

**Ordinances of the Seventh Province
Of the Protestant Episcopal Church, USA**
As Amended September 26, 2008

ORDINANCE I

Of the Name and Composition

Section 1. Name

The Seventh Province of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America ("The Episcopal Church") shall be known as the Province of the Southwest.

Section 2. Composition

The Seventh Province, organized in accordance with the provisions of Article VII of the Constitution and Canon 1.9.1 of The Episcopal Church consists of the Dioceses of Arkansas, Dallas, Fort Worth, Kansas, Northwest Texas, Oklahoma, Rio Grande, Texas, West Missouri, West Texas, Western Kansas and Western Louisiana.

ORDINANCE II

Of the Synod

Section 1. Membership

The Synod of the Province of the Southwest shall consist of a House of Bishops and a House of Deputies, which houses may sit and deliberate separately or together.

Section 2. House of Bishops

Every Bishop of this Church, having jurisdiction within the Province, every Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan and Assistant Bishop, and every Bishop whose episcopal work has been within the Province but who by reason of advanced age or bodily infirmity has retired, shall have a seat and vote in Synod.

Section 3. House of Deputies

Each Diocese within the Province shall be entitled to representation by four Presbyters/Deacons canonically resident in the Diocese and four Lay Persons, confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese. Each Diocese within the Province shall also be entitled to one representative of the Diocese who is 18 years of age or younger. These representatives together with all clerical and lay members of the Provincial Council shall constitute the House of Deputies. Each Diocese shall determine the manner by which its Deputies shall be chosen.

Section 4. Committees

From members of the Synod, the President of the Province shall appoint the following committees of the Synod: Necrology, Nominating, Ordinances and Resolutions.

Section 5. Meetings

(a) The regular sessions of the Synod shall be held in the year preceding General Convention. The time and Place of the meeting shall be set by the preceding Synod, or, if necessary, by the Provincial Council.

(b) At least one Provincial Convocation/Gathering shall be held triennially which is content-centered around substantive mutual concerns of our Dioceses. Interested representatives from Committees and Commissions of the Province, Diocesan Staffs and Parishes will be encouraged to attend. The place, date and design of the gatherings shall be determined by Provincial Council.

(c) Special meetings may be called by the Provincial Council of the Synod.

Section 6. Motions and Procedures

The making of motions and the procedure for passing motions at the Synod shall be in accordance with Sections VII, VIII, IX and X of the Rules of Order of the House of Deputies of General Convention.

Section 7. Voting

On any question the vote of the majority of the members of the Synod present and voting shall suffice, unless otherwise ordered by the Canons of General Convention or by these Ordinances, or unless the Clerical and Lay Deputations, from any Diocese, request that the vote be taken by Orders.

Section 8. Quorum

A majority of the Bishops in active service and Deputations from a majority of the Dioceses shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. For determining a quorum, a Deputation must include at least one-half of the elected deputies from each Order (Presbyters/Deacons, Lay Persons), but which may include alternate deputies if elected by the Dioceses present for determining whether one-half of the elected deputies are present.

Section 9. Diocesan Assessments

No Diocese shall be entitled to representation in the Synod until assessments voted by the Synod shall have been paid.

ORDINANCE III

Of the Officers

Section 1. Composition

The Officers shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, who shall each serve for a term of three years, beginning at the conclusion of the session of the Synod at which they are elected.

Section 2. President

The President shall be one of the active Bishops, Presbyters/ Deacons, or Lay Persons of the Province elected by the Synod at any Regular Session by majority vote of the Synod. The President shall preside at the Synod and at all meetings of the Provincial Council. The President shall appoint the Provincial chairman and members of committees/commissions operative within the Province, except those appointed or elected by other jurisdictions. If a Bishop, the President shall convene meetings of the Bishops of the Province. The President shall, by virtue of office, serve as a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the Seventh Province Center for Hispanic ministry. The President shall appoint the committees of the Synod.

Section 3. Vice President

If the person elected President is not a Bishop, a Vice President who shall be an active Bishop of the Province shall be elected by the Synod at a regular session by a majority vote of the Synod. In this event the Bishop so elected shall serve ex-officio as President of the House of Bishops of the Synod and shall represent the Province in all matters requiring the participation of a Bishop. The Vice President shall serve as assistant to the President, preside in the absence of the President, and perform all such duties as the President, Synod or Provincial Council may prescribe.

Section 4. Secretary

The Secretary shall be elected by a majority vote of the Synod. Having Procured a certified copy of the elected or appointed representatives from the Secretary or Bishop of each Diocese, the Secretary shall record the names of all persons entitled to a seat and vote. The Secretary shall keep full records of the proceedings of the Synod and Publish them together with all reports, in the Journal. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Provincial Council.

Section 5. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the Synod. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all monies collected under the authority of the Synod, shall render accounts at each meeting of the Provincial Council and the Synod, and shall be audited under its authority.

