



**THE
ANGLICAN MISSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH(A.M.E.C.)**

**ITS DECLARATION OF FAITH
CONSTITUTION AND CANONS**

**AND
EPISCOPATE
(First adopted in May 8th, 2023)**

Headquarters

P.O.Box :

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I. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

The Anglican Mission Episcopal Church declares its belief in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the Word of God and the only sufficient Rule of Faith and entreats all the faithful to read the same diligently, not only as their duty and privilege, but in obedience to Christ's command, "Search the Scriptures." For the moral instruction contained therein it accepts also the so-called Apocryphal books.

II. THE CREEDS

The Anglican Mission Episcopal Church accepts the Nicene Creed, without the "filioque" interpolation as the only one of universal obligation but believes also the other two symbols known as the Apostles' Creed, and the Creed of St. Athanasius.

III. THE COUNCILS

The Anglican Mission Episcopal Church receives as Ecumenical the Seven General Councils whose dogmatic decrees are today accepted by all Apostolic Churches of the East and West, rites:- (1) Nicea, 325; (2) Constantinople, 381; (3) Ephesus, 431; (4) Chalcedon, 451; (5) Constantinople, 553; (6) Constantinople, 680; (7) Nicea, 787.

IV. THE SACRAMENTS

The Anglican Mission Episcopal Church holds that a Sacrament is a sacred rite divinely instituted to convey grace, having a sensible or visible sign connected with prayer as the means by which the grace is conveyed. It receives as a part of the original deposit of the faith "Once for all delivered to the saints" the Seven Gospel Sacraments; among them in the AMEC two (2) of them are granted and other 5 are not granted by our Lord.

- i. **BAPTISM.** It acknowledges Baptism as the Sacrament established by Christ to cleanse man from Original Sin and to make them members of the Christian Church, it is the sacrament of Regeneration of the New Birth; this Church recognize immersion baptism only for old people and infant dedication.

- ii. **THE EUCHARIST.** It holds that the Eucharist is both a Sacrament and a Sacrifice offered for the living and the dead. It believes that in this most holy Sacrament of the Altar there is the real Presence of the glorified spiritual Body and Blood of Christ under the forms of bread and wine, the mysterious transformation being effected by the Holy Spirit. Since this is a mystery it shuns all terms of definition and description. It maintains that the Chalice should not be denied the laity in holy communion; it believes that the Liturgy ought to be said in the language of the people; and it permits in connection with this Sacrament the use of the names Eucharist, Mass, or Divine Liturgy.

In short words this combines the **Lord's supper** which is done in memory of sufferings and death of Jesus, at the cross, the cup symbolize the blood of Jesus breaking the bread symbolizes the body of Jesus crucified because of our sins. Members of the church meet for administering of the Lord's supper permanently up to the second coming of Jesus Mat 26 :26-29,Luke 22 :19-20 ;1 Corth 10 :16-17 ;11 :23-30.

- iii. **CONFIRMATION.** It believes that Confirmation is the Sacrament in which the Holy Spirit is given with the fulness of His Gifts to the believer and regards the Bishop as the ordinary minister of this Sacred Rite.
- iv. **PENANCE.** It believes that in the Sacrament of Penance, Jesus Christ Himself inwardly looses from their sins those who sincerely repent of them and outwardly make confession, and that every validly ordained priest has the power to pronounce Christ's pardon to penitent sinners confessing their sins. It allows both public and private confession, the mode being optional with the penitent.
- v. **UNCTION OF THE SICK.** It believes Unction of the Sick to be a Sacrament of the New Dispensation, instituted for the spiritual and corporal solace of the sick, to be used for the benefit of the Christian when seriously ill, and not only when approaching death. Both the mode and the efficacy of this Sacrament are indicated in the fifth chapter of the Epistle of St. James.
- vi. **SACRED ORDERS.** It believes that Order is a Sacrament which confers upon those who validly receive it the power to exercise special

ministerial function, Bishops alone being the ministers of this Sacrament. The greater, or Holy Orders, which are of divine institution, are the Episcopate, the Priesthood, and the Diaconate, reader, exorcist, acolyte. It believes the episcopate necessary for the life of the Church, that all bishops are equal in power and authority by divine right and that their prerogatives of honor and jurisdiction are derived from the Church and regulated by her canons.

- vii. **HOLY MATRIMONY.** It believes marriage, when a man and woman are joined together according to the sacred rite of the Church, to be a sacrament, and that the civil ceremony of marriage prescribed by law in certain countries, should always be blessed by the priest. There should be no dissolution of the bonds of marriage except for adultery, and malicious desertion(including proven extreme abuse,) and no priest of this Church is permitted to perform the marriage ceremony of any person who has a divorced husband or wife living, unless such a person produces satisfactory evidence from court records that he or she is the innocent party in a divorce granted for the cause of adultery or malicious desertion. In all cases involving the marriage of a divorced person, the priest must submit the facts to, and receive the consent of his Bishop, before performing the rite.
- viii. **Homosexuality** is not compatible to the Christian lifestyle. It is considered an abomination by God (Lev. 18:22, plus numerous other places in both Old and New Testament).
- ix. All Clergies of AMEC are forbidden to perform or officiate or be a part of any homosexual marriage ceremony. To violate this will result in immediate loss of ordination.
- x. LGBTQI+ people and communities we do not marginalize or leave behind them; the church loves them and is ready to provide full support by helping; advising and teaching them to get out of that. We do respect them with confidentiality and privacy.

V. THE SAINTS

The Anglican Mission Episcopal Church believes that the departed saints are not dead, but living, and that if the prayers of the righteous on earth avail much, the prayers of our glorified brethren nearer the throne of God must be more potent. Hence, we consider it a good and useful practice to invoke the prayers of the saints for us, and to pray ourselves for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed.

VI. SACRED PICTURES AND IMAGES

The Anglican Mission Episcopal Church holds that pictures and images of Christ and the Saints may be revered as sacred things, though not adored. We do not deny to any Christian the use of this pious practice if it be an aid to worship, but we caution against abuses thereof when the picture or image is given the adoration which belongs only to God, or its veneration considered necessary to salvation or justification.

CONSTITUTION

I. ARTICLE .

NAME

The name of this Church, which was organized September 2nd, 1921 was The African Orthodox Church. Its faith, as declared, was Orthodox, in conformity with the Orthodox Churches of the east from which its Episcopate was derived. While it admitted to membership and other privileges persons of all races, it sought particularly to reach out to millions of African descents in both hemispheres and declared itself to be perpetually autonomous and controlled by Africans. Hence the name, African Orthodox.

