

**CODE OF CANONS**  
**of**  
**The United American Catholic Church**



For the Governing of  
The United American Catholic Church  
in the United States of America

Adopted at the General Synod, 2019

Revised by the Leadership Council, 9-2020

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**CODE of CANONS of The United American Catholic Church**

CODE OF CANONS

- I: Church Governance
  - Chapter 1. The General Synod.....1
  - Chapter 2. The Leadership Council of the General Synod .....7
  - Chapter 3. National Officers of the Church .....8
  - Chapter 4. The College of Bishops and Its Officers .....12
  - Chapter 5. Other Committees of the College of Bishops.....13
  - Chapter 6. Sovereignty of the Diocesan Bishop .....14
  - Chapter 7. Vocation Administration .....14
  - Chapter 8. Dispute Resolution and Disciplinary Matters .....15
- II: Church Organization
  - Chapter 1. Jurisdictions within the Church.....16
- III: The Clergy
  - Chapter 1. General Regulations of the Clergy .....21
  - Chapter 2. The Bishops of the UACC .....39
  - Chapter 3. Vicars and Canons.....48
  - Chapter 4. Pastors .....50
  - Chapter 5. Priests .....51
  - Chapter 6. Deacons .....53
  - Chapter 7. Selections of Candidates for Ordination .....55
- IV: Religious Orders
  - Chapter 1. General Regulation of Religious Orders .....56
  - Chapter 2. The Evangelical Counsels for the UACC .....58
  - Chapter 3. Discipline of Religious.....58
  - Chapter 4. Ministry by Religious.....59
- V: The Laity of the UACC
  - Chapter 1. The Laity of the UACC .....60
- VI: The Liturgy and Sacraments
  - Chapter 1. General Regulations on the Liturgy and the Sacraments .....63
  - Chapter 2. The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist .....65
  - Chapter 3. The Holy Sacraments .....67
- VII: Enactment and Implementation of this Constitution and Code of Canons
  - Chapter 1. Enactment of this Constitution and Code of Canons .....79
  - Chapter 2. Canonical Obedience to this Constitution and Code of Canons .....79
  - Chapter 3. Implementation of this Constitution and Code of Canons .....80

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# **CANON I – CHURCH GOVERNANCE**

## **Chapter 1. The General Synod**

### **Canon I – 1.0 The General Synod**

§ 1 The General Synod is the plenary assembly of the Bishops, Priests, Deacons, and Laity of the UACC meeting in council to legislate for the Church on a national level and/or to adjudicate appeals of disciplinary actions or other matters from within the Church.

### **Canon I – 1.1 The Members of the General Synod**

§ 1 The members of the Synod shall consist of all active members of the College of Bishops, Presbyteriate, Diaconate, and heads of Religious Communities not in Holy Orders who are in good standing and neither retired, inactive, suspended, nor on leave of absence, and an elected lay representative of each UACC Ministry.

### **Canon I – 1.2 Power and Scope of Authority of the General Synod**

§ 1 Each member of the General Synod whether from the Laity or Clergy is called to exercise the authority committed by Christ to the Apostles to govern his Church. In so doing, it is the personal responsibility of each member of the Synod to confer and consult with the people and Clergy that they minister with and to, and to represent them before the Synod, carrying with their the *sensus fidei* of their people when exercising the authority of the Church. It is each member of the General Synod's sacred duty to inform and color their actions with prayer and the wisdom of their people, through whom the Holy Spirit speaks to the Church.

§ 2 The General Synod, exercising its authority as priestly people and children of God, is the national legislature of the UACC. It is when the General Synod is assembled in its full capacity in plenary assembly as the Synod that it most exemplifies its collegial role as legislature and appellate judiciary of the UACC. In this capacity the General Synod legislates for the Church as a whole, acting in national and inter-diocesan matters.

- (a) All matters pertaining to the internal governance of any Diocese of the UACC are the responsibility of the Diocesan Bishop of that place, subject to the fundamental nature of good stewardship and orthodoxy, and such restrictions as may be herein defined.
- (b) As a Diocesan Bishop possesses all Legislative Authority necessary for the conduct of their office, nothing in this Chapter shall be construed so as to preclude a Diocesan Bishop from enacting and enforcing such legislation and/or regulations for their own Diocese as they may, in their sole discretion, deem necessary and/or appropriate; provided that such legislation and/or regulations shall conform to the requirements of orthodox Christian teaching and this Constitution and Code of Canons.

§ 3 Actions by the Synod, whether legislative or judicial, are final and do not require confirmation by any person or agency, nor are they subject to review or veto by any person or group within or without the UACC, notwithstanding the provision herein for amendment and/or repeal.

§ 4 All legislation enacted by the General Synod is effective immediately unless otherwise stated in its enactment, and is binding on the Clergy under canonical obedience.

### **Canon I – 1.3 Meetings of the General Synod in Ordinary Circumstances**

§ 1 In ordinary circumstances, the General Synod shall assemble in plenary session at least once each calendar year. The Synod shall be summoned into session by the Presiding Bishop, who shall, in ordinary circumstances, make known to the members of the Synod the date and place that the Synod shall meet at least sixty (60) days prior to the scheduled meeting.

§ 2 The requirement that a meeting of the General Synod occurs annually herein defined may be waived by a majority vote by the College of Bishops in its sole discretion. Nevertheless, in no circumstance shall the Synod fail to convene a formal session less than once in each three-calendar year period.

### **Canon I – 1.4 Meetings of the General Synod in Extraordinary Circumstances**

§ 1 If the General Synod has not been called into session by the Presiding Bishop by the date which is one (1) year and three (3) months from the closing of the last Synod, and such meeting has not been waived by vote of the College of Bishops, the three (3) most senior members of the College of Bishops, by date of incardination to the episcopacy of the UACC, shall set a date and summon the Synod into session themselves.

§ 2 Should circumstances require action by the General Synod during the period between regular sessions of the Synod, an Extraordinary Session of the Synod may be called by the Presiding Bishop, by a simple majority vote of the membership of the College of Bishops or Leadership Council.

§ 3 During Extraordinary Meetings of the General Synod, requirements herein defined for advanced notice, prior release of an agenda, et al are waived. The extraordinary nature of such meetings may prevent these requirements from being met as herein prescribed. When feasible, the requirements for agenda and notice should be met, but failure to do so does not invalidate the actions of the Extraordinary Synod once convened.

§ 4 In the event of extraordinary circumstances (national emergency, pandemic, etc.), the General Synod may meet by Electronic means to fulfill the requirement for an annual General Synod meeting. The General Synod may be conducted in person, by telephone, other electronic media (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, etc.), or a combination of the above to enable the fullest possible participation by Clergy and Laity.



**Canon I – 1.5 Attendance at Sessions of the General Synod Required**

§ 1 All members of the Clergy and elected Laity shall attend each meeting of the General Synod unless excused for sufficient reason. Retired Clergy are encouraged to attend and vote in the Synod at their discretion.

§ 2 Members of the General Synod may be excused from attending the Synod for good cause by the Presiding Bishop in their sole discretion. Sufficient reason shall be limited to family emergencies, health, and specific, identifiable demands by secular employment which preclude attendance.

§ 3 Members who fail to attend the General Synod, without proper excuse, shall be guilty of serious canonical disobedience.

§ 4 It is the duty of each member of the General Synod to arrange their financial affairs so that they have the necessary resources to permit their attendance at the regular sessions (i.e. those held in ordinary circumstances) of the Synod. For this reason, a lack of funds should not be an excuse for not attending such meetings.

§ 5 The Finance Committee in cooperation with the Planning Committee of the General Synod will set an amount of available funds, if any, to be utilized for Synod Scholarships. This joint committee will also set a percentage amount of the Synod costs to be covered. There will be no 100% scholarships awarded.

**Canon I – 1.6 Quorum Requirements for the General Synod**

§ 1 In order for the General Synod to act on any matter before it, the quorum shall consist of all active Clergy and Lay delegates of the UACC in good standing present at any legally called meeting of the General Synod. Retired Clergy of the UACC retain the privilege to vote if present.

**Canon I – 1.7 Agenda of the General Synod**

§ 1 For meetings of the General Synod in ordinary circumstances, the Presiding Bishop shall prepare and distribute an agenda for each session of the Synod. Such agenda shall be distributed to all members of the Synod at least thirty (30) calendar days in advance of the scheduled starting date of the Synod.

§ 2 In preparing the agenda for the General Synod, the Presiding Bishop shall solicit input from the College of Bishops, the Heads of all Religious Orders, the Priests, Deacons, and Laity of the Church.

§ 3 Any item requested to be placed on the agenda shall be accommodated. Proposed items for the Agenda shall follow the Format for Resolutions and Testimonials provided by the Office of the General Synod.

§ 4 During sessions of the General Synod, the Synod may remove any proposed item from the agenda or add other items to the agenda by a majority vote.

§ 5 When feasible, the Presiding Bishop shall provide an agenda for extraordinary meetings of the Synod as soon as possible. When the provision of an agenda is not feasible, the Presiding Bishop shall notify the General Synod of the matters to be discussed when summoning the Synod into session.

### **Canon I – 1.8 Minutes of the Meetings of the General Synod**

§ 1 The Presiding Bishop shall have recorded a detailed summary of the discussions, votes, and other actions which transpire during a meeting of the General Synod. They shall distribute them to the College of Bishops and members of the Clergy through the Diocesan Bishops within sixty (60) days of the conclusion of the Synod. They shall arrange that it is archived in safe storage as a permanent record of the actions of the Synod.

### **Canon I – 1.9 Committees of the General Synod**

§ 1 The General Synod may establish committees to perform tasks between sessions of the Synod in its sole discretion. In creating such committees, the Synod shall specifically define its role, membership, and scope of authority.

#### **Canon I – 1.9.1 Permanent Committees of the General Synod**

§ 1 The following are permanent standing Committees of the General Synod whose duties are as indicated:

- (a) History of the Church - which shall see to the creation and maintenance of a historical record of the UACC.
- (b) Constitution and Code of Canons - which shall consider and propose changes, updates, and revisions to this Constitution and Code of Canons for submission to the General Synod for enactment.
- (c) Finance - which shall see to the creation and maintenance of proper accounting procedures and fundraising for the UACC.
- (d) Education - which shall create, consider, and propose courses of education for the Laity, Seminarians, and the Clergy of the UACC.

**Canon I – 1.10 Procedures for Consideration and Action During Sessions of the General Synod**

§ 1 When practical, proposals for action by the General Synod shall be provided in writing by the Presiding Bishop to the members of the Synod present at least 24-hours in advance of presentation to the Synod. This requirement may be waived by the members present.

§ 2 Each measure to be voted upon shall be discussed and debated in open session of the General Synod for a period not longer than one (1) hour; At the conclusion of which, the Synod shall take whatever action it deems necessary by simple majority vote.

§ 3 Limitations on debate duration imposed by this Canon may be waived, extended, or reduced upon approval of the members of the General Synod then present on an issue-by-issue basis.

**Canon I – 1.11 Initiation of Matters for Consideration by the General Synod**

§ 1 Any member of the UACC may initiate legislation or bring other matters before the Leadership Council/General Synod for its consideration and vote when the Synod is not assembled with the following provisions.

- (a) The Leadership Council may, by majority vote, defer action on such proposals until the General Synod is assembled in Plenary Session if it seems wise to them to do so.
- (b) When the UACC is assembled as the General Synod, the procedures outlined herein for initiating legislation and bringing other matters to the floor of the Synod prevail.

**Canon I – 1.12 Procedures for Consideration and Action Outside Sessions of the General Synod**

§ 1 In the event a situation shall arise which requires immediate legislation or other action at a time when the General Synod is not in formal session, and which does not, in the opinion of the College of Bishops or Leadership Council warrant the convocation of an Extraordinary Session of the Synod, the Leadership Council, by simple majority vote, shall take whatever measures it shall deem appropriate in response to such need. In so doing, the Leadership Council shall follow procedures, set by them, for such votes when the General Synod is not in session.

§ 2 Legislation enacted by the Leadership Council of the UACC in these circumstances shall be permanent law within the Church and shall not be subject to expiration or ratification by any person or body within or without the UACC unless such expiration or ratification is expressly included within such legislation, notwithstanding provision herein for amendment and/or repeal.

## **Canon I – 1.13 Procedures for Votes by the General Synod While Convened**

§ 1 Only members of the General Synod physically present at the time a vote is taken may cast a vote on any matter before the Synod.

§ 2 Bishops, Presbyters, Deacons, and Heads of Religious Orders in good standing, and Lay Delegates present for a vote shall be accorded a vote in all matters not reserved to the College of Bishops by this Constitution and Code of Canons.

§ 3 Upon conclusion of discussion/debate, and a seconded motion from the floor that the matter be voted upon, a vote on the matter shall be taken.

§ 4 Voting by the General Synod shall be by show of hands unless a member of the Synod shall request a secret ballot. Such a request shall be accommodated. A secret ballot may be conducted in any manner chosen by the members present.

§ 5 The count of those accepting and rejecting the matter shall be recorded in the minutes.

§ 6 A matter being voted upon shall be deemed accepted by the General Synod upon receiving a simple majority of the votes cast. Matters not receiving a simple majority of the votes cast are rejected.

## **Canon I - 1.14 Voting Rights of the Members of the General Synod**

§ 1 Each member of the General Synod present at the time a vote is taken, by virtue of their status, casts a single vote in the Synod in their own right. The right to vote may not be given, loaned, or transferred in any manner to any other person whatsoever. Specifically, legates sent by absent members of the Synod may not vote in the stead of the Bishop or Clergy they represent.

§ 2 Any member of the General Synod may abstain from any vote without divulging a reason for such abstention. As membership in the General Synod is a solemn trust, the decision to abstain should be undertaken only after serious consideration.

## **Canon I – 1.15 Voting Methods Prohibited for the General Synod**

§ 1 Voting by "absentee ballot" in the General Synod is expressly prohibited.

§ 2 Voting by proxy or legate in the General Synod is expressly prohibited.

§ 3 Voting by voice telephony, or by other means essentially synonymous with voice telephony, in the General Synod is expressly prohibited for in-person synods.

§ 4 Voting by mail, or by electronic means essentially synonymous with mail, in the General Synod is expressly prohibited for in-person synods.

§ 5 These restrictions are applicable only when the General Synod is assembled as the Synod. Nothing in this Canon will be interpreted as prohibiting the use of these, or other voting methods by the College of Bishops, Leadership Council, or the General Synod when not so assembled, and/or the use of these or other means by such other Groups, Committees, or Commissions as may be established in the UACC.

§ 6 In the event of an extraordinary circumstance (national emergency, pandemic, or other), the General Synod may meet via electronic media (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or other), voting will be allowed using the electronic media meeting format and/or telephone.

**Canon I – 1.16 Voting by the General Synod When Not Assembled in Plenary Session.**

§ 1 When not assembled Plenary Session, the General Synod may vote by any means it may select. Informal votes may be done by telephone. Votes requiring a formal recorded vote may be conducted by mail or by electronic means analogous to mail including e-mail, fax, or other electronic transmission.

**Chapter 2. The Leadership Council of the General Synod**

**Canon I – 2.0 The Leadership Council of the General Synod**

§ 1 The Leadership Council shall exercise the day-to-day supervision of the Church for the General Synod, shall supervise the conduct of the office of Presiding Bishop and shall assure that all matters requiring the attention of the entire General Synod or College of Bishops are brought to the College's attention.

§ 2 The Leadership Council may act in all matters pertaining to the temporal operation of the National Church which does not require a vote of the College of Bishops or the General Synod as defined in this Constitution and Code of Canons. A report and review of all actions of the Leadership Council shall be made available at the Plenary Sessions of the General Synod.

§ 3 Minutes of each meeting of the Leadership Council shall be maintained and provided to the College of Bishops within thirty (30) days of such meetings.

§ 4 Action on matters before the Leadership Council shall be taken on a simple majority vote of its members.

§ 5 Any member of the General Synod may request that any action by the Leadership Council be overruled or modified by requesting that the matter be submitted to a vote of the entire General Synod.

§ 6 Meetings of the Leadership Council shall be as frequent as conditions warrant. The Leadership Council may be conducted in person, by telephone, other electronic media (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or other), or a combination of the above.

### **Canon I – 2.1 Membership of the Leadership Council**

§ 1 Certain offices of the UACC are ex-officio and permanent members of the Leadership Council. Permanent membership on the Council pertains to the office and not to the person who may, at any time, hold that office. Ex-officio permanent members are:

- (a) The Presiding Bishop -- who shall be Chair of the Council.
- (b) The Chancellor of the UACC -- who shall be Vice-Chair of the Council.
- (c) The Administrative Secretary of the UACC.
- (d) The Treasurer of the UACC.
- (e) The Director of Vocations of the UACC.

§ 2 Certain Members of the Leadership Council are elected to serve on the Council. Such elected members shall be elected to this duty at regular sessions of the General Synod. Their term of office is two (2) calendar years from the date of election and shall coincide with the regular meetings of the Synod. Elected Members are:

- (a) A representative of the College of Bishops, who is not already an ex-officio member of the Leadership Council, elected by a majority vote of the College of Bishops
- (b) A representative from the Clergy in the Holy Orders of Deacon or Presbyter, elected by the members of the Clergy in those Orders.
- (c) A representative from the Laity of the UACC elected from the Delegates of the General Synod.

§ 3 All members of the Leadership Council shall be considered voting members except in the case of the Laity filling positions other than Laity Representative. The Presiding Bishop shall not vote except in the case of a tie.

## **Chapter 3. National Officers of the Church**

### **Canon I – 3.0 The Presiding Bishop**

§ 1 The Presiding Bishop shall be the Chief Pastor, Primate and Chief Executive Officer of the UACC. The Presiding Bishop shall be charged with the responsibility for leadership in initiating and developing policy and strategy in the Church and speaking for the Church as to the policies, strategies, and programs authorized by the General Synod, As well, the Presiding Bishop is responsible for the administrative functions and record-keeping of the Church, for maintaining a flow of communications within the UACC, and for communicating with such other bodies as may be necessary.

§ 2 The Presiding Bishop is elected to office by the membership of the College of Bishops by a simple majority vote for a term of nine (9) years and may succeed them in office without limitation as to the number of terms.

§ 3 The Presiding Bishop, by the dignity of their office, is granted the title of Archbishop. Upon retiring from the position of Presiding Bishop, the title is maintained as Archbishop Emeritus.

§ 4 The Presiding Bishop may be removed from office at any time by consensus of the College of Bishops. Upon removal from office, the title Archbishop is forfeited.

### **Canon I – 3.0.1 Duties of the Presiding Bishop**

§ 1 The Presiding Bishop summons the Synod into session and presides at its sessions.

§ 2 The Presiding Bishop shall maintain a flow of communications between the Parishes and Diocese of the UACC.

§ 3 The Presiding Bishop shall be responsible for all administrative matters pertaining to the Church. They shall maintain a registry of the Clergy, and be the custodian of the official Archives of the UACC.

§ 4 The Presiding Bishop shall receive and tally all votes of the College of Bishops and shall make requisite notifications of the results of such voting. If the vote is being taken for the election of Presiding Bishop and the incumbent is a candidate for that office, then the vote shall be received and tallied by the Chancellor of the UACC or by the most senior Bishop of the College of Bishops (by date of incardination into the episcopacy of the UACC) who is not a candidate for the office.

§ 5 The Presiding Bishop shall perform other administrative duties as required.

§ 6 If the Presiding Bishop has a Ministry discretionary fund. The funds shall be maintained separate from other funds.

§ 7 The Presiding Bishop shall annually prepare a proposed budget for the conduct of their office for the upcoming year for approval by the College of Bishops. Accounting for these funds shall be provided quarterly to the Church.

§ 8 The Presiding Bishop shall accomplish all duties and tasks assigned to them by this Constitution and Code of Canons and by action of the Synod in a timely manner and without undue delay. Repeated failure to promptly fulfill their duties shall be cause for their removal from office. They, therefore, shall solicit the assistance of the College of Bishops and or Clergy

of the Church in assuring that all duties imposed upon them or upon the General Synod are promptly completed.

