



A Canonical Charter for Ministry Of The Anglican Mission in the Americas

Article 1 – Preamble

The Anglican Mission in the Americas and its associated organizations (hereafter the “Anglican Mission”) exist to glorify God by building an alliance of dynamic worshipping communities in the Americas committed to planting, nurturing, and serving churches in the Anglican tradition. The Anglican Mission is a Missionary Jurisdiction of the Anglican Province of Rwanda and part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. As described in Article 3, Section 2 and Article 5, Section 3 below, the Primate of the Province delegates particular and accountable authority to a Primatial Vicar. The authority delegated to the Primatial Vicar may be exercised solely by the Primatial Vicar, and derivatively by those to whom the Primatial Vicar subsequently delegates responsibility.

Article 2 – Ecclesiastical Organization of the Mission

Section 1: From an ecclesiastical perspective the Anglican Mission is governed by the Constitution and Canons of the Province of Rwanda with certain dispensations provided where cultural, pastoral, geographical, or linguistic differences call for an exception. The ecclesiastical organization of the Anglican Mission is set forth in Title 1, Canon 6 of the Provincial Canons designating the Anglican Mission as a missionary jurisdiction under the oversight of the Primate of the Province. The work and ministry of the Anglican Mission is exercised in collaboration with the Provincial House of Bishops of Rwanda and the Council of Missionary Bishops of the Anglican Mission.

Section 2: The Anglican Mission is further structured into regional Networks, gathered by geography or affinity, led by Network Leaders appointed by the Council of Missionary Bishops, to assist the Missionary Bishops in matters of mission initiatives, pastoral care and administration.

Section 3: The Anglican Mission is in partnership with other confessing Anglicans desiring to build a new Anglican Province in North America.

Section 4: The Anglican Mission accepts two theological conclusions regarding the ordination of women to the priesthood, and is structured to accommodate both. The Anglican Mission in America (AMiA) believes Holy Orders to be a matter of both the doctrine and the discipline of the Church, and receives the call of women exclusively to the diaconate as part of its common life. The Anglican Coalition in Canada (ACiC) and The Anglican Coalition in America (ACiA) accept Holy Orders as part of the discipline of the Church, rather than a matter of doctrine alone, and receive the call of women in the priesthood and diaconate as part of their common life.

Article 3 – Ecclesiastical Administration of the Anglican Mission

Section 1: The Anglican Mission, as a Missionary Jurisdiction of the Province of Rwanda, is distinct from the diocesan organizations of the Province. By delegation of the Primate, pursuant to the Provincial Canons, the ecclesiastical authority of the Anglican Mission is exercised through the:

- a. Primatial Vicar;
- b. Council of Missionary Bishops;
- c. Archdeacon;
- d. Canon Missioners;
- e. Network Leaders;

and, may include:

- f. Episcopal Vicar;
- g. a College of Presbyters;
- h. various other assemblies and convocations of Lay and Ordained Leaders called together by the Primatial Vicar to take counsel and work for the governance and common good of the Anglican Mission.

Section 2: The Primatial Vicar. The Primatial Vicar is the presiding ecclesiastical authority of the Anglican Mission in the absence of the Primate of Rwanda. The Primatial Vicar, in concert with the Council of Missionary Bishops of the Anglican Mission, governs all spiritual, pastoral, and ecclesiastical matters of the Anglican Mission. He exercises his rights and duties in accordance with the Provincial Canons. The Primatial Vicar serves as the Chair of the Council of Missionary Bishops and all other ecclesiastical bodies of the Anglican Mission. With the Council of Missionary Bishops, the Primatial Vicar is obligated to report regularly to the Primate concerning the Anglican Mission. The Primatial Vicar represents the Anglican Mission as a member of the Executive Committee of the Provincial Council and at international gatherings.

Section 3: Council of Missionary Bishops. The Council of Missionary Bishops is presided over by the Primatial Vicar, and participates with the Primatial Vicar in the ecclesiastical administration of the Anglican Mission. The Missionary Bishops, as members of the Provincial House of Bishops, are ultimately responsible to the Primate. The Council of Missionary Bishops has the authority and responsibility which the Provincial canons ascribe to it as a missionary jurisdiction, to include:

- a. initiation and oversight of new missionary work, and development of new mission territory;
- b. guarding the faith, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church has received them;
- c. ordaining priests and deacons according to the established norms of the Province;
- d. consecrating, and sanctifying for worship, churches and chapels;
- e. recommending candidates for the offices of Primatial Vicar, Bishop, and Canon.

