

BY-LAWS OF THE ORDER OF ANGLICAN COMMUNION BENEDICTINES

PREAMBLE

In the Name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

I. NAME:

Our name shall be “The Order of Anglican Communion Benedictines,” and is a religious society as understood in the Constitutions and Canons of the Anglican Church in North America. We are housed within the Deanery for the Chaplaincy.¹

II. PURPOSE:

- A. The purpose of The Order of Anglican Communion Benedictines (hereafter “The Order”), which was established in the year 2010, is to be a dispersed order, existing to promote the historic Benedictine life and to call others to join us in the Benedictine traditions of prayer, contemplation, Christ-centered spiritual formation, community, study and hospitality.
- B. The Order and its membership shall, by the grace of God given them, live by The Rule of St. Benedict, and the Benedictine Vows of Stability, Obedience and Conversion.
- C. The Order shall promote its presence at conferences, through a web presence and social media, and other related material to its purposes.

III. FAITH AND DOCTRINE

- A. As the Anglican Communion Benedictines (the Order), being a part of the One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church of Christ, we believe and confess Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one comes to the Father but by Him. Therefore, we identify the following eight elements as characteristic of the Anglican Way, and essential for membership:
- B. We confess the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, containing all things necessary for salvation, and to be the final authority and unchangeable standard for Christian faith and life.
- C. We confess Baptism and the Supper of the Lord to be Sacraments ordained by Christ Himself in the Gospel, and thus to be ministered with unfailing use of His words of institution and of the elements ordained by Him.
- D. We confess the godly historic Episcopate as an inherent part of the apostolic faith and practice, and therefore as integral to the fullness and unity of the Body of Christ.
- E. We confess as proved by most certain warrants of Holy Scripture the historic faith of the undivided church as declared in the three Catholic Creeds: the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian.

¹ If and when the Deanery for the Chaplaincy becomes a diocese of the Anglican Church in North America, the Order will then be within the new diocese.

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- F. Concerning the seven Councils of the undivided Church, we affirm the teaching of the first four Councils and the Christological clarifications of the fifth, sixth and seventh Councils, in so far as they are agreeable to the Holy Scriptures.
- G. We receive The Book of Common Prayer as set forth by the Church of England in 1662, together with the Ordinal attached to the same, as *a* standard for Anglican doctrine and discipline, and, with the Books which preceded it, as *the* standard for the Anglican tradition of worship.
- H. We receive the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion of 1562, as expressing authentic Anglican belief.
- I. We affirm in its entirety, the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) Statement and Jerusalem Declaration issued 29 June 2008.
- J. We affirm that God, and not man, is the creator of human life. Therefore, from conception to natural death we will protect and respect the sanctity of every human life. Furthermore, we recognize that the unjustified taking of life is sinful, but God gives absolution to those who ask for His forgiveness.

IV. OFFICERS:

- A. The officers shall be the Abbot General, Abbot(s), Prior(s), Recording Secretary, the Novice Master, and the Porter.
- B. The Order shall have a Bishop protector/visitor.
- C. The Abbot General, who shall be a male, shall be appointed from within The Order by the bishop protector/visitor with the consent of The Order. The Abbot General shall serve for life or until he is unable to perform his duties. The Abbot General can be removed from active duty for cause, by the request of the bishop of the Deanery for the Chaplaincy² along with another bishop of his choosing, and with the consent of the Leadership Council. Officers (other than the Abbot General) may be removed by a majority vote of the Leadership Council at a duly called meeting for failure of duty, unbecoming conduct, or public rejection of the Order's purpose. Such officer may address the committee, but shall not vote regarding his or her own removal. The Abbot General shall be allowed to designate a *Counsel to the Abbot* as he sees fit, preferably a retired or emeritus Abbot(s) or Abbess(es) of this Order. The Council to the Abbot shall be a non-voting member of the Leadership Council.

V. DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

- A. The President of the corporation shall be the Abbot General and shall preside at the meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee, execute the By-Laws of the

² See footnote 1.

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Society and be responsible for their observance, and serve as the chief spokesperson for the Society.

- B. In the President's absence the Vice- President shall preside, and in a vacancy the same officer shall assume the duties of President until the next regularly scheduled meeting. The Vice-President of the corporation shall be nominated by the Abbot General and approved by the Leadership Council.
- C. The Recording Secretary shall give notice of all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee and shall keep minutes of such meetings, and shall conduct and preserve the correspondence of the Society.
- D. The Membership/Subscription Secretary shall solicit the annual dues and keep the membership/subscription lists up to date. The Treasurer shall deposit the annual dues and keep the accounts of the Society and report annually thereon in writing, as well as orally at every meeting of the Executive Committee. The Editor shall be responsible for the timely publication of *The Anglican Benedictine* in accord with a schedule set by the Leadership Council.
- E. Final decisions on major questions of editorial policy and publication schedule shall rest with the President.
- F. The Episcopal Patron shall be a Bishop of the Anglican Church in North America and shall be responsible for promoting and guiding the Society's relations with the church at large, and shall offer advice when appropriate upon major questions confronting the Order.

VI. LEADERSHIP COUNCIL:

- A. There shall be a Leadership council to consist of all the above officers and any others appointed by the Abbot.
- B. The Leadership Council shall have power to act for the Order, a simple majority of those present being needed for decision and a secret ballot being taken whenever requested.
- C. The Leadership Council shall meet upon call of the Abbot General, but no less than three times a year. Unexcused absence from three consecutive meetings of the Leadership Council shall constitute grounds for dismissal by the Abbot General.
- D. Other Committees may be appointed at any time by the Abbot. The Leadership Council may also from time to time, by unanimous vote of all members present at a duly called meeting, take a stand upon some current question that it believes is consonant with the Purpose of the Order, provided that such stand is communicated to the Order as a whole and is understood not to be binding upon the individual members.

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VII. MEETINGS:

- A. Meetings of the Leadership Council shall be called by the Abbot General and announced on the Order's website and or by email to the members of the Executive Committee, and every such meeting shall be considered an open public meeting of the Order which any member may attend.
- B. The Order as a whole shall meet at least once a year. Such meetings shall feature a program appropriate to the Purpose of the Order, and should coincide with The Feast of St. Benedict observed in March.
- C. If the Abbot General fails to call a public meeting or meeting of the Leadership Council in the space of an entire year, this information shall be presented to the bishop protector/visitor.

VIII. MEMBERSHIP:

Any member in good standing of a Province of the Anglican Communion who is in sympathy with the Purpose of the Order may request membership in The Order. The Aspirant to the Order shall follow the formation process agreed upon by the Leadership Council under the oversight of the Abbot and Novice Master. A member may be removed for cause by the Abbot General, with the approval of the Leadership Council in accordance with the Rule of St. Benedict.

IX. DUES AND FINANCE:

An Annual Tithe shall be 1% of the member's annual net income. The Order is tax-exempt under section 509A of the Internal Revenue Code of the government of the United States of America, and is thus eligible to receive tax-free contributions, its exemption letter being dated and its Internal Revenue Service ID exemption number being 22-2460678. The Executive Committee may also set dues for extended term and life memberships.

X. AMENDMENTS:

These By-Laws may be amended at any meeting of the Society by a vote of two-thirds of those members present. Notices of proposed amendments shall be furnished to the Abbot, and posted by the Abbot in some appropriate way in advance of the date set for the next meeting.