§ 9 Whenever the Presiding Bishop shall leave office for any reason, they shall see to the immediate transfer of all Church records in their possession to their successor. All records of the UACC in the possession of the Presiding Bishop are the sole property of the UACC and must be surrendered on demand of the College of Bishops.

### **Canon I – 3.1 The Chancellor of the UACC**

§ 1 The Chancellor of the UACC shall be a member of the Clergy in the Holy Order of Priest or higher.

§ 2 The duties of the Chancellor of the UACC shall be to administer this Constitution and render an opinion on the meaning and content of its Canons, to mediate and/or arbitrate disputes, to act as judge in national Tribunals, and to hear appeals from the Dioceses.

§ 3 The Chancellor of the UACC shall preside at all national ecclesiastical courts and shall render judgment in all circumstances except those reserved to other bodies by this Constitution.

§ 4 The Chancellor of the UACC shall be appointed to office by the Presiding Bishop with the advice and consent of the College of Bishops by a simple majority vote. The Chancellor of the UACC shall not in any way claim familial relation to the Presiding Bishop.

§ 5 The Chancellor of the UACC shall serve an indefinite term of office at the pleasure of the College of Bishops who may terminate their tenure at any time and for any reason by simple majority vote.

§ 6 The Chancellor of the UACC shall recuse himself from the exercise of the office of Chancellor in all matters wherein they have any conflict of interest.

§ 7 If the Chancellor of the UACC is himself the subject of a disciplinary inquiry as established in the Constitution of the UACC, the Presiding Bishop shall immediately suspend the Chancellor from the Office of Chancellor for the duration of the inquiry into their conduct and any penalty that may be imposed as a consequence thereof.

§ 8 In circumstances in which the Chancellor of the UACC shall recuse them or be suspended from their office while under disciplinary inquiry and/or penalty, the duties of the Chancellor of the UACC shall transfer to the most senior member of the Leadership Council of the UACC, who is not also conflicted or under inquiry.

§ 9 Should no member of the Leadership Council qualify to assume the duties of Chancellor due to conflict of interest or disciplinary inquiry, then the most senior member of the College of



Bishops of the UACC, by date of incardination into the episcopacy of the UACC, not also conflicted or under inquiry, shall assume the duties of Chancellor.

§ 10 The assumption of the duties of the office of Chancellor shall be limited in scope to the matters for which the Chancellor is recused, and/or for the duration of the inquiry, and/or any penalty imposed upon them.

### **Canon I – 3.2 Archivist of the UACC**

§ 1 The Presiding Bishop shall appoint an Archivist for the UACC.

§ 2 The Archivist of the UACC maintains an archive of all official documents and Historical Records of the Church.

§ 3 The Archivist may be a member of the Clergy, Religious, or Laity of the UACC and/or may be a non-member of the UACC employed for this purpose.

§ 4 The Archivist of the UACC shall serve an indefinite term of office at the pleasure of the Presiding Bishop

### **Canon I – 3.3 The Administrative Secretary of the UACC**

§ 1 The Presiding Bishop shall appoint an Administrative Secretary.

§ 2 The duties of the Administrative Secretary shall be to supervise and be responsible for all official communications within and without the UACC, and all administrative matters pertaining to the operation and functioning of the Church's national temporal responsibilities under the direction of the Presiding Bishop.

§ 3 The Administrative Secretary may be a member of the Clergy, Religious, or Laity of the UACC and/or may be a non-member of the UACC employed for this purpose.

§ 4 The Administrative Secretary shall serve an indefinite term of office at the pleasure of the Presiding Bishop.

### **Canon I – 3.4 The Treasurer of the UACC**

§ 1 The Treasurer, shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and may be a member of the Clergy, Religious, or Laity of the UACC. At the Treasurer's discretion and with the approval of the Leadership Council, an outside accounting firm may be employed for the maintaining of the corporate accounts. The Treasurer of the UACC shall not in any way claim familial relation to the Presiding Bishop.

§ 2 The duties of the Treasurer shall be to supervise and be responsible for all financial matters of the Church's national office under the direction of the Presiding Bishop.

§ 3 The Treasurer shall serve an indefinite term of office at the pleasure of the College of Bishops and shall be the Chair of the Finance Committee.

## **Chapter 4. The College of Bishops and Its Officers**

### **Canon I – 4.0 The College of Bishops**

§ 1 All persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Order of Bishop, are incardinated within the UACC, and are not on leave of absence or canonically debarred from exercising their Episcopal office, are members of the College of Bishops.

### **Canon I – 4.1 Power and Scope of Authority of the College of Bishops**

§ 1 Each member of the College of Bishops is individually a Successor to all of the Apostles and exercises the authority committed by Christ to the Apostles to govern his Church. In so doing, it is the personal responsibility of each Bishop to confer and consult with the people and Clergy that they shepherds and to represent them before the General Synod and/or the College of Bishops. They carry with them the *sensus fidei* of their people when exercising Apostolic Authority. While the final authority to legislate, govern, and judge is properly that of the Bishop, personally exercising their Apostolic role, it is the Bishop's sacred duty to inform and color their actions with prayer and the wisdom of their Clergy and people, through whom the Holy Spirit speaks.

§ 2 The College of Bishops, exercising its authority as Successors of the Apostles, is the Guardian of the UACC. In this capacity, the College of Bishops legislates for the Church as a whole, acting in national and inter-diocesan matters within the guidelines herein contained.

### **Canon I – 4.2 Duties, Rights, and Privileges of the College of Bishops**

§ 1 The duties of members of the College of Bishops include all those inherent in their Office of Bishop.

§ 2 It is the sole right, duty, and privilege of the College of Bishops to define matters of Faith for the Church, approve Liturgies, guard the Apostolic Succession and to regulate the Holy Sacraments.

§ 3 It shall be the duty of the College of Bishops to supervise and adjudicate matters pertaining to the clerical discipline of those in the Order of Bishop.

§ 4 It is the duty of the College of Bishops to elect the Presiding Bishop.

§ 5 It is the duty of the College of Bishops to be the Supreme appellate judiciary of the UACC.

§ 6 It is the duty of the College of Bishops to selectively form formal inter-communion relationships and/or negotiate mergers of the UACC with other Churches. A merger with any other Church shall only occur by subsuming that Church into the UACC, subjecting its membership to the Constitution and Code of Canons. Prior to so doing, the College, through its respective members, shall solicit input from the members of the Clergy and the People of God as to the wisdom of such action.

§ 7 Inherent in the duty to govern the Church is the duty of all members of the College of Bishops to attend Synods unless serious matters prevent their attendance.

§ 8 Additional duties as may be assigned to the College of Bishops by this Constitution and Code of Canons.

### **Canon I – 4.3 Initiation of Matters for Consideration by the College of Bishops**

§ 1 Any member of the College of Bishops may initiate legislation or bring other matters before the College of Bishops for its consideration and vote when the College is not assembled with the following provisions.

- (a) The College may, by majority vote, defer action on such proposals until they are assembled if it seems wise for it to do so.
- (b) When the College is assembled, the procedures outlined herein for initiating legislation and bringing other matters to the floor of the Synod prevail.

### **Canon I – 4.4 Voting by the College of Bishops When Not Assembled as the Synod.**

§ 1 When not assembled as the Synod, the College of Bishops may vote by any means it may select. Informal votes may be done by telephone. Votes requiring a formal recorded vote may be conducted by mail or by electronic means analogous to mail including e-mail, fax, or other electronic transmission.

## **Chapter 5. Other Committees of the College of Bishops**

### **Canon I – 5.0 Other Committees of the College of Bishops**

§ 1 The College of Bishops may establish committees to perform tasks or research issues before the General Synod and make recommendations to the Synod for action at its sole discretion.

§ 2 The Presiding Bishop and the Chancellor of the UACC are ex-officio members of all committees of the General Synod.

## **Chapter 5.1 Permanent Standing Committees of the College of Bishops.**

§ 1 The following committees are permanent standing committees of the College of Bishops:

- (a) Liturgy -- which shall see to the creation, review, and update of the Liturgy of the UACC.
- (b) Ecumenism -- which shall see to the relations of the UACC with other ecclesial bodies.

## **Chapter 6. Sovereignty of the Diocesan Bishop**

### **Canon I – 6.0 Sovereignty of the Diocesan Bishop**

§ 1 Except as expressly provided herein or in other legislation adopted by the General Synod, within and for their own Diocese, the Diocesan Bishop has sovereignty in governance in all matters pertaining to that Diocese. The Diocesan Bishop is the ruler, judge, pastor, and teacher of the faith for those Members of the UACC under their care.

§ 2 Except as expressly provided herein or in other legislation adopted by the General Synod, the College of Bishops and/or Church Officers or individuals may not intrude nor interfere in the lawful conduct of governance by the Diocesan Bishop within and for their own Diocese.

§ 3 The College of Bishops and/or Officers of the UACC may intrude on the internal governance of a Diocese only when specifically requested by the Diocesan Bishop, and/or when a formal request/complaint/appeal is received from any Member of the UACC from that Diocese; and/or when allegations of heterodoxy, misfeasance, malfeasance, mismanagement, or misconduct have been alleged against the Diocesan Bishop; and/or in accordance with provisions elsewhere defined in this Constitution.

## **Chapter 7. Vocation Administration**

### **Canon I – 7.0 The Vocations Director and Vocations Office**

§ 1 The College of Bishops shall establish an office for the fostering and encouragement of candidates for admission to Holy Orders or incardination in the UACC. This office shall be known as the Vocations Office.

§ 2 The Vocations Office shall be headed by the Vocations Director who shall be a member of the Clergy, who is not in the Order of Bishops.

§ 3 The Vocations Director shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop to an indefinite term and shall serve at the pleasure of the College of Bishops who may terminate their tenure at any time by majority vote.

§ 4 Decisions regarding the acceptance of candidates for preparation for Holy Orders and selecting candidates to be ordained are entirely the prerogative and solely at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop. See Canon III – 1.1.1 for additional information regarding the acceptance of candidates.

## **Chapter 8. Dispute Resolution and Disciplinary Matters**

### **Canon I – 8.0 Dispute Resolution**

§ 1 Disputes within the Church shall be referred by the General Synod to internal mediation whenever possible. Such mediation shall follow procedures to be adopted by the College of Bishops.

§ 2 If disputes cannot be resolved by mediation, then the Chancellor of the UACC shall act as arbitrator and shall issue a binding resolution.

§ 3 The results of mediation and/or arbitration may be appealed to the College of Bishops whose decision is final and binding.

# **CANON II – CHURCH ORGANIZATION**

## **Chapter 1. Jurisdictions within the Church**

### **Canon II – 1.0 Internal Jurisdictions of the Church**

§ 1 Internal to the Church are several jurisdictional areas that are regulated by this Constitution. These areas are Diocese, Vicariates, Parishes, Chaplaincies, and Residences of Religious Orders.

#### **Canon II – 1.1 Diocese**

§ 1 A Diocese is a portion of the People of God which is entrusted for pastoral care to a Diocesan Bishop. With the cooperation of the Clergy, and adhering to its Pastor and gathered by them in the Holy Spirit through the spread of the Gospel and the Eucharist, it constitutes a particular Church in which the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church is truly present and operative.

§ 2 As a rule, that portion of the People of God which constitutes a Diocese is limited to a definite territory so that it comprises all the members of the UACC who inhabit that territory.

§ 3 A Diocese comes into existence by a vote of the College of Bishops. The College of Bishops in exercising this responsibility shall do so either upon the written petition by the People of God of the proposed Diocese region or upon the perception of need by the College of Bishops.

§ 4 When the People of God request that a Diocese be created, they do so by written petition to the College of Bishops. Generally, any such reasonable request should be honored, but the decision to erect a Diocese is solely within the discretion of the College of Bishops. To be considered reasonable, the petition must arise from not less than 60 adult persons, whose identity, regular attendance, participation, and financial support of an existing community(ies) of worship adhering to or seeking to join the UACC can be verified.

§ 5 When, for any suitable reason, a Diocesan Bishop determines the need to create a Diocese from some portion of their See, they may request the College of Bishops to erect a Diocese there.

§ 6 When the College of Bishops perceives the need for a Diocese, it may create a Diocese on its own initiative upon a majority vote.

§ 7 No Diocese shall be approved for creation by the College of Bishops unless there are at least three (3) functioning UACC Parishes within its boundaries; nor shall a Diocese be approved unless there shall exist at least sixty (60) active, participating, and financially supporting members, in total, in all the Parishes/communities of worship within the proposed Diocese; or

that cannot show ongoing financial and community support sufficient to meet its own needs together with its responsibilities to the National Church. The College of Bishops may in its sole discretion impose additional requirements or conditions for the creation of a Diocese.

§ 8 It pertains solely to the College of Bishops to define the boundaries of a Diocese, which boundaries the College in its sole judgment may alter from time to time as it deems appropriate.

§ 9 A Diocese may be suppressed (i.e. its existence terminated) by the action of the College of Bishops when, in the sole judgment of the College of Bishops, there is sufficient reason to do so.

§ 10 A Diocese can be suppressed as an operation of law if, after the said Diocese has been in existence for at least one (1) year, and there exist no active UACC Parishes within the Diocese during any continuous six (6) month period. For purposes of this provision, an active Parish is a community of the UACC members which meets at a specific location at least twice monthly at a specific time to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and which has officially registered members who attend services at least monthly. For the Diocese to continue existence, the sum of members of all Parishes in the Diocese must be forty-five (45) adult persons or more.

§ 11 A Diocese can be suppressed as an operation of law if, the Diocese fails to remit to the Treasurer of the UACC such funds as have been mandated to be provided by the Diocese by this Constitution and Code of Canons or vote of the College of Bishops within two (2) calendar months of the date such remittance is due. A Diocese thus suppressed may be reinstated only upon bringing all required remittances to current status and must meet other criteria for the erection and/or reinstatement of a Diocese herein defined.

§ 12 If a Diocese is suppressed for any reason, and there is at least one (1) active the UACC Parish within its boundaries, the territory of that Diocese may revert to Mission status as an Apostolic Vicariate, or it may be absorbed into another UACC Diocese as determined by the College of Bishops.

§ 13 A Diocesan Bishop whose Diocese is suppressed for any cause, who remains resident within the former Diocese shall revert to the status of Auxiliary Bishop to the Ordinary assigned by the College of Bishops. Their membership and right to vote in the College of Bishops is not affected by this change.

§ 14 To allow for the circumstances which precipitated the suppression of the Diocese to be fully resolved, a Diocese which is suppressed for any cause may not be again raised to the status of a Diocese for at least six (6) months from the date of suppression.

§ 15 A Diocesan Bishop must reside within the boundaries of their Diocese. If a Diocesan Bishop relocates their residence outside their Diocese, they cease to be Diocesan Bishop immediately and as an operation of law and the Diocesan See is vacant.

## **Canon II – 1.2 Diocesan Administration**

§ 1 The Diocesan Bishop is personally responsible before God to the People of God they shepherds for the correct, accurate, orthodox, and efficient administration of the Diocese. Failure to do so may be cause for the suppression of the Diocese or the removal from office of the Diocesan Bishop. The College of Bishops acts as an advocate for the People of God in assuring that the Diocesan Bishop is exercising this role in accordance with the Sacred Trust with which the office of Diocesan Bishop endows the incumbent.

§ 2 The internal organization and administration of any Diocese shall be accomplished as the Diocesan Bishop, in their sole discretion, may direct.

## **Canon II – 1.3 Archdiocese**

§ 1 The current structure of the UACC is that of an Archdiocese, with four Vicariates or provinces covering the United States and associated territories, maintained by Auxiliary Bishops with the Presiding Bishop at its head. The UACC will progress to Dioceses as each Vicariate becomes self-sustaining.

## **Canon II – 1.4 Parishes**

§ 1 Each Diocese shall be divided as needed into distinct parts, called Parishes, which exist to serve the pastoral needs of the People of God.

§ 2 A Parish is led by a Pastor who shall be at least a Transitional Deacon or in the Order of Presbyter. They may be assisted by additional Clergy as needed. The Pastor is subordinate to the Diocesan Bishop, and such other intermediary superiors as the Diocesan Bishop may assign, but exercises all ordinary, proper, and immediate power appropriate to their office within their Parish. Each Parish and Ministry of the UACC is required to use the full name of the denomination in its title. (I.e. St. Joan of Arc, United American Catholic Church.)

§ 3 A Parish is created and/or suppressed upon the direction and at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop.

§ 4 Parishes shall be organized and administered according to procedures established by the Diocesan Bishop as they may direct.

§ 5 Each Parish and/or ministry of the UACC shall provide financial support to the conduct of the temporal administration of the Church in a manner and amount to be determined by the General Synod by a majority vote, and reviewed at each successive Synod.

§ 6 Each Parish and/or Ministry of the UACC shall report monthly to the UACC Central Office on the activities, statistics, finances, and needs of the Parish/Ministry. As well, each



Parish and/or ministry of the UACC shall, for the direction and growth of the Church at large, file an annual report to UACC Central Office. Such reports are developed by the Leadership Council and may be reviewed at each successive General Synod as needed.

## **Canon II – 1.5 Vicariates**

§ 1 The area of responsibility of a Vicar is called a Vicariate. In the UACC there are several types of Vicariates. The most commonly applied types are the Apostolic Vicariate and the Diocesan or Episcopal Vicariate.

### **Canon II – 1.5.1 Apostolic Vicariates**

§ 1 An Apostolic Vicariate is a certain portion of the People of God which is not yet established as a Diocese due to particular circumstances and whose pastoral care is entrusted to the nearest Diocesan Bishop acting as an Apostolic Vicar. The Apostolic Vicar governs the Vicariate in the name of the Church and is the Bishop Ordinary for the Vicariate.

§ 2 An Apostolic Vicar assumes their role in an Apostolic Vicariate as an operation of law based on their proximity to the Apostolic Vicariate.

§ 3 It is desirable that the territory comprising the Apostolic Vicariate be expressly established by the College of Bishops to avoid confusion.

§ 4 Apostolic Vicariates may also be established for any useful purpose by the College of Bishops, in its sole discretion, which may appoint any UACC Bishop to be Apostolic Vicar for the region.

### **Canon II – 1.5.2 Diocesan Vicariate**

§ 1 In order to foster pastoral care through common action, or due to the special needs (e.g. the need to minister in a specific national language or ethnic rite), several Parishes may be grouped together under the leadership of an Episcopal or Diocesan Vicar at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop.

### **Canon II – 1.5.3 Parochial Vicariate**

§ 1 A Parochial Vicar assists a Pastor in ministering to the People of God in a Parish or other Ministry. Presbyters and Deacons may be appointed to this role by the Diocesan Bishop. Parochial Vicars are frequently also known as Associate Pastors.

## **Canon II – 1.6 Mission Territories**

§ 1 Any portion of the Jurisdiction of the UACC which is not organized into a Diocese shall be considered to be Mission Territory and be organized as an Apostolic Vicariate.

## **Canon II – 1.7 Monasteries, Convents, and Residences of Religious Orders**

§ 1 Wherever there is established a monastery, convent, or other residence house of a Religious Order such residence shall be governed and organized as the Rule or Form of Life of the Order may direct. If no specific regulation exists within a Rule or Form of Life of any Order, the residence shall be governed and organized as the head of the Order may direct. All such residences are under the direct control of the lawful Superiors of the Order and are subject to overall supervision by the Diocesan Bishop.

§ 2 The conduct of Ministry by Religious is regulated in Canon 5.

## **Canon II – 1.8 The Ordinary**

§ 1 Wherever herein the term ‘Ordinary’ is used, it is used as a proper noun referring to a person such usage shall be defined as one who is exercising the role of Diocesan Bishop, with all rights and privileges appertaining thereto, whether as head of their own Diocese or as Apostolic Vicar.