The African Orthodox Church (AOC) owed its Episcopate and Apostolic Authority to the Syrian Church of Antioch where their disciples were first called Christians, and of which the See of St Peter the Apostle was the first Bishop.

In a Bull issued by Ignatius Peter III, Patriarch of Antioch and the East, permission was given for the Consecration of the Priest Joseph Rene Vilatte as Archbishop – Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of America, namely, for churches adhering to the Orthodox Faith; and, on May 29th, 1892, Archbishop Vilatte was duly consecrated in Ceylon by Archbishop Julius Alvarez, assisted by the Syrian Bishops George

Gregorius and Paul Athanasius, all three being under obedience of the Patriarch of Antioch.

On September 28th, 1921, in the United States, George Alexander McGuire, who was born in South Africa and served in Anglican Church in South Africa and the United States of America until 1918, until he was rejected by the administration of the Anglican Church (Canterbury) after he had been elected to the office of Bishop, was consecrated to the first Bishop and Primate of the AOC by Archbishop Joseph Rene Vilatte, assisted by Bishop Carl A. Nybladh who had been consecrated by Vilatte. Bishop McGuire was thrived to lay the foundation of the newborn AOC and on September 10th, 1924, he was elected to Archbishop. Then Archbishop McGuire declared that he is forming a sect of the Anglican Church “for our race”, thus the unity of the AOC, South Africa and the United States of America, began. Archbishop McGuire was elected as Patriarch by the Conclave of Bishops with the title of Alexander I.

In 1934, the AOC had about 30,000 members, about fifty clergies, and thirty churches in Africa and United States of America. Alexander I died on November 10th, 1934, and Archbishop George Ford (1897-2004), succeeded the mantle.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the Church played a massive role in the fight against APARTHEID in South Africa and worked with Dr Martin Luther King Jr in the United States of America. In 1997, AOC implemented the reform and changed its name to Anglican African Orthodox Church(AAOC). From its inception, the AAOC set out to prevent the notion that we are a black church. We made it clear that we serve all God’s people. In 2022 The Presiding Bishop ; The Right Reverend + Dr Antoine NZAYISENGA in the guidance of Holy Spirit changed the name from Worldwide Anglican Church to Anglican Mission Episcopal Church and start reforming and organizing this strong church by the support of God.

Operations of the Church is now conducted with utmost fairness, and the organization is dedicated to establishing a resilient and welcoming foundation for devoted believers worldwide. In December 2022, the A.M.E.C. and Reformed Anglican Church Uganda ; Pentecostal Episcopal Church of USA came into Intercommunion with each other to form a robust union. In addition to this Intercommunion all of these Anglican bodies accepted to share the common doctrine.

The work of this body began in earnest and it took (and is) in developing a strong foundation. We began in South Africa and the USA, but now we have purview over thousands of parishes and clergies across five continents which will enhance the unified traditional Anglican faith.

History will decide on the work of the A.M.E.C, but it will be left to our successors to carry the vision. It is our hope that we, who have planted the seeds of growth, while we will not see it, will bear fruit that brings others to the kingdom of God. We pray at that time that much will not be said of who we were, but that what we have done.

Anglican Mission Episcopal Church (AMEC) Central Office is registered and incorporated in RWANDA and will open other offices in other countries as it grows.

II. ARTICLE .

GOVERNMENT

The general legislation of this Church and the direction of all matters which concern and belong to and affect the Church as a whole, shall be vested in its General Synod, subject to its “Declaration of Faith” and to such Constitution and Canons as it may from time to time adopt.

III. ARTICLE .

COMPOSITION OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

The General Synod shall be composed as follows: -

1. Of all Bishops and all Priests of this Church.
2. Of all lay Officers of Synod.
3. Of Lay Deputies to be selected as provided in the Canons.

IV. ARTICLE .

MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

General Synod shall convene on the third Monday in December in each year, unless for good reason the Presiding Bishop shall see fit to make a change, in which case they shall state the reason in the notice of a new date and shall allow enough time for deputies from distant points to arrive. When deputies are unable to attend in person, dispensation will be made for them to join through

secured digital media with exceptional circumstances considered. The Presiding bishop, for urgent reasons, by and with consent of at least two-thirds of the Officers of the General Synod, may on sixty days' notice call an extraordinary meeting of the General Synod. At any time, the General Synod may determine by two-thirds vote to meet by-annually, or tri-annually.

V. ARTICLE .

OFFICERS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Section 1. The officers of the General Synod shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Chancellor.

Section 2. The President shall be one of the Senior Archbishops(Primate), or Ordinary Bishop in see of the Church in any country. The Vice-President shall be a Bishop or Priest elected by ballot at each regular meeting of the General Synod. The Secretary shall be a Priest; the Treasurer and Chancellor shall be laymen or Priests. All these shall be elected by ballot at each regular meeting of the General Synod.

Section 3. The duties of said officers shall be those pertaining to their respective offices, and such others as may be prescribed by the Canons.

Section 4. During the period intervening between sessions of the General Synod, the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church Consistory, consisting of all Officers of the General Synod, all Bishops of the Church and the Dean of the Seminary, shall transact the business of the Church, making report thereof at the next meeting of the General Synod. The Presiding Bishop is the president of the Consistory.

Section 5. All Bishops of this Church shall be members of the Conclave or House of Bishops, of which the Presiding Bishop is the President. The Conclave shall safeguard the Episcopate and the Declarers of Faith and seek communion with other Churches of the Anglican tradition.

VI. ARTICLE .

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Section 1. General Synod shall debate and vote as a general body according to such parliamentary rules as may be adopted, and freedom of debate shall always be allowed.

Section 2. On all matters pertaining to faith, order and Worship, the Clergy alone shall vote, the Bishops and Priests separately, and concurrence of both Orders shall be necessary for the passage of the measure so voted on.

Section 3. Three Priests and Three Lay Deputies, with the President of the General Synod shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. This number may be increased by legislation at any session of the General Synod.

VII. ARTICLE .

THE LITURGY AND HYMNAL

A Commission of which the Bishops shall be members shall prepare a Liturgy Anglican in faith, derived from the Latin Rite, and published in the English Language or French. The forms of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer shall be employed wherever suitable in the compilation of said Liturgy. Until a Hymnal of this Church is provided, the use of the “English Hymnal,” or of “Hymns Ancient and Modern” is authorized, care being exercised in the choice of the hymns.

VIII. ARTICLE .

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution, until otherwise ordered, may be amended at any stated meeting of the General Synod by a two-thirds vote of all present and voting.

