

Resolution R1: For the restructuring of Deaneries

Summary: *At the 170th Convention of the Diocese of Louisiana, Resolution R2 regarding the purpose and boundaries of our rural Deaneries and the restructuring of Canon 14 was referred for further study to the Deaneries themselves, the Standing Committee and the Executive Board. The resulting modified Resolution was then to be returned to the Committee on Constitution and Canons, which will in turn consider it and bring it back to the 171st Convention for possible action.*

Please note: the only major change to date from the original form of the Resolution is to keep the current composition of the Deaneries themselves - - with one exception: Baton Rouge will be split into two Deaneries. The Resolution continues to provide language that modifies and clarifies the work and responsibilities of the Deaneries and Deans.

Purpose: *To revise the organization of deaneries, deanery assignments, the work and purpose of deaneries, the role of the Dean, and the implementation and description of the Deanery Council to better serve and facilitate ministry on a local level.*

RESOLVED, the 171st Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana amends Canon 14 and adds Section 7 to Canon 21 as follows:

CANON 14.

THE DEANERIES, DEANS AND THE DEANERY COUNCIL

Section 1.

- a) There shall be seven (7) Deaneries in the Diocese constituted as follows:
- 1) ***Baton Rouge-North:*** St. James, Baton Rouge; St. Andrews, Clinton; St. Stephen's, Innis; Grace, St. Francisville; St. Patrick's, Zachary; St. Paul's/Holy Trinity, New Roads; St. Michael's, Baton Rouge; St. Augustine's, Baton Rouge; St. Mary's, Morganza
 - 2) ***Baton Rouge-South:*** St. Luke's Baton Rouge; Trinity, Baton Rouge; St. Francis, Denham Springs; Holy Communion, Plaquemine; St. Margaret's, Baton Rouge; Holy Spirit, Baton Rouge; Christ Church, Ascension Parish; Nativity, Rosedale; St. Alban's, College Chapel for LSU; Episcopal High School, Baton Rouge;
 - 3) ***Jefferson:*** St. Augustine's, Metairie; St. Martin's, Metairie; All Saints, River Ridge; St. Timothy's, LaPlace; St. John's, Kenner; St. Andrew's, Paradis; St. Martin's Episcopal School
 - 4) ***New Orleans-Downtown:*** Grace, New Orleans; Chapel of the Holy Comforter, College Chapel for the University of New Orleans and Southern University; St. Anna's, New Orleans; St. Philip's, New Orleans; St. Luke's, New Orleans; Mt. Olivet, New Orleans; St. Paul's, New Orleans; St. Mark's, Harvey;

- 5) ***New Orleans-Uptown:*** Annunciation, New Orleans; Trinity, New Orleans; St. George's, New Orleans; St. Andrew's, New Orleans; Christ Church Cathedral, New Orleans; Chapel of the Holy Spirit, College Chapel for Tulane & Loyola Universities;
 - 6) ***Northshore:*** Christ Church, Covington; Grace Memorial, Hammond; Christ Church, Slidell; St. Michael's, Mandeville; Incarnation, Amite; St. Matthew's, Bogalusa; All Saints, Ponchatoula
 - 7) ***Southwest:*** St. Mary's, Franklin; St. Matthew's, Houma; Trinity, Morgan City; St. John's, Thibodaux; St. Andrew's, Bayou du Large; Christ Church, Napoleonville
- b) Additional Ecclesiastical Units may be added to any Deanery, or any Ecclesiastical Unit may be removed from one Deanery and assigned to a different Deanery, upon direction of The Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee and subsequent amendment of Diocesan Canons.

Section 2.

Deaneries exist for the following purposes:

- a) To foster an interparochial spirit by coordinating the Church's ministry within each deanery;
- b) To facilitate communication between Ecclesiastical Units and The Diocese
- c) To promote the growth of the Church;
- d) To promote the devotional life;
- e) To promote programs to develop skills in Christian Education and Administration; and
- f) To consider business of each forthcoming Convention.

The Deanery clergy membership shall constitute all members of the clergy who are resident or have a cure in the Deanery and who are canonically resident in the Diocese

Section 3.

The Bishop shall appoint a Dean for each of the Deaneries. The Dean shall be a priest resident in the Deanery and shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years. The Bishop may reappoint Deans at his discretion. The Bishop may also allow the clergy of a Deanery to elect the Dean. In the event that a Deanery shall be permitted by the Bishop to elect its Dean, the Bishop or someone designated by the Bishop shall conduct the election. In the event of an election a Dean shall be elected by a simple majority of the clergy who are resident or have a cure in the Deanery and who are canonically resident in the Diocese. In all cases, Deans will serve at the pleasure of the Bishop.

The duties of a Dean of a Deanery are as follows:

- a. Assist the Bishop in facilitating the provision for the welfare and pastoral care of clergy and clergy families in the Deanery. The Dean shall, when requested and as directed by the Bishop, act for the Bishop in liturgical, pastoral or other matters.