## **Canon II – 1.9 Ordinary and Delegated Authority**

§ 1 Clergy have the authority to perform their duties according to the needs of their office. Certain authority is Ordinary in nature meaning that it results from the possession of an office or a duty (e.g. the Diocesan Bishop has ordinary authority to administer any sacrament within their Diocese). Delegated power or authority is granted by authorization of another who possesses ordinary authority (e.g. a Diocesan Bishop grants faculty to a Presbyter to administer Confirmation because the Confirmands are located at a distance which does not permit the Diocesan Bishop to administer the Sacrament directly).

§ 2 One who has Ordinary power or authority may delegate such power or authority or portions thereof, at their discretion, subject to any restrictions imposed by Sacramental requirements, or this Constitution and Code of Canons.

## **CANON III – THE CLERGY**

### **Chapter 1. General Regulations of the Clergy**

#### **Canon III – 1.0 The Clergy Defined**

§ 1 All members of the UACC who have received the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Order of Deacon, Presbyter, or Bishop, and who are in good standing, are members of the Clergy.

#### **Canon III – 1.1 Regulation of the Clergy**

§ 1 Members of the Clergy are subject to the regulations of this Constitution and Code of Canons and such other regulations as their lawful superior may impose.

§ 2 All members of the Clergy, who are not members of a Religious Order, shall be incardinated within a Diocese of the UACC in order to exercise public ministry.

- (a) Members of Religious Orders who are Clergy may exercise public ministry within a Diocese only with the approval of the Diocesan Bishop of that Diocese.
- (b) Members of Religious Orders who are Clergy may minister privately within and for their own community according to the norms of their respective Order's Rule and internal regulations.

§ 3 All Clergy accused of a violation of law or of civil conduct which alleges a felony or any charge that may include the possibility of incarceration of any duration whatsoever shall immediately disclose such accusation to their Diocesan Bishop, Religious Superior, or to the College of Bishops if the accused is a Diocesan Bishop. All details of the accusation against the member of the Clergy must be made known to the Diocesan Bishop, or for those in the Office of Bishop, must be made known to the College of Bishops within 24-hours.

§ 4 The UACC Clergy, even if they receive some financial compensation, generally serve in a voluntary capacity and are not employees of the UACC. The UACC, therefore, has no duty to supervise its Clergy as an employer, nor is it responsible for their conduct; nor does the UACC have a duty to collect or account for taxes for its Clergy; nor does the UACC have an obligation to provide employee benefits or unemployment, workers compensation, or other insurance.

#### **Canon III – 1.1.1 Concerning the Selection and Admission of Clergy**

§ 1 The College of Bishops shall create a national vocations office to which shall administratively support the application process for the UACC. This office shall be administered by the Vocations Director.

§ 2 The Diocesan Bishop, in considering candidates for Holy Orders or incardination of Clergy, shall see that the background of each applicant for admission to the Clergy of the UACC shall be verified to the extent possible as to character, criminal record, financial history, credit status, psychological and physical health, and academic standing. Responsibility for the conduct of such investigations is solely the responsibility of the Diocesan Bishop and not the UACC, nor any of the respective bodies of the UACC.

§ 3 Decisions regarding the acceptance of candidates for preparation for Holy Orders and selecting candidates to be ordained are entirely the prerogative and solely at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop.

### **Canon III – 1.1.2 Concerning the Training of Clergy**

§ 1 The College of Bishops shall establish a curriculum of academic training which all candidates for Holy Orders should complete prior to ordination to the Holy Order of Deacon and/or Presbyter. The Diocesan Bishop may deviate from this curriculum in their sole discretion when it seems appropriate.

§ 2 Diocesan Bishops may enroll candidates for Holy Orders into a national seminary training institute sponsored by the UACC, other educational institutions, or may provide training in any manner they may deem appropriate.

§ 3 The UACC's seminary institute, once created, shall be responsible only for the academic preparation of candidates for Holy Orders and shall have no responsibility for determining the acceptability of the candidate for ordination.

§ 4 A Diocesan Bishop, in their sole discretion, determines acceptability of candidates for Orders, determine successful completion of training by such candidates, assist the candidate in their spiritual development, determine the spiritual and other qualification of candidates for Orders, administer portions of the training which require direct contact, and to select candidates for ordination.

§ 5 All Clergy are required to take the appropriate children and vulnerable adult protection training as determined by the Holy Safe Policy and Procedures, Section VI.

### **Canon III – 1.3 Titles, Manner of Address, and Rank of the Clergy**

§ 1 No title except Deacon, Presbyter, Priest, Canon to the Archbishop, Bishop or Archbishop shall be adopted or granted to any member of the Clergy of the UACC, except those which pertain to offices established by this Constitution (e.g. Diocesan Bishop, Pastor) or authorized for an office in a Religious Order (e.g. Minister General, Novice Master, Abbot).

§ 2 Bishops shall employ the title Most Reverend in formal written address. Canons to the Archbishop shall employ the title Very Reverend in formal written address. Clergy of the UACC, bearing the title of Monsignor at the publication of this document are granted the right of title until their retirement. Presbyters shall employ the title Reverend in formal written address. Deacons shall employ the title Reverend Mr./Ms./Mrs. in formal written address.

§ 3 The Presiding Bishop shall be verbally addressed as, “Your Grace”. All others in the Order of Bishop shall be verbally addressed as, “Your Excellency”, or simply “Bishop”. Deacons shall be addressed simply as “Deacon”. Presbyters who are male shall be addressed as “Father”. Presbyters who are female shall be addressed either as “Mother” or as “Reverend” at her discretion.

### **Canon III – 1.4 Dress of the Clergy**

§ 1 Whenever acting in their capacity as Clergy of the UACC, the Clergy shall wear appropriate clerical clothing.

§ 2 Clergy are encouraged to wear appropriate clerical attire at any time it is appropriate as witness to their vocation.

§ 3 Clergy shall not wear clerical attire while engaged in athletic or similar activity, nor shall Clergy wear clerical attire while performing their secular employment unless permitted to do so by their employer.

§ 4 Members of Religious Orders may wear the Habit appropriate for their Order. The color and style of the habit of Religious Orders will be determined by the Order with the concurrence of the College of Bishops (for National Orders) or the Diocesan Bishop (for Diocesan Orders).

§ 5 Members of Religious Orders who are Bishops, generally adopt the dress of "secular" Clergy in the Order of Bishop when not in residence in a house or monastery of their Order. When in their habit, they do not wear the pectoral cross or ring; nor does they carry the crosier or wear the miter, unless they hold an office within their Order which employs these symbols (e.g. an Abbot). They may, however, wear the zucchetto to denote their status as a Bishop.

§ 6 The color of all formal street clerical attire in the UACC is black. Other colors are permitted for informal or day-to-day wear.

§ 7 Cassocks for Priests and Deacons will be black. Presbyters and Deacons, generally, do not wear zucchetos. If the wearer chooses to wear a zucchetto or biretta, the color will be black. Cassocks of Canons to the Archbishop and Domestic Prelates will be black with red piping and buttons, no shoulder cape, sashes are to be fuscina in color.

§ 8 "House" Cassocks/Simars for Bishops will be black with red piping and buttons. Shoulder capes will be matching in color to the rest of the cassock. White or red cassocks for Bishops are prohibited, except that white cassocks may be worn in tropical areas provided the sash and piping are not also white.

§ 9 Cassock accessories (i.e. sashes, birettas, zucchetos, mozettas, and mantelettas) for Bishops will be fuscina in color.

§ 10 Choir Cassocks for Bishops will be fuscina in color. Accessories will match the color of the Choir Cassock.

§ 11 While in clerical attire, (either in Religious Habit, clerical street dress, vested for liturgy, or in choir vesture) jewelry, earrings, necklaces, and rings may not be worn by members of the Clergy except as follows:

- (a) A Bishops or Abbot shall wear their ring of office and pectoral cross. Rings of Office will be worn on the third finger of the right hand,
- (b) Only Bishops, Abbots, and those Superiors of Religious Orders, when authorized by their respective rules and/or constitutions to do so, may wear pectoral crosses or other religious symbols visible outside their clothing, regardless of size, unless as part of a religious habit, while in cassock, religious habit, liturgical vestments, or clerical attire. Such items may be worn under the outer garments at the wearer's discretion.
- (c) When liturgically vested, Clergy authorized to wear the Pectoral Cross shall do so suspended from a chain (Abbots and Religious Superiors) or Green and Gold Cord (Bishops) over their outermost vestment.
- (d) Bishops shall wear the Pectoral Cross suspended from a Green and Gold Cord when wearing the mozetta and wear it outside the mozetta. Bishops wear the Pectoral Cross suspended from a chain in clerical street attire.
- (e) Bishops who are members of Religious Orders, who are not superiors as defined for that order, do not wear episcopal symbols while in the habit of their Order. Episcopal symbols are worn by Religious Bishops with street clerical attire and/or cassock/choir vesture only.
- (f) Necklaces of any description may not be worn on the exterior of clerical attire.
- (g) Wedding bands, engagement rings, or other equivalent symbols of relationship commitment, may be worn.
- (h) Religious, both active and former, may wear rings given as a sign of their religious profession. If worn, such rings will be worn as prescribed by the order.
- (i) Wristwatches and/or pocket watches may be worn at any time. Pendant watches, worn around the neck in the manner of a necklace, are not authorized.
- (j) Pins, or other adornments, may not be worn without the approval of the respective ecclesial superior.
- (k) Earrings if worn by Clergy, will be conservative in style and material.

### **Canon III – 1.5 Clergy Licensing and Faculties**

§ 1 To maintain the status of, “In Good Standing”, each Clergy person from the rank of Deacon and above shall be Licensed to Practice by the UACC. The License will be renewable annually and is necessary to Pastor or Head a UACC Ministry, participate in the life and Ministry of the UACC, and to have a voice and vote in the General Synod. A letter of faculties will be issued with the Clergy license renewal.

§ 2 Failure to maintain a UACC Clergy license can lead to disciplinary action up to and including the removal of rights, the loss of faculties, and expulsion from the Church. The Clergy license fee amount is to be determined by the General Synod by majority vote and reviewed at each successive Synod.

§ 3 The License is renewable on January 1 of each year and is valid from January 1 to December 31.

§ 4 Clergy Members that have not paid the Annual License fee on or before March 31 of each year, shall be automatically resigned from the UACC.

### **Canon III – 1.6 Canonical Obedience of the Clergy**

§ 1 Obedience to this Constitution and their respective lawful superior(s), as established by their area of ministry and defined herein, is required of every member of the Clergy as a condition of their status as Clergy.

§ 2 Failure to provide such obedience shall be grounds for disciplinary action as defined herein and may result in suspension from ministry or expulsion from the Clergy of the UACC.

§ 3 Each member of the Clergy shall, on the occasion of their ordination to each Order and/or their incardination into the UACC, solemnly and publicly promise obedience to this Constitution and their lawful superior(s) both verbally and in writing.

§ 4 The formula to be employed in the Promise of Obedience will be determined by the General Synod. (See Appendix A.)

### **Canon III – 1.7 Conduct to the Prejudice of Good Order and Discipline.**

§ 1 Members of the Clergy, in whatever Order and or office, shall at no time, by public statements or actions, impugn, demean, or otherwise disparage the Constitution and Code of Canons of the UACC, and/or any part thereof, and/or Amendments or other legislation as may, from time to time, be enacted by the legislative bodies defined by this Constitution.

§ 2 Members of the Clergy in whatever Order shall at no time by their statements or actions impugn, demean, or otherwise disparage the orthodoxy, personal integrity, professional competence, or Sacramental validity of any member of the Clergy of the UACC.

§ 3 For purposes of this Canon, a statement or action shall be considered to be public if it is made in such a manner as to be known or knowable to any person not charged with governing the Church by the Constitution of the UACC.

§ 4 Members of the Clergy found to have violated this Canon shall be guilty of a grave offense against the unity of the Church and grave Canonical Disobedience and upon conviction thereof by a Disciplinary Judicial Tribunal as provided in the Constitution of the UACC, shall be subject to such penalties as the said Tribunal shall impose.

§ 5 Statements made during debate or consideration of legislation before legislative and governing bodies of the Church, as established in the Constitution and Code of Canons of the UACC, are expressly exempt from the provisions of this Canon.

§ 6 Statements made in conjunction with presenting formal charges or official allegations of improper conduct against members of the Clergy of the UACC are expressly exempt from the provisions of this Canon.

§ 7 Official findings, decrees, judgments, and/or actions issued and/or published by those charged with legislating, adjudicating, or otherwise governing the Church by the Constitution of the UACC are expressly exempt from the provisions of this Canon.

§ 8 Statements made to civil law enforcement officials, attorneys, and/or judicial officers in connection with the official conduct of their respective offices or functions are expressly exempt from the provisions of this Canon.

### **Canon III – 1.8 Conduct of the Clergy**

§ 1 Because of the great trust placed in the Clergy by the People of God, the UACC may also ecclesiastically discipline and censure any member of the Clergy whose public conduct is such that it may bring discredit upon the Church. The UACC may also ecclesiastically discipline or censure Clergy of the UACC who violates any provision of this Constitution or who are disobedient in matters canonical to their lawful superior, regardless of their rank or position in the UACC.

§ 2 The public conduct of the Clergy is to be above reproach. They are to avoid immoral places and entertainment, which would scandalize the People of God, they are to restrain their use of profanity, they are to be examples of Christian Charity and Love to all. They are to adhere to the Divine Law, this Constitution, and Civil Law.



§ 3 Conduct by the Clergy which is contrary to the Law of God or this Constitution is never sanctioned by the Church. When such conduct is discovered, immediate action will be taken to address the misconduct.

**Canon III – 1.8.1 Sexual Conduct of the Clergy**

§ 1 Members of the Clergy shall not engage in or attempt sexual activity which is unbecoming the dignity of Clergy or Religious of the UACC, especially, but not limited to the following actions and those covered under the Holy Safe Policy and Procedures.

- (a) Sexual activity which is harassing in character, and/or;
- (b) Is physically, mentally, or emotionally abusive, and/or;
- (c) Is attempted or conducted with a person who has not attained the legal age at which consent to sexual conduct is permissible in the controlling civil law, and/or;
- (d) Which exploits the Member of the Clergy's status as Clergy to facilitate or obtain sexual conduct.

§ 2 Conduct, which violates this Canon, is never acceptable in a member of the Clergy of the UACC.

§ 3 Violation of the provisions of this Canon will, upon conviction of these acts by a Tribunal, be cause for the dismissal of the accused member of the Clergy from the UACC. Guilt under the Holy Safe Response Procedures may also be cause for dismissal of the accused.

§ 4 Allegations or reports of criminal sexual misconduct by members of the Clergy, received outside the Sacrament of Reconciliation, will be referred to the appropriate UACC superior and/or civil authority in accordance with Holy Safe Policy and Procedures, Section VII. A. Reporting Chain.

**Canon III – 1.9 Celibacy of the Clergy**

§ 1 The right to marry is Divinely granted. The UACC does not require celibacy or permanent chastity on its Clergy who are not members of Religious Orders and bound by such Order's Rule or Constitution.

§ 2 Marriage will not impede the valid reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the UACC, nor incardination into any jurisdiction of the UACC, nor will marriage be required for the reception of Holy Orders or incardination.

§ 3 Holy Orders will not impede the valid reception of the Sacrament of Matrimony in the UACC.

§ 4 No person shall impose or require as a condition of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, of granting faculties to Clergy, or of incardination of Clergy in any jurisdiction, that such person promise, vow, or live in a state of celibacy, permanent chastity, nor that they be married or remain unmarried.

### **Canon III – 1.10 Financial Compensation of the Clergy**

§ 1 No member of the Clergy shall require or request payment of money, or other valuable consideration in payment, for the celebration of any Sacrament.

- (a) Donations may be accepted so long as the said donation is voluntary and inures the Church, a Diocese, a Parish, a Mission, a Religious Order, or some subordinate organization of one of the foregoing. It is permitted when asked, for the Clergy to indicate an exact amount that is appropriate for such donation.
- (b) Freely given stipends, or gifts, regardless of type, may be accepted as a gratuity for the special celebration of the Mass so long as they are not in any way a condition for the celebration of the Sacraments or the Mass.
- (c) When necessary and appropriate: travel, food, and lodging expenses of the Clergy may be paid by those for whom a Sacrament is celebrated.

§ 2 The Clergy may receive a salary and/or other formal compensation from any Diocese or Parish they serve. Such salary and/or formal compensation is not implied or guaranteed by the UACC. Salary and/or other compensation, and all stipends and gratuities received must be reported to the appropriate civil authorities for tax purposes.

§ 3 The UACC does not employ Clergy for Ministries or Parishes of the Church and is not responsible for maintaining financial records for any money paid to Clergy in compensation for services. When compensation is paid by a Parish or Diocese, that entity is itself solely responsible for such financial records and reporting.

### **Canon III – 1.11 Employment of the Clergy**

§ 1 Each member of the Clergy is responsible for providing such personal income as they may require for them and their family through lawful means. These means may include compensation by the Parish or Diocese which the member of the Clergy serves, personal savings or investments, and/or employment in a secular job or profession.

§ 2 All secular employment will be in a place and of a type seemly and appropriate for a member of the Clergy. The decision of whether such employment of a member of the Clergy is seemly and appropriate shall be in the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop for those in the Orders of Deacon and Presbyter, and in the discretion of the College of Bishops for those in the Holy Order of Bishop.

§ 3 No Bishop shall require that a member of the Clergy change their employment without giving them a full explanation of their reason(s) for such requirement, and without giving them adequate time to make a transition to new employment.

§ 4 In requiring a member of the Clergy to seek new employment, a minimum period of one (1) calendar year will be granted for such change. Such period will be extended when warranted by economic or other circumstances,

**Canon III – 1.12 Awards for Outstanding Service to the Church**

§ 1 The College of Bishops may develop awards of recognition for members of the Clergy and/or Laity, for extraordinary service to the Church. Such awards, their design, and implementation are at the pleasure of the College of Bishops.

**Canon III – 1.13 Possession of Church Property by Members of the Clergy**

§ 1 All property, which may be held in the possession of a member of the Clergy, which was purchased or otherwise obtained by or for the Church or any subordinate jurisdiction of the Church, is the sole property of the Church or jurisdiction for which it was purchased and not the private or personal property of the member of the Clergy.

§ 2 The foregoing notwithstanding, the Clergy may own, and retain as personal property: private chapels in their place of residence or other suitable private location, vestments, chalices, and other liturgical supplies, et al, which were purchased with their own funds or which they received as gifts.

**Canon III – 1.14 Incardination of Clergy Defined**

§ 1 The process by which Clergy from one ecclesiastical jurisdiction are brought under the authority of another jurisdiction is called incardination.

§ 2 By virtue of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, any person receiving ordination to the Order of Presbyter or Deacon is automatically incardinated into the Diocese for which they are ordained.

§ 3 Installation in the office of Diocesan Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop automatically incardines the one installed into the Diocese they are to serve and concurrently excardines them from all other jurisdictions.

**Canon III – 1.14.1 Incardination from a Diocese of the UACC**

§ 1 Documentation of Apostolic Succession, which must trace the complete Succession from the Bishop to be incardinated to the origin of the Succession, will be provided.

§ 2 Standard reference materials that sustain the claim of Apostolic Succession will be employed in substantiating Succession.

§ 3 Bishops to be incardinated shall spend a period of time in a probationary status. Such period will be set at the discretion of the College of Bishops but will be of sufficient length to permit the candidate to attend, in a non-voting capacity, at least two meetings of the Synod, which attendance shall be mandatory. The probationary period will be extended for as long as is necessary to achieve the required attendance.

§ 4 During the probationary period, the College of Bishops shall carefully examine all such candidates to determine their acceptability for the UACC. Furthermore, during the probationary period, the candidate shall not serve in the Office of Diocesan Bishop, nor as an officer of the UACC. They may continue to serve as Bishop to any Parish in their Episcopal care at the time of incardination. Bishops in a probationary status may be assigned Episcopal and other duties as assigned by the College of Bishops for the good of the Church.

§ 5 Upon completion of the probationary period, the College of Bishops shall again vote to admit or reject the candidate. The role such Bishop shall exercise within the Church (e.g. Auxiliary, or Diocesan Bishop; Presbyter; or Deacon) shall also be established by a majority vote of the College of Bishops.

