

08/04/26

AMENDED AND RESTATED REGIONAL DISCIPLINARY BOARD COMPACT

~~This~~ WHEREAS, this Compact ~~is~~ was originally made as of November 16, 2020, effective January 1, 2021, by and among the Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Southern Ohio, Western New York, and West Virginia (collectively “The Dioceses” or individually “The Diocese”) which have agreed to maintain a joint Disciplinary Board for the purposes of implementing Title IV of the Canons of The Episcopal Church (“Compact”). ~~This;~~

WHEREAS, The Dioceses desire to amend and restate the Compact ~~will become~~ effective January 1, ~~2021~~ 2027 (“Amended Compact”), provided that all six Dioceses have approved the Amended Compact prior to such date.

1. The Regional Disciplinary Board (“RDB”) shall consist of thirteen (13) persons, seven (7) of whom are Clergy and six (6) of whom are Laity, and shall constitute a court for purposes of Article IX of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church. Each of The Dioceses shall elect one clergy member and one lay member on the RDB. ~~The thirteenth member, a~~ (the “Twelve Members”). One additional clergy member, ~~shall be nominated by the RDB and subject to the unanimous approval~~ and approved unanimously by the Bishops (or the Ecclesiastical Authority) of The Dioceses. ~~Eventually, each member of the RDB will serve a three-year term, each term to begin on January 1 following appointment or election~~ (the “Thirteenth Member”).
 - ~~a. During the first year of the Compact, following the election of the President, the twelve members shall draw lots to determine the following classes in such a way that no more than one (1) member from a diocese is a member of the same class, not including the President, who will initially serve a three-year term:~~
 - a. The President shall be chosen pursuant to General Canon IV.5.1. On or before January 31 of each year, the President will convene an annual meeting of the RDB to elect by majority vote a President and Vice President from among its members, both of whom will serve one-year terms effective January 1. Beginning January 1, 2027, the Thirteenth Member will serve as the President for an initial one-year term. A President shall be eligible for re-election as President or election as Vice President. Each President and Vice President shall continue in office until their successors are elected at the annual meeting of the RDB.
 - ~~i. the four members with terms expiring December 31, 2021;~~
 - b. Vice President. There shall be a Vice President of the Disciplinary Board who shall be selected by the Disciplinary Board from the membership on the Disciplinary Board at the annual meeting of the RDB for a one-year term. The Vice President shall be eligible for re-election as Vice President or election as President. The duties of the Vice President are to attend meetings of the Reference Panel without vote, preside at meetings of the Disciplinary Board in the absence of the President, and perform such other responsibilities as requested by the President. In the event of a disability rendering the President unable to act,

the Vice President shall discharge the powers and duties of the President during the disability. In the event of the President's death, resignation, or declination to serve, the Vice President shall become President.

~~ii. the four members with terms expiring December 31, 2022; and~~

c. Beginning January 1, 2027, the Twelve Members elected by the Dioceses shall be divided into the following classes and shall serve the following three-year terms:

<u>Class:</u>	<u>Diocese:</u>	<u>Clergy/Laity</u>
<u>Class 1</u>		
<u>1/1/2027 – 12/31/2029</u> <u>(and for each three-year</u> <u>period thereafter)</u>	<u>Southern Ohio</u>	<u>Laity</u>
	<u>Northwestern</u> <u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
	<u>West Virginia</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>Laity</u>
<u>Class 2</u>		
<u>1/1/2028 – 12/31/2030</u> <u>(and for each three-year</u> <u>period thereafter)</u>	<u>Pittsburgh</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
	<u>Western New York</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
	<u>West Virginia</u>	<u>Laity</u>
	<u>Southern Ohio</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
<u>Class 3</u>		
<u>1/1/2029 – 12/31/2031</u> <u>(and for each three-year</u> <u>period thereafter)</u>	<u>Ohio</u>	<u>Clergy</u>
	<u>Northwestern</u> <u>Pennsylvania</u>	<u>Laity</u>
	<u>Western New York</u>	<u>Laity</u>
	<u>Pittsburgh</u>	<u>Laity</u>

Until the dates set forth above, the Twelve Members serving immediately prior to the effective date of this Amended Compact shall continue to serve on the RDB.