Section 4: Archdeacon. The Primatial Vicar, in consultation with the Council of Missionary Bishops, appoints the Archdeacon of the Anglican Mission. The Archdeacon shall exercise such authority as is delegated from the Primatial Vicar for the administration and supervision of the Anglican Mission. The Archdeacon is responsible for day-to-day operations, administration of candidates for ordination, affiliation of churches and the minutiae of governance.

Section 5: Canon Missioners. The Primatial Vicar, in consultation with the Primate and the consent of the Council of Missionary Bishops, may appoint Canon Missioners for terms of up to five years for specialized missionary work and ministries in the Anglican Mission. In accordance with church custom, Canon Missioners may pioneer, lead, or develop various local and mission initiatives and programs. Oversight of the work of Canon Missioners is provided by the Primatial Vicar.

Section 6: Network Leaders. Network Leaders are appointed and vested with authority by the Primatial Vicar with the consent of the Council of Missionary Bishops. The Network Leader's role and authority, as set forth in the Network Manual, is strictly delegated to him by his overseeing Missionary Bishop, to whom he is accountable. That delegated role and authority is to provide leadership and oversight to the clergy, leaders, and Mission Network Team over which he serves. Specifically the Network Leader's role includes:

- a. leading the selection of the governing Network Team;
- b. overseeing the creation and implementation of the Network's mission strategy;
- c. guiding the development of Network community and relationships;
- d. providing assessment and evaluation of the Network's effectiveness;
- e. assisting in the identification of new leadership for the ordained ministry;
- f. organizing and holding the regular Mission Network and/or Clergy Gatherings;
- g. submitting formal budget requests to the AMiA Board of Directors for funding and overseeing the administration of all funds of the Network;
- h. maintaining order and discipline within the Mission Network;
- i. promoting alignment with the vision, values, leadership of the Anglican Mission within the Mission Network.

Section 7: Episcopal Vicar: The Primatial Vicar, in consultation with the Council of Missionary Bishops, may appoint Episcopal Vicars to carry out specific responsibilities and assignments delegated by the Primatial Vicar and represent him when appropriate. Episcopal Vicars serve no longer than the expiration of the appointing Primatial Vicar's term.

Section 8: College of Presbyters. A College of Presbyters, in partnership with the Council of Missionary Bishops and its Chairman, may, from time to time, be convened by the Chairman to serve as a council of advice. The Chairman will preside over this body. The purposes of this College are to: (i) provide a forum for the full and free discussion of various issues of pastoral concern in the Anglican Mission; (ii) consider proposals from its members regarding the pastoral and evangelical work of the Anglican Mission; (iii) offer counsel and proposals from its members regarding the work and administration of the Anglican Mission; and (iv) consult with the Chairman, together with the Council of Missionary Bishops, on matters of governance according to the norms of the Church. When a College of Presbyters is convened, each Network may elect two members (which may include the Network Leader) to represent the Network at the College. All priests serving in a Network are entitled to vote in that Network's election. In addition, the Primatial Vicar shall name members-at-large to the College.

Article 4 – Secular Organization of the Anglican Mission

From a secular perspective, the Anglican Mission must comply with the laws of the several governmental jurisdictions in which it operates. The Anglican Mission in the Americas is a South Carolina non-profit corporation. It provides corporate oversight and services to The Anglican Mission in America, The Anglican Coalition in Canada, and The Anglican Coalition in America. The Anglican Mission is organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes in accord with Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States.

Article 5 – Secular Administration of the Anglican Mission

Section 1: The general business and legal affairs of the Anglican Mission are overseen by a Board of Directors, pursuant to Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws adopted in accordance with the regulations of the applicable secular jurisdictions. The secular authority of the Anglican Mission is exercised through the:

- a. Board of Directors
- b. Chairman
- c. Executive Director

Section 2: Board of Directors: The Board of Directors consists of the Chairman and the Executive Director, who shall serve *ex officio*, and 5 to 15 members. The selection of the Board of Directors and the responsibilities, duties and manner of its governance are set forth in the corporate By-laws. The Board of Directors may take no action, nor shall it permit any action to be taken, in the name of the Anglican Mission, that contravenes the intent of the Solemn Declaration as contained in the Provincial Constitution. If conflict arises in the secular administration of the Anglican Mission, the Council of Missionary Bishops and the Board of Directors shall meet for appropriate and collaborative discernment.