CANONS

1. CANON .

LAY DEPUTIES TO THE GENERAL SYNOD

Section 1. Lay deputies shall be elected to each General Synod at a regularly called meeting of each Parish for said purpose. In all cases they must be communicant members of the congregation they are chosen to represent.

Section 2. Each parish shall be entitled to one Lay Deputy, but if its communicant membership as reported by it to General Synod be two hundred or more, it shall be entitled to two such Deputies.

Section 3. No candidate for Holy Orders shall be eligible as a Lay Deputy.

2. CANNON .

THE SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

Section 1. The secretary of the General Synod shall be chosen by ballot and shall appoint his/her Assistant with the approval of the General Synod. In addition to his/her general duties, he/she shall preserve and file in the archives of the Church all documents, papers, reports, and communications relating to the business of the General Synod which may come into his/her possession. He/she shall be the Registrar of the Church and shall keep a record of the Consecration of all its Bishops and the ordination of all its Priests. He/she shall also keep a Register of all Bishops, Priests and other Ministers of this Church, whose names shall be delivered to him/her in the following manner, that is to say: Every Bishop of this Church, or where there is no Bishop, the Bishop's Council, shall at the time of every General Synod deliver or cause to be delivered to the said Secretary a list of the names of all Clergy of this Church in their Diocese or Jurisdiction, annexing the names of their parishes or other official positions and their places of residence.

Section 2. The Journal of the General Synod shall be prepared for publication by the Secretary, and after examination and certification by the President, shall be printed as the official and permanent record of this Church.

Section 3. The necessary expenses incurred by the Secretary shall be provided for by vote of the General Synod.

3. CANNON .

THE TREASURER OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer of the General Synod to receive and disburse all funds collected under the authority of the General Synod and for which there is no other regulation. He/she shall present a summarized report at the opening session of each stated meeting of the General Synod, and his/her books of account shall be audited by the Committee on Finance.

4. CANNON .

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE GENERAL SYNOD

The Chancellor of the General Synod shall be a person having knowledge of the principles of Civil Law and vested in Canon Law, to whom shall be referred all requests for interpretation of the Constitution and Canons of this Church. He/she shall be the Adviser of the Presiding Bishop; President and Consistory in all legal and judicial matters, and with their consent shall secure such legal talent as may be necessary in the affairs of this Church. He/she shall make a summarized report of his/her activities at the first session of each stated meeting of the General Synod.

5. CANON .

EXPENSES OF GENERAL SYNOD

The contingent expenses of the General Synod shall be defrayed by assessments upon the several congregations of this Church, said assessments to be made annually by the Committee on Finance, and authorized by the General Synod.

6. CANON .

COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

At each stated meeting of General Synod, the President shall appoint the following Commissions and Committees, :

1. A Commission on Liturgy and Hymnal, consisting of the Presiding Bishop and other Bishops, and three Priests who shall set forth a Liturgy and Hymnal, or portions thereof, or revise said Liturgy and Hymnal from time to time. This Commission shall publish all theological, ecclesiastical and devotional literature of this Church.
2. A Committee on Constitution and Canons, consisting of the Presiding Bishop and other Bishops, two Priests and two Laymen, of which the Chancellor shall be one, to whom shall be referred all alterations or amendments to the Constitution and Canons.
3. A Committee on Finance consisting of the Presiding Bishop, two Priests and two Laymen, who shall perform the duties usually pertaining to such a Committee, such as caring for the contingent expenses of the General Synod, levying assessments for any purpose ordered by the General Synod, and auditing all financial reports and statements. The Treasurer of the General Synod shall be an ex-officio member of this Committee for the purpose of receiving funds and giving desired information, but without vote.
4. A Committee on Church Extension Fund consisting of the Presiding Bishop , two Priests and two laymen, who shall perform the duties of a Board of Missions and shall have power to raise funds for the assistance of new congregations. This Committee shall take charge of all contributions and donations for any purpose connected with the Extension work of this Church or of any charitable or benevolent institution thereof. It shall also be the Trustees of all property, real and personal, held by any parish or congregation, which receives regular financial aid from said Committee.
5. A Committee on the Episcopate Fund consisting of the Presiding Bishop, two Priests and two laymen who shall levy assessments and raise offerings for the support and travelling expenses of the Presiding Bishop and senior Bishops of this Church.

All Commissions and Committees herein mentioned shall make a report at every stated meeting of the General Synod and a majority of all the members of any such

Commissions or Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. They shall keep a proper record of all proceedings and funds.

CANON VII.

DIOCESES AND MISSIONARY JURISDICTIONS

Section 1. Ten or more contiguous parishes of this Church being self-supporting, with ten or more Priests of this Church each of who shall be Rector of one of said parishes, may constitute themselves into a Diocese having first received the consent of the General Synod. Such Diocese shall take its name from a city or another geographical designation and shall form its own Diocesan Synod under the Jurisdiction of a Bishop of this Church, elected by such Synod. Each Diocesan Synod shall be composed of all the Priests of this Church resident within its limits and such number of Lay Deputies from each Diocesan Synod shall have power to frame a Constitution and canons for its own government not conflicting with the Constitution and Canons of the General Synod.

Section 2. The territorial boundaries of a Diocesan Synod shall be fixed by the General Synod and shall not be changed except such Synod by a majority vote requests and received the consent of the General Synod.

Section 3. The General Synod may establish Missionary and Special Jurisdictions with territorial boundaries and elect Bishops therefor, and each such Jurisdiction shall make Canons for its government under the direction of its Bishops not conflicting with the Constitution and Canons of the General Synod.

Section 4. The Bishop shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of his Diocese or Jurisdiction with the assistance of a Bishop's Council of not less than four members who may be Priests, and who shall be appointed by the Bishop at each annual meetings of Synod. If there be no Bishop, the Council alone shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Section 5. No Candidate for Holy Orders shall be eligible as a Lay Deputy to a Diocesan Synod.

CANON VIII.

BISHOPS

Section 1. Any Priest of this Church in good standing may be elected a Bishop, and any Bishop of this Church may be elected over a vacant Diocese or appointed by General Synod over a Jurisdiction and Approved by the Presiding Bishop of AMEC.

Section 2. (a) A Bishop of a Diocese shall be elected by the Synod thereof at a meeting called for said purpose according to the canons of this Church, by the concurrent vote by ballot of the Clergy and lay Duties voting separately.

(b) A Bishop or a Missionary or Special Jurisdiction shall be elected at any meeting of the General Synod by the concurrent vote by ballot of the Bishops and Clergy voting separately and the Lay Deputies voting separately.

