THE DIOCESE OF CHURCHES FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS, THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN NORTH AMERICA

CANONS

PREAMBLE

The Diocese, being part of the Anglican Church of North America, adheres to all standards, requirements, and the Constitution and Canons of the Province.

The Diocese acknowledges the authority and powers of the Province as set forth in the Constitution and Canons adopted thereby and adopts these Canons, which is in conformance therewith. All powers not granted to the Province are reserved to the Diocese. Wisely has the Church chosen the governance principle of subsidiarity; namely, that whatever can wisely be left to the Diocese should be left to the Diocese, and whatever the Diocese can wisely leave to the local congregation should be left to the local congregation.

Title I Fundamental Declarations and Governing Principles of The Diocese

Canon 1

Structure of the Diocese

- 1. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese and the Diocesan Convention shall govern the Diocese.
- 2. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall be the Bishop who has been duly elected by the Convention, hereafter referred to as "the Bishop."
- 3. When the See is vacant, the Ecclesiastical Authority will be the Executive Leadership Team.
- 4. The Ecclesiastical Authority is authorized to invite other Anglican bishops into the Diocese for the purpose of performing pastoral oversight and related duties under mutually agreeable licensing arrangements. In such a case, performing pastoral oversight and related duties shall not constitute the exercise of ecclesiastical jurisdiction.
- 5. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall take such actions, consistent with applicable federal and state laws, as are deemed appropriate to protect and secure the rights of the Diocese.

Canon 2

Mission and Worship

As a diocese, we want to establish beachheads of Jesus' person, word, and power in the midst of a grim and often hostile humanity. We want to create a family of churches that evermore perfectly lives into God's intention for the Church by finding our core meaning as ambassadors, embassies or outposts of the rule and reign of God. We want to foment "the journey inward and the journey outward" (Elizabeth O'Connor); the come-ness of followership and transformation and the sentness of mission.

Canon 3

Executive Leadership Team

- 1. Subject to any limitations in the Articles of Incorporation or these Canons, the activities and affairs of the Diocese shall be conducted and all corporate powers shall be exercised by or under the direction of the Executive Leadership Team which is the Board of Directors for all legal purposes. The Executive Leadership Team may delegate the management of the activities of the Diocese to any person or persons, management company, or committee or committees however composed, provided that the activities and affairs of the Diocese shall be managed and all corporate powers shall be exercised under the ultimate direction of the Executive Leadership Team. The Executive Leadership Team of this Diocese, subject to ratification by the Convention, has power to make canons ordering our common life in respect to the following matters:
 - a. Safeguarding the Faith and Order of the Diocese
 - b. Supporting the Mission of the Diocesee.
 - c. Clergy Support and Discipline
 - d. Providing for the Proper Administration of the Diocese
 - e. Budget
- 2. The Executive Leadership Team shall be composed of one clergy person and one lay member per deanery serving three-year terms. Each deanery shall have an annual meeting at which it shall elect its representatives.

Canon 4

On Holy Orders

- 1. Ordained Ministry in the Diocese shall be exercised only by Clergy, that is, bishops, priests, and deacons, duly ordained or licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese. This Diocese will ordain both men and women for the Vocational and Transitional Diaconate and Presbyterate. Furthermore, this Diocese celebrates men and women who serve the Church as rectors and church planters.
- 2. All licensed Clergy shall be subject to the discipline and order of the ACNA Constitution and Canons.
- 3. The identification, education, and ordination of candidates for Holy Orders shall be governed by the Ecclesiastical Authority in accordance with the Canons.

Canon 5

Ownership of Property

All property, both real and personal, owned be each fellowship or congregation now and in the future is and shall be solely and exclusively owned by said fellowship or congregation and, consistent with respective state law, shall not be subject to any trust interest or any other claim of ownership arising out of the canon law of any other ecclesiastical entity the ecclesiastical jurisdiction to which fellowship or congregation may now or in the future be subject.

TITLE II Organization and Administration of the Diocese and Congregations

Canon 1

Of Provincial Membership

Section 1. *Membership in the ACNA*

The Diocese is an association of fellowships and congregations, their Clergy and Laity, who hereby join together to be in full communion with the Anglican Communion. The Diocese is under the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the ACNA and subscribes to its Constitution and Canons.