Section 3: The Chairman: The Primatial Vicar shall serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors. The Chairman is the chief executive officer of the Anglican Mission. In consultation with the Board of Directors and the Council of Missionary Bishops, the Chairman shall develop a clearly articulated mission strategy. The Chairman is responsible for the implementation of that mission strategy and for the faithful adherence to the vision and values of the Anglican Mission by the Missionary Networks. The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board as Chairman of the Board.

Section 4: The Executive Director: The Executive Director shall exercise such executive authority as is delegated from time to time by the Chairman. The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Anglican Mission including, in consultation with the Chairman and the Board, the selection, removal and supervision of the management and staff. The Executive Director shall report to the Chairman and through the Chairman to the Board of Directors. In the absence of, or upon the request of, the Chairman, the Executive Director shall preside at meetings of the Board.

Article 6 – Networks and Convocations

Networks are affinity or geographically based groups of congregations serving under a designated Missionary Bishop, Network Leader, and Network Team as more specifically described in the Network Manual. When opportunities for wider mission and evangelism to a particular region can be affected through the cooperation of several Networks, Convocations may be called by the cooperating Networks under the leadership of a Missionary Bishop and the various cooperating Networks and Network Leaders.

Article 7 – Congregations

Section 1: Congregations: The local congregation is the primary missionary unit of the Anglican Mission. Each congregation is expected to be a member of a Network. When the assembled body of any mission work attains an average regular Sunday attendance of at least fifty (50) worshippers, has become financially self-supporting, and has embraced and adopted the vision, values, and commitments of the Anglican Mission as contained in the documents and procedures of the affiliation process of the Anglican Mission, that assembly qualifies, and may be designated, as a recognized Mission congregation.

Section 2: Vestries and Boards: In every congregation of the Anglican Mission there shall be a duly constituted Vestry or Board having charge of the temporalities of the congregation, and it shall be their duty to oversee staff hired to assist with these temporal matters (sexton, bookkeepers, auditing firms, maintenance personnel, etc). This body shall be presided over by the Rector or Senior Pastor, if there be one, and shall be the official representative of the congregation. It shall be its duty to:

- a. aid the Rector or Senior Pastor in all agencies and efforts for the advancement of the congregation;
- b. develop and oversee the annual budget, and provide for all salaries and expenses of the congregation;
- c. keep a proper account of all funds, and insure that all accounts are audited annually;
- d. notify both the Network Leader and the Network Bishop when a parish is vacant or without a Rector or Senior Pastor;
- e. elect and invite a Rector or Senior Pastor, with due regard to the ascertained wishes of the congregation and the approval of the Network Bishop.

Section 3: Of Rectors or Senior Pastors: The Rector or Senior Pastor of every congregation is elected and called by the Vestry or Board of that church upon approval of the Network Bishop. It shall be the duty and privilege of this Office to:

- a. preside at all meetings of the vestry or governing Board, unless it conflicts with the law; alternatively, the Rector or Senior Pastor may designate a member of the Vestry to preside;
- b. have final authority in the administration of all matters pertaining to the public worship and Christian Education within the congregation, subject to the godly counsel of the Bishop;
- c. hire, fire, and have authority over all Ministers of the congregation and staff (lay or ordained) assigned to his office, by whatever name they may be designated;
- d. keep a register of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials solemnized by him or another Minister in his congregation, a record of attendance at all public services, and a list of the active members of the congregation;
- e. have use and control of the Church and buildings of the congregation for the purposes of his office and for the full and free discharge of all functions and duties pertaining thereto.

Article 8 – Ownership of Church Property

Section 1: All property owned and utilized by local congregations of the Anglican Mission shall be indefeasibly vested in the local congregation, as set forth in both the Constitution and Canons of the Province of the Anglican Church of Rwanda. The Norms for real and personal property of a congregation are established in the Constitution (see below), as well as in the Canons of the Province [Title 1, Canon 7, Sections 5, 6 and 7].