Section 3. No election of a Bishop by a Diocesan Synod is valid until confirmed by the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church, or by the General Synod if such election occurs less than two months prior to a meeting of General Synod.

Section 4. Every Bishop-elect, being a Priest before his Consecration, shall present to the Presiding Bishop his certificate of election duly signed by all the Officers clerical and lay of the Diocesan or General Synod electing him; also, a statement from the Secretary of the General Synod of the Confirmation of his election; also, a certificate of good character signed by three Priests in the following form:

“We whose names are underwritten, fully realizing how important it is that the office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion, without partiality or affection, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that _____ is not, so far as we are informed, justly liable to evil report, either for error in the Anglican faith or for an inappropriate life, and that we do not know or believe there is any impediment on account of which he ought not to be Consecrated to the office of a Bishop in the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we do, in our conscience, believe him to be of such sufficiency in good learning, such soundness in doctrine, and of such virtuous and pure manners and godly conversation, that he is apt and meet to exercise the office of a Bishop, to the honor of God and the edifying of His Church, and to be a wholesome example to the flock of Christ.”

These requirements being complied with, the Presiding Bishop, or some other Bishop or Bishop's designated by them, shall proceed to consecrate the Bishop-elect according to the established by this Church.

Section 5. No man shall be consecrated a Bishop in this Church until he shall be forty(40) years old, and no man shall be consecrated an Archbishop in this Church until he is forty five 45 years old.

Section 6. Every Bishop of this Church shall reside within his own Diocese or Jurisdiction unless excused from so doing by vote of the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church Consistory or the General Synod. He shall visit the congregations within his charge at least once a year for the purpose of performing the spiritual duties of his office and examining the temporal state of each such congregation. The expenses incurred by such visit shall be defrayed in part or whole by the congregation for whose benefit it is made, or in such other way as the Synod of the Diocese or Jurisdiction shall provide.

Section 7. Every Bishop in charge of a Diocese or Jurisdiction shall make written report of his work and episcopal acts to General Synod, mailing same so that it may be in the hand of the Secretary of General Synod, or of its President, at least twenty days prior to the stated meeting of the General Synod.

All the Bishops also must copy the report to the Presiding Bishop of this church; each year not later than 30th November.

Section 8. In case of the death, resignation, or vacancy by any other cause of a Bishop of a Missionary or Special Jurisdiction, the oversight of the vacant Jurisdiction shall pass to the Presiding Bishop of this Church, who will appoint some other Bishop as his substitute, until the next meeting of the General Synod when a new Bishop shall be chosen for the Jurisdiction.

Section 9. Any Bishop of a Jurisdiction may resign the same with the consent of the General Synod, after which he shall perform Episcopal acts only at the request of Bishops having jurisdiction or of the General Synod. The Bishop of any Diocese may resign the same or be relieved from duties of his office by the Synod thereof for causes not affecting his moral character. All Bishops so resigning or relieved shall retain their seats in the Conclave, or House of Bishops, the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church Consistory, and be entitles to vote in General Synod.

Section 10. As soon as there shall be three or more Bishops in the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church, they shall form a Conclave or House of Bishops at the first meeting of which they shall elect one of their number as Archbishop and Primate. Upon the death or resignation of such Archbishop and Primate, the Senior Bishop in point of Consecration shall immediately call a meeting of the House of Bishops to elect his successor. A majority of all Bishops of the Church shall form a quorum. The votes of all absent Bishops on a personally signed ballot shall be counted with the ballots of the Bishops present and voting, and the result of said election shall be published in all Dioceses and Jurisdictions of this Church.

Section 11. Until the election of an Archbishop, the Senior Bishop in point of Consecration shall be the Acting Primate of the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church.

CANON IX.

GENERAL PROVISIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

FOR HOLY ORDERS

Section 1. No person shall be ordained to the Ministry in this Church, who for reasons affecting his/her moral character, has been refused ordination elsewhere.

Section 2. No Person shall be ordained to the Priesthood in this Church until he be thirty(30) years old.

Section 3. Every person to be admitted to Holy Orders in this Church shall be examined by a Bishop and his Examining Chaplains whose duty it shall be to ascertain that he/she is well versed in the Holy Scriptures, the Faith and Worship of this Church, the history of the Undivided Church, Sermon Composition and delivery, Pastoral Theology, and the Constitutions and canons of this Church. Before such examination he/she shall present a Testimonial from at least one Priest, two male and two female communicants of this Church signifying a belief in his/her fitness for this sacred office and in his/her purity, good morals and behavior for the space of three years past. He/she must further be able to show that he/she is deemed to be useful in ministerial work.

Section 4. Deacons shall not be given charge of congregations, but shall be assistants to Priests, or serve temporarily in a congregation under the supervision of the Bishop. Deacons may preach sermons and perform Infant Dedications in the

absence of a Priest and only with consent of the Bishop. They shall be assistants, but not celebrants of the Eucharist.

Section 5. No Deacon or other Minister, not being a Priest, shall be transferred from one Diocese or Jurisdiction to another except by mutual agreement of the Bishops concerned.

Section 6. No one shall be ordained a Priest until such time as he is entering upon pastoral or other duties assigned him in this Church by the Bishop, and any Priest who shall leave his sacred calling and the duties thereof to engage in secular work after his ordination shall be officially counseled by his Bishop and otherwise disciplined should he persist in the same against the reprimand of said Bishop.

Section 7. Any Priest of this Church in good standing may at his own request, be transferred with Letters Testimonial to the Jurisdiction of any other Bishop who may desire to receive him. Every transfer when effected shall be reported to the Secretary of the General Synod by the Bishop receiving the Priest in question.

In addition to this; the AMEC accepts three categories of valid Holy Orders as they are following:

1. DEACONATE LEVEL
2. PRIESTHOOD LEVEL
3. EPISCOPACY LEVEL

THE OFFICE OF DEACON

1 . The first level of ordained ministry is the Office of deacon. This Office is to be an assistant to the Priest or the Bishop.

- **Duties:** Deacons may serve in the following capacities:
- **Worship** – Deacons serve as assistants to Priests or Bishops. They can read the Scripture lessons, lead prayer, or any other duties assigned to them by the rector or Bishop.
- **Sacraments** – Deacons may be allowed to do baptism and Eucharist only with permission of the Bishop and only under extenuating circumstances. They may serve the Eucharist to shut-ins as long as the host is formally consecrated. They may do baptisms at the direction of the Priest or Bishop.