§ 6 A Bishop to be incardinated shall be granted only presbyteral faculties until their respective probationary period has been successfully completed and their final incardination has been approved. They shall be subordinate to the Ordinary of their place of ministry and obedient to that Ordinary during the probationary period, ministering at the direction of the Ordinary.

### **Canon III – 1.14.2 Incardination of Presbyters and Deacons from Churches in Communion with the UACC**

§ 1 The procedure to be followed for the incardination of Clergy from Churches in Communion with the UACC is the same as those for incardination from another Diocese of the UACC.

§ 2 When incardinating Clergy from another church, the term "Churches in Communion with the UACC" shall be defined as those ecclesiastical Church bodies which established formal inter-communication agreements with the UACC and are approved for this purpose by the College of Bishops.

### **Canon III – 1.14.3 Incardination of Presbyters and Deacons from other Churches**

§ 1 In addition to a letter of excardination from the Church that they is leaving, Clergy desiring incardination from Churches must submit documents attesting to the valid reception of

the Sacrament of Holy Orders to the highest Order they has attained, and documentation which proves the valid Apostolic Succession of the person who ordained them to each Order.

§ 2 A Diocesan Bishop may, upon request by a Presbyter or Deacon possessing a letter of excardination and other required documentation, and who meets the qualifications for their Holy Order established in this Constitution, incardinate or decline to incardinate that member of the Clergy into their Diocese from any church in their sole discretion.

**Canon III – 1.15 Incardination of Bishops Outside a Merger of the UACC with Another Church**

§ 1 Persons in the Holy Order of Bishop may be incardinated into the UACC as Bishops only with the concurrence of the College of Bishops by a majority vote.

§ 2 Bishops may be transferred from one Diocese to another by the College of Bishops. Such transfer automatically excardinate them, as an operation of law, from their former Diocese and incardinate them into the new Diocese.

§ 3 The act of expelling or releasing someone from the Clergy of the UACC automatically, and as an act of law, excardinate that person from all jurisdictions of the UACC in which they were then incardinated.

**Canon III – 1.15.1 Incardination of Bishops and Clergy Due to Merger of the UACC with Another Church**

§ 1 Whenever the UACC will merge with another Catholic Church, procedures to be followed to incardinate the Bishops and Clergy of the other Church into the UACC will be negotiated by the College of Bishops as part of the process of merger.

§ 2 Bishops received into the UACC as the result of such a merger whose Apostolic Succession cannot be verified, shall be sub-conditione consecrated to resolve those issues.

**Canon III – 1.16 Concerning a Mandatory Retirement Age**

§ 1 All Clergy who are not Diocesan Bishops shall, on the occasion of their 75th birthday, submit to their Diocesan Bishop a letter of resignation from the active Clergy of the UACC. The Diocesan Bishop, in their sole discretion, shall determine whether, and at what point, they accept and implements resignations due to the age of their Clergy.

§ 2 Diocesan Bishops, on the occasion of their 75th birthday, shall submit their resignation from the active Clergy of the UACC to the Presiding Bishop. The Diocesan Bishop, in their sole discretion, shall determine whether, and at what point, they accept and implements resignations due to the age of their Clergy.

§ 3 Any resignation due to age, as defined in this amendment, shall upon acceptance and implementation by the competent authority herein defined, shall transfer the resigned member to the status of retired Clergy in good standing.

§ 4 Retired Clergy in good standing shall retain all faculties for the Sacraments they possessed at the time of their retirement unless such faculties are expressly altered or revoked by competent authority as defined in the Constitution and Code of Canons of the UACC.

§ 5 A retired Diocesan Bishop is automatically deprived of the faculty for the Sacrament of Holy Orders for the UACC as a matter of law unless such faculty is granted expressly and in written format, by a Diocesan Bishop or the College of Bishops for a specific ordination. A retired Bishop retains their right to serve as an ordaining Bishop at the request of such other communions by permission of the Presiding Bishop.

§ 6 Retired Diocesan Bishops are designated Diocesan Bishop Emeritus.

§ 7 Retired Pastors are designated Pastor Emeritus.

### **Canon III – 1.17 Resignation of the Clergy**

§ 1 Members of the Clergy may resign from the Clergy of the UACC at any time in their sole discretion without stating a reason. The resignation will automatically excommunicate the member of the Clergy and will release them from the Clergy of the UACC.

§ 2 Resignation is accomplished solely by submitting the resignation in written form to the competent superior of the Member of the Clergy seeking to resign. Written resignations must be signed in the person's own hand.

### **Canon III – 1.18 Leave of Absence of the Clergy**

§ 1 A member of the Clergy may request a leave of absence at any time from their Diocesan Bishop. Such a request will be accepted in all cases.

§ 2 A Diocesan Bishop may place a member of the Clergy, under their jurisdiction, on an involuntary leave of absence for the good of the Church, or the spiritual welfare of the respective member of the Clergy.

§ 3 The duration of a leave of absence, as well as any conditions which must be met for the member of the Clergy to return to active status, is at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop.

§ 4 It pertains solely to the Diocesan Bishop to determine whether or not to accept the return from a leave of absence of a member of the for their Diocese.

§ 5 The Chancellor of the UACC may place a Diocesan, Auxiliary Bishop, or Presiding Bishop on a voluntary leave of absence upon their request. In such circumstances, the Chancellor of the UACC shall consult the College of Bishops who shall, by vote, determine the duration of the leave together with circumstances and conditions under which they may return from the leave of absence.

§ 6 The College of Bishops may impose an involuntary leave of absence on any Bishop if it determines such leave to be necessary for the good of the Church or the spiritual welfare of the respective Bishop. Except as may be provided elsewhere herein, the College of Bishops shall determine the duration of the leave, the conditions of the leave, and when and under what circumstances the Bishop may return to active status.

§ 7 During a leave of absence members of the Clergy, regardless of Order or position, shall not function in any clerical capacity for the UACC, and all faculties which the member of the Clergy then possessed shall be revoked for the duration of the leave.

§ 8 At the conclusion of a leave of absence, the Clergy member, regardless of Order or position, must either return to active status, resign from the Clergy of the UACC, or be released from the Clergy of the UACC

### **Canon III – 1.19 Excardination**

§ 1 Presbyters and Deacons to be transferred from any Diocese of the UACC shall be given a letter of excardination. Such letter will state their highest Holy Order held and will also state whether they are in good standing, on leave of absence, deposed or released/expelled from the Clergy of the UACC

§ 2 Any Priest or Deacon desiring to be incardinated into a Diocese of the UACC from another Diocese of the UACC shall present a letter from their current Diocese excardinating them from that Diocese and containing a statement that, at the time of excardination, the person is a member of the Clergy in good standing in the Order that they possesses.

§ 3 Any Diocesan Bishop shall, upon request by a member of the Clergy possessing a current letter of excardination from a Diocese of the UACC, incardinate such Clergy into their Diocese. If such a requested incardination is not granted within thirty (30) days of the request, such incardination will be deemed granted as an operation of law.

§ 4 Excardinating Bishops shall be responsible to assure the incardinating Bishops that the member of the Clergy seeking new incardination is, indeed, a worthy candidate, free from disciplinary issues, and in true good standing with the UACC.

### **Canon III – 1.19.1 Excardination Because of Resignation**

§ 1 A member of the Clergy of the UACC who resigns from the Clergy of the UACC or ceases to perform their duties as a member of the Clergy in a manner analogous to resignation, shall be deemed to have requested excardination from the Clergy of the UACC and their respective jurisdiction and shall be sent a letter of excardination, which shall automatically terminate all faculties and release that person from the Clergy of the UACC.

### **Canon III – 1.20 Disciplinary Processes**

§ 1 Whenever a member of the Clergy violates the provisions of this Constitution, commits an offense against the unity of the Church, including but not limited to, heresy, apostasy, or schism; fails to render canonical obedience to a lawful superior; or is convicted or pleads guilty to a civil crime, which may include incarceration as a penalty, they shall be subject to disciplinary action by the UACC.

§ 2 Whenever disciplinary action, or action due to mental illness or addiction, is contemplated against a member of the Clergy an inquiry into the facts of that allegation will be conducted as quickly as practical by the Diocesan Bishop. If the one under inquiry is a Diocesan Bishop or the Presiding Bishop, the College of Bishops will make inquiry.

§ 3 Charges against any member of the Clergy shall be brought only upon presentation of a sworn statement by the accuser detailing the nature of the allegation(s) and providing sufficient evidence of the alleged offense(s) in such that a reasonable person applying contemporary standards would conclude that the offense(s) charged probably occurred and that the accused probably committed the alleged offense(s).

§ 4 Sworn statements alleging misconduct will be provided to the Chancellor of the UACC for review, or the Presiding Bishop if the Chancellor is the accused. The Chancellor may seek counsel from persons within or without the UACC, if they deem it appropriate, to assist them in determining whether the charges are sufficient to warrant further action. In the event the Chancellor is the accused, the President Bishop may seek counsel if deemed appropriate as defined herein.

§ 5 If the Chancellor determines that allegations warrant further action or investigation, the Chancellor shall present a Bill of Indictment against the accused to the accused, and the accused's Diocesan Bishop, or the College of Bishops if the accused is a Bishop. The Diocesan Bishop or the College of Bishops, as determined above, shall then hear the evidence in the matter in the manner herein specified.

§ 6 Clergy in the Order of Deacon or Presbyter shall be judged by a Tribunal consisting of three (3) Clergy in the Order of Presbyter or Bishop. The Diocesan Bishop shall preside. The evidence in support of the allegation will be presented in an open session by a member of the



Clergy. The accused shall have the right to present exculpatory evidence, to confront their accuser, and the right to compel testimony in their behalf to the extent of the UACC's ability to compel it. The three (3) member court shall decide if the evidence presented sustains the charge(s) by vote. The Diocesan Bishop shall impose a penalty for those found guilty of misconduct, or determine actions for those found to be mentally ill or addicted.

§ 7 If sufficient Clergy cannot be obtained to form a Tribunal as described in the foregoing, the Diocesan Bishop may hear the matter alone or with a reduced number of Clergy so long as the rights of those under inquiry are sustained. Tie votes will be adjudged in the favor of the member under inquiry.

§ 8 Clergy in the Order of Bishop shall be judged by the College of Bishops. The Chancellor of the UACC shall preside. The evidence in support of the allegation will be presented in an open session by a member of the Clergy. The accused shall have the right to present exculpatory evidence, to confront their accuser, and the right to compel testimony in their behalf, to the extent of the UACC's ability to compel it. The College of Bishops, by vote, shall determine if the evidence presented sustains the allegation and shall impose a penalty for those found guilty of misconduct, or determine actions for those found to be mentally ill or addicted. Tie votes will be adjudged in the favor of the Member under inquiry.

§ 9 A detailed record of the evidence presented in a Tribunal, both for and against the accused, will be made and maintained by the Diocesan Bishop for Presbyters and Deacons, and by the College of Bishops for Bishops. This record will be made available to the appropriate appellate jurisdiction, as herein defined, in the event of an appeal of the findings and/or penalty by the accused.

### **Canon III – 1.21 Confidentiality in Clerical Discipline**

§ 1 All information arising from the conduct of disciplinary actions within the UACC will be held in strictest confidence by all participants and will not be divulged to any person not directly involved in such disciplinary action without the authorization of the College of Bishops by a majority vote unless such release is mandated by civil law.

§ 2 To ensure privacy and fairness, every effort will be made to limit knowledge of a disciplinary inquiry to those directly involved, including, but not limited to, the respective member of the Clergy of the UACC under inquiry; their respective Diocesan Bishop (where applicable) and/or Religious Superior (where applicable); the presiding officer, advocates, and members of any Disciplinary Judicial Tribunal convened in the matter; those entities charged by the Canons of the Constitution of the UACC with acting as appellate judiciary in cases where the decision of a Tribunal is appealed; the accusers, victims, witnesses, and attorneys for any party.

§ 3 In circumstances where an allegation of misconduct of a member of the Clergy has become known to persons not authorized by this amendment, the outcome of the inquiry into

those allegations will be made known to those same persons by a simple declarative statement that the allegations were sustained or not sustained, and that disciplinary actions were or were not taken. No further comment or information may be disseminated in any way to any person without approval by the College of Bishops of the UACC by a majority vote unless such release is mandated by civil law.

§ 4 The foregoing notwithstanding, the Chancellor of the UACC and the Presiding Bishop of the UACC shall be advised in writing of the outcome and actions taken in all disciplinary inquiries within the Church.

§ 5 Copies of all documents generated as a result of disciplinary actions will be sealed and placed in the Archives of the Church. Once sealed, such documents will not be viewed by any person whatsoever except the Presiding Bishop and those authorized to do so by civil law or by a majority vote of the College of Bishops of the UACC.

§ 6 Any member of the Clergy who shall knowingly violate the provisions of this amendment shall be guilty of grave canonical disobedience and, upon conviction thereof in the manner prescribed by the Constitution and Canons of the UACC, shall be released and excommunicated from the Clergy of the UACC.

### **Canon III – 1.22 Disciplinary Penalties for Clergy**

§ 1 The penalties which may be assessed against a member of the Clergy found guilty of misconduct may include but are not limited to: suspension from the Clergy, removal from office, and/or expulsion from the Clergy of the UACC. Other penalties may also be imposed at the discretion of those authorized to impose a penalty by this Constitution and Code of Canons.

- (a) Those found guilty by a tribunal of a minor offense against this Code of Canons and Constitution, or of a minor instance of willful canonical disobedience to a lawful superior shall be penalized as the Ordinary or College of Bishops may decide but not more than suspension from the Clergy of the UACC for not more than one (1) year.
- (b) Those found guilty by a tribunal of a serious offense against this Code of Canons and Constitution, serious willful canonical disobedience to a lawful superior, or a serious offense against the unity of the Church shall be penalized as the Ordinary or College of Bishops may decide, but not more than suspension from the Clergy of the UACC for not more than five (5) years.
- (c) Those found guilty by a tribunal of a grave offense against this Constitution and Code of Canons, grave willful canonical disobedience to a lawful superior, or a grave offense against the unity of the Church shall be expelled from the Clergy of the UACC.

### **Canon III – 1.23 Actions in Cases of Alleged Civil or Criminal Conduct by the Clergy**

**Canon III – 1.24 Actions in Cases of Mental Illness and Addiction in the Clergy**

§ 1 Mental illness, for purposes of this Constitution, will be defined as any psychological defect or pathology that adversely impairs the cognitive and/or judgmental faculties, emotional, or interpersonal abilities of the Clergy member as determined by a qualified professional.

§ 2 Addiction, for purposes of this Constitution and Code of Canons, will be defined as dependence upon chemical substances that adversely impairs the cognitive and/or judgmental faculties of the Clergy member as determined by a qualified professional.

§ 3 If it is determined by an investigation that a Priest, Deacon, or Auxiliary Bishop is mentally ill or addicted in any way, the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction may take whatever steps the Bishop deems appropriate with the intention of healing the addicted member of the Clergy, being ever mindful of their duty to care for the souls entrusted to them and the wellbeing of the Church.

§ 4 If it is determined by the College of Bishops that a Diocesan Bishop, or the Presiding Bishop, is mentally ill or addicted as defined by this constitution in any way the College of Bishops may take whatever steps the General Synod deems appropriate with the intention of healing the addicted Bishop, being ever mindful of their duty to care for the souls entrusted to the Bishop and the wellbeing of the Church.

§ 5 If in the opinion of the competent medical authority, the mental illness or addiction of the Clergy member is so debilitating that they is unable to fulfill their respective duties to the People of God, they may be placed on involuntary leave of absence until as they is again able to resume their duties, at the sole discretion of the authority who originally placed them on leave or their lawful successor.

§ 6 If the alleged addicted or mentally ill Clergy member declines to receive treatment, or repeatedly relapses into their condition, they may be released from the Clergy of the UACC by the competent authority herein defined without prejudice for the pastoral good of the People of God and the good of the Church.

**Canon III – 1.25 Right of Appeal**

§ 1 Any member of the Clergy on whom any reprimand, penalty, or any adverse decision or action is imposed shall have the right to appeal that judgment.

§ 2 In appeals of disciplinary actions, only the one subject to a penalty (i.e. the defendant or accused) may appeal a judgment. In other matters, an appeal may be initiated by either party.

§ 3 Appeals are first heard by the Chancellor of the UACC in their role as arbiter of this Constitution and Code of Canons. They may sustain or reject the appeal. Rejected appeals may be appealed next to the College of Bishops.

§ 4 The College of Bishops, acting its appellate role, may decide appeals by review of the record or may take testimony at its sole discretion.

§ 5 The Presiding Bishop shall preside at all appeals to the College of Bishops.

§ 6 During the appeal, all actions against the appellant, except involuntary leave of absence, will be held in abeyance. A simple majority of those voting shall be sufficient to sustain or reject the appeal.

§ 7 In an appeal, the decision of the College of Bishops is final and binding.

## **Chapter 2. The Bishops of the UACC**

### **Canon III – 2.0 The Bishop**

§ 1 A Bishop is one who has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Order of Bishop from another Bishop who possesses valid Apostolic Succession. In the conferral of this Holy Order, Bishops receive the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, are made pastors of Christ's Church, successors of the Apostles, and teachers of the Holy Faith.

§ 2 As Christ established twelve Apostles, and not just one, so it is that each Bishop, as successor to the Apostles, exercises a ministry which is theirs by right of ordination and not as a delegation of some other prelate. Auxiliary Bishops may be subordinate in function to the Diocesan Bishop and owe them obedience as the head of the Diocese, but they are, nevertheless, equal in Sacramental authority and episcopal dignity. The relationship of Bishops, one to another, is fraternal and collegial.

### **Canon III – 2.1 Qualifications of Bishops**

§ 1 Qualifications for the UACC Bishops are:

- (a) No person shall be a Bishop in the UACC who has not attained thirty-five (35) years of age.
- (b) No person shall be a Bishop in the UACC who has not validly received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Holy Orders in the Order of Deacon and Presbyter.
- (c) No person shall be a Bishop in the UACC who has not functioned in the Order of Presbyter or Bishop for at least five (5) years.
- (d) No person shall be a Bishop in the UACC who has not served as the Head of a Ministry, as a Pastor of a Parish or Mission within the UACC for at least one (1) year.

- (e) No person shall be a Bishop in the UACC who has not been elected to the Order of Bishop.
- (f) No person shall be a Bishop in the UACC who has been convicted of a crime, except minor traffic violations, without the express review and unanimous approval of the College of Bishops.
- (g) No person shall be a Bishop in the UACC who is actively addicted to any substance.
- (h) No person shall be a Bishop in the UACC who has an active mental illness.
- (i) No person shall be a Bishop in the UACC who is given to violent behavior.
- (j) No person shall be a Bishop in the UACC who has demonstrated an inability to manage their personal and professional affairs.
- (k) No person shall be incardinated as a Bishop within the UACC from a jurisdiction, other than an internal UACC jurisdiction, who has not completed a period of probation. The duration will be set by the College of Bishops and will be of sufficient length to permit the candidate's attendance at not fewer than two (2) meetings of the Synod. During a probation period, the candidate shall not function in an episcopal capacity within the UACC except as stated in this constitution or as deemed appropriate by the College of Bishops for the pastoral needs of the Church.

§ 2 In extraordinary circumstances of the most extreme nature, in its sole discretion, the College of Bishops, by unanimous consent, may waive any requirement for the Office of Bishop for individual candidates except for the valid reception of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, and Holy Orders in the Order of Deacon and Presbyter.

### **Canon III – 2.2 Election of Bishops**

§ 1 A Bishop shall be elected to their office. They may be elected by the College of Bishops acting alone or by the People of God. If elected by the People of God, the College of Bishops must independently confirm the election, either by vote or by the expiration of the time limit for such confirmation imposed by this Constitution and Code of Canons.

§ 2 Procedures for election to episcopal duties of those already in the Holy Order of Bishop are the same as those who are not yet in that Order except that they do not require consecration to the Holy Order of Bishop.