- a. Title IV, Article 18, Section 3 – “*On Parish Property in Missionary Jurisdictions*” of the Constitution states:
“Legal title to all property utilized by local congregations shall be indefeasibly vested in the local congregation, or in a corporation owned and controlled by the local congregation, or in one or more trustees of one or more charitable land trusts that are appointed or elected by the local congregation and hold the local church property in trust for the benefit of the local congregation.” [Adopted in Provincial Synod, Kigali, Rwanda, Nov. 2007]
- b. Title IV, Article 18, Section 4 – *Consecrated Property* of the Constitution states:
“Notwithstanding the provision of Title 1, Canon 7, Section 3, no Vestry, officers of the Corporation, Trustees, or other body shall alienate any consecrated Church or Chapel which has been used for Divine Service without the previous consent of the Bishop, or in the Bishop’s absence, the consent of the Council of Missionary Bishops. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.”

Section 2: No Primate, Primatial Vicar, or Missionary Bishop shall at any time have titled in his name any Anglican Mission property or any Anglican Mission parish property, nor shall any of the foregoing individuals purport to transfer ownership of any of said property at any time.

Section 3: Property owned by the Anglican Mission for the purpose of carrying out ecclesiastical programs will be in the name of the Anglican Mission. In the event of a dissolution of the Anglican Mission, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Anglican Mission, dispose of all the assets to such organizations as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as the Board of Directors shall determine.

Article 9 – Hierarchical Vacancies

Section 1: In the event of a vacancy of the office of the Primatial Vicar, the Council of Missionary Bishops shall identify and elect one of their members to temporarily serve as the Chair of the Council of Missionary Bishops, the Board of Directors, and all other administrative bodies of the Anglican Mission, until the Primate of the Province designates another to the office of Primatial Vicar.

Section 2: If a Missionary Episcopate becomes vacant, or additional Missionary Bishops are needed for the advancement of the Anglican Mission, the Primatial Vicar with the Council of Missionary Bishops shall serve as Episcopal Consulters to the Primate with regard to the selection of candidates suitable for the Missionary Episcopate. The Episcopal Consulters may consult with the Network Leaders and the Board of Directors, and the Primatial Vicar may assemble a College of Presbyters or other appropriate body to assist in the identification of suitable candidates.

Section 3: The Council of Missionary Bishops shall elect candidates for consideration before the Provincial House of Bishops as set forth in *Title I, Canon 6, Sections 3, 4, 5*. This vote shall be a super majority (*at least two thirds*) of the Council of Missionary Bishops. The Primatial Vicar will present such names to the Primate and to the Provincial House of Bishops for their consideration. The Primatial Vicar may veto a name for reasons of pastoral or administrative concern, as set forth in the canons. Those priests nominated by the Council of Missionary Bishops are presented in accord with the canonical norms of the Province (*cf. Title I, Canon 6, Section 13, Title III, Canon 23, Section 2*).

Section 4: The Primatial Vicar, or another Missionary Bishop designated by him, shall see to any episcopal needs within a vacant seat, until a Missionary Bishop is elected and takes canonical possession of that seat.

Article 10 – Crisis and Conflict Management

The Anglican Mission seeks to respond to human sinfulness, brokenness and frailty through the Biblical norms. Conflict is to be addressed with the advice, direction, and counsel of the Council of Bishops, the Network Leaders, the Mission Center, and others who may be appointed to serve in the resolution of crisis and conflicts according to biblical principles. If the clergy and leadership of a local congregation are unable to resolve a conflict, a report of the situation and the initial effort made to resolve it shall be made to the Network Leader, who will then contact both the Missionary Bishop and the Mission Center. The approved steps and procedures of the Anglican Mission's "*Crisis & Conflict Management and Resolution Policy and Procedures*" will then be followed.

Article 11 – Amendment of the Charter

Section 1: The Anglican Mission is governed by the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Province of Rwanda, by the laws and regulations of the national and state jurisdictions in which it operates as reflected in its Bylaws, and, to the extent that it does not conflict any of the foregoing, by this Charter.

Section 2: When necessary, this Charter shall be amended by the Council of Missionary Bishops who may consult with the Network Leaders, the Board of Directors, the Anglican Mission Chancellor, a Judicial Vicar and other appropriate consultative bodies to ensure continuity with the canonical tradition of the Province of Rwanda and compliance with applicable secular authority.