**Introduction**

Standing Committee President email: scpresident@edsd.org

These Model Bylaws, in addition to being canonically required documentation, are intended to bring clarity to the fundamentals of a legal organization, as well as ensure consistency across the EDSD. Each congregation has the responsibility of updating their bylaws regularly. Additionally, congregations seeking other actions through the Standing Committee, Executive Council, Property or Finance Committee, and/or the Bishop’s office, may require a bylaw update.

The Standing Committee (SC) is responsible for monitoring diocesan conformity across congregational bylaws and any modifications must have the approval of the SC, as well as acceptance by the Vestry (V) or Bishop Committee’s (BC) before being deemed legal.

Note that no bylaw may contradict diocesan or national church canons, and no diocesan canon may contradict federal or state law. Furthermore, any deviation from the Model Bylaws places the congregation at legal risk.

**How to update your Bylaws:**

* Indicate your intent to update to SC President
* Download the Model Bylaws document from the EDSD website
	+ ***Turn on “Track Changes” before making changes***
	+ You will note that places requiring the particular information of your congregation are in red
* Plan for a process lasting three to six months, including:
	1. V or BC appoints a person or team to lead the process
	2. In the Model Bylaw document, indicate any unique bylaws from your existing bylaws that may be appropriate to carry over
* Be prepared to explain the history of the exception and how it is utilized today
	1. Obtain V or BC acceptance of the draft bylaws
	2. Request that your proposed bylaw document be reviewed by the SC (meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of each month)
		+ - * Then forward to SC:
				* A copy of proposed bylaws (with track changes turned on)
				* Original parish bylaws
				* The SC will have a diocesan Chancellor review
	3. After the SC meeting, recommended and/or required changes will be conveyed to your team
		+ - * This may be an iterative process over a few months
	4. Bylaw team makes required changes and considers recommendations
	5. Obtain V or BC acceptance of the revised bylaws
	6. Request that your revised bylaw document be reviewed by the SC
		+ - * Forward to SC:
				* A copy of proposed bylaws (with track changes turned on)
				* Original parish bylaws
	7. Upon SC’s final approval:
		+ - * V or B officially votes to adopt the proposed new bylaws
				* A clean version of adopted bylaws, with the V or BC adoption date noted on the cover page, is submitted to the SC president and Bishop’s assistant for filing
	8. Submit new bylaws at your next annual meeting (or special meeting of the congregation) for adoption as a congregation
		+ - * Again, a clean version of adopted bylaws, this time with the congregational adoption date noted on the cover page, is submitted to the SC president and Bishop’s assistant for filing
				* Meeting minutes of said meeting are also required
* Bylaws become legal once they are approved by the SC, the congregation, and submitted to the Diocese with appropriate meeting minutes attached.

**LEGEND:**

EDSD – Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

SC – Standing Committee

V or BC – Vestry or Bishop’s Committee

Intent to update to scpresident@edsd.org

V or BC appoints Process leader/team

Download Model Bylaws from EDSD Website

Turn on “***Track Changes***”, Modify Model to fit your congregation, especially the areas indicated in red

Add any bylaws unique to your congregation

No

V or BC Accept Draft

Yes

Request Review of Draft Bylaws by SC**\***

Revise Draft Bylaws

Email Draft (w/”Track Changes”) and copy of original bylaws to SC

Congregation votes to adopt new bylaws at Annual Meeting

No

Copy of new bylaws w/Congregation adoption date on cover to SC President and Bishop

Copy of new bylaws w/V or BC adoption date on cover to SC President and Bishop

V or BC votes to adopt proposed new bylaws

Yes

SC Approves Draft

**\*** *Standing Committee Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Please give two weeks notice for your Bylaw review.*



**[Insert full name of Mission]**[**1**](#bookmark0)

**\*Your amended bylaws will need to be approved by the Standing Committee. As you adapt these for your congregation's use, please turn on "Track Changes" so the committee is able to note your changes.**

[**2**](#bookmark1) **Model Bylaws for Missions 2021**

1 Red sections of this document indicate decisions to be made.

2 If you are amending existing Bylaws, your title will either be “Amended Bylaws” (for a document only changing one or more sections) or “Amended Restated Bylaws” (for a document that is intended to completely take the place of the existing Bylaws).

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[**3**](#bookmark2)**BYLAWS OF**

# [4](#bookmark3)The Bishop’s Committee of

**St. , in , California 20 \_**

The following are adopted as the Amended Restated Bylaws of the above-named mission. All bylaws and regulations heretofore adopted by this mission shall be superseded upon the effective date of these Restated Bylaws.