- d. Beginning January 1, 2027, the Thirteenth Member shall serve from January 1, 2027 until December 31, 2029 (and for each three-year period thereafter).
 - e. ~~iii. the four~~ Each Diocese will notify the President of the RDB of members with terms expiring December 31, 2023, in addition to the President elected to the RDB.
 - b. ~~Thereafter, each diocese shall elect or appoint members of the same order as the members whose terms are expiring.~~
 - e. ~~No member of the RDB shall be elected to more than two consecutive full terms, nor be re-elected or appointed until one year shall have elapsed following the expiration of the second term.~~
 - f. ~~d.~~ Vacancies on the RDB shall be filled as follows:
 - i. Upon ~~the determination~~ becoming aware that a vacancy exists, the President of the Board shall notify the appropriate bishop of the vacancy and request appointment of a replacement member of the same order as the member being replaced.
 - ii. Replacements shall be appointed and approved in accordance with the canons of the appointing ~~diocese~~ Diocese.
 - iii. The term of any person selected as a replacement member of the RDB shall be ~~until the next annual convention of the appointing diocese, or until his or her successor is elected or appointed~~ for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- ~~2. The initial President (a member of one of the Disciplinary Boards in The Dioceses) shall be chosen pursuant to General Canon IV.5.1. On or before January 31 of the year following the conclusion of the initial three year term of the President of the RDB, the RDB will convene to elect a President by majority vote to serve for the calendar year or until a successor President is elected. If no President is selected by the RDB after sixty (60) days, the then current President will serve until a successor is elected by a majority vote of the Bishops of The Dioceses.—~~
2. ~~3.~~ Other Offices.
- a. Each of The Dioceses will make such provision for Church Attorneys, Intake Officers, Advisors, Investigators, Conciliators, and other persons acting under Title IV as it may choose (“Procedural Participants”), and will notify the other Dioceses and President of the RDB of the names and contact information of the persons designated for those offices.
 - b. Each of The Dioceses will also make available the names and terms of engagement of such of the Procedural Participants as may be available to The Dioceses for those services.
 - c. Procedural Participants shall serve with respect to matters arising in their diocese in which Procedural Participants have been appointed or elected, except in

matters of a Complaint that involves more than one diocese, in which case the affected bishops shall determine which Procedural Participants shall be involved.

- d. The Bishops (or Ecclesiastical Authority) shall appoint a Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor for a renewable one-year term to serve as an informal advisor to the President and Vice President of the RDB.
- e. It is the expectation that all members of the RDB receive regular training in Title IV as determined by the President, but in no event no less than once during their current term.

3. ~~4.~~ Conduct of Cases

- a. For any proceeding referred to a Reference Panel, the President will promptly select from the RDB, a Conference Panel and a Hearing Panel, and shall designate a president of each Panel, as appropriate.
- b. All RDB participants assigned to a panel are responsible for reporting promptly to the President on actions in the cases assigned to them.
- c. ~~b.~~ For each proceeding, the Reference Panel will consist of the Intake Officer for the diocese of canonical residence of the Respondent, the President of the RDB, and the bishop of that diocese.
- d. ~~c.~~ In addition to the provisions of Canon IV.19.14 of Title IV, the integrity of the RDB shall be maintained by permitting the Church Attorney or a Respondent to challenge a member of the RDB or Panel appointed for a proceeding on grounds of conflict of interest or undue bias. The remaining members of the RDB shall determine whether a challenge is relevant and factually supported in accordance with Canon IV.19.15 of Title IV. Members of the RDB are otherwise eligible to serve on panels for their Diocese.

4. ~~5.~~ The RDB shall use reasonable efforts to conduct its business using electronic means, including video conferences. When it is necessary to incur expense for RDB business, members of the RDB shall make every effort to minimize such expense. Expenses incurred by the Procedural Participants for a particular disciplinary matter shall be borne by the diocese exercising jurisdiction. Any legal fees incurred by the Respondent shall be borne by the Respondent. In situations involving more than one diocesan member of the Compact, the bishops of the affected dioceses shall agree on venue and expense allocation, subject to Canon IV.19.5. Administrative expenses of the RDB shall be shared equally by The Dioceses. In accordance with Canon IV.19.30, all administrative requirements following the conclusion of a matter shall be the responsibility of the diocese exercising jurisdiction.

5. ~~6.~~ The Dioceses shall maintain this Compact until one or more of The Dioceses provides written notice of no less than one year to the bishops of all of The Dioceses that it wishes to terminate its participation in the Compact. If any proceeding has been commenced and is still ongoing as of the termination date, this Compact shall remain in effect solely with respect to such proceedings until the final disposition thereof.

6. ~~7.~~ Any amendment to this Compact must be in writing and signed by the bishops of each of The Dioceses and be concurred in by the Conventions of each of The Dioceses in the manner prescribed by the canons of the concurring diocese and will be effective not earlier than the first day of the year following the year in which the ratification of the amendment shall have been approved by all of The Dioceses.
7. ~~8.~~ In the event that any provision of this Compact is in conflict with or inconsistent in any way with Title IV of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, the provisions of Title IV shall prevail.
8. ~~9.~~ This Compact may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one instrument. This Compact may be executed and transmitted by facsimile or other means of electronic communication, which signature shall be binding upon the parties as if they were original signatures.

[\[Signature Page Follows\]](#)

Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

By: _____
President, Standing Committee

Diocese of Ohio

(Del) 
By: _____

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The Rt. Rev. ~~Sean Rowe~~
~~The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.~~ Anne
B. Jolly

Diocese of Pittsburgh

By: _____
The Rt. Rev. Ketlen A. Solak

Diocese of Southern Ohio

(Del) 
By: _____

The Rt. Rev. ~~Dorsey W. W. McConnell~~
~~The Rt. Rev. Thomas E. Breidenthal~~ Kristin
Uffelman White

Diocese of Western New York

By: _____
The Rt. Rev. ~~Sean Rowe~~ Stephen T. Lane
~~Klusmeyer~~

Diocese of West Virginia

By: _____
~~The Rt. Rev. W. Michie~~
The Rt. Rev. Mathew Cawford

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