



The  
Episcopal Diocese  
of New York

## **Bylaws of the Mid-Hudson Regional Council**

### **Article I: The Mid-Hudson Region**

The Inter-Parish Councils, religious institutions and congregations of the Episcopal Church in the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, and Ulster in the State of New York shall constitute the Mid-Hudson Region of the Diocese of New York.

### **Article II: Council Function**

The Mid-Hudson Regional Council shall be the consultative council for the Episcopal Religious institutions in the Region and shall succeed to the functions of the former Regional Assembly.

The Council shall meet at the call of its President or Executive Committee, shall distribute to its members reports received from its member institutions and the Executive Committee, and any reports or requests sent to it by the Bishop or appropriate diocesan bodies, and shall take appropriate action with respect to them.

The Council shall receive a summary report of funds granted in the Region.

Delegates to the Council shall report the actions of the Council to their constituencies.

Upon recommendation of any member Inter-Parish Councils, the Regional Council shall assume responsibility for receiving and acting upon petitions to change existing Inter-Parish Constituencies.

### **Article III: Voting Membership**

For the purpose of conducting business of the Council, voting delegates shall be as follows:

All clergy (bishops, priests, and deacons) residing in the Mid-Hudson Region who are canonically resident in the diocese or are exercising a ministry in the Mid-Hudson Region under license of the Bishop of the Diocese of New York.

The Religious-in-Charge from each Religious House in the Mid-Hudson Region.

The delegates shall be two representatives from each Episcopal religious house and two lay delegates from the Episcopal congregations in the Mid-Hudson Region regardless of size.



#### **Article IV: Council Officers**

The President of the Regional Council shall be the Bishop of the Diocese or the Bishop's duly appointed diocesan Regional Officer. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Council.

A secretary shall be elected annually from the membership for a period of one year.

Other appropriate officers shall be elected as need requires for terms to be specified in the election.

#### **Article V: Meetings and Quorum**

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The Regional Council shall meet on the last Saturday of September or nearest convenient date thereafter fixed by the executive committee.

A special meeting of the Regional Council may be convened by the Bishop or by the Executive Committee

Delegates representing a simple majority of the Episcopal congregations and religious institutions of the Region shall constitute a quorum.

Voting shall be by a simple majority of the delegates present and voting, each having one vote.

With respect to decorum and debate, the rules of order of the Convention of the Diocese of New York shall obtain.

A vote by orders may be required by five Members, and upon such a vote the Orders shall vote separately, and the concurrence of a majority of the votes cast in each Order shall constitute a vote.

#### **Article VI: Executive Committee**

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Regional Council consisting of the President and sixteen delegates (eight clerical and eight lay) each elected by Council for one-year terms, and three other persons (who need not be delegates) appointed by the Bishop, who will serve at the pleasure of the Bishop. The Committee may fill any vacancies on the Committee from the current roll of delegates.

An Executive Committee member may serve up to four consecutive one-year terms, after which



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he or she must remain off the Executive Committee for a period of one year. All members are eligible for re-election or re-appointment after expiration of one year from the end of their last term.

The Executive Committee shall elect such of its officers (other than its chair, who shall be the President of the Council) and shall conduct the business and administer the program of the Region between meetings of the Regional Council, and shall appoint such other Committees to carry out the work of Council as the Executive Committee shall, from time to time, determine. The membership of those committees, which shall not be limited to delegates to Council, and their terms, shall be as prescribed in the resolution of the Executive Committee.

The duties of the Executive Committee shall include:

(A) To work with the Bishop or his/her regional officer in the development and prosecution of the Mission of the Diocese of New York in the Mid-Hudson Region.

(B) To assume responsibility for the Regional Ministry Strategy, which shall include:

(1) Preparation of budgets for the administration of the Region.

(2) Receiving and acting on grant applications for Board of Managers Funds.

(3) Recommendations to the appropriate Diocesan body of changes in existing commitments and the development of the new undertakings.

## **Article VI: Amendment**

Any provision of these By-laws may be amended by the Regional Council of the Mid-Hudson Region, provided such amendment was contained in the written notice of the meeting sent to each delegate.