

CONSTITUTION

THE DIOCESE OF WYOMING

Adopted by the Diocesan Convention of 1969

Amended by the Diocesan Convention of 2006

CONSTITUTION

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CONSTITUTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WYOMING

As adopted at the 40th Diocesan Convention

ARTICLE I

Of the Bounds of the Diocese

This Diocese shall be known as “The Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming” and shall embrace all the Congregations of the Episcopal Church within the State of Wyoming. For convenience of reference, it may be cited as “the Diocese”, or “the Diocese of Wyoming”.

Diocesan Name and
Bounds

ARTICLE II

Of the Diocesan Corporation(s)

Section 1. The Church in this Diocese shall be incorporated for legal and secular purposes under the laws of the State of Wyoming, by name and title of “The Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming”.

Incorporation of the
Diocese

Section 2. The Bishop of the Diocese shall be an ex officio member of the Board of Directors of any Diocesan Corporation acting for the Diocese, and shall be President thereof.

President

Section 3. All organizations, functions, duties, responsibilities and privileges of the Diocesan Corporation shall be established by Canon in accord with the Articles of Incorporation

Corporate Acts

Section 4. A registered agent shall be designated by the Bishop at each Annual Convention.

Registered Agent

ARTICLE III

Conformity

The Diocese of Wyoming, as a constituent part of and in communion with the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, also known as the Episcopal Church, accedes to the Constitution and Canons of the Church and the authority of the General Convention of the same. For convenience of reference, they may be cited hereinafter as the General Church, the General Constitution/Canons, and the General Convention, respectively.

Conformity

ARTICLE IV

Of the Annual Convention

Section 1. The Annual Convention shall be the Legislative authority of the Diocese which power shall be exercised in the manner prescribed by Diocesan and General Constitution and Canons.

Annual Convention
and Authority

Section 2. A Convention of the Church in the Diocese composed as hereinafter provided shall meet annually at such a time and place within the Diocese as may have been appointed at a previous meeting; and in case no such appointment shall have been made, at a time and place appointed by the Bishop or by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Time and Place

Section 3. If it shall appear to the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority that it is inexpedient for the Convention to meet at a time and place so appointed, the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, shall set another time and place.

Change of
Convention

Section 4. Notice of such Convention shall be sent to each Congregation and canonically resident clergy by the Secretary of the Convention, or the designee thereof, at least one hundred and thirty (130) days previous to the Convention.

Notice of Time and
Place

Section 5. The composition of the Convention, the manner of selection and tenure of the members thereof shall be specified by Canons as shall be the determination of a quorum.

Membership and
Quorum

Section 6. The Ecclesiastical Authority, or the Standing Committee, shall have power to call a special convention, if one is deemed requisite for the good of the Church, provided that no less than sixty (60) days notice be given of the same stating its purpose(s). No other business not directly related shall be transacted. The membership of all special conventions shall be that set forth by canon for an annual Convention.

Special Convention

Section 7. The Diocesan Bishop shall preside at all meetings of the Convention. The Diocesan Bishop may appoint a member of Convention to preside. In the absence of the Diocesan Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor or Provisional Bishop, if there is one, shall preside. In case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, or of the absence of the Diocesan Bishop and, if there be such, of the Bishop Coadjutor, the President of the Standing Committee shall preside until the Delegates of the Convention shall elect a President pro tempore from among the members present. At the discretion of the Ecclesiastical Authority, a Bishop of this Church may be invited to preside at meetings of the Diocesan Convention. In all cases, the presider shall have the right to vote when not in conflict with General Constitution/Canons.

Presiding Officer

Section 8. Other officers of the Convention shall be prescribed by Canon.

Other Officers

Section 9. The Convention shall deliberate as one body, and vote as such except as required by General Constitution/Canon.

Voting

Section 10. Each Congregation in this Diocese which has by its By-Laws and/or Articles of Association or Incorporation expressly acceded to the Constitution, Canons, Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of the Episcopal Church in this Diocese shall be admitted into union with the Convention by a majority of votes of the Convention. The status of the Congregation shall be determined by conformity with canon.

Congregations in Union

ARTICLE V
Ecclesiastical Authority

Section 1. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall be vested in and exercised by the Bishop or the Standing Committee in accordance with the General Constitution and Canons.

Authority of Diocese

Section 2. The Bishop shall have and exercise all of the powers vested in a Bishop by the General Constitution and Canons and by the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.

Powers of Bishop

Section 3. As Ordinary the Bishop shall have original jurisdiction over all ecclesiastical causes and matters.

ARTICLE VI
Of the Election of a Bishop

Section 1. The election of a Bishop for this Diocese shall be made by a Special Convention called for that purpose in accord with Article IV.

Election of a Bishop

Section 2. The membership of the aforementioned Convention shall be that set forth by Canon for an Annual Convention.

Membership

Section 3. The Convention shall have power, by Canon or by resolution, to prescribe the method of nomination, voting privileges and procedures, and election to the Episcopate provided sufficient opportunity be given for nominations from the floor of the Convention.

Nomination, Voting and Election

Section 4. The Bishop Coadjutor may be elected as herein above provided.

Bishop Coadjutor

Section 5. A Suffragan Bishop may be elected as herein above provided. However, the Bishop of the Diocese may withdraw his consent for such an election at any time before the first ballot is cast.

Bishop Suffragan

ARTICLE VII
Of the Standing Committee

Section 1. There shall be a Standing Committee as required by and functioning in accord with General Constitution/Canons. Its membership and procedural rules shall be set forth in the Canons of this Diocese.

Standing Committee

ARTICLE VIII
Of Diocesan Council

Section 1. There shall be a Diocesan Council whose membership and duties shall be set forth in the Canons of this Diocese.

Diocesan Council

Section 2. The Diocesan Council shall be the Board of Directors of the Diocesan Corporation and the trustees of church property as set forth in the Canons of this Diocese.

Trustees of Church
Property

ARTICLE IX
Amendments to the Constitution

Section 1. This Constitution may be altered or amended by a majority vote of the Convention at two successive annual conventions.

Amendments

Section 2. No proposed amendment to this Constitution shall be voted on unless it shall have been submitted to the Secretary of Convention at least sixty (60) days prior to the date of the meeting of Convention..

60 days before
Convention

Section 3. Upon receipt of any proposed amendment to this Constitution within the time above specified, the Secretary of Convention shall cause copies thereof to be sent to each Congregation entitled to representation in Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention.

Copies to be distributed
30 days prior

Section 4. An exception may be made if an amendment is presented at a pre-Convention meeting, referred at Convention to the Constitution and Canons Committee, and said Committee reports to Convention that favorable action be taken on the amendment as submitted or as altered by the Committee.

Exception