§ 3 In the context of these procedures, the term "People of God" will be construed to include all persons who are members of the UACC: Lay, Clergy, and Religious; who shall be under the care of the candidate if they are elected. In this context, persons who are not members of the UACC, even if they receive ministry from the UACC Clergy and/or persons who will not receive pastoral care from the candidate if they are elected, may not initiate or vote in the Election of a Bishop.

§ 4 Actions in connection with the election of a Bishop herein assigned to any individual or group shall be performed as a Sacred Trust to be accomplished expeditiously, fairly, and without

prejudice, vindictiveness, malice, favoritism, or preference. Failure to perform these Sacred roles in a manner in keeping with the spirit of this Constitution will be deemed a grave violation of canonical obedience and an offense against the unity of the Church.

§ 5 A candidate for Bishop may decline election without stating a reason.

§ 6 The election of a candidate to the Order of Bishop by the People of God ought not to be rejected by the College of Bishops except for serious cause. Therefore, grounds for rejection of a Bishop-elect by the College of Bishops shall be limited to:

- (a) Proven moral turpitude.
- (b) Heresy, apostasy, schism, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by the UACC in effect at the time of the election.
- (c) Allegation or conviction of a civil felony or misdemeanor with a penalty of incarceration (even if such incarceration was suspended).
- (d) Proven coercion or fraud in the election.
- (e) Lack of qualification of the candidate for the Order of Bishop as defined herein.
- (f) Any sufficiently grave matter which, in the opinion of the College of Bishops, warrants rejection of the Bishop-elect.

§ 7 The confirmation of the election by the People of God of a candidate to the Order of Bishop by the College of Bishops, whether by express action or by the expiration of the time limit for their action, is final and not subject to confirmation or veto by any person or group whatsoever.

§ 8 Signatures on a Document of Election which are fraudulent, coerced, or which cannot be verified will be void, and the total of the vote will be adjusted as if they were not cast. However, they will not, individually, invalidate the entire election. The election will be invalid only if a simple majority of the votes cast are determined to be invalid or fraudulent, or if the candidate was complicitous in the fraud or coercion.

§ 9 A Document of Election of a Bishop will include:

- (a) A request that a Bishop be consecrated or installed in a named position (e.g. Diocesan Bishop or Auxiliary Bishop).
- (b) Name of a specific candidate.
- (c) The requested position and candidate's name will appear on each page of the Document of Election.
- (d) The Document will include space for a signature, printed name, telephone number and/or mailing address for each voting member.
- (e) It will also include space for the voting member to accept or reject the candidate.

**Canon III – 2.2.1 Election of a Bishop initiated by the College of Bishops**

§ 1 When the College of Bishops perceives the need for a Bishop, the College of Bishops may elect a Bishop on its own initiative. A candidate is elected if a simple majority of the College of Bishops agree to their election. The Diocesan Bishop of the Candidate shall immediately notify the Bishop-elect of their election and obtain their consent to the election.

§ 2 If the Bishop-elect accepts election and is a Presbyter, the Bishop-elect shall then select three (3) Bishops from the College of Bishops to be their consecrating Bishops. He shall also set a mutually agreeable date for their consecration. Such date will occur as soon as practical after the election of the Bishop and within ninety (90) days.

§ 3 If the Bishop-elect accepts election and is already a Bishop, they shall select at least one Bishop from the College of Bishops to preside at their liturgical installation.

**Canon III – 2.2.2 Election of a Bishop in Ordinary Circumstances**

§ 1 In most circumstances, the election of a Bishop is not initiated by the College of Bishops but is initiated due to events in the life of the Church. These events include the vacancy in the office of Diocesan Bishop in a new Diocese; upon the death, resignation, deposition, or retirement of a Diocesan Bishop; the requirement by a Diocesan Bishop for an Auxiliary Bishop; or the perceived need by the People of God for a Bishop. The procedures herein governing such circumstances will be followed.

§ 2 Election of a Bishop in these circumstances belongs solely to the College of Bishops and/or the Diocese involved and not to a single Parish or Ministry.

**Canon III – 2.2.3 Election of a Diocesan Bishop**

§ 1 When there is a vacancy in the office of Diocesan Bishop for any cause, the Diocesan Administrator as herein defined shall select a candidate from among the eligible Presbyters or Bishops of the Diocese and initiate the election of a Bishop. The election will be initiated within thirty (30) days of the office becoming vacant, or the creation of the Diocese, and will follow the procedures defined herein for the election of a Bishop by the People of God.

**Canon III – 2.2.4 Election of Auxiliary Bishops**

§ 1 When a Diocesan Bishop perceives the need for an Auxiliary Bishop, they select a candidate for the position from among their Presbyters or Bishops and initiates an election of a Bishop which will conform to the procedures for the election of a Bishop herein defined.

### **Canon III – 2.2.5 Election of a Bishop Initiated by the People of God**

§ 1 When the People of God determine a need for a Bishop to serve them, they may elect a Bishop on their own initiative by following the procedures herein specified.

### **Canon III – 2.2.6 Conduct of the Election of a Bishop**

§ 1 Except when a Bishop is elected solely by the College of Bishops, each Bishop will be elected by a vote of the People of God.

§ 2 Each election of a Bishop by the People of God will be confirmed by the College of Bishops by a simple majority vote.

§ 3 To accomplish an election of a Bishop in ordinary circumstances, a Document of Election will be created specifying the candidate by name and the position or office they shall fill as Bishop. A copy of this Document of Election will be made available in all parishes and missions in which the candidate will serve as Bishop at each Sunday Mass for four (4) consecutive Sundays for the consideration, and vote by the People of God.

§ 4 To vote, each member voting will complete the Document of Election with their full name signature, printed name, telephone number and/or mailing address.

§ 5 Only those persons who are members of the UACC, who will be served by the proposed Bishop, and who are at least eighteen (18) years of age may vote in the election of a Bishop.

§ 6 At the conclusion of the time for voting, the Document of Election will be forwarded to the Diocesan Bishop or Diocesan Administrator. It is their duty to assure them of the fairness and accuracy of the election. The specific procedure they shall follow to accomplish this is in their sole discretion.

§ 7 The Diocesan Bishop or Diocesan Administrator shall tally all valid votes for and against the candidate. This tally will be completed within ten (10) calendar days of the conclusion of the election. A candidate is elected if a simple majority of the verified signatures on the Document of Election agree to their election as Bishop.

§ 8 If the voting resulted in the election of a Bishop, the Diocesan Bishop or Diocesan Administrator will certify authenticity and results of the election to the College of Bishops immediately. If the tally of votes does not result in an election, they will return the Document of Election to its point of origin, certifying that there were insufficient votes for election.

§ 9 The College of Bishops shall have ten (10) calendar days from the date of notification of a valid election to accept or reject the election of the Bishop-elect by a simple majority vote. If the College of Bishops rejects the election, it shall notify the People of God through the



Diocesan Bishop or Diocesan Administrator of its decision and shall include an appropriate explanation for its decision.

§ 10 If the College of Bishops accepts the election or if the General Synod fails to reject the election within the specified period, the election results become final pending the acceptance of the election by the Bishop-elect. No further confirmation of the election by any person is required.

§ 11 The Diocesan Bishop or Diocesan Administrator will immediately notify the Bishop-elect of the confirmation of their election and obtain their consent to the election.

§ 12 If the Bishop-elect declines election, the election results will be void and the Diocesan Bishop or Diocesan Administrator shall so notify the People of God and reinitiate the process of election.

§ 13 If the Bishop-elect accepts the election, and is a Presbyter, the Bishop-elect will select three (3) Bishops from the College of Bishops to be their Consecrating Bishops. They shall arrange a mutually agreeable date for the Consecration ceremony which will occur as soon as practical after the election of the Bishop and not later than ninety (90) calendar days from the date of election of the Bishop-elect.

§ 14 If the Bishop-elect accepts election and is already in the Holy Order of Bishop (e.g. one who was incardinated from another Communion or in circumstances where an Auxiliary or Coadjutor Bishop in another Diocese is elected to be Diocesan Bishop of a Diocese not their own), they shall select at least one (1) Bishop from the College of Bishops to preside at their liturgical installation. The installing Bishop shall be the Diocesan Bishop for their Coadjutor and/or Auxiliary Bishop.

### **Canon III – 2.3 Consecration/Ordination of Bishops**

§ 1 All Bishops of the UACC shall be Ordained to the Order of Bishop according to rites approved for the UACC by the College of Bishops. At this time, only the Roman Rite of ordination will be used for the ordination of Bishops in the UACC, unless an exception is expressly authorized by the College of Bishops.

§ 2 Consecration to the episcopacy imparts a permanent Charism. While a Bishop may resign, retire, be deposed, and/or removed from exercising their ministry, they, nevertheless, never ceases to be a Bishop once validly consecrated.

§ 3 At least three (3) Bishops from the College of Bishops of the UACC shall act as consecrating Bishops, according to ancient custom, except in extraordinary circumstances where a single Bishop from the College of Bishops may ordain. In an emergency, Bishops from another

communion may act as principal and co-consecrators in the ordination of the UACC Bishop, but this shall be permitted only in the most extreme circumstances.

§ 4 The UACC Bishops shall not participate in consecrations for Bishops of any communion except that which the UACC and those communions with which the UACC holds a current formal concordat of inter-communion without the express unanimous agreement of the College of Bishops.

### **Canon III – 2.4 Duties, Rights, and Privileges of Bishops**

§ 1 A Bishops has the duty to minister the Sacraments for which they are the Ordinary Minister in addition to those of the Presbyteral Order, Confirmation, and Holy Orders.

§ 2 A Bishops has the duty to lead, guide, and shepherd the People of God

§ 3 A Bishop has the duty to celebrate the Holy Eucharist at least once each week on Sunday for the intention of the People of God under their Episcopal Care

§ 4 A Bishop has the duty to teach the Gospel.

§ 5 A Bishop has the duty to consecrate articles and implements used in worship.

§ 6 A Bishop has the duty to preside in ecclesiastical disciplinary proceedings of Presbyters and Deacons, to judge in disciplinary proceedings of Bishops, and to affix penalty to all who are found guilty in either type of proceeding.

§ 7 A Bishops has the duty to attend all meetings of the General Synod and to vote as a member of the College of Bishops in matters of their jurisdiction.

§ 8 Within the scope of their jurisdiction, a Bishop has the duty to implement this Constitution and all legislation enacted by the General Synod.

§ 9 A Bishop has the unrestricted right to be heard and consulted in all matters concerning the governance of the Church. According to their assigned ministry, they may have additional rights, authority, and privileges.

§ 10 By virtue of their ordination to the Orders of Presbyter and Deacon, a Bishop retains all rights, privileges, and duties of those Orders.

### **Canon III – 2.5 Archbishops and Metropolitan Bishops**

§ 1 The title and office of Archbishop and/or Metropolitan Bishop and its attendant rights and privileges is granted to and held only by the Presiding Bishop of the UACC as elected by the

College of Bishops. Upon retirement, the Archbishop of the Church holds the title Archbishop Emeritus.

### **Canon III – 2.6 The Diocesan Bishop**

§ 1 The head of a Diocese is the Diocesan Bishop. In this capacity, they are also known as the Ordinary. The Diocesan Bishop is the visible manifestation of the Church within the Diocese and serves as a teacher, shepherd, ruler, and judge of all matters for that Diocese. Therefore, in general, the Diocesan Bishop governs and shepherds their own Diocese at their sole discretion. The actions, legislation, and decisions of the Diocesan Bishop are subject to review and revocation only by the College of Bishops if formally appealed under provisions herein defined, and/or under circumstance in which the Diocesan Bishop's orthodox teaching is questioned or they is in alleged violation this Constitution or such other national legislation as the College of Bishops may enact, or there are allegations of misconduct or addiction.

§ 2 All duties, rights, and privileges of Bishops apply to Diocesan Bishops.

§ 3 Wherever herein the term Diocesan Bishop applies to some duty, right, or privilege appertaining to that office such reference will equally apply to an Apostolic Vicar within and for their Vicariate.

§ 4 A Diocesan Bishop shall reside within the boundaries of their Diocese. If a Diocesan Bishop relocates their residence to a place which is outside their own Diocese they ceases to be a Diocesan Bishop as an operation of law. In so doing they relinquishes all duties, rights, and privileges appertaining to the Office of Diocesan Bishop which are not granted by right of Sacramental Ordination.

§ 5 If the new residence of a former Diocesan Bishop who has relocated their residence outside their prior Diocese is within the boundaries of another Diocese, they immediately becomes subordinate to the Diocesan Bishop of the Diocese into which they has relocated and may exercise ministry there only with grant of faculty from the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction. Such faculties will be presbyteral unless the Diocesan Bishop requests that the newly arrived Bishop assume the duties of Auxiliary or Coadjutor Bishop and such request is approved by the College of Bishops.

§ 6 If the new place of residence of a former Diocesan Bishop who has relocated their residence outside their own Diocese is within an Apostolic Vicariate, they immediately assumes duties as Apostolic Vicar, replacing the current Apostolic Vicar as an operation of law, and may petition the College of Bishops to erect the Vicariate, or a portion thereof, as a Diocese.

§ 7 The place of residence of a Diocesan Bishop will be defined as that location which is their residence for purposes of civil law. Such residence will be reported and maintained current with the Presiding Bishop.

§ 8 No person shall hold the office of Diocesan Bishop, Auxiliary, in more than one Diocese simultaneously. However, Diocesan Bishops may function as Ordinary in a Diocese other than their own while remaining Diocesan Bishop when they are acting as Diocesan Administrator during a vacancy in the office of Diocesan Bishop of another Diocese, or in the capacity as Apostolic Vicar in an area not incorporated into a Diocese.

§ 9 By virtue of office, Diocesan Bishops possess faculties for all Sacraments within their own Diocese.

§ 10 Diocesan Bishops are ranked by date of consecration or incardination into the UACC, whichever is later, and are next behind the Presiding Bishop in precedence. Within their own Diocese, however, the Diocesan has right of precedence over all Bishops excluding the Presiding Bishop.

§ 11 A Diocesan Bishop is elected to their post by the procedures contained in this Constitution for such election.

§ 12 The Diocesan Bishop has the duty to select and train worthy candidates for Holy Orders. To this end, each Diocesan Bishop shall create and maintain a program of initial and continuing education for candidates and members of the Clergy.

§ 13 By virtue of office, the Diocesan Bishop has the unrestricted right to ordain any person meeting the qualifications contained in this Constitution to the Order of Presbyter or Deacon within and for their own Diocese at their sole discretion and subject to review by no other.

§ 14 All Diocesan Bishops shall be personally engaged in active Ministry to the People of God within their Diocese. Such ministry must include the regular celebration of the Holy Eucharist at their Cathedral Parish.

§ 15 Each Diocesan Bishop shall designate one of the UACC Parishes under their jurisdiction to be their Cathedral Parish at which they shall celebrate the Holy Eucharist and preach not less than one (1) Sunday each month.

§ 16 The term of office of a Diocesan Bishop shall be the remainder of the Bishop's life unless the Bishop shall resign, retire, or be deposed.

§ 17 In and for their own Diocese, Diocesan Bishops possess the right to appoint and depose subordinates to/from their respective duties and ministries in their sole discretion, subject to such restrictions as may be imposed on such appointments and depositions by this Constitution and such national legislation as may be enacted by the Synod.

§ 18 Diocesan Bishops shall visit each Parish in their Diocese located within 250 miles of their residence at least once each year. Parishes located at distances greater than 250 miles from their

residences shall be visited at least biennially. Parishes shall provide financial support to their Diocesan Bishop to facilitate accomplishing the visits if needed.

§ 19 Additional duties, enumerated elsewhere in this Code of Canons or Constitution are imposed on Diocesan Bishops.

### **Canon III – 2.6.1 Vacancy in the Office of Diocesan Bishop**

§ 1 When the office of Diocesan Bishop falls vacant for any cause whatsoever, the Auxiliary or the Chancellor of the Diocese assumes the duties of Diocesan Administrator and shall proceed to elect a new Diocesan Bishop, according to procedures set forth herein for the election of a Diocesan Bishop. The election will take place within thirty (30) calendar days of the date on which the office of Diocesan Bishop became empty.

§ 2 In the absence of an Auxiliary or Chancellor, the most senior Auxiliary Bishop, by date of incardination to the episcopacy of the UACC, assumes the duties of Diocesan Administrator and shall proceed to elect a new Diocesan Bishop, according to procedures set forth herein for the election of a Diocesan Bishop, within 30 calendar days of the date on which the office of Diocesan Bishop fell empty.

§ 3 In the absence of an Auxiliary Bishop, the nearest Diocesan Bishop shall assume the duties of Diocesan Administrator and shall proceed to elect a new Diocesan Bishop, according to procedures set forth herein for the election of a Diocesan Bishop, within 30 calendar days of the date on which the office of Diocesan Bishop fell empty.

### **Canon III – 2.7 Auxiliary Bishops**

§ 1 An Auxiliary Bishop is a Suffragan Bishop without the right of succession. Auxiliary Bishops may be selected by a Diocesan Bishop. Upon such selection, the procedures for the election of an Auxiliary Bishop in this Code of Canons and the Constitution will be followed.

§ 2 Auxiliary Bishops are ranked by their date of incardination into the episcopacy of the UACC. Regardless of their date of incardination into the episcopacy of the UACC, Auxiliary Bishops rank in precedence after the Diocesan Bishop.

§ 3 Auxiliary Bishops are subordinate to their Diocesan Bishop. Duties of Auxiliary Bishops are assigned and faculties granted by the Diocesan Bishop.

§ 4 The term of office of an Auxiliary Bishop will be the remainder of the Bishop's life unless the Bishop shall earlier be reassigned, resign, retire, or be deposed.

## **Chapter 3. Vicars and Canons**

### **Canon III – 3.0 General Definition of Vicars**

§ 1 A Vicar acts as the representative of another with the power and authority of the one in whose name they acts.

§ 2 The General Synod, the College of Bishops, a Diocesan Bishop, and the Head of a Religious Order may create Vicars.

§ 3 In the creation of a Vicar, the person so making the Vicar delegates some portion of their/its Ordinary authority and power to the Vicar to fulfill some role or duty. The degree and terms of such delegation are at the discretion of the person creating the Vicar.

§ 4 Vicars have no order of precedence except that conferred by their Holy Orders. Vicars may not exercise Sacramental Powers which are not theirs by right of Holy Orders.

### **Canon III – 3.1 Apostolic Vicars**

§ 1 In Apostolic Vicariates the nearest Diocesan Bishop assumes the pastoral care of an area in which there is, as yet, no Diocese. He does so under the role of Apostolic Vicar.

§ 2 Apostolic Vicars exercise all duties, rights, and privileges appertaining to Diocesan Bishops in and for the Vicariate, except that they are excused from requirements to celebrate the Holy Eucharist monthly in their Vicariate if travel distances make that impractical.

§ 3 Apostolic Vicars assume this role as an operation of law based on their proximity to the Apostolic Vicariate which they serves.

§ 4 The territory of the Vicariate of an Apostolic Vicar should be expressly established by the College of Bishops to avoid confusion.

§ 5 Apostolic Vicars shall visit the parishes of their Vicariate at least biennially.

### **Canon III – 3.2 Diocesan Vicars**

§ 1 A Diocesan Vicar is a member of the Clergy appointed by the Diocesan Bishop to fulfill a specific role in the Diocese.

§ 2 The authority, duties, rights, and privileges of a Diocesan Vicar are established by the Diocesan Bishop when creating the Vicar.

**Canon III – 3.3 Parochial Vicars (Associate Pastors/Assistant Pastor/Curate)**

§ 1 A Parochial Vicar is a Priest or Deacon who has been assigned to assist a Pastor in the care of the People of God. This office is also known as Assistant Pastor or Curate.

§ 2 A Parochial Vicar is appointed to this role by the Diocesan Bishop and serves at the direction and is subordinate to the Pastor.