- **Minimum Age** – Any candidate for the Orders of Deacon must be at least 21 years of age and have completed a basic course of study as required by the province to which they reside.
- **Vestments** – In worship service, a deacon is to wear a white alb with a stole that is on a 45° angle across the chest. They are to wear the appropriate liturgical colors as prescribed by the province.
- **Educational Requirements** – Each province is to set a minimum requirement for religious education that must be passed by the aspirant in order to be ordained as a deacon.
- **Ordination** – Each deacon must be ordained by the Bishop ordinary of his or her diocese.
- **Approval** – All those who desire to become deacons must be approved by the Board of Ordained ministry for their diocese prior to ordination.
- **Other Duties** – Deacons can perform duties as assigned to them by their Priest or Bishop. They may serve as missionaries, teach in schools, do Christian charity, serve as evangelists or any other role as may be assigned to them. Deacons can also officiate at funerals.
- **Tithing** – All deacons & Deaconess are expected to tithe as well as to encourage all others to do likewise.
- **Compensation** – Deacons may or may not be compensated for their work. This will depend upon the finances of the local Church to where they are assigned.
- **Weddings** – Deacons may not officiate weddings, unless given special dispensation in writing by their Ordinary Bishops and only for a specific instance.
- **Deaconess:** A woman of devout character and aptitude may be ordained to the order of Deaconess by the Bishop of her parish and have jurisdiction in the Diocese or Missionary Diocese in which she will serve. The Anglican Mission Episcopal Church recognizes no difference between the office of the Deacon and that of the Deaconess since her ministry is equally important to her parish.
- **Removal from Office** – A deacon can only be removed from being an ordained deacon by the Diocesan Bishop.

All DEACONS & DEACONESS must have to be serving for a period of 6 months and of two years before they can be considered to be ordained to the Priesthood after serious evaluation

OFFICE OF THE PRIESTHOOD

1 – Definition – The Office of Priest is reserved for those who have been called by God to this high and important position within the Church. A Priest has full powers to lead worship, preach the Word, conduct the sacraments and to be the administrative leader of the Church to which they have been assigned.

Duties, Obligations and Qualifications.

- **Qualifications** – All Priests must have served for a minimum of two years before they can be considered to be ordained to the Priesthood.
- **Educational Requirements** – A Priest must have the minimum educational requirements as set forth by the province to which they are a member.
- **Duties** – All Priests serve under the direction of a Bishop. They may serve as rectors, curates, evangelists, missionaries, Church planters and the like. They may preside over a worship service or as part of a worship service with another Priest or under the Bishop. They are to take care their Churches and their members. They are responsible for providing religious education for all members.
- **Sacraments** – All Priests may perform the sacrament of Baptism and the Eucharist.
- **Marriage Ceremonies** – All Priests may preside over all weddings in keeping with the laws of the country to which they are serving.
- **Authority** – A Priest is under the authority of a Bishop. A missionary Priest will be under the authority of not only his or her home diocese, but while serving in a different diocese, under the authority of that Bishop to whom he has been assigned. The Priest will have authority over the deacons/Deaconess and other Priests that he may be appointed as overseer.
- **Vestments** – Priests shall wear appropriate vestments as prescribed by the province to which they serve. A Priest can may wear an ecclesiastical shirt as part of their daily work, depending upon the province in which they reside. During worship, they may wear an alb with a stole in appropriate liturgical colors. Other vestments may be

worn as prescribed by the province to which they belong to. A Church is expected to purchase appropriate vestments. Small Churches, however, may not be able to provide full support, but should do what they can.

- **Approval** – All candidates for the Priesthood must be approved by the Bishop along with a Board of Ordained Ministry. They shall have met the basic requirements as set forth by the province to which they will be part of.
- **Ordination** – All Priests must be ordained by their local Bishop.
- **Tithing** – All Priests are expected to teach tithing in their Churches. In addition, they are to tithe their income to their Church. They are to set an example for their members to do likewise.
- **Bi-Vocational** – Priests may be bi-vocational, especially in the case of small Churches or new Church plants whereby the local Church cannot afford to support a full time Priest.

Removal as an Ordained Priest – A Priest can not be removed as an ordained Priest without an ecclesiastical trial with the Bishop presiding. All actions of removal must be approved by the Presiding Bishop of AMEC.

OFFICE OF BISHOP

1 – Definition – The Office of Bishop is an overseer of the Church. The Office of Bishop is one of great honor that should be upheld with respect and dignity.

A Bishop is the “Priest of Priests” who serves to guide, correct and encourage Priests, Deacons and Churches under their tutelage.

- **Types of Bishops** – In Anglicanism, there are three types of Bishops which can serve the Church. They are as follows: **Bishop Ordinary, Bishop Suffragan and Bishop Missionary.**
 - **Consecration of Bishop** – A Bishop must be consecrated by no less than three Bishops in attendance. This requirement is in keeping with the long usage and custom of the Anglican Church worldwide. **This is done in Line and keeping the Apostolic succession of the Apostles.**

- **Minimum Age and Requirements** – No one may become a Bishop unless they have reached the age of 40 years and have served as a Priest prior to becoming a Bishop.

➤ **Bishop Ordinary**

Definition – A Bishop ordinary is one who is head of a diocese. A diocese is considered to be a minimum of ten Parishes.

- **Ecclesiastical Authority** – A Bishop ordinary is over all Priests and deacons along with lay leaders of the diocese in which he has been chosen to serve.

A Bishop ordinary has the power to assign Priests and deacons to Parishes. A Bishop ordinary is expected to visit each Parish once a year in order to confirm those all who are baptized by immersion; who are now ready to confirm their baptism (Confirmation).

- **Cathedral** – It is expected that a Bishop ordinary will have one Church that will serve as his cathedral. A special chair shall be set in place for the Bishop ordinary as prescribed by the province.
- **Appointment of Priests and Deacons** – The Bishop ordinary shall have the authority to appoint Priests and deacons to various Parishes throughout his diocese.
- **Election** – A Bishop ordinary shall be elected by the Priests and senior warden of each Parish within the diocese. The procedure of how the election shall take place is left up to the province to which they belong to.
- **Qualifications to be Bishop** – A Bishop ordinary shall have served as a Priest in that respective diocese and be at least 40 years of age. He shall be of good moral character and endorses the 39 Articles of Religion. That person shall have demonstrated the ability to be a leader.
- **Approval of Province** – All Bishops who are elected must be approved by the House of Bishops for that particular diocese.

The decision of the Provincial House of Bishops can be appealed to the Presiding Bishop should a conflict arise.

- **Approval by College of Archbishop** – All elected or appointed to the Office of Bishop will automatically be reviewed by the College of Archbishops which has the power to nullify an election of a Bishop should circumstances arise to warrant such action.