Canon 2

Order, Governance, and Discipline of the Diocese

The order and governance of, and discipline within, the Diocese shall be vested in the Bishop, the Convention, the Ecclesiastical Court and the Executive Leadership Team as provided in the Provincial Constitution and Canons and in the Canons of the Diocese.

Section 1. *Ecclesiastical Authority*

The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall be vested in the Bishop.

Section 2. Legislative and Non-ecclesiastical Executive Authority

The legislative authority and, except as provided in Section 4 of this Canon, the non-ecclesiastical executive authority, of the Diocese shall be vested in the Convention.

Section 3. *Judicial Authority*

The judicial authority of the Diocese shall be vested in the Ecclesiastical Court.

Section 4. The Executive Leadership Team

The Executive Leadership Team shall (i) be a council of advice to the Bishop, (ii) be the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese in the absence of a Bishop authorized to act, (iii) exercise the non-ecclesiastical executive authority of the Diocese between meetings of the Convention, and (iv)

have such other authority and responsibility as the Convention of the Diocese may determine by canon or resolution.

Canon 3

Of the Convention

Section 1. *Composition*

The Convention shall consist of two houses: (a) all canonically resident Clergy of the Diocese (bishops, priests, and deacons) and (b) at least two Lay Representatives from each congregation of the Diocese.

Section 2. Representation

- a. Each congregation shall be entitled to representation in the Convention.
- b. Each congregation having more than two hundred eligible voters shall be entitled to an additional Lay Representative for each additional one hundred eligible voters, except that the total number of Lay Delegates from any one Congregation or Mission shall not exceed six. The number of Eligible Voters of a Congregation or Mission shall be based upon the most recent Annual Report prepared and filed in accordance with Title I, Canon 6, Section 8 of the Provincial Canons and these canons.
- c. Each congregation that establishes a new fellowship that itself becomes a congregation shall be entitled to one additional Lay Representative for each such fellowship so established for the life of that fellowship but no longer than five years.
- d. Any fellowship affiliated with the Diocese but which has not been accepted as a congregation by the Bishop under the process set forth in Canon 7, Section 1 of this Title, shall be entitled to one Lay Representative who shall have seat and voice but no vote, unless granted by a vote of the Convention.

Section 3. Lay Representatives

- a. Lay Representatives and Alternate Representatives from a congregation shall be elected as provided in the congregational Bylaws. Representatives shall be elected for two-year terms but no Representative who has been so elected for two successive terms shall be eligible for reelection as a Representative for one year.
- b. The election of Representatives and Alternates to the Convention shall be certified in writing to the Secretary of the Convention by the Senior Warden of the Vestry. The certificate shall state the name, address, email address, and telephone number of each Representative and Alternate and that each was chosen from the membership of said congregation. The certificate shall be given to the Secretary no later than fifteen (15) days preceding a meeting of the Convention.
- c. If Representatives or Alternates are elected to fill vacancies, the election shall be certified in writing by forwarding an amended certificate to the Secretary not later than fifteen (15) days preceding a meeting of the Convention. Failure to give the certificate to the Secretary

may result in the loss of that vote at a meeting of the Convention, as determined by the Bishop.

Section 4. *President of the Convention*

President of the Convention. The Bishop of the Diocese shall serve ex officio as President of the Convention. In the Bishop's absence, the President of the Executive Leadership Team shall serve as President of the Convention. The President may delegate responsibilities to another individual as necessary.

Section 5. *Transaction of Business*

- a. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Convention, to be held at such time and place within the borders of the Diocese as the Bishop shall determine.
- b. Fifty percent of the Clergy and fifty percent of the Lay Representatives representing at least fifty percent of congregations shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Bishop or a majority of the Executive Leadership Team must be present.
- c. Each Clergy or Lay Representative to the Convention shall have one vote and must vote in person. Voting by proxy is prohibited.
- d. The Clergy and Laity shall deliberate as one body and vote as such. On every question when the Convention is voting as a single body, the votes of a majority shall decide the question.
- e. Lay members of the Executive Leadership Team, if not elected Representatives to the Convention, shall have seat and voice at a meeting of the Convention, but no vote, unless granted by a vote of the Convention.

