 2026 Diocesan Convention.

### **Canon 2: Leadership, Body, and Membership**

Sec 1. *Standing Committee.* The four (4) members of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania's existing Standing Committee whose terms expire at the 2025 Joint Convention shall rotate off the Standing Committee at the 2025 Joint Convention. The eight (8) members of the Diocese of Bethlehem's existing Standing Committee and the remaining eight (8) members of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania's existing Standing Committee shall combine to create a sixteen (16) member Standing Committee of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna. Terms of members from the legacy Diocese of Central Pennsylvania shall be those set at their election. Terms of members from the legacy Diocese of Bethlehem shall be determined by that Standing Committee, four (4) members having a one-year term and four (4) members having a two-year term. At their first meeting, the Standing Committee of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna will elect from among their membership a President and Vice President of the Standing Committee, each from a different legacy diocese, and a Secretary of the Standing Committee. The 2026 Diocesan Convention shall elect four (4) individuals from The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna to compose, after the conclusion of the 2026 Diocesan Convention, a twelve (12) person Standing Committee.

Sec. 2 *Diocesan Council.* At the 2025 Joint Convention, each legacy diocese shall elect three (3) clergy and three (3) lay members and ensure clarity of their terms. Those elected by each legacy diocese will combine to form the Diocesan Council of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna. The Bishop Diocesan, Assistant Bishop, Secretary of the Diocese, and the Treasurer of the Diocese shall ex officio be members.

The Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer shall ex officio be members of Diocesan Council with seat and voice only. The Chief Financial Officer shall be responsible for organizing the call of the meetings and assembling the agenda in consultation with the Bishop Diocesan and the Assistant Bishop.

Officers of Diocesan Council shall include a President who shall be the Bishop Diocesan or their designee and a Secretary who shall be the Secretary of the Diocese. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Bishop, the Diocesan Council shall elect a President of Diocesan Council from among its members.

Sec 3. *Commission on Ministry.* The Bishops Diocesan of the legacy dioceses shall appoint to the Commission on Ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna for terms all starting on January 1, 2026, one (1) clergy and one (1) lay member to a three-year term, one (1) clergy and one (1) lay member to a two-year term, and one (1) clergy and one (1) lay member to a one-year term. There must always be at least one deacon seated on the Commission on Ministry of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna.

The Bishop Diocesan shall serve as President of the Commission on Ministry. The Bishop Diocesan shall appoint two Co-Chairs, one from the clerical order and one from the lay order and each from a different legacy diocese.

Sixty (60) days prior to the 2026 Diocesan Convention, the Commission on Ministry shall report to the Bishop Diocesan suggesting the continued membership of the Commission on Ministry.

Sec. 4. *Disciplinary Board.* The members of the respective Disciplinary Boards for the Dioceses of Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania shall constitute the Disciplinary Board for The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna until the 2026 Diocesan Convention. The Disciplinary Board for The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna shall be served by the intake officers previously appointed by the Bishops of their legacy dioceses. The Disciplinary Board shall elect from among their membership a President. The Bishop Diocesan shall appoint one or more church attorneys to the Disciplinary Board at their first meeting.

Sixty (60) days prior to the 2026 Diocesan Convention the Bishop shall nominate to the Standing Committee persons for election to the Disciplinary Board. Elected members of the Disciplinary Board shall be made known to 2026 Diocesan Convention in both publications and announcements. Those persons newly elected by the Standing Committee shall assume office immediately following the 2026 Diocesan Convention and shall serve for a term of three (3) years.

Those provisions of Title IV of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, which are applicable or may become applicable to the Diocese, are hereby incorporated as part of this Canon. If and to the extent that any of the provisions of this Canon are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, the provisions of Title IV of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church shall govern.

Sec. 5. *General Convention Delegates.* At the 2025 Joint Convention, the Dioceses of Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania shall each elect four (4) clergy and four (4) lay members to serve as Deputies and alternate Deputies to the General Convention from The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna. If a Deputy is unable to continue in service, they will be replaced with an alternate Deputy from the same legacy diocese. The designation as Deputy or alternate Deputy and the required ordering within the Deputation shall be based on the percentage of total votes received by each of those elected but the Deputation shall result in two members from each legacy diocese. A Chair and a Vice Chair of the Deputation, each from a different legacy diocese, shall be chosen by and from among those elected.

**Canon 3: Apportionment/Assessment** The 2026 congregational Assessment amounts shall be adopted by each legacy diocese through a resolution presented to the 2025 Joint Convention.

**Canon 4:** Any provisions of the Canons of the legacy dioceses in conflict with these Transitional Canons shall be void.

**Canon 5:** Each Congregation shall be governed by the bylaws in effect immediately prior to reunification. Any Congregation may hereafter adopt procedures whereby its bylaws may be amended. The bylaws of every Congregation shall be consistent with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna. The diocese may publish suggested bylaws for parishes to consider.