Term of Office – A Bishop ordinary can serve until the age of 75 years. At that point, he can retire . They do retain the title of “Bishop” and are due the respect of that Office once they retire from that position. They are then under the governance of the new Bishop ordinary.

All the retirements are approved by the Presiding Bishop of AMEC.

- **Consecration** – All Bishops must be consecrated by no less than three Bishops in good standing, which is in keeping with the Anglican tradition and line of Apostolic succession.
- **Financial support** – It is the obligation of each Parish in a diocese to support the diocese with a tithe from the Church of 20% of their monthly income.
- **Fiduciary Responsibility of Bishop** – The Bishop ordinary is required to report to the Churches on a quarterly basis the income and expenditures of the diocese.
- **Appointment of Diocese staff** – The Bishop ordinary shall appoint a diocesan secretary, diocesan treasurer, and any other Officers as needed in the operation of the diocese.
- **Diocese Synod** – The Bishop ordinary shall be the chair of all meetings of the Diocese Synod, which shall meet once a year at a fixed date as determined by the diocesan bishop.
- **Treasurer** – The Bishop ordinary may not serve as treasurer of the diocese. There needs to be full transparency in all financial dealings of any diocese. Checks and balances must be observed.
- **Canons, Deans and Archpriests** – The Bishop ordinary shall appoint all Canons, Deans and Archpriests. These Offices will also form a Diocesan Council which will assist the Bishop ordinary in the operation of the diocese.

- **Bishop Suffragan** – The Presiding Bishop or Archbishops may appoint Bishops Suffragan. These Bishops are created for special assignments.
No Bishop Suffragan shall be appointed unless they have a clear duty or responsibility.
 - **Compensation** – They are to be compensated as determined by the diocese.
 - **Honors and Respect** – A Bishop Suffragan is to be given all rights, honors and respect due to the Office of Bishop. He does not have a cathedral, but will serve at the assignment of the Bishop, Archbishop or the Presiding Bishop.
 - **House of Bishops** – A Bishop Suffragan is a member of the House of Bishops for the province and has full vote.
- **Missionary Bishops** – A missionary Bishop is a Bishop in full standing who is appointed by either the Presiding Bishop or an Archbishop with the sole purpose of developing new Churches to form a new diocese.
 - **Duties** – The missionary Bishop shall establish Churches. They are to raise up deacons to officiate at these new Churches while developing Priests.
 - **Other Duties** – The “Duties of Bishops” applies to all missionary Bishops.
 - **Compensation** – Compensation must be negotiated with the AMEC or province to which they may be attached. It is understood that most missionary Bishops will be employed in secular jobs to support their mission work.
 - **Removal of a Bishop from Office** – A Bishop can only be removed by a trial before an ecclesiastical court appointed by his **Archbishop**. All action by that court must then be reviewed by the Presiding Bishop and College of Archbishops who may reverse or agree with the court’s decision.

According to the AMEC doctrines and beliefs the office of holy orders to Priesthood and Episcopacy are reserved for Men only.

CANON X

GENERAL REGULATION OF MINISTERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1. No Priest in charge of any congregation of this Church, or in case of vacancy or absence, no Wardens, Vestrymen or Trustees of the Congregation shall permit any person not a Minister or Reader of the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church to officiate in any manner in Divine services.

Section 2. There shall be no pulpit exchanges by Priests of this Church with the ministers of other religious bodies. The Bishop alone may, for extraordinary reason give in writing permission to a Christian man/woman with a special message, on the request of the Priest in charge to speak from the Lectern or Pulpit of any Church in his Diocese or Jurisdiction. Any violation of this Canon will be cause for the discipline of the offender.

Section 3. Any Priests, in good standing, may be elected by the Wardens and Vestrymen/women of any congregation of this Church as the Rector of said Church, provided that the consent of the Bishop having jurisdiction has been first given and his approval of the Priests in question stated in writing.

Section 5. Every Priest in charge of a congregation shall keep a Register of Baptisms, Confirmations, Communicants, Marriages and Burials, with a list as far as practical of the families under his care, which Register shall be open to the Bishop for inspection and shall be the property of the Parish for the use of subsequent Priests.

Section 6. It shall be the duty of every Priests in charge of a congregation to select all Hymns and Tunes to be sung at any time of worship. He shall suppress all secular and unseemly music which may profane the service of the sanctuary of God.

Section 7. Every Priests in charge of a congregation, or if the charge be vacant, the Wardens of the congregation, shall annually present a report thereof to the Synod of Jurisdiction at its regular meetings according to the form designated by the Canons of the Diocese and Jurisdiction. If any Priest of this Church from any cause or inability neglect to perform his duties in the congregation under his charge or should fail to appoint or permit any other Priests to perform such duties, the Wardens and vestrymen/women of such congregation shall report the facts in the case to the Bishop who shall take any action deemed necessary by him.

Section 8. A pastoral connection in this Church may at any time be terminated by the consent of both parties, or by the decision of the Bishop or Bishop's Council

having jurisdiction, on the appeal by one party, after giving notice to the other party. In case the Priest refuses to abide by the decision of the Bishop or Bishop's Council having jurisdiction he shall forfeit his right to a seat in the General and Diocesan Synod and shall be further subject to discipline for disobedience of the Ecclesiastical Authority. In case the Congregation refuses to abide by such decision it shall forfeit the right of Lay representation in the General and Diocesan Synods and shall be liable to be otherwise disciplined by the Bishop having jurisdiction. Either party shall have the right of Appeal to the final decisions of the ensuing General Synod.

CANON XI

HOLY AND RELIGIOUS ORDERS

Section 1. No person shall be admitted by a Bishop as a candidate for Holy Orders in the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church unless he have produced a certificate signed by at least one Priest, two male and two female communicants of this Church certifying that from personal knowledge, or from satisfactory evidence laid before them, they believe that he is pious, sober and honest; that he adheres to the faith, Worship and Discipline of this Church; is an enrolled communicant in a congregation of the same; and in their opinion possess such qualifications as will render him capable, Called and prepared to exercise the Ministry to the Glory of God and the edifying of His Church.

Section 2. Every Person desiring to become a candidate for Holy Orders in this Church shall apply in writing to the Bishop having jurisdiction over the congregation in which he is enrolled as a communicant, and such Bishop having examined him/her to discover his/her academic qualifications, life experience, secular experience, and soundness in the Episcopal Faith may admit him/her a candidate by and with the advice of the Bishop's Council.