ARTICLE 1. MISSION PART OF EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Section 1.1. NAME. The name of this ecclesiastical entity is (sometimes referred to as the “Mission”). To further its mission and ministry, the mission was formed on or about. These bylaws are adopted to serve as the bylaws for the mission.

Section 1.2 PURPOSE. The purpose of the Mission (as an ecclesiastical entity) is religious worship in the City of , State of California, according to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. The Mission is an integral unit and a subordinate body of The Episcopal Church and is in communion with and under the authority of The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego.

Section 1.3 ACCESSION TO CONSTITUTION AND CANONS. The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church (sometimes known as The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America) and the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego of said Church, as either may be amended from time to time, are hereby incorporated into and constitute a part of these Bylaws of Saint ; and in case of any conflict between any provision or provisions of said Constitutions and Canons and these Bylaws, then the provision of said Constitutions and Canons shall prevail over and in all respects supersede and to that extent effect the repeal of these Bylaws to fully obviate such conflict. If a Diocese or Missionary District of the Episcopal Church other than The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego shall hereafter have jurisdiction over the territory wherein St.

 Parish is located, or shall otherwise have jurisdiction under the authority of The Episcopal Church over the Parish or the Corporation, then all references in these Bylaws to The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego shall apply to such other Diocese or Missionary District with like force and effect.

Section 1.4. STATUS AND RELATIONSHIP TO DIOCESE. As a mission of the Diocese, the mission is under the authority and control of the Bishop and the Diocese. The Bishop is the Rector of the mission and appoints the Vicar, who serves at the pleasure of the Bishop.

ARTICLE 2. OFFICE

3 See Footnote 1 on cover page for proper name of this document.

4 Be certain to use the **exact** name of your mission.

[5](#bookmark4)The mission’s principal office is fixed and located at , , California. The principal office may be changed to another location within the Diocese by a resolution duly adopted by the Bishop’s Committee (as defined elsewhere herein).

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERS

Section 3.1. QUALIFICATIONS. The qualifications of members and the terms of admission to membership in this mission are those which are prescribed by the [6](#bookmark5)Diocesan Canons for electors entitled to vote for members of the Bishop’s Committee.

Mission

Section 3.2. VOTING RIGHTS. Each member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members, including the election of members of the Bishop’s Committee.

Section 3.3. TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP. No member may transfer a membership or any right arising therefrom.[7](#bookmark6)

Section 3.4. PLACE OF MEETINGS. All meetings of the members of this Mission shall be held in the sanctuary of the Mission, or such other place as designated by the Bishop’s Committee.

Section 3.5. ANNUAL MEETINGS. The annual meeting of the members prescribed by the Diocesan Canons, commonly referred to as the annual meeting of the Mission, shall be held on the [Choose one: first, second, third, fourth] Sunday in [Choose: January or February or March] of each year, at :00 a/p.m., or at such other convenient time as designated by the Bishop’s Committee.

Section 3.6. CALL OF SPECIAL MEETINGS. A special meeting of members may be called at any time by the Bishop, the Vicar, or by the Bishop’s Committee.

Section 3.7. NOTICE OF ANNUAL OR SPECIAL MEETINGS. Reasonable notice of each annual or special meeting shall be given to members, not fewer than ten (10) nor more than forty-five (45) days before the date of the meeting. Notice shall be given by public announcement at all regularly scheduled services on the Saturday and Sunday preceding the date of the meeting, and in writing. Written notice shall be deemed to include electronic notice delivered to the members, even if not all members have elected to receive electronic notice. Notice of any such meeting shall include the date, time and place of the meeting, and the purpose or purposes of the meeting, and no other business may be conducted at that meeting.

5 If you have more than one location (for example, a store front sanctuary and an office someplace else) this should be the primary office where you receive your mail and keep your records.

6 i.e., EDSD Title II, Canon 5.00

7 This provision does not refer to a letter of transfer from one congregation to another. Some clergy issue those letters and some do not. This provision is a state law concept meaning that your membership has no separate asset value, such as a membership in a partnership.

Section 3.8. [8](#bookmark7)QUORUM. Twenty percent (20%) of the average Sunday attendance, averaged over the six months prior to the meeting, but not fewer than twice the number of members of the Bishop’s Committee including the Vicar and Wardens, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the meeting. The affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting, at which a quorum is present, entitled to vote and voting, shall be the act of the members.

Section 3.9. VOTING. Elections shall be by ballot, either paper or electronic. In any election of Bishop’s Committee members, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected. Each member shall have one vote for each vacancy to be filled, but a member may not cumulate votes for the election of Vestry members. On all other matters, votes may be taken orally or by show of hands, unless at least ten (10) members call for a written ballot by notifying the presiding officer before the vote is taken.

