



Convocation of Anglicans in North America Missionary Diocese of CANA West

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The Rt. Rev'd Dr. Felix C. Orji, Bishop

Diocesan Policy Concerning Parish Tithing Delinquency

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Parishes which consistently fail to honor their diocesan tithing obligation call into question their qualifications as diocesan congregations in accordance with Title II, Canon 1, Section 1A., subsections i., iv., and v. of the diocesan canons. Consequently, parishes which miss two or more of their monthly diocesan tithing obligations in a single six-month period will be relegated to mission status. If this happens, here is what of necessity will follow:

- The rector, if not replaced by the diocesan bishop, will lose any preferment he may hold and become the vicar of the mission;
- If the (former) rector is replaced by the diocesan bishop, the bishop will become the rector, and the regional archdeacon will function as assistant rector;
- The (former) vestry will become a bishop's committee and report directly to the diocesan bishop;
- The (former) senior warden of the parish will submit his/her resignation to the diocesan bishop, and unless replaced by the bishop, will be re-appointed as bishop's warden;
- The congregation will retain mission status until such time as it has demonstrated the ability to sustain itself financially (that is, to meet all of its financial obligations, including the diocesan tithe);
- Parishes relegated to mission status in accordance with this policy must immediately call a bishop's committee meeting where either the diocesan bishop, the regional archdeacon, or the bishop's executive archdeacon will preside (with the vicar of the mission attending as a voting member);

- This purpose of the initial meeting of the bishop's committee will be to formulate a plan for prayer, discernment, evangelism, and fund-raising to restore the mission to parish status as soon as practicable;
- The bishop's committee will submit a written summary of this plan to the diocesan Standing Committee, which will advise the diocesan bishop regarding the mission and its ministry;
- All subsequent bishop's committee meetings will be chaired by the diocesan bishop or regional archdeacon, unless another chairperson is approved (in advance) by the diocesan bishop;
- Delegates from the mission attending any diocesan meeting will be seated as a matter of Christian fellowship, but will lack voice and vote until the mission regains parish status; and
- Any parish relegated to mission status for failure to maintain canonical financial standards, after experiencing two financially-successful quarters, may petition the diocesan Standing Committee its status to be upgraded at the next following annual diocesan synod, where its restoration to parish status can be approved and celebrated by the synod.