ORDINANCE IV

**Of the Provincial Representatives to
Executive Council of The Episcopal Church**

Section 1. Election

The Synod shall elect two members of the Province to represent the Province on the Executive Council, in accordance with the provisions of Canon I.4.1(c). One representative shall be a Bishop or Presbyter or Deacon, and the other representative shall be a Lay Person. The terms of the representatives of each Province shall be so rotated that two persons shall not be simultaneously elected for equal terms. The terms of office shall be in accordance with the provisions of Canon I.4.2(b) of the General Convention. The terms of office shall be twice the interval between regular meetings of the General Convention and shall commence upon the adjournment of the first regular meeting of the General Convention following such election. After a person shall have served six consecutive years on the Executive Council, a period of three years shall elapse before such person shall be eligible for re-election to the Council.

Section 2. Membership on Provincial Council

The two elected representatives shall be members of the Provincial Council.

ORDINANCE V

Of the Provincial Council

Section 1. Duties

There shall be a Provincial Council which shall have the duties, Powers and prerogatives of the Synod between sessions, subject to the Canons of the Church and the directions of the Synod. The Council shall initiate and have general oversight of the work of the Province. The Council shall meet at least twice each year and shall submit a report of its work to the Synod. The Council shall implement the Program and Budget adopted by the Synod and shall in advance of each Synod prepare a Provincial Program and Budget for the period until the next Synod, together with a schedule of suggested assessments to member Dioceses in order to fund the projected expenses. The Council shall have the power to expend all sums of money received by assessment and otherwise.

Section 2. Membership

The Provincial Council shall consist of the Officers of the Synod who shall be the Officers of the Council; three additional members elected by the Synod, who may be a Bishop, a Presbyter, a Deacon or a lay person; the two elected representatives to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church; additionally, the Provincial Presidents of the Churchwomen and the Churchmen, if there be such, shall be members ex-officio. The Director for the Center of Hispanic Ministries of the province shall also be an ex-officio member. Ex-officio members shall have voice but no vote.

Section 3. Visitors to Council

The Chairman of each department, committee/commission, or task force appointed by the President or Council, Executive Council appointees, and liaison Persons with the Province, may be invited to sit with the Council with voice but without vote.

Section 4. Vacancies

Vacancies of any elected or appointed office of this Province, shall be filled by the Provincial Council. The Council can declare an office of this Province to be vacant for any of the causes set forth in Title V, of the Canons of General Convention. A vacancy can be declared by the Council by majority vote and only upon the lack of attendance at a meeting of either the council or the court for two successive meetings of those bodies, or for any of the causes listed in the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

Section 5. Quorum and Proxies

A majority of the members of the council shall constitute a quorum for purposes of transacting business, which may be represented either in person or by written proxy given to another member of the council. Once a quorum is obtained, the council may continue to transact business until final adjournment of the meeting even if members of the council may subsequently absent themselves from the said meeting.

Section 6. Executive Committee Authority

The Executive Committee has the authority of Provincial Council in the management of the Province between meetings of the Council, except as expressly limited by these Ordinances or by resolution of the Council. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Council and one additional person elected by the Council from among its membership.

ORDINANCE VI

Of Provincial Coordinator and Networks

Section 1. Provincial Coordinator

The Council shall employ a Provincial Coordinator as established by the Provincial Leadership Conference. The Provincial Coordinator shall coordinate the program and administration of the province and shall serve at the pleasure of the Provincial Council. Compensation shall be set by the Provincial budget that is approved at Synod.

Section 2. Networks

Networks of the province may be established by the Provincial Council, and may also be abolished by action of the Council.

Section 3. Network Chairs

Network Chairs shall be appointed by the President with concurrence by the Provincial Council.

Section 4. Meetings of Networks and Network Chairs

The Council or the Provincial Coordinator may set and coordinate meetings of the networks and the network chairs.

ORDINANCE VII

Of the Court of Review

Section 1. Membership of the Court of Review

The judges of the Court of Review, as constituted by Canon IV.4. Sec. 30-33 of the General Convention, shall be elected triennially and shall consist of one Bishop having jurisdiction within the Province; three Presbyters canonically resident within the Province; and three Lay Persons who are confirmed adult communicants of this church in good standing, having domicile in the Province, at least two of the said Lay Persons to be learned in the law, having a Juris Doctor degree or other equivalent degree.

Section 2. Funding of the Expenses of the Court of Review

The Provincial council shall have the authority to assess the member dioceses of the Seventh Province for reasonable expenses incurred by the Court when it is called into session under the Canons of the General Convention. The assessment shall be based on the same formula used for the assessment adopted by Synod to support the program budget of the Seventh Province.

ORDINANCE VIII

Of the Parliamentary Authority

Except when in conflict with the General Constitution and Canons, these Ordinances, or any Rule herein contained, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order (as of 2005, this being Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 10th Edition) shall govern the interpretation of these Ordinances and the procedure to be followed.

ORDINANCE IX

Of Amendments

These Ordinances may be amended at any session of the Synod by a concurrent vote of the three Orders (Bishops, Presbyters/Deacons, Lay- Persons) and by a majority vote of those present in each Order, provided that any Proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing to a meeting of the Provincial Council prior to the Provincial Synod. The amended Ordinances shall take effect at the close of the session at which they are amended.