Section 3.10. VICAR A MEMBER AND PRESIDING OFFICER. The Vicar of the Mission, by virtue of being Vicar, shall, while Vicar, be a member of this Mission with right to vote, and shall preside at all meetings of the Mission and of the Bishop’s Committee. Pursuant to Title I, Canon 14.3 of the Canons of The Episcopal Church, the Vicar may designate another member of the Bishop’s Committee to preside in his or her place. In the absence of the Vicar, the Bishop’s Warden shall preside at any such meeting, or if the Bishop’s Warden is not present, the Junior Warden shall preside. If neither the Vicar nor a Warden is present, but a quorum of members is present, the members shall elect one of their members as presiding officer.

Section 3.11. RECORD DATE. [9](#bookmark8)The record date for determining the members entitled to notice of, and to vote at, any meeting of members shall be the date specified by the Bishop’s Committee, which date shall be not less than five (5), nor more than forty-five (45) days before the meeting. If not so designated by the Bishop’s Committee, then the record date shall be at the close of business on the business day which is five (5) days before the day on which notice is given.

Section 3.12. PROXIES AND ABSENTEE BALLOTS. Voting rights may *not* be exercised by proxies or through absentee ballots.

Section 3.13. INSPECTORS OF ELECTION. Before any meeting of members, the Bishop’s Committee may appoint three inspectors of election to act at such meeting and any adjournment thereof. The duties of such inspectors shall be to supervise and/or conduct votes and to report the results of that process to the Vicar.

Section 3.14. [10](#bookmark9)CONDUCT OF MEETING. The chair of meetings of members shall conduct each such meeting in an orderly and fair manner, but shall not be obligated to follow any technical, formal or parliamentary rules or principles of procedure. The chair’s rulings on procedural matters shall be

8 The quorum provision is intended to ensure you have enough people present to conduct business. There is flexibility in what you choose to require. Look at your Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) for the last six months and consider whether ten percent (for example) seems like an appropriate number to be sure the congregation is adequately represented. This model calls for a percentage of ASA but not fewer than twice the number of members of the Bishop’s Committee, including the Vicar and Wardens.

9 This provision is required by California law.

10 It is not uncommon to provide that the meetings will be held and conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order, as modified by the Rules of Order of the Canons of the Diocese. But care must be taken to ensure a process that is fair and one in which all voices may be heard.

conclusive unless at the time of a ruling a request for a vote is made to the members present and entitled to vote, in which case the decision of a majority of such members shall be conclusive and binding.

Section 3.15. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES. When the Bishop and the Diocesan Executive Council promulgate a Declaration of Extraordinary Circumstances as that term is defined in Title V, Canon 1.10.1 of the Canons of the Diocese, the Bishop’s Committee, with the Consent of the Vicar, may implement temporary modifications to these Bylaws. Those modifications may include allowing an annual meeting to be held virtually (rather than in person), and modifications to the methods of voting on mission business and the election of members of the Bishop’s Committee, officers and delegates.

Such provisions shall be enumerated and included in the Minutes of the Bishop’s Committee meeting at which they were adopted. Those provisions shall be limited to:

1. Permit attendance, quorum, through on-line streaming, zoom or other means (attendance not in-person)
2. Permit voting on-line, zoom, app or other means (voting not in-person) ARTICLE 4. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO CONVENTION

Each year by April 1, the number of allowable lay delegates and lay alternates to Diocesan Convention shall be elected by the members, preferably at the annual meeting of members, or at a special meeting called for that purpose. Delegates shall be elected in the same manner as is provided for in these Bylaws for the election of the Bishop’s Committee. Alternates shall be called upon to serve in the order of their election. Delegates shall serve for a period of one year, and shall serve as delegates for any Diocesan Conventions occurring during that period.

ARTICLE 5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS; BISHOP’S COMMITTEE

Section 5.1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS KNOWN AS BISHOP’S COMMITTEE. The Bishop’s Committee of this Mission shall be known as, and shall constitute, the Board of Directors. The Vicar is and the Wardens shall be members of the Bishop’s Committee and are entitled to vote.

Section 5.2. ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION TO BISHOP’S COMMITTEE. Eligibility for election to the Bishop’s Committee is governed by the Diocesan Canons. Besides the eligible persons elected to the Bishop’s Committee, one youth representative to the Bishop’s Committee, [11](#bookmark10)aged not less than sixteen

1. nor more than (18) years, may be elected by the Bishop’s Committee to a one-year term and shall have seat and voice but no vote. No member of the Bishop’s Committee shall be a family member of the first degree (i.e., parent, child, spouse) of any other member of the Bishop’s Committee.

Section 5.3. ORGANIZATION OF THE BISHOP’S COMMITTEE.

