**Survey on Constitution and Canons**

Revision Date: August 2, 2013

The Constitution and Canons Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth invites your input into its multi-year project designed to analyze and overhaul the constitution and canons of our diocese.

An early key component of this project is actively to solicit and consider the suggestions and concerns offered by the Episcopalians across our own diocese. Those who have been members of churches in other dioceses or our clergy who have served in other dioceses have a particularly valuable perspective to help us identify processes and structures that worked well—and those that did not.

You can find the current diocesan constitution and canons online:

Constitution: <http://episcopaldiocesefortworth.org/assets/edfw-constitution-approved-11-03-2012.pdf>

Canons: <http://episcopaldiocesefortworth.org/assets/edfw-canons-approved-11-03-2012.pdf>

This survey is in a Microsoft Word document, so feel free to download it, add lines to the tables or add extra sheets, and add general comments as needed to express your ideas.

1. **What needs to be changed in, deleted from, or added to our diocesan constitution and canons? (Cite specific articles or canons where possible.) Why? What specific language or formatting change would you suggest we propose?**

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| **Changes?** | **Why?** | **Citations, e.g., Const. art. 5** | **Your proposed language**  |
| *Example: I think we need to eliminate so many meetings of Executive Council* | *Too costly. Too much time. The work of the Council can be done in four meetings instead of five. Drop the March meeting.* | *Canon 10.4* | *Sec. 10.4 Meetings.**The Executive Council shall meet each year in January, May, September and December, . . .*  |
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1. **What provisions or processes do we need to be sure to keep?**

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| **Changes?** | **Why?** | **Citations** |
| *Example: I think we need to keep votes by orders on important matters.* | *This is a conservative measure that requires methodical consideration and buy-in from both orders and avoids rash decisions*  | *Canon 16.4.2, 16.5(assessment arrearages); 29.1.4 (audits); 34.1 (change in congregation status); 40.1 (deanery elections to Bishop Nominating Cmte). Const. Art. 8 (votes by orders); Art. 9 (assessment arrearages; dissolution); Art. 12 (election of deputies); Art. 17 (election of bishop); Art. 19 (amend Const.)* |
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1. **What concepts or provisions have been adopted by other dioceses in their constitution or canons that we need to consider? Which diocese(s)? (Cite specific articles or canons where possible.)**

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| **Changes?** | **Other Diocese(s)** | **Citations** | **Why?** |
| *Example: Add an appropriate scripture to begin each article and canon* | *Alabama* | *All Alabama canons.* | *To show that our diocese is grounded in scripture* |
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1. **What changes are needed as an “emergency” fix in 2013 and cannot wait for the overhaul?**

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| **Changes?** | **Why?** | **Citations, e.g., Const. art. 5** | **Your proposed language**  |
| *Example: I think we need to clarify and provide more details about the requirements of parish, mission and mission station status and the transition process* | *As we bring the 33 churches back into active status and the 14 back into their buildings in 2013 or 2014 we need to be very clear about these requirements, unlike our practice so far after 11/15/08* | *Canons 20, 21* | *I don’t have any specific suggestion except to make it clear, whatever it is*  |
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**THANKS IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR HELP**

**IN THIS IMPORTANT GOVERNANCE WORK FOR OUR DIOCESE!**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Written Response:** Please submit your written response by **November 9, 2013**

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**Questions?** Contact:

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