Section 6. *Ministries, Teams, and Task Forces*

- a. The Convention may establish Ministries, Teams, and Task Forces of the Convention, which shall have such responsibilities and powers as are assigned by the Convention consistent with the Canons of the Diocese.
- b. The Convention shall normally defer to the Executive Leadership Team for the appointment of members to these Ministries, Teams, and Task Forces.

Section 7. *ACNA Annual Provincial Assembly*

Representatives to the ACNA Annual Provincial Assembly shall be selected by the Executive Leadership Team in accordance with Title I, Canon 2 of the ACNA Canons.

Section 8. *Clergy Attendance*

All clergy canonically resident in the Diocese shall attend every meeting of the Convention or send to the Bishop a sufficient excuse for absence.

Canon 4

Of the Diocesan Executive Leadership Team

Section 1. *Voice, Vote and Quorum*

Each member of the Executive Leadership Team shall have voice and vote. The Bishop and officers of the Diocese may be invited by the Bishop to attend meetings of the Executive Leadership Team

but shall not be entitled to vote. Two-thirds of the members of the Executive Leadership Team shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 2. *Powers and Duties*

Except as otherwise provided in the Canons of the Diocese, the Executive Leadership Team of the Diocese shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. Serve as a council of advice to the Bishop; particularly in matters of discipline and mediation;
- b. Serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in the absence of a Bishop authorized to act:
- c. Together with the Bishop, act to accept or deny an application for admission of a Congregation or Mission into the Diocese;
- d. Interpret the Canons with the advice of the Chancellor or the Committee on Constitution and Canons;
- e. Perform other duties and responsibilities as assigned by the Bishop.

Canon 5

Officers of the Diocese

Section 1. *The Bishop*

The Bishop shall serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese and the presiding officer of the Convention with the authority and responsibility as set forth in the Canons of the Diocese and those additional authorities set forth in the Constitution and Canons of the Province and the Diocese. The Bishop has the authority to appoint Task Forces and/or Commissions, Deans, and all other non-stipendiary positions.

Section 2. *The Bishop Coadjutor*

The Convention may elect a Bishop Coadjutor, who is intended to succeed the Bishop upon the Bishop's retirement, death or removal. The Bishop shall prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the Bishop Coadjutor.

Section 3. *The Bishop Suffragan*

The Convention may elect one or more Bishops Suffragan whose duties shall be prescribed by the Bishop.

Section 4. The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors

The Chancellor of the Diocese, appointed by the Bishop, shall be learned in the law and licensed to practice law in one of the jurisdictions encompassed by the Diocese. The Chancellor shall have responsibility for the legal affairs of the Diocese and shall serve as counsel to the Bishop and the Executive Leadership Team. The Bishop may appoint vice-chancellors as necessary. The Chancellor

of the Diocese shall be licensed in the state of California. Vice-Chancellors may be added as deemed necessary.

Section 5. *The Corporate Secretary*

The Corporate Secretary, appointed by the Bishop, shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Executive Leadership Team and shall submit such reports as the Bishop may request. The Bishop may appoint assistant secretaries as necessary. The Secretary, shall be the custodian of official records of the Diocese and shall issue such certification as may be directed by the Bishop.

Section 6. The Corporate Treasurer

The Corporate Treasurer, appointed by the Bishop, shall be the custodian for all of the funds of the Diocese. The Treasurer shall prepare the annual diocesan budget and shall file an annual report to the Convention on the financial status of the Diocese, including reports of account for all funds under his or her custody or control, profit and loss statements, and balance sheets. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for the preparation of such periodic financial reports as may be required by the Executive Leadership Team.

Section 7. *Terms of Office and Convention Representation*

The Chancellor, the Secretary, and the Treasurer shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop. All Officers of the Diocese shall serve as non-voting members ex officio of the Convention.

Section 8. *Deans and Deaneries*

This Diocese shall be comprised of regional deaneries led by Deans appointed by the Bishop. The Deans shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop and be responsible for regional clergy gatherings, edification of clergy and congregations, and actively working toward the creation of missional dioceses. The Bishop will determine the regions covered by each deanery, as he deems necessary for the mission of this Diocese.

