

## CANON 22

### **FORMATION OF NEW PARISHES**

#### Current

Sec. 22.1 For the formation of a new Parish, the written consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese must first be obtained; but should consent be refused, an application for permission to form such Parish may be made to the next Annual Convention.

Sec. 22.2 For the organization of a Parish, the following Article of Conformity must be signed by not less than fifty (50) baptized persons, the majority being confirmed members of this church at least eighteen (18) years of age, who intend to be members of the proposed Parish.

Sec. 22.3 After each Article of Conformity has been signed by at least fifty (50) persons, a meeting of the same shall be called on ten (10) days' written notice to all who have signed said Article. At this meeting, members of the Vestry shall be elected, the name of the Parish adopted, and such other steps taken as may be necessary to such organization. The minutes of the meeting shall be recorded in a book to be kept as a record of the proceedings of this meeting and at future meetings of the Vestry of the Parish.

Sec. 22.4 The Article of Conformity and the minutes of the meeting for organizing the Parish shall be sent to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, together with a notice that the Parish will apply for admission to union with the Convention. At a subsequent Convention, this application shall be made and for this purpose a certified copy of the aforesaid papers shall be presented.

#### Proposed

## CANON 22

### **FORMATION AND ADMISSION OF NEW AND EXISTING PARISHES**

Sec. 22.1 For the formation of a new Parish or the admission into this Diocese of an existing congregation, the written consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese must first be obtained.

Sec. 22.2 For the organization of a Parish, the following Article of Conformity must be signed by not less than fifty (50) baptized persons, the majority being confirmed members of this church at least eighteen (18) years of age, who intend to be members of the proposed Parish. For the admission into this Diocese of an existing congregation, the following Article of Conformity must be signed by not less than fifty (50) baptized persons at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Sec. 22.3 In the case of the formation of a new Parish, a meeting of those intending to be members of the same shall be called on ten (10) days' written notice to all who have signed the Article of Conformity. At this meeting, members of the Vestry shall be elected, the name of the Parish adopted, and such other steps taken as may be necessary to such organization. The minutes of the meeting shall be recorded in a book to be kept as a record of the proceedings of this meeting and at future meetings of the Vestry of the Parish. In the case of the admission of an existing congregation, the Vestry (or such other governing body) of such congregation shall certify in writing that the congregation desires to be in union with the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth. Such written certification shall specify the name of the congregation and the name of each person serving on the Vestry (or such other governing body) of the same. Each member of the Vestry (or such other governing body) shall subscribe to the written certification.

Sec. 22.4 The Article of Conformity and the minutes of the meeting for organizing the Parish or the written certification requesting admission into this Diocese of an existing congregation (as the case may be) shall be sent to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, and such documentation shall constitute notice that the Parish has applied for admission to union with the Convention. The Annual Convention next following the submission of the aforesaid documentation, as its first order of business after establishing a quorum, shall grant seat, voice and vote to the Parish upon the recommendation of the Ecclesiastical Authority.

*Comment: This canon was revised to accommodate the admission to the Diocese of existing congregations formerly associated with other Anglican bodies.*