§ 3 All duties, responsibilities, and privileges appertaining to Priests or Deacons (as applicable to the individual's Holy Order) apply to Parochial Vicars.

**Canon III – 3.4 Canons to the Archbishop Defined**

§ 1 Canon to the Archbishop serves both as a title of honor and of duty within the UACC. Canons to the Archbishop serve as an advisory function to the Archbishop and shall be appointed by them, at their discretion, for the good of the Church. Canons to the Archbishop may be assigned to head commissions and/or projects by the Archbishop to serve the National Church.

**Canon III – 3.4.1 Dean of Canons**

§ 1 A Dean of Canons to the Archbishop may be appointed by the Presiding Bishop as overseer of the Canons. The Dean acts as the liaison between Canons of the Archbishop and the Archbishop, and coordinator of commissions and projects as assigned

**Chapter 4. Pastors**

**Canon III – 4.0 Pastors defined**

§ 1 A Pastor is one who possesses at least the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Order of Presbyter and who has been given the responsibility of leading the People of God within a certain portion of a Diocese or Apostolic Vicariate called a Parish or Mission.

§ 2 The term Rector in relation to the Priest in charge of a Cathedral Parish is essentially synonymous with Pastor.

**Canon III – 4.1 Duties, rights, and privileges of Pastors**

§ 1 A Pastor has the duty to lead, guide, and shepherd the People of God within their care

§ 2 A Pastor has the duty to minister the Sacraments for which they are the ordinary minister, i.e., in addition to those of the Diaconate: Reconciliation, and Anointing the Sick.

§ 3 A Pastor has the duty to celebrate the Holy Eucharist at least once each week on Sunday for the intention of the People of God under their Pastoral Care

§ 4 A Pastor has the duty to teach the Gospel.

§ 5 A Pastor has the duty to attend all meetings of the General Synod and to vote as a member of the General Synod in matters of their jurisdiction.

§ 6 A Pastors has the duty, within the scope of their authority, to implement this Code of Canons and Constitution and all legislation enacted by the General Synod.

§ 7 A Pastor possesses all ordinary, proper, and immediate power and authority necessary for their office, except those powers and authority reserved to some other ecclesiastical office and subject to faculties granted by the Diocesan Bishop.

§ 8 A Pastor possesses the unrestricted right to be heard by their Diocesan Bishop.

§ 9 A Pastor ranks in precedence next behind Auxiliary Bishops by date of their incardination into the UACC.

§ 10 A Pastor shall celebrate the Holy Eucharist within their Parish at least twice each month.

§ 11 All duties, rights, and privileges appertaining to Priests apply to Pastors as well. Additional duties as assigned to Pastors by this Code of Canons and Constitution.

### **Canon III – 4.2 Appointment of Pastors**

§ 1 Pastors are appointed to their offices by the Diocesan Bishop at their sole discretion. The term of office of a Pastor is the remainder of their life unless they is reassigned, resigns, retires, or is removed from their office by the Diocesan Bishop or in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and Code of Canons.

§ 2 In selecting Priests for the office of Pastor, the Diocesan Bishop shall seek candidates who are proven shepherds; persons of tact, holiness, skill, and love of God, His People, and the Sacraments.

## **Chapter 5. Priests**

### **Canon III – 5.0 Priests defined**

§ 1 A Priest is one who has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Order of Presbyter.

§ 2 Ordination to the Order of Presbyter imparts a permanent Charism. While a Priest may resign, retire, be deposed and/or removed from exercising their Ministry, they nevertheless, never ceases to be a Priest once ordained.



§ 3 Priests possess all ordinary, proper, and immediate power and authority necessary for their duties, except those powers and authority reserved to some other ecclesiastical office and subject to the faculties granted them by their Diocesan Bishop.

§ 4 By virtue of their ordination to the Order of Deacon, Priests retain all duties, rights, and privileges of that Order.

§ 5 Priests are appointed to their duties by their Diocesan Bishop. In appointing a Priest to a duty, the Diocesan Bishop shall not impose any financial, spiritual, familial, or other burden upon the Priest without their free consent. The Diocesan Bishop may reassign Priests to other duties at any time in their sole discretion, subject to the foregoing restriction.

§ 6 Priests of the UACC shall be ordained by rites approved by the College of Bishops for use in the UACC.

### **Canon III – 5.1 Duties, rights, and privileges of Priests**

§ 1 A Priest has the duty to lead, guide, and shepherd the People of God within their care.

§ 2 A Priest has the duty to minister the Sacraments for which they are the Ordinary Minister in addition to those of the Diaconal Order: Reconciliation, and Anointing the Sick.

§ 3 A Priest has the duty to celebrate the Holy Eucharist at least once each week on Sunday.

§ 4 A Priest has the duty to teach the Gospel.

§ 5 A Priest has the duty to attend all meetings of the General Synod and to vote as a member of the General Synod in matters of their jurisdiction.

§ 6 A Priest has the duty to obey their lawful superior in all matters that pertain to the UACC.

§ 7 A Priest possesses the unrestricted right to be heard by their Diocesan Bishop.

§ 8 By virtue of their ordination, a Priest, who is in good standing, has the right to celebrate the Sacraments of which they are the Ordinary Minister subject to the faculties granted by their Diocesan Bishop.

§ 9 By virtue of their ordination, a Priest has the right to reserve the Most Blessed Sacrament in their private chapel or oratory for any legitimate purpose. Priests shall exercise due care and caution in exercising this right and shall arrange for the proper disposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the event of their death.

§ 10 A Priest may not celebrate the Sacraments in a Diocese not their own without the approval of the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction. Such approval may be verbal or written

and, when granted, constitutes temporary faculty. The Diocesan Bishop will determine any restrictions as to time, place, or Sacrament for which they grant such temporary faculty in their sole discretion. Permission to publicly celebrate any Sacrament may be withheld by the Diocesan Bishop from any Clergy without explanation at their sole discretion.

### **Canon III – 5.2 Qualifications and Training of Priests**

§ 1 UACC Priests shall possess the following qualifications:

- (a) No person shall be a Priest in the UACC who has not attained their 25th year.
- (b) No person shall be a Priest in the UACC who has not validly received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and Holy Orders in the Order of Deacon.
- (c) No person shall be a Priest in the UACC who has not successfully completed a screening process and course of study prescribed by this Constitution. The completion of study does not guarantee ordination.
- (d) No person shall be a Priest in the UACC who has not been found worthy of the Order of Presbyter by due trial and examination.
- (e) No person shall be a Priest in the UACC who has been convicted of a crime, except minor traffic violations, without the express review and unanimous approval of the candidate for Orders by College of Bishops to who all such candidates shall be referred.
- (f) No person shall be a Priest in the UACC who is actively addicted to any substance.
- (g) No person shall be a Priest in the UACC who has an active mental illness.
- (h) No person shall be a Priest in the UACC is given to violent behavior.
- (i) No person shall be a Priest in the UACC who has demonstrated an inability to manage their personal and professional affairs.

§ 2 In extraordinary circumstances of the most extreme nature, at its sole discretion, the College of Bishops, by a majority, may waive any requirement for the office of Priesthood for individual candidates except for the valid reception of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, and Holy Orders in the Order of Deacon and Presbyter.

## **Chapter 6. Deacons**

### **Canon III – 6.0 Deacons Defined**

§ 1 A Deacon is one who has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Order of Deacon. Deacons may be permanent or transitional. Deacons are subordinate directly to the Diocesan Bishop only unless assigned duties which are subordinate to another.

§ 2 A Deacon appointed to their duties by their Diocesan Bishop. In appointing a Deacon to a duty, the Diocesan Bishop shall not impose any financial, spiritual, family, or other burden upon the Deacon without their free consent. The Diocesan Bishop may reassign Deacons to other duties at any time in their sole discretion, subject to the foregoing restriction.

§ 3 Deacons shall be ordained by rites approved by the College of Bishops for use in the UACC.

**Chapter 6.1 Duties, Rights, and Privileges of Deacons**

§ 1 A Deacon is a Minister of Service, Word and Sacrament.

§ 2 A Deacons has the duty to be an Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

§ 3 A Deacons has the duty to prepare the altar and the elements for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist

§ 4 A Deacons has the duty to Minister the cup during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist

§ 5 A Deacons has the duty to solemnly Baptize.

§ 6 A Deacons has the duty to officiate at marriages where permitted by civil law.

§ 7 A Deacons has the duty to solemnly proclaim the Gospel.

§ 8 A Deacons has the duty to preach when granted faculties by the Diocesan Bishop and/or permitted by the Pastor.

§ 9 By virtue of their ordination, A Deacon who is in good standing have the right to celebrate the Sacraments of which they are the Ordinary Minister subject to faculties granted by their Diocesan Bishop.

§ 10 A Deacon possesses the unrestricted right to be heard by their Diocesan Bishop.

§ 11 A Deacon has the duty to attend all meetings of the General Synod and to vote as a member of the General Synod in matters of their jurisdiction.

§ 12 A Deacons has the duty to obey their lawful superior in all matters that pertain to the UACC.

**Canon III – 6.2 Qualifications and Training of Deacons**

§ 1 UACC Deacons shall meet the following qualifications:

- (a) No person shall be a Deacon in the UACC who has not attained their 21st year.
- (b) No person shall be a Deacon in the UACC who has not validly received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

- (c) No person shall be a Deacon in the UACC who has not successfully completed the screening process and course of study prescribed by this Constitution and Code of Canons. The completion of study does not guarantee ordination.
- (d) No person shall be a Deacon in the UACC who has not been found worthy by trial and examination of the Order of Deacon.
- (e) No person shall be a Deacon in the UACC who has been convicted of a crime, except minor traffic violations, without the express review and unanimous approval of the candidate for Orders by College of Bishops to whom all such candidates shall be referred.
- (f) No person shall be a Deacon in the UACC who is actively addicted to any substance.
- (g) No person shall be a Deacon in the UACC who has an active mental illness.
- (h) No person shall be a Deacon in the UACC who is given to violent behavior.
- (i) No person shall be a Deacon in the UACC who has demonstrated an inability to manage their personal and professional affairs.

§ 2 In extraordinary circumstances of the most extreme nature, in its sole discretion, the College of Bishops, by a majority, may waive any requirement for the Office of Deacon for individual candidates except for the valid reception of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation or Holy Orders in the Order of Deacon.

### **Canon III – 6.3 Faculties of Deacons**

§ 1 The right to publicly celebrate the Sacraments or Preach by Deacons is granted by the Diocesan Bishop. No Deacon shall presume to publicly celebrate the Holy Sacraments without permission and a grant of faculties from the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction. Such approval may be verbal or written and, when granted, constitutes temporary faculty. The Diocesan Bishop will determine any restrictions as to time, place, or Sacrament for which they grant such temporary faculty in their sole discretion. Permission to publicly celebrate any Sacrament may be withheld by the Diocesan Bishop from any Clergy without explanation at their sole discretion.

## **Chapter 7. Selection of Candidates for Ordination**

### **Canon III – 7.0 Selection for Ordination to the Diaconate and/or Priesthood**

§ 1 The Diocesan Bishop, in their sole discretion, possesses the right of selection of qualified candidates for the Order of Deacon and/or Presbyter. The foregoing notwithstanding, no person may be selected for ordination to the Order of Deacon and/or Presbyter who does not, at a minimum, possess the qualifications established herein and who has not successfully completed the admissions screening process and training defined herein.

## **CANON IV – RELIGIOUS ORDERS**

### **Chapter 1. General Regulation of Religious Orders**

#### **Canon IV – 1.0 Regulation of Religious Orders**

§ 1 Life consecrated by the profession of the Evangelical Counsels is a form of living by which members of the faithful, following Christ more closely under action of the Holy Spirit, are totally dedicated to God, Who is loved most of all; so that, having dedicated themselves to God's honor, the up-building of the Church, and the salvation of the world by a special title, they strive for the perfection of charity in service to the Kingdom of God and, having become an outstanding sign in the Church, they may foretell the heavenly glory.

§ 2 Christian faithful, who profess the Evangelical Counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience by vows or promises according to the proper laws of institutes, freely assume this form of living in institutes of consecrated life canonically erected by competent Church authority. Through the charity toward which these counsels lead, they are joined to the Church and its mystery in a special way.

§ 3 It belongs to the competent authority of the Church to interpret the Evangelical Counsels, to regulate its by-laws, to constitute stable forms of living by canonical approbation, and for its part, to take care that the institutes grow and flourish according to the spirit of its respective founder(s).

§ 4 Diocesan Bishops may erect or suppress institutes of consecrated living for their own territory by a formal decree. The College of Bishops may do so for the entire Church by formal decree.

§ 5 Each institute, keeping in mind its own character and purposes, will define in its Rule of Life and/or Constitutions, the manner in which the Evangelical Counsels will be observed for its way of living, and will further define the manner of its governance and administration.

§ 6 Members of Religious Orders who are Clergy exercise public Ministry within any Diocese at the sole discretion of the Diocesan Bishop and require a grant of faculties from the Diocesan Bishop for the celebration of any Sacrament or the Holy Eucharist.

§ 7 Diocesan Bishops may not interfere in the internal governance or administration of an Order. When a Diocesan Bishop is concurrently the head of a Religious Order, their actions in regards to the internal governance of that Order are limited by the scope of authority which the office of the head of that Order provides.

§ 8 The College of Bishops shall supervise the conduct of national Religious Orders and may suppress an Order for just cause. The Diocesan Bishop creating a Diocesan Religious Order does so for the Order(s) they create.

#### **Canon IV – 1.1 Procedures for Instituting a Religious Order**

§ 1 Persons desiring to form a national Religious Order in the UACC must present a Rule or Form of Life for the proposed Order to the College of Bishops, through their Diocesan Bishop, for approval. The Rule or Form of Life for a religious order which exists and ministers solely within a Diocese requires approval only by the Diocesan Bishop of that Diocese. The Rule or Form of Life may not contradict but must conform to the Constitution and Code of Canons of the UACC.

§ 2 The Diocesan Bishop or the College of Bishops may approve, disapprove or alter the proposed rule in its sole discretion.

§ 3 The College of Bishops shall act on the proposed Rule or Form of Life at the next regularly scheduled General Synod, failure to act within that time frame shall constitute acceptance of the Rule or Form of Life.

§ 4 Orders which do not include Clergy among their members will provide for the availability of a member of the Clergy of the UACC to act in the capacity of Spiritual Director. Such Director shall not be the Diocesan Bishop. Orders which include Clergy among their members will provide for Spiritual Direction from within their membership.

#### **Canon IV – 1.2 Lay Institutes, Third Orders, and Oblates**

§ 1 Members of the Laity may affiliate in confederations that seek to advance the holiness of the members while not requiring a profession of the evangelical counsels. These groups may be independent Lay Institutes or be affiliated with an existing Religious Order (a "Third" Order or Oblate status). Procedures for establishing such institutes are the same as those for Religious Orders.

§ 2 Oblates and members of Third Orders and Lay institutes are not Religious and do not change their current membership category within the UACC to the Religious category by virtue of such membership.

§ 3 Diocesan Clergy, who become Oblates or members of Third Orders remain in the status of Diocesan Clergy, subordinate to their respective Diocesan Bishop.

## **Chapter 2. The Evangelical Counsels for the UACC**

### **Canon IV – 2.0- The Evangelical Counsels as Interpreted by the UACC**

§ 1 Definition of the Evangelical Counsels for Religious of the UACC will be provided by the respective Order's Rule and/or Constitution.

## **Chapter 3. Discipline of Religious**

### **Canon IV – 3.0 Discipline and Censure of Members of Religious Orders**

§ 1 Members of Religious Orders will be disciplined according to procedures in their respective Rule or Constitution. If no such procedures exist, they may be disciplined or censured as the Head of the Order may direct. Additionally, members of Religious Orders who are also Clergy may be disciplined by procedures established in this Constitution for the discipline of the Clergy.

### **Canon IV – 3.1 Appeals of Disciplinary Actions by Members of Religious Orders**

§ 1 Any member of a Religious Order on whom any disciplinary censure or penalty is assessed under this Constitution or their respective Order's Rule or Constitution, and any Religious placed on an involuntary leave of absence, regardless of cause, shall have the right to appeal such action.

§ 2 All appeals of disciplinary action or imposition of involuntary leave of absence will first be heard by the Chancellor of the UACC in their role as arbiter of the Constitution and Code of Canons. The Chancellor of the UACC may sustain or reject the appeal.

§ 3 If the Order or the Religious is dissatisfied with the ruling by the Chancellor of the UACC either side has the right to appeal the issue to the College of Bishops, who may hear the appeal in person, via mail, telephone, or electronic means.

§ 4 During the appeal, all actions against the appellant are maintained. A simple majority vote of those voting will be sufficient to sustain or reject the appeal.

### **Canon IV – 3.2 Dispensation from Vows**

§ 1 The Diocesan Bishop of any Religious may dispense that Religious from their vows upon their voluntary application for such dispensation in their sole discretion. If the Religious is not in Orders they revert to the Lay status. If the Religious is in Orders, they revert to the status of Clergy.

§ 2 A Diocesan Bishop shall notify the Religious Superior of any Religious they dispense from Vows in writing within 10 calendar days of such dispensation.

§ 3 If the Superior of any Religious Order is also concurrently a Bishop, they may exercise the same authority granted in this Canon to Diocesan Bishops.

## **Chapter 4. Ministry by Religious**

### **Canon IV – 4.0 Ministry by Members of Religious Orders**

§ 1 Members of Religious Orders who are Clergy may minister to members of their own community, and to guests of that community, without grant of faculty by the Diocesan

Bishop. Sacramental Ministry in this circumstance expressly excludes the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and Matrimony and also excludes presiding at funeral services for persons who are not members of the Order.

§ 2 Religious Clergy are not subject to nor supervised in Ministry by the Diocesan Bishop, but by their respective Superior in the Order unless the respective Order's Rule or Constitution directs otherwise.

§ 3 Heads of Religious Orders shall closely coordinate the activities of their members engaged in Ministry within a Diocese with the Diocesan Bishop, recognizing that the Bishop bears ultimate responsibility for the pastoral care of the People of God within such Diocese, and shall comply with the Bishop's procedures and requirements at all times.

§ 4 No Religious Order shall presume to engage in public Ministry, nor to establish a monastery, convent, center, or other Residence of Religious of the Order without the express written permission of the Diocesan Bishop of that Diocese.

§ 5 Diocesan Bishops shall grant permission for Ministry and the establishment of Houses of Religious Orders except in extraordinary circumstances. Any such refusal will be immediately reported to the College of Bishops in writing together with written, detailed, specific reasons for such denial.

§ 6 The wearing of the religious habit must conform to these norms; the habit will be modest guided by tradition and established by the Order, the habit can be worn at all times when and where appropriate by celibate members of Religious Orders or members in a committed relationship blessed by the church, of which both are in the Order. All members in good standing with their Religious Orders may wear the habit at meetings of the Order, at national meetings of the UACC, and while on retreat. All Religious have the right to burial in the habit of their Order.



## **CANON V – THE LAITY OF THE UACC**

### **Chapter 1. The Laity of the UACC**

#### **Canon V – 1.0 The Laity of the UACC defined**

§ 1 All members of the UACC who are not members of the Clergy or Religious Orders are Lay members of the UACC, also known as the Laity.

#### **Canon V – 1.1 Rights of the Laity**

§ 1 The Laity have the right to participate in the Worship of the Church.

§ 2 The Laity have the right to be heard in matters regarding the organization and governance of the Diocese and Parish to which they belong.

§ 3 The Laity have the right to a say in matters regarding the financial affairs of the Parish and Diocese.

§ 4 The Laity have the right to elect their Diocesan Bishop, except in extraordinary circumstance where the Diocesan Bishop is elected by the College of Bishops.

§ 5 The Laity have the right to be consulted by the Pastor and Diocesan Bishop in all temporal matters of the Parish, Diocese, and National Church.

§ 6 The Laity have the right to membership in Lay Institutes, Third Orders, and as Lay members of Religious Orders subject to the Rule and Regulations approved for those institutes and Orders by the Synod.