* 1. Number of Members[12](#bookmark11). The number of members of the Bishop’s Committee, including therein the Vicar and the Wardens, shall be not fewer than eleven (11) nor more than fourteen (14). The

11 The rationale behind the age limits is that persons under the age of 18 do not have the legal capacity to vote on matters that would bind the Mission, such as a contract or lease.

12 This number is flexible. It is wise to provide for a range, but the ultimate number should be odd, to avoid the possibility of tied votes.

Vicar shall be a member of the Bishop’s Committee for so long as the Vicar is serving as Vicar. The Junior Warden shall be elected from and by the Bishop’s Committee. The Bishop’s Warden shall be appointed by the Bishop with the advice of the Vicar and shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop. A clerk and a Treasurer shall be chosen in accordance with the Diocesan Canons.[13](#bookmark12)

* 1. Election and Terms. At each annual meeting of members, a number of Bishop’s Committee members shall be elected equal to the number of Bishop’s Committee members whose terms shall have expired at the time of such meeting. After a member of the Bishop’s Committee has served two full terms (a full term is three years), one year shall elapse before he or she shall be eligible for reelection to the Bishop’s Committee, it being understood that the period between the annual meeting at which a term shall have expired and the next annual meeting of the members constitutes one year even if it is not 365 days. A person elected to the Bishop’s Committee to fill an unexpired term shall be eligible for immediate reelection to the Bishop’s Committee unless the unexpired term included more than two years; provided, however, that no person shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years on the Bishop’s Committee.
	2. Terms of Officers. The terms of office of all officers shall be one year. No officer shall serve more than three consecutive years in the office to which they have been elected or appointed. After any person has served as an Officer (other than the Vicar) for three consecutive years, one year shall elapse before he or she shall be eligible for election or appointment to a different office or to the same office in which he or she has been serving.

Section 5.4. POWERS AND DUTIES OF VESTRY. Subject to any limitations of the Bylaws of this Mission, to the canonical rights of the Bishop of this Diocese and of the Vicar, the powers of this Mission shall be exercised by or under the direction of, and the temporal business and affairs of this Mission shall be controlled by, the Bishop’s Committee, with the consent of the Bishop.

Section 5.5. VACANCIES.

1. Filling Vacancies. Vacancies in the Bishop’s Committee, except those existing because of removal of a member of the Bishop’s Committee by the members of this Mission and except a vacancy in the role of Vicar, may be filled by a majority of the remaining members of the Bishop’s Committee, although less than a quorum, or by a sole remaining member of the Bishop’s Committee, and each member of the Bishop’s Committee so elected shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the replaced member of the Bishop’s Committee and until a successor has been elected and qualified.
2. Cause of Vacancy. A vacancy or vacancies in the Bishop’s Committee shall be deemed to exist in case of the death, resignation or removal of any member of the Bishop’s Committee, or if the authorized number of members of the Bishop’s Committee is increased, or if the members of the Mission fail to elect the full authorized number of members of the Bishop’s Committee**,** or if a member of the Bishop’s Committee shall miss three or more meetings in any twelve-month period, without excuse, and in accordance with Diocesan Canons. The members of the Bishop’s Committee may declare vacant the office of a member of the Bishop’s Committee who has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court, or has been convicted of a felony.

13 EDSD Title II, Canon 5.05

1. Filling Vacancy by Mission. [14](#bookmark13)The members of the Mission may elect a member or members of the Bishop’s Committee to fill any vacancy or vacancies not filled by the Bishop’s Committee within four months of the effective date of the vacancy or vacancies.
2. Reduction in Authorized Number Does Not Cause Removal. No reduction of the authorized number of members of the Bishop’s Committee shall have the effect of removing any member of the Bishop’s Committee prior to the expiration of that member’s term of office. The Bishop’s Committee may not increase or decrease the authorized number of members of the Bishop’s Committee more than once each year, and may only do so within three months prior to the Annual Meeting of Members.

Section 5.6. PLACE OF MEETING. Regular or special meetings of the Bishop’s Committee shall be held at any place designated by the Bishop’s Committee. Absent such designation, regular meetings shall be held at the principal office of the Mission.

Section 5.7. REGULAR MEETINGS.[15](#bookmark14) Regular meetings of the Bishop’s Committee shall be held monthly, on the day and time selected by the Bishop’s Committee at the first meeting of the Bishop’s Committee each year [or: without call or notice on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. See footnote 15 below]

Section 5.8. SPECIAL MEETINGS. Special meetings of the Bishop’s Committee may be called at any time by the Vicar, the Bishop, either Warden, or any three (3) members of the Bishop’s Committee.