Section 3. No candidate for Holy Orders shall be transferred from the jurisdiction of one Bishop to that of another unless with the mutual consent of both Bishops.

Section 4. Any candidate for Holy Orders may be dropped from the list of candidates by his Bishop for causes affecting his moral character, for habitual neglect of the ministrations of the Church, especially the Eucharist, and for repeated failure to successfully pursue his/her studies. No candidate so dropped shall again be accepted a candidate for Holy Orders except by the same Bishop or

his successors. In any case in which the candidate has reason to believe that he/she is unjustly dealt with he/she shall have the right to appeal to the judgment of the Presiding Bishop whose decision shall be final.

Section 5. The term of continuance as a candidate shall be determined by the Bishop or Bishop's Council having jurisdiction.

Section 6. Religious Orders of men and women may be organized with the authority and consent of the Bishop of the Diocese or Jurisdiction for promoting the life of sacrifice, love and service towards God, His Church, and humanity in general. The Superior of each Order shall be under the direct and immediate supervision of the Bishop who shall have full control of the temporal and spiritual affairs of every religious Order. No abuse of any man or woman will be tolerated by this Church. Should a person with Religious Orders find him/herself in a position of any form of abuse including sexual, physical, spiritual or mental intimidation, they will have the right to a hearing, which should initially be in written format to the Bishop.

- The Bishop may license any adult member in good standing to serve within a congregation as Pastoral Assistant, Lay Leader, or Catechist.
- No person should be received into Holy Orders without the recommendation of the Bishop of that diocese.

CANON XII.

SEXUAL ABUSE

The Anglican Mission Episcopal Church does not accept any kind of abuse including sexual, physical, mental or religious. We take all allegations seriously. The following is a guideline of policies and procedures for handling allegations of sexual abuse of minors and should also be adhered to for adults.

Section 1.(a) The person receiving a report of sexual abuse of a minor by Church personnel contacts the civil authorities first. The Priest should be notified next, who then notifies the Bishop or his designee within twenty-four hours.

(b) If the person accused is the Priest, the report is made directly to civil authorities and then to the Bishop. In addition to the oral report, a written report is completed by the one receiving the allegation.

(c) The Diocese will take care that the allegation is reported to the proper civil authorities, but the person making the report should bear in mind that they also must report to the civil authorities as a state mandated reporter.

(d) The person accused is notified of the allegation(s) in a timely manner by the Bishop or his designee, who is placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of the diocesan investigation. Employees will continue to receive compensation and benefits until the completion of the diocesan investigation.

(e) The accused is directed to remain away from the school, Church, office, agency, or other location which is the subject matter of the complaint, until a resolution of the complaint is concluded.

(f) The accused is advised to have no contact with the accuser or the accuser's or victim's family.

(g) The accused is advised of his/her right to obtain an attorney.

(h) When a lay employee or volunteer is accused, the Priest, Principal, or Administrator will be notified if that has not already taken place.

(i) If the accused admits guilt, does not contest guilt, or there is a finding of guilt: he or she will be terminated immediately, and not be eligible thereafter for any employment or volunteer work in the Diocese.

(j) If the accused denies the allegation(s) and the state or federal criminal process is inconclusive or the accused is found not guilty: The Bishop will make the final decision as to whether the person is to be returned to duty, having consulted the Diocesan Synod for its recommendation.

(k) When a Priest, Deacon, or Religious is accused, the Priest, Principal, Administrator, Bishop and/or Religious Superior will be notified if that has not already taken place, and if he or she is a Religious, or a Cleric of another diocese, who admits guilt, does not contest guilt, or there is a finding of guilt: he or she will be terminated immediately from Diocesan or parish employment in accord with applicable provisions of Canon Law, and his Bishop or Religious Superior will be so advised.

(l) If the accused is a cleric of the Diocese, who admits guilt, does not contest guilt, or there is a finding of guilt: the applicable provisions of Canon Law will be invoked for appropriate disposition.

(m) If the accused denies the allegation(s) and the state or federal criminal process is inconclusive or the accused is found not guilty, the Bishop will make the final decision as to whether the person is to be returned to duty, having consulted the diocesan Synod for its final decision.

(n) The Bishop designates, from a list of qualified professionals, a person to direct the diocesan investigation. If the accused is a Cleric this person must be a Priest. The purpose of the investigation is to seek out the facts surrounding the allegation(s) and thus to provide the information needed by the Bishop for his judgment and actions. This Diocesan investigation is accomplished without interference into but in cooperation with the civil authorities. Care is taken throughout not only to preserve the seal of the Sacrament of Penance, but also make it clear that the sacramental seal is inviolable.

(o) The Diocesan Synod is informed when an investigation has been initiated and is kept carefully and thoroughly apprised of developments in a timely fashion as they arise, so that ongoing counsel is sought and provided. The Bishop consults with the Synod throughout the process of the investigation and before taking final action. When the initial evaluation by the civil authorities has determined that further investigation is warranted, and the alleged victim may need counseling, the Diocesan Synod will contact the family where it is determined the required appropriate level of assistance.

Section 2. The principle, fundamental in all just systems of law, that a person is considered innocent until either a regular process or his/her own spontaneous admission proves him/her guilty, is to be followed.

(a) Accordingly, every effort will be made through available secular media to restore the good name of a person determined to have been falsely accused of sexual abuse of a minor.

(b) Each Diocesan or Parish employee or volunteer whose work entails contact with minors will undergo a background investigation. The Synod will oversee the program.

(c) Each Diocesan or Parish employee or volunteer whose work entails contact with minors will be required to attend an ongoing Diocesan education and training

program specifically directed at creating a safe environment for the children. The Bishop and Synod will oversee the program.

CANON XIII.

VESTMENTS

The Vestments of the Bishops, Priests and other Ministers of this Church shall be those of the Latin or Western use. Every Bishop having jurisdiction shall see to it that his Clergies are correctly habited. Deacons must have to wear black shirts; Priests have to wear blue sky shirts; Archpriests and General Vicar have to wear Grey shirts; Bishop Elects have to wear grey shirts with red buttons; then Bishops have to wear the Appropriate Episcopacy cloths.

CANON XIV.

CONGREGATIONS AND VESTRIES

Section 1. A Parish or Congregation consists of all the persons enrolled as communicants or regular worshippers and contributors therein. All persons herein described being of full age (over 18) are entitled to vote for Wardens and Vestrymen/women and for the transaction of other business, but only communicants can vote for Lay deputies to General of Diocesan Synods.

Section 2. The boundaries of a Parish or Congregation are not geographical, and the consent of a Rector, warden and Vestrymen/women of any organized congregation of this Church is not a prerequisite to the formation of another congregation in the same vicinity.

