POLICIES AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE REGIONS OF THE DIOCESE OF COLORADO

The Vision for the Diocese of Colorado is: to plant and to cultivate dynamic, imaginative, and transformational Christian communities across Colorado.

The Marks for Mission in the Diocese of Colorado are: Proclamation, Discipleship, and Servanthood.

The Four Strategic Focus Areas in the Diocese of Colorado are: Living Missionally at a Grassroots Level; Establishing Radical Generosity as a Core Pattern of Life; Engaging Substantively with the Suffering of the World; and Committing Fully to Evangelizing Youth and Young Adults.

The Purpose of Regions in the Diocese of Colorado is: to provide opportunity for pastoral support, leadership development, and connecting local missional initiatives to the wider strategic vision of the diocese.

A. Regional Governance

1. Authority. Each Region accedes to the authority of the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Colorado, the actions of the Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Colorado, the Constitutions and Canons of the Diocese of Colorado and the Episcopal Church, and these policies and procedures, as they may from time to time be amended.

2. Governance. Each Region shall be governed by a Regional Missioner, a Regional Executive Committee, and the Regional Convocation.

   a. Regional Missioner: serves as a pastoral link between the clergy and lay leaders of the Region, the Standing Committee, and the Office of the Bishop: coordinates and provides oversight for Regional administration, projects, initiatives, and ministries; convenes Regional meetings.
      (1) The Regional Missioner is appointed by the Bishop of Colorado and serves at the Bishop's discretion.
      (2) A Regional Administrator may be appointed by the Regional Missioner.

   b. Executive Committee: Between meetings of the Regional Convocation, the Region will be governed by the Executive Committee.
      (1) The Executive Committee will be composed of the Regional Missioner, Standing Committee members, the Regional Treasurer, and other members from the Region elected or appointed as provided herein.
         (a). Members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Regional Convocation.
         (b). The term is three years, with the option to renew once.
(c). The Executive Committee may appoint a member to fill a vacancy until the next Regional Convocation

(2) The Executive Committee will be responsible for annually preparing a draft budget for the Region to be presented to the Regional Convocation for approval. The Executive Committee may revise the approved budget if circumstances warrant. Notice of any changes to the budget must be reported to the leadership of the congregations in the Region.

(3) The Executive Committee works with the Regional Missioner in fostering pastoral links among clergy and lay leadership in the congregations of the Region and in overseeing Regional mission initiatives.

(4) In the absence of a Regional Missioner, the Executive Committee of the Region shall perform the functions of the Missioner under the joint leadership of the Standing Committee members of that Region.

c. Regional Convocation. The Regional Missioner, the lay Standing Committee member of the Region, all clergy of the Region canonically resident in the Diocese of Colorado, and all lay delegates to Diocesan Convention (or their authorized alternates) shall constitute the Regional Convocation.

(1) The Convocation will meet at least once annually. It will always meet prior to Diocesan Convention to nominate lay and clergy candidates to the Standing Committee of the Diocese, as needed. The nominees chosen for Standing Committee by the Regional Convocation will be presented for election at the Diocesan Convention.

(2) The Regional Convocation will consider and approve a regional budget for the year and may as part of its deliberations address the selection and funding of special ministries within and beyond the Region.

(3) The Regional Convocation will also serve as a forum to review and discuss issues that are pertinent to the annual convention of the Diocese.

(4) The Executive Committee of the Region will designate dates for the Convocation meetings and notify clergy and lay delegates at least 30 days prior to those meetings.

(5) In extraordinary cases the Bishop or Regional Missioner may call for a special meeting of the Convocation.

(6) A quorum for the Convocation shall consist of a majority of the congregations of the Region. A congregation shall be represented by at least one person, either clergy or laity.

3. Regional Grant Request Guidelines. Regional funds will be used to support local mission initiatives which further the four strategic missional areas of the Diocesan vision.
(1) Grant requests for clergy study and lay training are subject to the following requirements:

(a). There may be only one request per year, per person
(b). The request must be made in writing, describing the study and/or training, the cost of the program and other funding sources that have been sought.
(c). The request must also include the benefits of the program for the person making the request at the personal, congregational, Regional, and diocesan levels in furthering the strategic focus areas for the Diocese of Colorado.

(2) Grant requests from parishes, missions, or other organizations within the Region are subject to the following requirements:

(a). The request shall be in writing, and shall describe the missional need for funding.
(b). The request shall include a current financial statement, budgets for the year of the request and the previous year, a copy of the most recent completed audit or demonstration that an audit is in progress, a copy of the most recent annual parochial report, and any other documentation that the Executive Committee may require.
(c). The request shall include a plan for reaching self-sufficiency (if applicable).

(3) Grant recipients shall provide a written report to the Region's Executive Committee, and may be required to present a report to the Regional Convocation. In addition all grant requests funded by the Region are subject to review by the Region’s Executive Committee, which may take any remedial action, including, if necessary, modification or termination of the grant.

(4) Final action on all grant applications is taken by the Regional Executive Committee, after consultation among the Bishop, Canon Missioner, and Regional Missioner to ensure that they are consistent with the missional needs of the Diocese and the Regions.

4. Funding. Ministry through each Region is funded through the asking of five percent (5%) of each congregation’s plate and pledge contributions.

B. Policies and Procedures Governing the Election of Standing Committee Nominees.

1. Nominations for lay or clergy representation on the Diocesan Standing Committee will be solicited at least 45 days in advance of the Regional Convocation at which elections will be held.
2. Nominees must be members in good standing of congregations in the Region.
3. The Executive Committee will distribute biographical information from the nominees prior to the Regional Convocation.
4. Nominations will be accepted from the floor with the nominees providing to the Regional Convocation the information referenced in Section B.3
5. Each Region will certify and credential those eligible to vote based upon a roster of delegates to Diocesan Convention.
6. Proxy votes will not be accepted.
7. In the event that designated delegates or their alternates from a congregation are unable to attend the Regional Convocation and participate in the election of regional nominees for Standing Committee, the congregation's Rector or Senior Warden (or the equivalent clergy or lay leaders of missions or of parishes in transition) may deputize (in accordance with the rules of Diocesan Convention) persons attending the Regional Convocation so the congregation has full representation.

C. Interregional Cooperation

Regions are encouraged to work collaboratively with each other and the Office of the Bishop to meet common mission needs.