Special meetings of the Bishop’s Committee shall be held upon four (4) days’ notice by first-class mail or 48 hours’ notice given personally or by telephone, facsimile, e-mail, or similar means of communication. Any such notice shall be addressed or delivered to each member of the Bishop’s Committee at such address as shown upon the records of the Mission or as may have been given to the Bishop’s Committee by the member for purposes of notice.

Section 5.9. QUORUM. [16](#bookmark15) A majority of the authorized number of members of the Bishop’s Committee constitutes a quorum of the Bishop’s Committee for the transaction of business; provided, however, that such number must include the Vicar or at least one of the Wardens unless there are no Vicar or Wardens.

A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business notwithstanding the withdrawal of members of the Bishop’s Committee, if any action is approved by at least a majority of the required quorum for such meeting.

Section 5.10. PARTICIPATION BY CONFERENCE TELEPHONE. Members of the Bishop’s Committee may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or similar communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear one another.

14 This provision permits the Mission to fill a vacancy if the Bishop’s Committee has failed or refused to act. 15 If you designate this date and time in the Bylaws, it means you could hold a meeting at that date and time without giving prior notice. Best practices, however, call for prior notice to always be given.

16 For example, if your number of authorized vestry seats is 13, then your quorum is 7, and that 7 must include the Vicar or at least one Warden.

Section 5.11. WAIVER OF NOTICE. Notice of a meeting need not be given to any member of the Bishop’s Committee who signs a waiver of notice or a written consent to holding the meeting or an approval of the minutes thereof, whether before or after the meeting, or who attends the meeting without protesting, prior thereto or at its commencement, the lack of notice to such member. All such waivers, consents and approvals shall be filed with the corporate records or made a part of the minutes of the meetings.

Section 5.12. ADJOURNMENT. A majority of the members of the Bishop’s Committee present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any meeting to another time and place. Notice of the time and place of holding an adjourned meeting need not be given to any absent member of the Bishop’s Committee if the time and place is fixed at the meeting adjourned.

Section 5.13. ACTION WITHOUT MEETING. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Bishop’s Committee may be taken without a meeting if all members shall individually or collectively consent in writing to the action being considered, to include facsimile and e-mail, to such action. Such written consent or consents shall have the same effect as a unanimous vote of the Bishop’s Committee and shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the Bishop’s Committee.

Section 5.14. REMOVAL OF MEMBERS OF BISHOP’S COMMITTEE. Any one or more members of the Bishop’s Committee (other than the Vicar) may be removed from office by the vote of a majority of the persons entitled to vote at any regular or special meeting of the members, provided that the notice of the meeting specifies such removal as a purpose of the meeting and identifies the member or members proposed to be removed. If any or all members of the Bishop’s Committee are so removed, new members of the Bishop’s Committee may be elected at the same meeting. In addition, any member of the Bishop’s Committee may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote of the Bishop’s Committee at any meeting thereof duly held, if the removed member would at the time not be eligible for election to the Bishop’s Committee.

# ARTICLE 6. COMMITTEES

**Section 6.1. CREATION OF AND LIMITATIONS ON COMMITTEES. The Bishop’s Committee may appoint one or more committees, each consisting of two or more members of the Bishop’s Committee, and delegate to such committees any of the authority of the Bishop’s Committee except with respect to:**

* 1. The filling of vacancies in the Bishop’s Committee or in any committee;
	2. the fixing of compensation for serving on the Bishop’s Committee or on any

committee;

* 1. The amendment or repeal of Bylaws or adoption of new Bylaws;
	2. The amendment or repeal of any resolution of the Bishop’s Committee which by its express terms is not so amendable or repealable; or
	3. The appointment of other committees of the Bishop’s Committee or the members

thereof.

# Section 6.2 HOW MEMBERS ARE CHOSEN AND HOW MEETINGS ARE TO BE CONDUCTED. Any

**such committee must be created, and the members thereof appointed, by resolution adopted by a majority of the authorized number of members of the Bishop’s Committee then in office, provided a quorum is present. The Bishop’s Committee shall have the power to prescribe how proceedings of any such committee shall be conducted. In the absence of any such prescription, such committee shall have the power to prescribe the manner in which its proceedings shall be conducted.**

**Unless the Bishop’s Committee or such committee shall otherwise provide, the regular and special meetings and other actions of any such committee shall be governed by these Bylaws applicable to meetings and actions of the Vestry. Minutes shall be kept of each meeting of each committee.**