- b. Facilitate regular gatherings of Deanery Clergy for prayer, worship, fellowship, education, diocesan business, and discussion, planning and action on Church and local issues.
- c. Visit each parish and mission within the Deanery at least bi-annually.
- d. Attend Celebrations of New Ministries and other events for new clergy in the Deanery. When possible, the Dean should provide a formal public welcome and participate in the institution and/or welcoming of a Rector, Chaplain or Priest-in-charge in the Deanery and provide any other assistance as the Bishop may direct.
- e. Facilitate the provision of educational and discussion forums for the Deanery prior to annual diocesan convention (regarding convention or diocesan business).
- f. Assist in informing deanery clergy of educational / continuing education opportunities and should encourage clergy to participate.
- g. Remind and encourage clergy to participate in diocesan and/or clergy gatherings.
- h. Facilitate pastoral care for nursing, retirement and assisted living homes and hospitals in the deanery.
- i. Assist the Bishop, and others as appointed, in facilitating the provision for the welfare and pastoral care of retired clergy residing in the deanery. Facilitate occasional gatherings for retired clergy residing in the Deanery.
- j. Facilitate and disseminate an up-to-date listing of available supply clergy for the deanery.
- k. Welcome (and visit) clergy new to the deanery. Assist in orientation to the deanery and/or diocese for new clergy as needed.
- l. Assist and advise the Bishop and Diocese as needed in planning for clergy needs (priests and deacons) for the deanery (vocations, assigning of vicars, curates and deacons, etc.).
- m. Assist, at the discretion of the Bishop, parishes and missions within the Deanery with the process for discernment by individuals for religious vocations.
- n. Serve on the Council of Deans.

The Dean shall preside at all meetings of the Deanery, and shall be an ex officio member of all committees of the Deanery. The Dean shall appoint another member of the clergy to preside at meetings in his/her absence.

Meetings of the Deanery should be held at least four (4) times annually. The Dean shall choose the location for the meetings and arrange for accommodations as needed.

Section 4.

For the purpose of interparochial communication and the discussion of issues coming before the Church, each Deanery may have meetings of clergy and lay representatives of the Ecclesiastical Units within the limits of the Deanery. Each Deanery shall adopt its own rules of organization and procedure, assuring proper representation of each Ecclesiastical Unit.

Section 5. There shall be a Council of Deans in the Diocese which shall consist of the Deans of the seven Deaneries and the Bishop of the Diocese. The Council shall meet at least twice annually. Meetings of the Council of Deans shall be convened by the Bishop. The Bishop or his designate shall preside at meetings of the Council. The purpose of the meetings shall be for the Deans to give reports on activity in their respective Deaneries, and to discuss and advise the Bishop and Diocese in regard to general, local and diocesan issues. The Council will generally discuss and advise the Bishop and Diocese regarding such topics as educational opportunities for and pastoral care of the clergy of the diocese, diocesan deployment of clergy and vocations, clergy and Deanery concerns, and general diocesan policy and procedure and communications.

CANON 21.

UNION WITH THE CONVENTION

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Section 7: When an Ecclesiastical Unit desires to undertake a ministry in a civil parish outside its location, it shall first obtain have the consent of the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Addendum: *Current Canon 14*

THE DEANERIES

Section 1.

a) There shall be six (6) Deaneries initially constituted as follows:

1) *New Orleans, Uptown*: Christ Church Cathedral; Trinity; St. George's; St. Andrew's; Annunciation; and Chapel of the Holy Spirit.

2) *New Orleans, Downtown*: Grace; St. Anna's; St. Luke's; St. Philip's; Holy Comforter; Mt. Olivet; St. Mary's, Chalmette; Good Shepherd, Buras; St. Mark's, Harvey; and St. Paul's.

3) *Jefferson*: St. Andrew's, Paradis; St. Timothy's, LaPlace; St. John's, Kenner; St. Augustine's, Metairie; St. Martin's, Metairie; and All Saints', River Ridge.

4) *Northshore* : Christ Church, Slidell; St. Matthew's, Bogalusa; Christ Church, Covington; Grace, Hammond; All Saints', Ponchatoula; Incarnation, Amite; and St. Michael's, Mandeville.

5) *Baton Rouge*: St. Alban's; St. Augustine's; St. James'; St. Luke's; St. Margaret's; St. Michael's; Trinity; Holy Spirit; St. Andrew's, Clinton; St. Francis', Denham Springs; Ascension, Donaldsonville; St. Stephen's, Innis; St. Mary's, Morganza; St. Paul's-Holy Trinity, New Roads; Holy Communion, Plaquemine; Nativity, Rosedale; Grace, St. Francisville; St. Patrick's, Zachary; and St. Gregory's, Gonzales.

6) *Southwest*: St. John's, Thibodaux; Christ Church, Napoleonville; St. Andrew's, Bayou du Large; St. Matthew's, Houma; Trinity, Morgan City; and St. Mary's, Franklin.

b) Additional Ecclesiastical Units may be added to any Deanery, or any Ecclesiastical Unit may be removed from one Deanery and assigned to a different Deanery, upon direction of The Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee.

Section 2. Deaneries exist for the following purposes:

a) To foster an interparochial spirit by coordinating the Church's ministry within each deanery;

b) To facilitate communication between Ecclesiastical Units and The Diocese;

c) To promote the growth of the Church;

d) To promote the devotional life;

e) To promote programs to develop skills in Christian Education and Administration; and

f) To consider business of each forthcoming Convention.

Section 3. The Bishop shall appoint a Dean for each of the Deaneries. The Dean's primary duty shall be to assist The Bishop in the pastoral care of the clergy and their families. The Dean shall serve at The Bishop's pleasure for a period not to exceed four (4) years. The Dean shall be a priest resident in that Deanery and, after serving one full term, shall not be eligible for immediate reappointment. The Dean shall preside at all meetings of the Deanery, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Deanery.

Section 4. For the purpose of interparochial communication and the discussion of issues coming before the Church, each Deanery may have meetings of clergy and lay representatives of the Ecclesiastical Units within the limits of the Deanery. Each Deanery shall adopt its own rules of organization and procedure, assuring proper representation of each Ecclesiastical Unit.

Section 5. Each Deanery may have a Deanery Council to advise and assist the Dean. It shall be composed of representatives, clerical and lay, of the Ecclesiastical Units within the Deanery, said representation to be fixed by a meeting of the Deanery. The Dean shall preside at all meetings of the Deanery Council.