§ 7 The Laity have the right to representation in the General Synod.

§ 8 The Laity have the right to full intellectual and spiritual freedom.

#### **Canon V – 1.2 Duties of the Laity**

§ 1 The Laity have the duty to follow the Teachings of Christ in the Gospel.

§ 2 The Laity have the duty to financially support their Parish, Diocese, and the UACC.

§ 3 The Laity have the duty to emotionally and spiritually support of their fellow Christians, Pastor, and Bishop.

§ 4 The Laity have the duty to participate regularly in the Worship and Life of the Ministry, Parish, or Mission to which they belong.

§ 5 The Laity have the duty to participate in all matters regarding the finances of the Parish and Diocese.

§ 6 The Laity have the duty to consult with the Pastor and/or Diocesan Bishop on all temporal matters of the Church.

§ 7 The Laity have the duty to attend the General Synod and to serve as elected Delegates to the Synod for their UACC Parish or Ministry. Lay Delegates to the Synod will have attained twenty-one (21) years of age, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and be active members of their UACC Parish or Ministry.

§ 8 The Laity have the duty to educate themselves and their children in matters of the Faith, Spirituality, and Morality to always conduct themselves according to the teachings of Christ.

§ 9 The Laity have the duty, by word and example, to bring others to the UACC.

### **Canon V – 1.3 Ministries of the Laity**

§ 1 The Laity may participate in the Liturgical Ministries of Altar Server, Lector, Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister. Additional ministries as Catechist, Visitor to the Sick and Homebound, and Evangelist are also available to the Laity.

#### **Canon V – 1.3.1 Altar Servers**

§ 1 An Altar Server is one who assists the Priest and/or Deacon in the celebration of the Liturgy by performing tasks at the Altar. An Altar Server must have received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, First Holy Eucharist, be at least seven (7) years of age, and possess a mature and dedicated attitude to their duties. They may be male or female.

#### **Canon V – 1.3.2 Lectors**

§ 1 A Lector proclaims the First and/or Second Readings during Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist and other liturgical rites. A Lector may not, in the presence of a Deacon or Priest, proclaim the Holy Gospel at such rites. Lectors must be persons of clear speaking voice and have adequate reading and presentation skills to be readily understood by the listener. They may be male or female.

**Canon V – 1.3.3 Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist**

§ 1 A Pastor, in their sole judgment, may, with the mandate of the Diocesan Bishop, select members of their Parish or mission community to serve in the role of Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist.

**Canon V – 1.3.4 Catechists and Evangelists**

§ 1 Persons with skills as teachers may be employed in the role of Catechist to teach the message of Christ to their brothers and sisters, to those who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, those who are inquiring into the Church, and to the Faithful who are already members of the Church.

§ 2 Evangelists are those who seek to bring the Good News of Christ and the story of the UACC to those who have not heard it or responded to it. While all Christians and Members of the UACC are called to this role, members of the Laity are particularly valuable in this capacity.

**Canon V – 1.3.5 Visitors to the sick, elderly, and prisoners**

§ 1 The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 25:31-46 enjoins all Christians to care for their brothers and sisters for, in doing so, they are caring for Christ. Each Parish and Mission should take special care to establish a program of visitation to the sick, elderly, homebound, and prisoners who reside in and near the Parish and who accept such visits. Furthermore, each Parish and Mission should establish a committee to administer and coordinate charitable activities by the Parish.

# **CANON VI – The Liturgy and Sacraments**

## **Chapter 1. General Regulations on the Liturgy and the Sacraments**

### **Canon VI – 1.0 Regulation of the Liturgy and the Sacraments**

§ 1 The Liturgy is the act of corporate prayer of the Church. Liturgical actions are, therefore, public even when celebrated without the presence of persons other than the minister.

§ 2 Whenever feasible, the presence and active participation of the People of God in the celebration of the liturgies and rites of the Church are encouraged.

§ 3 It pertains solely to the College of Bishops to define, approve, and promulgate liturgies and rites, including liturgical books, for the Celebration of the Most Holy Eucharist and the Sacraments throughout the Church.

§ 4 Within the norms established by the College of Bishops, Diocesan Bishops shall define, approve, and regulate the liturgy within and for their own Diocese. In exercising this function, the Diocesan Bishop shall see that the norms approved by the College of Bishops are followed within the Diocese and that the liturgy is celebrated reverently and prayerfully.

§ 5 The College of Bishops may authorize the appointment of a Liturgist for the Church by the Presiding Bishop. The role of the Liturgist and their authority shall be specified by the College of Bishops.

### **Canon VI – 1.1 Additional Regulation of the Sacraments by the Diocesan Bishop**

§ 1 Diocesan Bishops may impose other regulations in addition to those of this Constitution and Code of Canons concerning the celebration of the Sacraments or the Holy Eucharist within and for their Diocese in their sole discretion. They may do so by limitation or extension to faculties, or by Diocesan law or regulation. Such additional regulations may not mitigate or lessen the regulations herein stated except as may have been expressly authorized herein.

### **Canon VI – 1.2 Faculties for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist and the Sacraments**

§ 1 The right to celebrate the Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist and/or the Sacraments in circumstances which are not emergencies is granted by faculty of the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction over the place of celebration to members of the Clergy according to their Sacramental competence. Under ordinary circumstances, only Clergy who have been granted faculties by right of office or by the Diocesan Bishop of a place may publicly celebrate any Sacrament.

§ 2 By virtue of their office, the Diocesan Bishop has faculties for the celebration of any Sacrament within their own Diocese. Such faculties remain in effect during the Diocesan

Bishop's tenure and may be withdrawn or suspended, wholly or in part, only by action of the College of Bishops.

§ 3 An Auxiliary Bishop or Diocesan Bishop, when not in their own Diocese, requires a grant of faculties from the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction over the place of celebration of any public Sacrament celebration except as provided herein.

§ 4 Presbyters and Deacons require a grant of faculty from the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction over the place of celebration of any public celebration of any Sacrament, except as provided herein.

§ 5 Presbyters and Bishops have universal faculty to celebrate the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation privately within the UACC.

§ 6 Private celebrations are defined for this purpose as those which are not open to the general public, regardless of the number of attendees and/or do not constitute a regular or on-going ministry. Expressly excluded from this permission are all celebrations of the Sacraments of Marriage, Baptism, and Confirmation, which always require a grant of faculty from the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction.

§ 7 In exercise of the foregoing exemptions, Clergy shall notify the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction of their presence in their Diocese within 48-hours of their arrival if their stay within the said Diocese is expected to extend longer than five (5) consecutive days.

§ 8 Bishops, Presbyters, and Deacons have universal faculty to preach and/or concelebrate in public ecumenical services throughout the UACC.

§ 9 In an emergency, where there is imminent danger of death, and in the absence of a Sacramental minister possessing faculties, any Priest, Deacon, or Bishop may minister the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, and/or Viaticum/Holy Communion, and any Priest or Bishop may minister the Sacrament of Reconciliation, for the pastoral good of the person receiving the Sacrament, regardless of debarment by operation of law, judicial decree, or lack of faculty.

§ 10 Diocesan Bishops may grant faculties to a Pastor (Presbyter) to minister the Sacrament of Confirmation to members of their Parish in general circumstances for sufficient reason.

§ 11 Faculties may be granted to Priests for the investiture of candidates into the Minor Orders, and in other areas not prohibited by law or custom, at the Diocesan Bishop's sole discretion.

§ 12 Deacons and the Minor Order of Healer-Exorcist may be granted faculties for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick at the discretion of the Diocesan Bishop. With a special grant of faculties, the Deacon or Healer may hear a confession of sins, may pray with the penitent in asking for forgiveness, but may not offer the absolution of the Church.

## **Chapter 2. The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist**

### **Canon VI – 2.0 The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist**

§ 1 The Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist is the prayer of the Church by which the Lord Jesus Christ is made actually and truly present among his people in the form of bread and wine.

§ 2 The right and power to confect the Eucharist is imparted to those in the Holy Orders of Presbyter and Bishop by virtue of their ordination. Therefore, only those in the Holy Orders of Presbyter or Bishop may celebrate the Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist.

- (a) Any attempt to celebrate the Eucharistic Liturgy by one not in the Holy Orders of Presbyter or Bishop is invalid.
- (b) Any such person attempting to celebrate these sacred rites shall be expelled from the UACC and permanently barred from ordination to any Holy Order by the UACC.
- (c) Those participating in training or rehearsals of the liturgy are exempted from these penalties provided they does not state or imply that they are confecting the Eucharist by their actions, in the absence of a Presbyter or Bishop concelebrant.

§ 3 The authority to publicly celebrate the Eucharistic Liturgy is granted by right of office to the Diocesan Bishop, and by a grant of faculty to all other Clergy from the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction over the place of celebration.

§ 4 Those in the Holy Orders of Presbyter and Bishop shall celebrate the Holy Eucharist, even if privately, at least once each week on Sunday unless prevented from so doing by good cause or operation of law.

### **Canon VI - 2.1 Rites for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist**

§ 1 The Roman Rite known as the Novus Ordo editio typical (or the most current edition) will be considered normative for the public celebration of the Eucharistic Liturgy and Sacraments within the UACC, except as herein provided or by special directive by the Liturgist, until such a time when a UACC Liturgy has been written. All UACC Clergy are expected to be familiar with this rite. The continued use of earlier editions of the Missale Romanum, the Carmelite and Dominican Liturgies, and Orthodox Liturgies, as well as the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer, are approved.

§ 2 The College of Bishops may authorize other rites for use in UACC, including a UACC National Liturgy, at its sole discretion.

§ 3 The Diocesan Bishop may authorize other rites at celebrations of the Eucharistic Liturgy. Such authorization will be limited to single events only and will not be used on a regular basis at public celebrations of the Liturgy.

§ 4 Parishes desiring to use a different rite such as Orthodox, Byzantine, Anglican, or other, or a different liturgy, may petition the College of Bishop's permission for its use. All rites and

liturgies outside of the Novus Ordo must receive written approval from the College of Bishops prior to use in a Parish setting.

§ 5 In Parishes and Missions of the UACC, when a Presbyter or Bishop cannot be available to celebrate the Sunday Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist, a Deacon, Acolyte or Extraordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist, who have been granted faculties by the Diocesan Bishop for such purpose, may conduct a service of prayer, scriptural readings, and preaching, to include the distribution of pre-sanctified Eucharist as Holy Communion. This practice should be undertaken only in serious necessity and not solely for the convenience of the presbyters at the location.

### **Canon VI - 2.2 Lectionary**

§ 1 The Lectionary is a book containing the readings from Sacred Scripture employed in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

§ 2 The Lectionary used in Celebrations within the UACC will be that of the Roman Rite. Additional readings of non-canonical appropriate literature at liturgical functions involving the Laity are allowed. These readings will not supersede the Gospel of the day nor will they become a regular or on-going part of the Liturgy.

### **Canon VI - 2.3 Sacramentary**

§ 1 The Sacramentary is a book containing the portions of the prayers of the Holy Eucharist which are reserved for the celebrant. The Sacramentary of the UACC will be that of the most recent Roman Rite edition.

§ 2 The Sacramentary used by the Presider will be that of the rite being used to celebrate the liturgy. It will be maintained in a condition that is seemly and reflects the dignity of its function.

§ 3 Eucharistic Presiders shall follow the ritual prescribed for the rite. Deviations from the approved rite will only be permitted with the written approval of the Diocesan Bishop and/or the College of Bishops upon review and recommendation by the Liturgist.

### **Canon VI - 2.4 Liturgical Books for the People of God**

§ 1 Hymnals and individual missals and other liturgical books for use by the People of God will conform to the rite being employed in the celebration of the Liturgy. They will be maintained in a condition that is seemly and reflects the dignity of its function.

§ 2 Liturgical books for use by the People of God which include prohibitions or restrictions on the reception of the Holy Eucharist which is contrary to the regulations of the UACC will be amended to obscure those parts which contain the restrictions.

## **Canon VI - 2.5 Calendar**

§ 1 Each Diocese will publish or adopt an official calendar (also known as an ORDO). The ORDO will specify the Proper to be celebrated on each day of the year and will include the color of vestments for each celebration.

§ 2 Publication or adoption of an ORDO will be made available to all Clergy within that Diocese not later than one (1) month prior to the First Sunday of Advent of each year. If no official publication or adoption of an ORDO is made, the Clergy shall follow the ORDO for the Roman Diocese nearest them.

§ 3 The Presiding Bishop, either personally or through the agency of another, shall publish a Calendar of the UACC memorials and solemnities which will be binding on the entire Church. The UACC solemnities and memorials will supersede those from any other community whose ORDO is used.

§ 4 The Church will celebrate the Founding of the UACC on July 1 each year, which will rank as a feast of the first class and supersede all other celebrations except those of the Lord or that of a Sunday. If that date is superseded, the feast will be celebrated on the closest date to July 1st on which there is no superseding celebration. The Presiding Bishop shall announce to the Church each year the date on which this feast will be celebrated if the celebration is not possible on July 1.

§ 5 Other feasts, solemnities, and memorials specific to the UACC will be established at the direction of the Liturgist unless otherwise specified by the College of Bishops.

## **Chapter 3. The Holy Sacraments**

### **Canon VI - 3.0 The Sacraments of the Church**

§ 1 In his infinite goodness to his Church, the Lord Jesus left his People seven signs of his continuing Presence and action in the Church and the world. These signs, called Sacraments, are the means by which the Church ministers most effectively to the People of God by tapping the wellspring of Grace which Christ's Incarnation, Death, and Resurrection have won for them. The UACC identifies these Seven Sacraments as Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion), Reconciliation (also known as Penance or Confession), Holy Matrimony, Anointing of the Sick (also known as Holy Unction), and Holy Orders.

§ 2 In Baptism, we die with Christ and rise again in him as a renewed People of God. In Confirmation, we receive the strength and gifts of the Holy Spirit. In the Holy Eucharist, Christ nourishes our spirits with his own Body and Blood. In Reconciliation, our sins are forgiven. In Holy Matrimony/Union two people are joined together for their mutual love and strength, the support of families, and the building of the Kingdom of God on earth. In Holy Orders, servants are called forth from the community to minister to God's People. In the Anointing of the Sick, those who are ill, injured, or dying are strengthened and supported by the Lord and his people.



### **Canon VI - 3.1 Celebration of the Sacraments**

§ 1 The Roman Ritual will be used for all Sacraments until such time UACC editions are available.

§ 2 Rubrics for the celebration of all Sacraments will be precisely followed by all celebrants.

§ 3 The Sacrament of Holy Orders, in all Minor Orders (Cleric, Doorkeeper, Reader, Healer, Acolyte, and Sub-Deacon) and Major Orders (Deacon, Priest, and Bishop), will be imparted solely by the rite as approved by the College of Bishops. To assure validity in this critical area, no deviations from the published ritual or creation of local rituals for the Sacrament of Holy Orders is permitted. Violation of this restriction will be grounds to immediately depose the ordaining Bishop from office

§ 4 The College of Bishops may authorize and/or mandate the use of additional rites for the entire Church in its sole discretion.

### **Canon VI - 3.2 General Regulations on the Celebration of the Sacraments**

§ 1 Except for the Sacrament of Holy Orders, reception of the Sacraments from the UACC is available to anyone who reverently requests it and is properly disposed of, subject to the regulations imposed by this Constitution and Code of Canons together with such additional regulations as may be imposed by the Diocesan Bishop.

§ 2 The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Orders, when validly received, may not be repeated as they impart a permanent Charism. If there is reasonable doubt as to the validity of a Sacrament, the rite may be conditionally repeated (i.e. sub conditione) to assure validity. Utmost discretion is to be employed in the use of sub conditione repetition of the Sacraments to avoid the creation of an erroneous impression as to their permanent character.

§ 3 Divorce and remarriage will not, a priori, be grounds for refusal of the Sacraments of the Church, especially the Holy Eucharist, to any person. However, the specific requirements of this Code of Canons for each Sacrament will be met in all cases.

§ 4 Except in emergencies or when dispensed by the Diocesan Bishop, ministers shall wear vestments appropriate to their Order during the celebration of each Sacrament according to the norms and rubrics of the rite employed. Rubrics for the selected rite will be precisely followed by the celebrant.

### **Canon VI - 3.3 Vessels for Use in Liturgy and the Sacraments**

§ 1 All chalices, ciboriums, patens, monstrances, and other vessels used in the Sacred Liturgy will be constructed of non-absorbent material appropriate for their function, decorated and styled in a dignified manner to enhance the worship of the People of God.

(a) Ceramic material which has been rendered non-absorbent may be used.

(b) Metallic vessels will be maintained in a clean and tarnish free condition.

### **Canon VI – 3.2.1 Regulation of the Sacrament of Baptism**

§ 1 Baptism is the Sacrament by which one is admitted into the People of God, the Mystical Body of Christ; and into Fellowship with the Church. It is the path by which all sin is remitted.

§ 2 The Ordinary Minister of the Sacrament of Baptism is a Bishop, Presbyter, or Deacon.

§ 3 Any applicable restrictions herein to the contrary notwithstanding, in an emergency where there is a danger of death, any person may baptize.

§ 4 Each adult or child over the age of seven (7) who is a candidate for Baptism shall give evidence to their Pastor of an understanding and acceptance of the Statement of Beliefs of the UACC appropriate for their age, level of education, and maturity.

(a) In infant Baptisms, the Sponsors and/or parents of the child shall profess and accept the Beliefs of the Church in the name of the child.

(b) Any infant put forth for the Sacrament of Baptism by a parent or guardian shall be baptized regardless of perceived situational irregularities of the parent or guardian. Neither the infant nor parent or guardian needs to be a parishioner of a Ministry or Parish of the UACC.

§ 5 Except in emergencies, Baptism is to be administered using rites approved by the College of Bishops or Diocesan Bishop. Rubrics for the selected rite will be precisely followed by the celebrant.

§ 6 In all circumstances, the formula "I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" while immersing the individual to be baptized in water, or pouring water on their head, will be used.

§ 7 Except in emergencies or other exceptional circumstances, the water used in Baptism is to be blessed in accordance with prescribed rites. Rubrics for the selected rite will be precisely followed by the celebrant.

§ 8 Except in emergencies or other exceptional circumstances, Baptism will take place within the Parish Church. Generally, the Sacrament will take place during a celebration of the Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist, preferably on Sunday and especially at the Easter Vigil or Epiphany. Authorization of the Diocesan Bishop shall be required to except these norms.

§ 9 Unless a serious reason prevents it, an adult who receives Baptism should be immediately Confirmed and receive First Eucharist on the same day. Children who have attained the age of reason, but are not yet old enough for Confirmation, should receive First Eucharist on the same day as they are baptized.

§ 10 In the case of Baptism of a child who has not yet reached legal majority, the consent of at least one parent or guardian to the Baptism is required.

§ 11 For the purpose of this Canon, infants include all persons born alive from birth to the age of reason.

§ 12 Except in emergencies, each person to be Baptized shall have at least one sponsor who must be a Baptized Christian.

§ 13 Each Parish will keep a permanent record of each Baptism which it performs. Said record is the property of the UACC. Upon the dissolution of any UACC Parish, all Sacramental records are to be handed over to the National Church Offices.

#### **Canon VI - 3.2.4.5 Regulation of First Eucharist**

§ 1 The ordinary age of First Reception of the Holy Eucharist is seven (7) years, or upon obtaining sufficient maturity and use of reason to understand what is transpiring, and the solemnity and importance of the act. First Communion recipients should be active members of a UACC Ministry or Parish.

§ 2 Each candidate for First Eucharist shall give evidence to the Pastor of an understanding of the nature of the Sacrament, and the Statement of Beliefs appropriate for their age, education, and maturity.

#### **Canon VI - 3.2.4 Regulation of the Holy Eucharist**

§ 1 In all cases, the Sacred Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Holy Eucharist, will be treated with the utmost reverence.

§ 2 Parishes and individual Bishops, Presbyters and/or Deacons and Religious wishing to reserve the Holy Eucharist will do so only as prescribed herein.