Canon 6

Committees of the Diocese

Section 1. *Committee on Nominations for Bishops*

- a. Nomination. When the Office of Bishop becomes vacant, the Executive Leadership Team as comprised on the day the vacancy occurs shall nominate candidates for the Office of Bishop.
- b. Election. Executive Leadership Team shall nominate a minimum of two Clergy for the Bishop's office. At a special meeting of the Convention, called by the Executive Leadership Team, the Bishop shall be elected from the candidates presented by the Executive Leadership Team.

c. Consent of the ACNA. The name of the Bishop-elect shall be submitted to the ACNA College of Bishops for consent.

Canon 7

Congregations and Missions

Section 1. *Application*

Any fellowship of not less than forty people in rural communities or seventy in urban communities, who are at least eighteen years old and meeting regularly in the Diocese, who are receiving the administrations of the Church and worshipping Almighty God according to the faith and doctrine of the Church, and who have established a recognized leadership structure and embraced the mission of the Diocese, may apply to the Bishop for membership in the Diocese as a congregation.

Section 2. *Incorporation*

- a. A congregation may or may not choose to be incorporated within its State of geographical residence.
- b. If a congregation desires incorporation, it shall submit its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws to the Bishop and Executive Leadership Team for approval.
- c. No amendment in the Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws of any congregation shall be made unless it is approved in accordance with its Bylaws, and by the Bishop, and the Executive Leadership Team.

Section 3. *Property*

- a. The congregation is the sole owner of its assets and properties, as described in the Canons.
- b. Each congregation, incorporated or unincorporated, may acquire, or commit itself to acquire, by purchase, exchange, or otherwise, any real estate. A congregation may alienate or encumber any real estate held by it or for its use.
- c. In case any congregation shall be dissolved, it shall decide by a two-thirds majority vote of the congregation what shall be done with the property, real and personal. (Such properties and assets may not be given to private or personal ownership.)
- d. Should a congregation request that its church or chapel buildings be deconsecrated so that it can sell the property, the Bishop shall do so as soon as practical.

Section 4. Administration

The administration of a congregation shall be conducted by a Vestry of not less than five persons to be elected according to the Bylaws of said congregation, unless otherwise arranged through the Bishop.

In the case of newly formed congregations, including church plants, where the size of the congregation makes it difficult to build a vestry of five persons, the diocese shall provide an initial Vestry which will consist of five designated vestry members of which one shall serve a one-year term, two shall serve a two-year term, and two shall serve a three-year term. These initial vestry members shall be designated by the Bishop. At the end of each of the initial designated vestry members' terms, the congregations will elect new vestry members from the congregation to fill the vacancies in accordance with the congregation's bylaws.

Section 5. *Annual Diocesan Contribution*

In its Annual Report, each congregation shall provide an estimate of the amount it will give to the Diocese for its annual contribution (Canon VII).

Section 6. *Dissolution*

The Convention may, by a two-thirds vote, dissolve its union with any congregation.

Canon 8

Disruption of Pastoral Relationship

When, in the judgment of the Bishop, there are grounds for believing that a continued pastoral relationship between Clergy and congregation may not be in the best interests of the congregation or the Diocese, the Bishop shall first counsel with the Clergy and then the Vestry, and attempt to come to an amicable resolution. Failing an amicable resolution, the Bishop, or the Vestry, or the Clergy may take the case to the Executive Leadership Team who shall affect a final disposition to the issue.

Canon 9

Congregation, Mission and Diocesan Property

Section 1. *No Denominational or Diocesan Trust in Congregation Property*

All real and personal property owned by or held for the benefit of a Congregation shall belong exclusively to that Congregation, free of any trust or other claim by the Diocese or the Province.

Section 2. *Ownership of Congregation and Mission-Church Property*

All church property, both real and personal, owned by each member congregation now and in the future is and shall be solely and exclusively owned by each member congregation and shall not be subject any trust interest in favor of the Diocese or another claim of ownership arising out of the canon law of this Diocese.