Section 3. Persons desiring to form a Congregation of this Church must first make a written request to the Bishop and Bishop's Council, having Jurisdiction, stating their acceptance of the faith, Worship, Discipline, Constitution and canons of the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church. Having received the authority and consent in writing of the Bishop and Bishop's Council the persons concerned may organize themselves into a Congregation, but not otherwise. Every such Congregation so organized, shall on application, be admitted into the union with the Diocesan Synod or Jurisdiction at a stated meeting if circumstances of growth and stability justify.

Section 4. Any Congregation of Christian people desiring to be received into union with the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church, shall declare the same in writing duly certified by the authorities of said Congregation, which certificate, together with the declaration of acceptance of the faith, Worship, Discipline, Constitution and Canon of this Church, shall be submitted to the Bishop and Bishop's Council within whose Jurisdiction such Congregation lies. In case the same are found satisfactory, the Bishop and Council may receive such Congregation into the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church, but it shall not become a constituent part of the Diocesan Synod or Jurisdiction until so voted at the next stated meeting thereof.

Section 5. In each Congregation, annually, on the first Wednesday of April, an election shall be held for Church Wardens, Vestrymen/women, and Lay Deputies to general and Diocesan Synods. The Church Wardens and Lay Deputies shall be chosen from among the communicants, and when practicable, the Vestrymen/women also. In all cases they shall be persons of unimpeachable moral character, and it is recommended that the wardens, and Vestrymen/women be so chosen that one-third of their entire membership shall be elected each year.

Section 6. The several Congregations of this Church shall be assessed annually in the sum of \$50 US dollars for each communicant member reported, to offset the expenses of the General Synod, the same forwarded in quarterly payments to the Treasure of the General Synod.

Section 7. Each Congregation is responsible for supporting their Priest in his/her travelling expenses, salary and daily operational costs.

Section 8. A Vestry shall consist of two Church wardens, and four, seven, or ten other Vestrymen/women. The Church Wardens shall be known as Senior Church warden and Junior Church Warden respectively, the senior taking precedence of the junior. The mode of election, term of office, and duties of Church wardens and Vestrymen/women shall be such as the Synod of the Diocese or Jurisdiction shall enact by Canon, subject to the law of the state, and the Church Wardens and Vestrymen/women so elected shall hold office until the election of their successors.

Section 9. Unless it conflicts with the law of the state the Rector or Priest in charge shall be Chairman/woman of the Vestry, preside over all its meetings when present, and give a casting vote when necessary.

CANON XV.

REGULATIONS RESPECTING COMMUNICANTS

Section 1. A communicant in good standing removing from one congregation of this Church to another shall be furnished with a certificate of good standing by the Priest in charge of the congregation of which such a communicant is a member and upon his request. No Priest or Rector shall enroll such communicant in his congregation, until said certificate has been produced, when the fact of enrolment shall be communicated by him/her to the Priest or Rector transferring the communicant.

Section 2. Any communicant of this Church in good standing about to visit within the boundaries of another congregation of this Church, shall on request, be furnished by the Priest or Rector of the congregation of which he/she is a member with a certificate of membership and recommendation to the good offices of the Clergy of the congregation in whose vicinity the visit is to be made.

Section 3. No communicant member of another religious body shall be received into the communicant membership and privileges of this Church, until such time as he/she shall have received the rite of Confirmation by a Bishop of this Church or satisfied such Bishop that he/she has been Confirmed by a Bishop validly Consecrated. Such person may however be at any time enrolled as a stated worshipper and regular contributor of any congregation of this Church, with the right of voting in the business matters thereof.

CANON XVI.

DISCIPLINE

Section 1. Any communicant guilty of denial of the Episcopal Faith, gross lack of morals, illegal practices, desertion for more than two months with no reasonable explanation, or habitual neglect of the ministry of this Church shall be disciplined by his Priest, and should he continue this negative behavior, the Priest shall refer the case to the Bishop in writing for his judgment which shall be final.

Section 2. All persons admitted to the Minor Orders must cease from unnecessary and frivolous activities, an inappropriate lifestyle, and questionable associations. Any habitual infringement of this rule will receive the strict counselling of the Priest who has the spiritual responsibility of such person or persons. If continued, the case shall be referred by the Priest in writing to the Bishop whose judgement is final.

Section 3. Priests and deacons charged with holding or teaching any doctrine contrary to the Faith of this Church, or with a negatively conflicting lifestyle, or about whom shall be persistent rumors affecting their personal character shall be summoned before the Bishop who shall investigate each case, adjust, or dismiss the same according to the evidence submitted. Should the Bishop find sufficient cause to warrant a legal hearing, he shall direct the Chancellor of the Diocese or Jurisdiction to present the accused before the Bishop and Bishop's Council for hearing and sentence. The right of appeal to the Conclave of House of Bishop's of this Church shall be permitted to the offending clergyman/woman through the Chancellor of the General Synod who shall obtain the records of the evidence and judgement submitted at the former hearing and present and analyze same for the information of the House of Bishops whose judgment shall be final.

Section 4. A Bishop charged with any cause for which he may be heard shall be summoned by the Archbishop Primate for such hearing before and by the Conclave or House of Bishops of this Church. The mode of procedure shall be decided by the House in every case, and there can be no appeal from the decision rendered.

CANON XVII

PRESIDING BISHOP

The Presiding Bishop's position becomes available either through resignation, or death of the current Presiding Bishop. If he expires, retires at 75 years old, the senior Archbishop and Primate retain the position, until such time that the General Synod decides to elect another to sit in joint council. The position will be filled by a senior Archbishop, duly examined, interviewed and appointed. Whenever possible, the Presiding bishop traveling to visit the sisters churches of this church around the world.

CANON XVIII

THE USE OF ACADEMIC TITLES

The Anglican Mission Episcopal Church's policy on Priests, Deacons, and Bishops who have received their academic degrees is only recognized if received by the International Association of Universities' Worldwide Database of Higher Education Institutions, Systems and Credentials. Universities and colleges registered in the International Association of Universities Worldwide, which publishes its database of Higher Education Institutions systems and credentials. Certificates from any of these registered universities and colleges must be submitted to the Secretary of the General Synod to be kept on file. When filed, the use of the academic title may be published. Upon the discretion of the General Synod, exceptions may be considered.

ATTESTATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church, held in the Church in Kigali, RWANDA, January 19th in the year of our Lord, 2023.

For the Anglican Mission Episcopal Church; administration.

The Presiding Bishop Dr Antoine NZAYISENGA