§ 3 Rites for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist are authorized by this Constitution, and by the College of Bishops.

§ 4 Only those in the Holy Order of Presbyter or Bishop may validly confect the Holy Eucharist, nor shall anyone other than a Bishop or Presbyter perform any act which implies that they are confecting or has confected the Holy Eucharist.

§ 5 The Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion is a Deacon, Presbyter, or Bishop. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are permitted at the discretion of the Pastor with the concurrence of the Diocesan Bishop.

§ 6 Bread for the Eucharist will be made of wheat and not corrupt; except for the use of reduced or gluten-free hosts as permitted on an individual basis for pastoral reasons at the discretion of the Celebrant.

§ 7 Wine will be made from the juice of grapes only and not corrupt; Except for the use of non-alcoholic wine or grape juice as permitted for pastoral reasons at the discretion of the Celebrant.

§ 8 Liturgical worship of the Holy Eucharist should be done in a dedicated place. If for pastoral reasons, the Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist is celebrated at other than a dedicated place, the location will be a respectable place of suitable dignity appropriate for the liturgy.

#### **Canon VI - 3.2.4.1 Regulation on the Reception of the Holy Eucharist**

§ 1 Any properly disposed Baptized Christian who approaches the table of the Lord reverently shall be permitted to receive the Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

- (a) Unless the recipient is demonstrating irreverence or otherwise manifests improper disposition in such a manner as to be beyond doubt, those distributing the Holy Eucharist will presume those approaching this Holy Sacrament to be eligible to receive it. If doubt exists as to the motives or state of the recipient, the presumption will be that they are eligible to receive the Sacrament if they approach it reverently.

§ 2 The Sacred Body of Christ may be received on the tongue or in the hand of the recipient. If received in the hand, the Body of Christ will be consumed immediately, before moving from the spot on which it was received.

§ 3 The Sacred Blood of Christ may be received by intinction, or by drinking it from the Chalice. In all cases, it will be consumed immediately, before moving from the spot on which it was received.

§ 4 Holy Communion is to be given under the forms of bread and wine, or under the form of bread alone in extreme circumstance. Except in extraordinary circumstances for persons who cannot swallow solids, Holy Communion may not be given in the form of wine only.

§ 5 Liturgical books for use by the People of God which contain prohibitions or restrictions on the reception of the Holy Eucharist which is contrary to those of the UACC will have those restrictions removed or obscured.

#### **Canon VI - 3.2.4.2 Regulation on the Reservation and Transport of the Holy Eucharist**

§ 1 In all places where the Holy Eucharist is reserved, it will be kept in a vessel of appropriate dignity in a locked container of sturdy material. Access to this container will be restricted to those authorized by this Constitution to be Ministers of the Holy Eucharist, either Ordinary or Extraordinary.

§ 2 The Holy Eucharist will be transported from place to place only when necessary for the pastoral good of the People of God. When in transit, the Holy Eucharist will be kept in a secure location on the person of an authorized minister as defined by this Constitution. The vessel containing the Holy Eucharist will be of appropriate dignity and reserved for this use.

§ 3 In all places where the Most Holy Eucharist is reserved, a special lamp will be kept continuously burning as a sign of the Presence of Christ. The use of electric lights for this purpose is permitted at the discretion of the Pastor or Priest in Charge of each location.

**Canon VI - 3.2.4.3 Regulation on the Worship of the Holy Eucharist Outside Mass**

§ 1 It is desirable and permitted for the Holy Eucharist to be periodically exposed for the worship and praise of the People of God. Whenever such adoration takes place the Pastor shall see that the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a vessel of appropriate dignity, is never left unattended, that the environment is appropriate, and that the Holy Sacrament is secure from theft or profanation.

**Canon VI - 3.2.4.4 Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist**

§ 1 Worthy Lay and Religious Members of the UACC may be selected for the function of distributing the Holy Eucharist to the People of God, especially the sick, the elderly, and those prevented from attending Mass.

§ 2 Extraordinary Ministers may be male or female and at least sixteen (16) years of age.

§ 3 Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist will be selected by their Pastor or Religious Superior and be authorized by a formal written mandate by the Diocesan Bishop.

§ 4 The Pastor or Priest-in-charge shall see to the correct training of the persons selected for the Sacred task as Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist, imparting to them the highest possible respect and reverence for this ministry and instructing them in their duties and the limitations of their office.

**Canon VI - 3.2.4.6 Holy Communion of the Sick and Dying**

§ 1 In general, Holy Communion of the Sick and Viaticum (i.e. Holy Communion of the Dying) shall be given only in the form of the Sacred Body of Christ. However, if the patient is unable to swallow solids, but can swallow liquids, the Precious Blood of Christ may be used.

§ 2 Holy Communion shall not be given to the unconscious, nor to those whose medical condition raises a reasonable doubt as to their ability to digestively retain the Sacrament once received, nor shall it be given to any person whose mental state prevents the full, aware, and rational acceptance of the Sacrament.

§ 3 Holy Communion is to be given only by mouth. It is absolutely forbidden to give Holy Communion via a mechanical feeding apparatus, or via a feeding tube. The use of an eye dropper for the ministration of Holy Communion under the form of wine is permitted, when necessary, provided that it can be properly purified after use.

## **Canon VI - 3.2.2 Regulation of the Sacrament of Confirmation**

§ 1 The Sacrament of Confirmation is the path by which the Christian Initiation of the faithful is completed, granting to the recipient the Seal and Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- (a) The Sacrament of Confirmation is a life-long commitment to Discipleship and should only be undertaken by candidates who are members of a UACC Parish or Ministry ready to make such a commitment.

§ 2 The Ordinary Minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation is a Bishop. The Diocesan Bishop may grant faculties for Confirmation to Pastors for pastoral reasons.

- (a) The Pastor may waive this requirement in their sole judgment, but no person under ten (10) years of age shall be Confirmed.
- (b) If a Byzantine usage rite is established in the UACC, it will follow the customs of the Eastern Church in regards to the practice of Chrismation.

§ 3 The ordinary minimum age for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be thirteen (13) years.

§ 4 Each candidate for Confirmation shall give evidence to their Pastor of an understanding of the Statement of Beliefs of the UACC and the Nicene Creed as appropriate for their age, level of education, and maturity.

§ 5 Chrism used in the Sacrament must be blessed by a Bishop even if the rite is celebrated by a Presbyter.

§ 6 Each candidate for Confirmation shall be accompanied by at least one sponsor who must be a Baptized Christian.

§ 7 Adults and those who have reached the prescribed age, who receive the Sacrament of Baptism should be Confirmed on the same day.

§ 8 Each Parish will keep a permanent record of each Confirmation which is performed by the UACC in its name. Said record is the property of the UACC. Upon the dissolution of any UACC Parish, all Sacramental records are to be handed over to the National Church Offices.

§ 9 Confirmations will occur during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist unless prevented for good cause.

## **Canon VI - 3.2.3 Regulation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

§ 1 Only persons in the Holy Order of Bishop or Presbyter, with proper faculty, may minister the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In case of emergencies where there is a danger of death, any Priest or Bishop may grant absolution regardless of faculty, debarment by operation of law, or judicial decree for the pastoral good of the penitent.

§ 2 The Sacrament of Reconciliation always includes a confession of sin. Such confession may be made publicly or privately and may be general or particular. Public confession is always general in nature and is usually celebrated in conjunction with a liturgical rite (e.g. the Penitential Rite during the Liturgy of the Holy Eucharist or a special Penitential Service). Private confession may be general, covering one's entire life or a portion thereof, or it may be particular. Particular confession covers specific sinful acts that are told expressly to the Priest or Bishop.

§ 3 In all cases the Bishop or Priest, when acting as a minister of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, acts in the place of Christ and not as an individual. Therefore, all matters discussed within the Sacrament of Reconciliation are absolutely, and without exception, confidential and sealed. No person receiving any information whatsoever during the Sacrament of Reconciliation, whether as penitent or minister, may ever reveal such information to any other person whatsoever.

§ 4 Violation of the Seal of Confession by any member of the Clergy of the UACC is a matter of grave sin on the part of both the one violating the seal and the one to whom the contents of a Sacramental Confession are revealed.

§ 5 Violation of the Seal of Confession will constitute a grave breach of canonical obedience. Upon conviction of this violation, the mandatory penalty will be to expel the Clergy member from the UACC. No person expelled for this reason may ever again be admitted to the Clergy of the UACC.

§ 6 The Sacrament of Reconciliation commences with the request of the penitent for the Sacrament, either express or implied and continues until the dismissal of the penitent by the minister. Everything which transpires between those events is covered by the Seal of Confession without exception.

§ 7 Neither the penitent, nor the minister, nor the Church may waive this seal.

§ 8 Private matters elicited in ordinary counseling, which is not Sacramental, are to be held confidential to the extent that the civil law requires and enjoins.

§ 9 Clergy are reminded that they may be required by civil law to report certain matters to appropriate civil law enforcement authorities if such matters come to their attention outside the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

§ 10 In circumstances which may be unclear as to whether it falls under the area of ordinary counseling or the Sacrament of Reconciliation the determining factor will be whether Sacramental Absolution, regardless of formula, was requested by the penitent. If Sacramental Absolution was requested at any point by the penitent, even if it was not granted by the minister, the entire conversation will be deemed to be within the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

§ 11 Any formula of absolution which includes the expression of the intent of the minister to absolve the sins of the penitent, whether in the active or passive voice, is acceptable and

efficacious for the Sacrament. It is recommended that the formulas employed in a recognized rite be used.

§ 12 No minister of this Sacrament may absolve any penitent with whom they share culpability in the offense to be absolved.

§ 13 Any minister of the Sacrament of Reconciliation may grant general absolution to any group in their presence at any time in their sole discretion. In emergency situations where there are multiple penitents, General Absolution is always permitted.

§ 14 Private confession of sin is not required but is permitted.

§ 15 Absolution is to be granted to any Baptized Christian who expresses remorse for their sins and asks for absolution reverently, subject only to the provisions of this Constitution and Code of Canons. Absolution may be withheld by the minister only in circumstances where they have reason to believe that the penitent is not truly remorseful.

§ 16 The decision to impose a penance on a penitent during private confession is solely at the discretion of the confessor.

### **Canon VI - 3.2.5 Regulation of the Sacrament of Matrimony**

§ 1 Only Bishops, Presbyters, and/or Deacons with valid faculties may officiate at the Sacrament of Matrimony in the UACC. Deacons may officiate at the Sacrament of Matrimony only where permitted by civil law. The UACC recognizes the Sacramentality of opposite-gendered and same-gendered marriages.

§ 2 Where required by civil law, each person intending to officiate at the Sacrament of Matrimony shall obtain whatever licensing or certification the civil authority may require of marriage officiants prior to officiating at any marriage within that secular jurisdiction.

§ 3 All couples, whether same or opposite-gendered, seeking to be married must have attained legal age as defined for the civil jurisdiction and laws of the State in which the Sacrament will be celebrated. Where no minimum age is defined by civil or State law, the minimum age for marriage will be sixteen (16) years.

§ 4 All parties have the right to marry according to the civil jurisdiction and laws of the State and consent to do so freely, without fraud, coercion, or mental reservation.

§ 5 Only those persons who have never been married, are widowed, or who possess a civil divorce or annulment of a prior marriage, and who conform to the requirements of this Constitution and any regulations and requirements imposed by the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction in the place of celebration of the Sacrament, may receive the Sacrament of Matrimony from UACC Clergy.



§ 6 Where required by State or civil law, those seeking Matrimony will present a license prior to the celebration of the Sacrament that is valid for the State and civil jurisdiction in which the marriage will be celebrated.

§ 7 Simultaneous marriage to more than one partner is prohibited.

§ 8 Any authorized officiant of the Sacrament of Matrimony for the UACC may decline to officiate at the Sacrament in individual circumstances in their sole discretion without stating a reason.

§ 9 Each marriage celebrated by the Clergy of the UACC will be recorded in the Parish Register of the Parish to which the Clergy is assigned. If an ecclesiastical divorce has been granted to the parties to the Marriage, that fact will also be recorded together with the date granted and the name of the person granting it.

§ 10 Any marriage Sacrament celebrated through false records, information, or deception is invalid.

#### **Canon VI - 3.2.6 Regulation of the Sacrament of Anointing the Sick**

§ 1 The Ordinary Minister of the Sacrament of Anointing the Sick is a Bishop or a Presbyter. In extraordinary circumstances, the Diocesan Bishop may authorize others to minister this Sacrament.

§ 2 The Sacrament of Anointing the Sick is for the living only. Those who have died may not receive the Sacraments. As actual death and clinical death may not be synonymous in all cases, it is left to the pastoral judgment of the Ministers of this Sacrament to determine whether death has occurred in individual cases.

§ 3 A sick person may receive the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick as often as it seems pastorally wise to do so, but not more often than once per day.

#### **Canon VI - 3.2.7 Regulation of the Sacrament of Holy Orders**

§ 1 Only persons in the Holy Order of Bishop may ordain.

§ 2 The Diocesan Bishop, in their sole discretion, shall select and mandate the ordination of Candidates to the Holy Order of Deacon and Presbyter for their own Diocese.

§ 3 It is for the Diocesan Bishop, the College of Bishops, and the People of God to elect candidates to the Holy Order of Bishop under procedures herein described. Once elected, it is up to the Presiding Bishop, with the concurrence of the College of Bishops, to mandate the ordination and consecration of the Bishop-elect to the Order of Bishop.

§ 4 According to their office, Diocesan Bishops have faculties for the Sacrament of Holy Orders for the ordination of Presbyter and Deacon. It is the right of the Diocesan Bishop to be

the ordaining prelate at all ordinations to the Order of Presbyter and/or Deacon for Clergy incardinated or incardinating into their Diocese.

§ 5 Auxiliary Bishops require a grant of faculty from the Diocesan Bishop to act as Ordaining Bishop for the ordination of Deacons and Presbyters within any Diocese of the UACC.

§ 6 No candidate shall be ordained to the Holy Order of Deacon or Presbyter without the written mandate of the Diocesan Bishop having jurisdiction over the place of ordination, even for Clergy who are and will serve solely as, members of Religious Orders.

§ 7 According to their office, all members of the College of Bishops have faculties for the Sacrament of Holy Orders for the ordination of Bishops. However, no person shall be ordained a Bishop in the UACC unless there exists a duly executed written mandate for such ordination from the Presiding Bishop issued with the concurrence of the College of Bishops.

§ 8 Each Diocese will maintain a register of all persons receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders for the UACC within its boundaries and will notify the Archivist of the UACC in writing of the identity and date of the ordination of all persons ordained in that Diocese for the UACC.

§ 9 Ordination to Holy Orders in the UACC will be solely by the rites as authorized by the College of Bishops.

§ 10 Except when prevented by extraordinary circumstances, the Consecration of a Bishop in the UACC will be accomplished by not less than three (3) Bishops: A Principal Consecrator and two (2) Co-consecrators. The Principal Consecrator and two (2) Co-consecrators must be Bishops of the UACC. In extraordinary circumstances, when authorized by the College of Bishops, the Co-consecrating Bishops may be Bishops of another communion having valid Apostolic Succession. The participation of additional Consecrating Bishops from the UACC and other Churches is encouraged.

§ 11 Bishops shall be consecrated and/or installed in office within ninety (90) calendar days of their election unless the College of Bishops shall extend that deadline.

§ 12 Each candidate for ordination to the Diaconate of the UACC shall have previously received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation and at least the Ministries (minor orders) of Reader, and Acolyte and shall meet the qualifications for the Order of Deacon contained herein.

§ 13 Each Candidate for ordination to the Presbyterate of the UACC shall have previously received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Order of Deacon, and shall meet the qualifications for the Order of Presbyter contained herein.

§ 14 Each Candidate for ordination to the episcopacy of the UACC shall have previously received the Sacraments of Christian Initiation, the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the Order of Deacon and Presbyter, and shall meet the qualifications for the Order of Bishop contained herein.

§ 15 Admission to candidacy for Holy Orders will be celebrated, whenever feasible, by a special liturgical rite which acknowledges the candidate's admission. The Rite of Candidacy of the Roman Rite will be used to accomplish this celebration.

§ 16 All persons who are insane, or who suffer from debilitating mental illness, as herein defined; persons who are addicted to chemical substances; persons who have a history of violent behavior; persons who have been convicted of a misdemeanor having a penalty of incarceration, even if incarceration was suspended, or persons convicted of a felony, unless the College of Bishops shall unanimously permit it are impeded from the valid reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders in the UACC. This impediment, when present, pertains to the ability of the ordinand to receive the Sacrament, and also to the right of the Bishop to ordain.

§ 17 Fraud or concealment of any relevant fact, used by the Church or Bishop to determine the eligibility of a candidate for Holy Orders to Deacon, Presbyter, or Bishop, invalidates any ordination or consecration the candidate may receive as a matter of both law and Sacrament. Such fraud reveals a clear absence of intent to follow the Church Constitution and Code of Canons.

§ 18 Simony, or the provision of any valuable property or consideration, or the offer thereof, invalidates any putative ordination the said candidate may receive as a matter of both law and Sacrament.

§ 19 The UACC Bishops shall not participate in consecrations for Bishops of any communion except the UACC, and those communions with which the UACC holds a current formal concordat of inter-communion, without the express unanimous concurrence of the College of Bishops.

### **Canon VI - 3.4 Funerals**

§ 1 Any properly disposed Christian may officiate at a Funeral Service, except they may not exercise any ministry reserved for those in Holy Orders. Either burial or cremation of the remains of deceased faithful is permitted. Burial or interment of the remains or the ashes of those cremated may be in earth or in bodies of water and will be accomplished in accordance with the regulations of civil authorities.

# **CANON VII – ENACTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS CONSTITUTION**

## **Chapter 1. Enactment of this Constitution**

### **Canon VII – 1.0 Enactment**

§ 1 This Constitution of the UACC may be enacted by a simple majority vote of the General Synod under procedures for such vote in effect at the time of such vote.

§ 2 This Constitution will become effective immediately upon enactment.

§ 3 Upon enactment, this Constitution immediately, and as an operation of law, supersedes and replaces all previous Constitutions of the UACC and agreements whether verbal or written which would be covered by this Constitution, rendering such predecessors void and invalid and absolving all persons bound to obey them from all requirements for such obedience.

§ 4 The confirmation or approval of enactment of this Constitution by any person whatsoever is not required for this Constitution to become effective nor may its enactment be vetoed by any person whatsoever.

## **Chapter 2. Canonical Obedience to this Constitution**

### **Canon VII – 2.0 Canonical Obedience Required**

§ 1 All persons who shall be ordained to the Holy Orders of Deacon, Presbyter, or Bishop; or who shall be admitted to profession in any Religious Order; or who shall be incardinated in any capacity into the UACC shall, on the occasion of each such ordination, profession, or incardination, solemnly and publicly promise canonical obedience to this Constitution and their lawful superior(s).

§ 2 Upon enactment of this Constitution, all persons then bound to Canonical Obedience shall be immediately obligated to render obedience to the provisions of this Constitution. Specifically, all members of the Clergy, as well as members of Religious Orders who have professed the Evangelical Counsels, shall be so bound. It shall not be necessary for any person already bound to Canonical Obedience to formally reaffirm obedience to this Constitution. However, failure to conform to the provision of this Constitution shall subject the person so failing to the penalties prescribed herein.

## **Chapter 3. Implementation of this Constitution**

### **Canon VII – 3.0 Responsibility to Implement the Constitution**

§ 1 It shall be the duty of the College of Bishops and the General Synod to assure the full implementation of this Constitution within the UACC. It shall be the duty of each Diocesan Bishop to fully implement this Constitution in their respective Diocese. It shall be the duty of the Head of each Religious Order to fully implement this Constitution in their respective Orders.

§ 2 Willful refusals to implement the provisions of this Constitution will constitute grave canonical disobedience and will subject those failing to implement this Constitution to the procedures for Clerical and Religious discipline contained herein.

**Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam, Amen!**

Adopted by the General Synod, 2019

Revised by the Leadership Council, 9-2020