Section 3. Restriction on Right to Alienate, Sell, Exchange, Encumber or Transfer Real Property of Congregations and Missions

Prior to the sale of consecrated property, the Governing Body shall first offer the property to the Executive Leadership Team of the Diocese, which, unless waived, shall have sixty (60) days to accept the offer.

Section 4. Diocese Empowered to Own Its Own Property

Diocesan property shall not be subject to any trust, right of assessment or other claim by the Province. The Diocese reserves the right to withdraw from the Province at any time with the consent of a two-thirds majority of the delegates entitled to vote at a meeting of the Convention

called for that purpose. Upon any withdrawal, the Diocese shall give notice to the Province, including the date thereof, and shall retain all property, real, personal, tangible and intangible, owned or held by or on behalf of the Diocese.

TITLE III Of Ministers, Their Recruitment, Preparation, Ordination, Office, Practice and Transfer

Canon 1

Of Licensed Lay Orders

Rectors and clergy overseeing congregations and missions may license members as Lay Church Planters, Lay Evangelists, Lay Pastors, Lay Preachers, Lay Catechists, Lay Readers, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers for ministry in the local congregation or mission. The Executive Leadership Team shall establish minimum standards for training and licensing such Lay ministers.

TITLE IV Ecclesiastical Discipline

Canon 1

Ecclesiastical Discipline

Section 1. *Of Courts, Membership and Procedures*

The diocese will have a court that is guided by Title IV of the Provincial Canons in the constitution of the court, appointment of the canonical investigator and other procedures except as amplified in this section

a. Concerning Courts for the Trial of a Presbyter or Deacon.

- i. There shall be an ecclesiastical Trial Court established for the trial of any Presbyter or Deacon subject to the jurisdiction of this Diocese.
- ii. It shall be the duty of the Diocese to provide by canon for the establishment of such court and the mode of conducting trials in the same.
- iii. In case of conviction by the Trial Court, the Bishop shall not proceed to sentence the accused before the expiration of thirty days after he shall have been served with notice of the decision of the court, nor in case an appeal is taken shall sentence be pronounced pending the hearing and determination thereof.
- iv. The ecclesiastical Trial Court shall be seven judges elected by the Executive Leadership Team. Judges shall serve ten-year terms or until age 70 is reached, whichever provides for the longer term. Each judge shall remain in his or her position until their replacements are elected by the Executive Leadership Team.

- v. When a claim is brought before the Trial Court, a panel of five judges from the Trial Court shall make up the panel for that claim. Whenever possible, the five most senior judges will make up the panel for a specific issue. Seniority requirements notwithstanding, at least one panelist should be a licensed attorney, one panelist shall be an ordained presbyter, and no two panelists should be from the same deanery. Nor should any panelists be from the deanery of the accused. These requirements may be waived if needed to assemble a panel of five from the seven members of the Trial Court. However, waivers should be used to the minimum extent possible.
- vi. The Bishop and Executive Leadership Team will establish the mode of trials in the ecclesiastical Trial Court.
- vii. Pursuant to ACNA Canon IV.5.3, the entire presentment may be referred by the Bishop to the Provincial Court of Extraordinary Jurisdiction.

b. Concerning Procedures.

The ecclesiastical Trial Court shall establish their own procedures within the generally recognized history of ecclesiastical law, to include the appointment of a recorder of proceedings. Such procedures shall:

- i. Acknowledge the presumption of innocence of the accused, and
- ii. The right to representation by counsel, and
- iii. Shall be consistent with principles of fairness, due process and natural justice, and
- iv. Shall require expeditious handling consistent with those principles.

No new rule of procedure shall be made while a matter is pending that would be affected by that rule. Inasmuch as the ecclesiastical Trial Court is a court of original jurisdiction, the standard of proof shall be by clear and convincing evidence. Unless a higher standard is required by canon, the affirmative vote of not fewer than a majority of the members of the Trial Court shall be required for any determination by that this Court.

c. Concerning Appeal.

An appeal may be made within thirty (30) days of the decision of the ecclesiastical Trial Court for the Trial of a Presbyter or Deacon. The appeal shall be made in writing to the Bishop who is the Presiding Officer of the Provincial Tribunal, stating the nature of the case and the reason(s) for the appeal. The appeal will proceed as set forth in the Provincial Constitution and Canons.