ARTICLE 7. OFFICERS

Section 7.1. PRESCRIBED OFFICERS. The officers of the Bishop’s Committee shall be those prescribed by the Diocesan Canons; i.e., the Vicar; the Bishop’s Warden, who shall be the First Vice President; the Junior Warden, who shall be the Second Vice President; the Clerk, who shall be the Secretary; and the Treasurer, who shall be the Chief Financial Officer. Both the clerk and the Treasurer must be members of the parish, but, in the discretion of the Bishop’s Committee, neither need be a member of the Bishop’s Committee. The Mission may also have, at the discretion of the Bishop’s Committee, an Assistant Secretary or Clerk, and an Assistant Treasurer. Appointment of an Assistant Member of the Clergy shall be within the control of the Vicar with the consent of the Bishop, but all matters pertaining to compensation or other temporalities respecting an Assistant Member of the Clergy shall be under the control of the Bishop’s Committee. Any such Assistant Member of the Clergy shall, however, be in good standing with the Diocese. The Vicar may also appoint one or more persons to serve as Chancellor(s), who shall serve at the pleasure of the Vicar.

Section 7.2. SUBORDINATE OFFICERS. The Bishop’s Committee may elect, and may empower the President to appoint, such other officers as the business of the Mission may require, each of whom shall hold office for such period, have such authority and perform such duties as are provided in these Bylaws or as the Bishop’s Committee may from time to time determine.

Section 7.3. REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION. Any officer, except the Vicar, an Assistant Member of the Clergy and the Bishop’s Warden, may be removed from office, except from the Bishop’s Committee, by a majority of the Bishop’s Committee at the time in office, at any regular or special meeting of the Bishop’s Committee. Subordinate employees may be removed by the Vicar or, if there is no Vicar, by the Bishop’s Committee. The Bishop’s Warden may be removed from that office, but not from the Bishop’s Committee, by the Vicar. Assistant Members of the Clergy may be removed by the Vicar.

# Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Bishop’s Committee or to the Vicar or to the Clerk, except that, in accordance with the Canons of The Episcopal Church, a Vicar may not resign without the consent of the Bishop. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date

**of the receipt of such notice or at a later date specified therein, and, unless otherwise specified, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.**

Section 7.4. VACANCIES. A vacancy in any office referred to in Section 1 of this Article other than that of Vicar or Bishop’s Warden, because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or any other cause shall be filled by election or appointment by the Bishop’s Committee then in office. The office of Vicar may be filled only in accordance with the provisions of the Canons of The Episcopal Church and Diocesan Canons.

Section 7.5. PRESIDENT. The Vicar shall have direction and control of the business and officers and employees of the Mission. The Bishop’s Committee shall not infringe upon the ecclesiastical or other peculiar rights, privileges, or prerogatives of the Vicar. The Vicar shall be, ex officio, a member of all the standing committees or regular committees of the Mission and, subject to the powers of the Bishop’s Committee as to temporal matters, shall have the power to employ subordinate employees.[17](#bookmark16)

Section 7.6. WARDENS. In the absence or disability of the Vicar, the Wardens, in the order of their rank (i.e., first the Bishop’s Warden and then the Junior Warden), shall perform the secular duties of the Vicar, and when so acting, shall have all the secular powers, and be subject to all the restrictions upon the Vicar. The Wardens shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as, from time to time, may be prescribed for them respectively by the Bishop’s Committee or these Bylaws. For purposes of this provision, the Vicar shall be deemed absent or disabled when the Vicar is not physically able to execute the duties of the Vicar, or when the Bishop’s Committee has assigned that authority to the Wardens due to an anticipated prolonged absence, such as a sabbatical.[18](#bookmark17)

Section 7.7. CLERK. The Clerk shall keep at the office of the Mission, a book of minutes containing minutes of all meetings of the Bishop’s Committee, and actions by unanimous written consent of the Bishop’s Committee, committees of the Bishop’s Committee whether regular or special. Records of a meeting shall include the following: if a meeting was special, how it was authorized; the notice thereof given; and the names of those present at the meeting. When written notice is required, the Clerk shall give notice of all meetings of the members and the Bishop’s Committee.

Section 7.8. TREASURER. The Treasurer shall maintain adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the Mission, including pledges and other assets, liabilities, receipts, disbursements, and accounts in general. The Treasurer shall deposit all monies and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the Mission with such depositary as may be designated by the Bishop’s Committee. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the Mission as may be ordered by the Bishop’s Committee; shall render to the Vicar, the Bishop, and the Bishop’s Committee whenever they request it, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the Mission and shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as prescribed by the Bishop’s Committee or Bylaws.

17 The provisions of Title III, Canon 9.6(a)(2) state as follows: For the purposes of the office and for the full and free discharge of all functions and duties pertaining thereto the Bishop shall at all times be entitled to the use and control of the Church and Mission buildings together will all appurtenances and furniture, and to access to all records and registers maintained by or on behalf of the congregation.

