

Action Items and Report from the Constitution and Canons Committee – 2022

The Committee is submitting proposals for changes to Canons XIV and XII. We are asking that Canon XIV be considered first as it contains answers to some of the questions that may be raised about the changes to Canon XII.

Rationale: Trinity Parish was officially recognized as the Cathedral of the Diocese 100 years ago, and the Diocese assumed a level of governance responsibility for it through the Cathedral Chapter. However, the regular worshipping community of Trinity, which has a parish governing body in addition to the Cathedral Chapter, cannot be expected to bear the full financial burden of both its role as a parish and as the Cathedral of the whole diocese. The Diocesan Council has been regularly granting appeals for a reduction in the annual assessment of Trinity in addition to some budgetary support. This means that Trinity's budget remains in flux for several months after other congregations know what their obligation to the support of the diocese will be. The changes in the canons would allow Council, through the Budget and Finance Committee to set a realistic assessment formula for the Cathedral which would allow for better budgetary planning by both the diocese and Trinity. It is also flexible enough to allow for a change in the formula should conditions change at the Cathedral. By placing that assessment on the same timetable and approval schedule as the assessments used for parishes in the diocese, the administration of the assessments remains uniform. The changes to Canon XIV were drafted in ways that do not change other aspects of the Cathedral's treatment as though it were a parish.

Canon XIV

Of the Diocesan Cathedral

Section 1. Trinity Cathedral Church in Pittsburgh shall be the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Section 2. The Cathedral Church shall have the same proportionate Lay representation in the Convention of this Diocese and shall be subject to the same duties, ~~liabilities and assessments~~ **and liabilities to its members** as any Parish.

Section 3. The word "Parish" wherever used in the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese shall be taken to include the Cathedral Church **except as otherwise provided by these canons.**

Section 4. At each Annual Convention there shall be elected one member of the Clergy and one Lay person to serve as members of the Cathedral Chapter and its corporation for a period of three years.

Section 5. Diocesan Council shall set an assessment formula for the Cathedral that takes into account the Cathedral's additional duties and position as a body serving the entire diocese. This assessment shall be included in the report to the Annual Convention and be voted on as part of the assessment schedule. The Cathedral shall have access to the same process of appeal of an assessment as other parishes.

Canon XII

Budget and Financial Administration

Section 1. The Bishop shall have general authority and responsibility for budgetary and fiscal management. The Bishop shall cause to be prepared, and submitted to the Diocesan Council for its approval, regulations covering the financial system of the Diocese, including collection and handling of funds; authorization of obligations and payment therefor; accounting, including pre-auditing; budgetary control; appointment, compensation and conditions of service of staff; pension arrangements; procurement and handling of equipment, materials and supplies; custody of funds; control of capital assets; post-auditing; delegation of authority for such matters, and other pertinent subjects.

Section 2. The Bishop shall cause to be prepared for review by Diocesan Council and submission to the Convention for its approval, a comprehensive budget for the ensuing year. Such budget shall be based on clearly specified missionary objectives, evaluation of program accomplishment and determined priorities.

Section 3. In approving the budget for the ensuing year, the Convention shall also adopt a schedule of assessments pursuant to Article XI of the Constitution under which each Parish, **other than the Cathedral Church**, is assessed a proportionate share based on a uniform formula which recognizes each Parish's ability to pay.

Section 4. Assessments

- a. Each parish, **including the Cathedral Church**, shall pay to the Treasurer of the Diocese one-twelfth (1/12) of its assigned annual assessment before the end of each month, starting in January and concluding in December; provided, however, that with the consent of the Treasurer, a parish may adopt a different schedule, with payments no less frequent than quarter-annually.
- b. Any payments which are more than three months past due, according to the approved schedule, shall be considered delinquent. Delinquent parishes shall be ineligible to be considered for any Council programmatic grants or Board of Trustees developmental loans or grants, unless Council or Trustees, respectively, consent to the request for consideration, and to the aid itself, by separate majority votes.
- c. When a parish begins to become in arrears in its assessment payments, the Bishop and Council, through the Judge of Assessments or such other deputies as specially designated shall contact the parish to help it identify and focus on the problems it is encountering. Findings and recommendations shall be reported back to the Bishop and Council.
- d. Any parish desiring an adjustment in its assessment shall appeal at the earliest opportunity to Diocesan Council by notice to the Treasurer of the Diocese and to the Judge of Assessments of Council. After discussion between the appropriate officers (or

designees) of Diocesan Council and of the parish, Diocesan Council, having investigated the situation of the parish, shall determine whether or not the assessment should be reduced. If it reduces the assessment, (1) Diocesan Council must determine how either the current or the following year's Budget and Assessment Schedule shall be adjusted to compensate for such reduction, and (2) Council may also recommend to the Bishop and Standing Committee that such parish be designated a Transitional Parish, in accordance with Canon XV, Section 6.