THE CONSTITUTION OF THE

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE SUSQUEHANNA

ARTICLE I. THE TITLE AND BOUNDS OF THE DIOCESE

The Diocese shall be known and designated as The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna and shall comprise the following named counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Carbon, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Perry, Pike, Potter, Schuylkill, Snyder, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Tioga, Union, Wayne, Wyoming, and York, as amended from time to time by any Convention in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE II. ALLEGIANCE

The Church in this Diocese, being a constituent part of The Episcopal Church, otherwise known as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, accedes to and adopts the Constitution, Canons, Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship of that Church, and recognizes the authority of the General Convention of the same.

ARTICLE III. CONVENTIONS OF THIS DIOCESE

Sec. 1: *Time, Place, and Notice*

a. There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Convention of this Church in this Diocese, which shall meet at a time and place appointed by a preceding Convention; provided that the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, for sufficient cause, shall have power to change the place and time of the meeting.

b. A Special Convention may be called by the Bishop at the Bishop's discretion and shall be called at the request of the Standing Committee, duly certified by its Secretary.

c. Written notice, at least twenty (20) days in advance, shall be given of any Convention to every member of the clergy, all elected delegates and to every Parish and Mission in union with the Convention. Notice of a Special Convention shall state the purpose or purposes for which it is called, and no other business shall be transacted at that Convention.

d. Every Convention shall be opened with Prayers, as directed by the Bishop, and at every Convention there may be a celebration of the Holy Communion.

Sec. 2: *Members*

a. Any Convention shall comprise clergy and laypersons who shall vote as individuals.

b. Clergy entitled to a seat and vote in any Convention (which shall not be withdrawn because of disability by reason of age or sickness so long as canonical residence in this Diocese is maintained) shall hold canonical residence and be actively engaged in church work in this Diocese with the previous written sanction of the Ecclesiastical Authority; or be a retired Bishop of this Diocese, with canonical residence in this Diocese; or be among such clergy as may be approved by each Convention, to include licensed clergy and those given approval by the Bishop and seated by the Convention.

c. The lay delegates and Convention Officers to any Convention shall be elected in accordance with the Canons, as amended, and shall be qualified in accordance with the standards set forth in the Canons, as amended.

Sec. 3: *Officers of Convention*

The Officers of any Convention shall be as specified in the Canons.

Sec. 4: *Quorum*

Forty (40) clerical delegates and at least one lay delegate from each of forty (40) Parishes or Missions shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, except that a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.

Sec. 5: *Voting*

All voting shall be by members of any Convention as individuals, except that ten members may require a vote by Orders on any question, and a majority of the votes in each Order taken separately shall be necessary for passage.

Sec. 6: *Offerings*

The offering at any Convention, if any, shall be paid over to the Treasurer of the Diocese to be credited to the account announced by the Bishop in advance of the Collection thereof.

ARTICLE IV. ELECTION OF BISHOP

The election of Bishop in this Diocese shall be made in the following manner: after nomination in any Convention, the vote shall be by Orders, and the required majority in each Order on the same ballot shall be necessary to a choice. If two-thirds of the members of an Order entitled to vote be present at Convention, a majority vote determines the choice of such Order; if less than two-thirds of the members of an Order entitled to vote are present at Convention, the vote of two-thirds of such Order shall be necessary to determine the choice of such Order.

ARTICLE V. STANDING COMMITTEE

Sec. 1. *Members*

The Convention shall elect a Standing Committee as detailed in the Canons provided that there be an equal number of clergy and laity. Each member so elected shall serve a term of three years and may stand for re-election for one successive term. After serving for a period of six consecutive years, a member shall not be eligible for re-election until the lapse of one year from the completion of the second term.

Sec. 2. *Officers*

The Standing Committee shall meet, as required by the Canons, to elect a President and a Secretary from among its members.

Sec. 3. *Duties and Powers*

The Standing Committee shall enjoy all the power, authority, and duties conferred upon it by The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of this Diocese. When there is a Bishop in charge of the Diocese, the Standing Committee shall be the Bishop's Council of Advice. If there be no Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan canonically authorized to act, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese for all purposes declared by the General Convention.

ARTICLE VI. DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION

At the Convention, at least twelve months prior to the next session of the General Convention, members of the clergy and laypersons shall be elected as Deputies and alternate Deputies to represent this Diocese in said Convention in the manner set forth in the Canons, as amended.

ARTICLE VII. ADMISSION OF CONGREGATIONS

A Congregation may be admitted into union with this Diocese in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE VIII. CANONS

Any Convention may enact, amend, or repeal Canons upon such matters as it may deem proper, which shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, or with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENT

This Constitution, or any part thereof, may not be altered, amended, or revised unless the same shall be first proposed at one Convention and be approved by a majority of each Order, and lie over to the next Convention and again be approved by a majority of each Order. Amendments to the Charter or Articles shall be subject to the same regulations as are prescribed in the case of an original Charter or Articles.