18 It is no longer the “norm” that the Junior Warden be the person with oversight of church property. Each Bishop’s Committee and Vicar should determine from time to time what special duties may be required based on the needs of the Mission and its ministries.

The procedure for deposit and withdrawal of monies and other valuables shall be prescribed in the resolutions which shall be adopted by the Bishop’s Committee governing the deposit and withdrawal of funds or valuables. The funds or valuables referred to are those belonging to the Mission and the Diocese and these provisions shall not be deemed to conflict with or overrule the conditions, terms or provisions of declarations or deeds of trust or of conveyance or donation providing some special method of keeping, disbursing, withdrawing, or depositing funds. Nor shall these provisions apply to the canonical special needs fund of the Vicar, as to which the disclosure of the beneficiaries or the purposes might prevent the carrying out of needed charitable acts.

Section 7.9. VOTING OF SECURITIES. Except as the Bishop’s Committee may otherwise designate, the Treasurer may act or appoint any member of the Bishop’s Committee (with or without power of substitution) to act as proxy or attorney in fact for the Mission at any meeting of stockholders of any corporation, the securities of which may be held by the Mission or the Diocese for the benefit of the Mission.

Section 7.10. BONDS. The Treasurer and other custodians of funds as designated by the Bishop’s Committee shall be bonded under a blanket bond maintained by the Diocese for that purpose. If such blanket bond is at any time not available, the Parish shall procure adequate bonds and each bond shall be placed in the custody of some officer other than the person who is bonded.

ARTICLE 8. OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 8.1. CORPORATE RESTRICTIONS. Notwithstanding anything else herein contained, in the matter of purely temporal and secular matters, as distinct from matters partly or wholly ecclesiastical, the Civil Law of the State of California is, and shall be, binding upon this Mission. The use of the church buildings and grounds, however, is deemed to be an ecclesiastical matter, and is under the jurisdiction of the Canons and of the Bishop and Vicar, pursuant to Title III, Canon 9.6(a) of the Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Section 8.2. RECORDS. The Mission shall maintain adequate and correct accounts, books, and records of its membership, business and properties. All such records and accounts shall be kept at the room or place designated as the principal office of the Mission, as fixed by the Bishop’s Committee, and proper provisions shall be made for the safekeeping thereof from fire, the elements, destruction or access by unauthorized persons and other dangers. All books and records of the Mission shall be open to inspection of members of the Mission, the Bishop or the Bishop’s Committee, as the case may be, from time to time.

Section 8.3. CERTIFICATION AND INSPECTION OF BYLAWS. The original or a correct copy of these Bylaws, as amended or otherwise altered to date, certified to by the Clerk, shall be open to inspection by the members of the Mission at all reasonable times. Inasmuch as these Bylaws adopt and make the Constitutions and Canons of the Diocese and of The Episcopal Church a part of these Bylaws, these provisions on certification and inspection shall apply to those copies of the same mentioned in Article I of these Bylaws.

Section 8.4. TRUST INTEREST IN PROPERTY. All real, personal, intangible, and mixed property held by or for the benefit of the Mission and in the name of the Diocese is irrevocably held in trust for The Episcopal Church and The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. The existence of this trust shall in no way

limit the power and authority of the Mission regarding use of that property so long as the Mission remains a part of, subject to, and in compliance with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Diocese of San Diego.

Section 8.5. SALES AND INDEBTEDNESS. No indebtedness (except ordinary amounts due on open account for goods and services in the ordinary course of the Mission’s business or as included in any budget or programs approved by the Bishop’s Committee) or any sale or conveyance of property of the Mission involving an amount in excess of $5,000[19](#bookmark18) or any encumbrance of property of the Mission shall be incurred, made or entered into or be valid or binding against this Mission unless it has been first approved by the Standing Committee and the Bishop and each and all of the following proceedings are regularly had and taken:

# A resolution to incur the indebtedness or make the sale, conveyance or encumbrance must be adopted at a meeting of the Bishop’s Committee at which a majority of the authorized number of members of the Bishop’s Committee shall be present and vote in favor thereof.

1. **Such resolution must specify exactly, if it relates to a proposed indebtedness, the amount and terms of such proposed indebtedness and the purpose for which it is to be incurred; or, if it relates to a sale, conveyance or mortgage, the terms of the same.**
2. **Such resolution must be fully reported in the minutes, together with the names of the Bishop’s Committee members who vote in favor thereof.**
3. When required by the Canons of The Episcopal Church or Diocesan Canon, the consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese shall first be obtained in writing. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, such consents shall be obtained as required by Title II Canon 3.09 of the Diocesan Canons relating to real property, as such Canon shall from time to time be amended.