Section 2. *Of a Member of the Clergy in Any Diocese Chargeable with Offense in Another.* If a member of the Clergy belonging to any Diocese shall have conducted himself in another Diocese in such a manner as to be liable to presentment under the provisions of Section 2, the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof shall give notice of the same to the Ecclesiastical Authority where the member of the Clergy is canonically resident, exhibiting, with the information given, reasonable ground for proceeding. If the Ecclesiastical Authority of the alleged offender, after due notice given, shall omit, for the space of three months, to proceed against the offending member of the Clergy, or shall request the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in which the offense or offenses are alleged to have been committed to proceed against him, it shall be within the power of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese within which the offense or offenses are alleged to have been committed to institute proceedings as provided by the canons of that Diocese.

If a member of the Clergy making a declaration of voluntary resignation of ministry under ACNA Canon III.6.4 or a renunciation of the ministry under ACNA Canon IV.7, be under accusation or presentment for any canonical offense, or if they shall have been placed on trial for the same, the Ecclesiastical Authority to whom such declaration is made, shall not consider or act upon such declaration until after the accusation or presentment shall have been dismissed, or the trial shall have been concluded and sentence, if any, pronounced. If the Ecclesiastical Authority to whom such declaration is made shall have ground to suppose that the member of the Clergy making the same is liable to presentment for any canonical offense, such member of the Clergy may, in the discretion of the Ecclesiastical Authority, be placed on trial for such offense, notwithstanding such declaration of renunciation of the ministry.

Section 4. *Of Sentences*

- a. Concerning the Role of the Bishop in Sentencing. The Bishop alone has the authority to pronounce sentence on a Presbyter or Deacon convicted as indicated in these canons. If there is no Bishop, the Archbishop or another Bishop designated by the Archbishop shall pronounce sentence.
- b. Concerning Pronouncement of Sentence. The College of Bishops, speaking through the Archbishop or his designate, has the sole responsibility and authority to pronounce sentence on a Bishop.
- c. Concerning Range of Sentencing. Sentence shall be:
 - i. Censure and/or admonishment;
 - ii. Suspension, for a definite period, not to exceed five (5) years, with a review by the Bishop at the end of that time; or
 - iii. Suspension for life; or
 - iv. Deposition from the sacred ministry.

In addition, other measures for restoration of the accused may be required.

Section 5. *Concerning Length of Sentences.*

Upon a showing of good cause:

- a. A sentence of suspension of a Presbyter or Deacon may be terminated or shortened by the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Presbyter or Deacon was convicted with the advice and consent of the Archbishop, in consultation with the Executive Committee;
- b. A sentence of suspension of a Bishop may be terminated or shortened by the College of Bishops with the consent of the Archbishop.

Section 6. *Of Inhibitions*

The Bishop may inhibit a Presbyter or Deacon from the exercise of ministry for a 30-day period when the Bishop believes, upon reasonable grounds, that the Presbyter or Deacon has engaged, or is engaged, in conduct upon which a Presbyter or Deacon in this Church may be presented. With the advice and consent of the Executive Leadership Team or its equivalent, such inhibition may be extended until such charge is dropped or action taken by a Trial Court. Upon application by a Presbyter or a Deacon who has been temporarily inhibited under this Canon and upon a showing of good cause, the Archbishop or his designate may modify or revoke the temporary inhibition. Such decision shall be rendered within thirty (30) days.

Section 7. *Of Notification of Disciplinary Action Taken*

The Bishop pronouncing sentence shall within thirty (30) days of the sentence notify the Provincial Office who shall notify all Bishops with jurisdiction and shall maintain a permanent record of the action. Should a sentence be amended or terminated, notification of that action shall also be reported to the Provincial Office who shall promptly give notice of and record the amendment or termination in the permanent record.

TITLE V Enactment, Amendment, and Repeal of Canons

Canon 1

Amendments

All amendments to these Canons must be proposed in writing to the Convention and the Executive Leadership Team. The Convention can ratify the proposed amendment in two ways: (a) with three-fourths affirmative vote of those present or (b) with a simple majority of two consecutive Convention meeting spaced no closer than three months apart.