# ARTICLE 9. AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These Bylaws may be altered or amended in the following manner:

1. at any regular meeting of the Bishop’s Committee by an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the authorized number of members of the Bishop’s Committee, or at an Annual Meeting of the Mission, or at a special meeting of the Mission called for the purpose of such an amendment by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority when a quorum is present.
2. Any such amendment or restatement shall be approved by the Standing Committee and the Bishop in accordance with Title II, Canon 3.07 of the Diocesan Canons.
3. A Bylaw or an amendment thereof changing the authorized number of members of the Bishop’s Committee may not be adopted, amended or repealed by the Bishop’s Committee. The substance of any new bylaws or of any amendments shall be set forth in the notice of the meeting.

19 This amount is intended to safeguard the money of the Mission but not bind the Bishop’s Committee by requiring their approval of small, nonmaterial transactions. The number may be chosen in the discretion of the Parish when adopting this Bylaw.

# ARTICLE 10. INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS

The Diocese for the benefit of the Mission shall, to the extent legally permissible, indemnify each person who may serve or who has served at any time as a Warden, Treasurer, Clerk, the Vicar in his or her capacity as a member of the Bishop’s Committee , or other officer of the Mission (collectively “Indemnified Officers”), against all expenses and liabilities, including, without limitation, counsel fees, judgments, fines, excise taxes, penalties and settlement payments, reasonably incurred by or imposed upon such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (a “proceeding”), in which he or she may become involved by reason of his or her serving or having served in such capacity (other than a proceeding voluntarily initiated by such person unless he or she is successful on the merits and the proceeding was authorized by a majority of the Bishop’s Committee). However, no indemnification shall be provided for any such person with respect to any matter in which he or she is adjudicated not to have acted in good faith on behalf of the Mission or the Diocese; and further provided that any compromise or settlement payment shall be approved by the Bishop’s Committee and the Bishop in the same manner as provided below for the authorization of indemnification. No such indemnification shall apply to any Member of the Clergy in a matter involving that Member of the Clergy’s conduct in a case to which the provisions of Title IV of The Episcopal Church apply.[20](#bookmark19)

Such indemnification may, to the extent authorized by the Bishop’s Committee, include payment by the Mission of expenses incurred in defending a civil or criminal action or proceeding in advance of the final disposition of such action or proceeding, provided that the person indemnified agrees to repay such payment if he or she is not entitled to indemnification under this Article; the repayment agreement may be accepted without regard to the financial ability of such person to make repayment.

Any payment shall be conclusively deemed authorized by the Mission under this Article, and each officer of the Parish approving such payment shall be wholly protected, if:

1. the payment has been approved or ratified (1) by a majority vote of a quorum of either (a) the members of the Mission who are not at that time parties to the proceeding or (b) the members of the Bishop’s Committee who are not at that time parties to the proceeding or (2) by a majority vote of a committee of two or more Bishop’s Committee members who are not at that time parties to the proceeding and are selected for this purpose by the full Bishop’s Committee (in which selection Bishop’s Committee members who are parties may participate); or
2. the action is taken in reliance upon the opinion of independent legal counsel (who may be counsel to the Mission) appointed for the purpose by vote of the Bishop’s Committee in the manner specified in clauses (1) or (2) of subparagraph (i) or, if that manner is not possible, appointed by a majority of the full Bishop’s Committee then in office; or
3. the members of the Bishop’s Committee have otherwise acted in accordance with the standard of conduct applied to directors under California law; or

20 Title IV of the Canons of The Episcopal Church sets forth the conduct and accountability for which a cleric may be subject to discipline by the Church.

1. a court having jurisdiction shall have approved the payment; and
2. the payment shall have been approved by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.

This indemnification shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of Indemnified Officers entitled to indemnification.

The right of indemnification shall be in addition to and not exclusive of all other rights to which any person may be entitled. Nothing contained in this Article shall affect any rights to indemnification to which Mission employees, agents, Bishop’s Committee members and other persons may be entitled by contract or otherwise under law.

This Article, as amended, constitutes a contract between the Diocese and Mission, and the Indemnified Officers. No amendment or repeal of the provisions of this Article which adversely affects the right of an Indemnified Officer under this Article shall apply to him or her with respect to his or her acts of omissions which occurred at any time prior to such amendment or repeal without his or her written consent.

THE UNDERSIGNED, being the Clerk of the Mission known as the Episcopal Parish in the City of

 , County of , California, does hereby certify the foregoing to be the Bylaws of the said Mission, and that the same were regularly adopted at a regular meeting of the Bishop’s Committee of said Mission, duly called and held, at which at least two-thirds of said members were present and voted in favor thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this day of , In the year of our Lord .

Clerk (Secretary)