TITLE I. Convention of the Diocese; Diocesan Officers and Representatives.

CANON 12
Trustees of the Diocese

Section 1. The Bishop, or when there is no Bishop, or when the Bishop requests the Standing Committee in writing to serve as the Ecclesiastical Authority pursuant to Canon III.12.4 (c) of the Canons of The Episcopal Church, the President of the Standing Committee, together with two (2) lay persons and two (2) clergy canonically resident in this Diocese, nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Convention shall constitute the Board of Trustees for the Church in this Diocese. The Trustees under the direction of the Convention, or of the Executive Council between meetings of the Convention, shall receive, hold, manage, invest, disburse and transfer trust funds vested in the Trustees, which trust funds shall include funds, monies, and securities (and reinvestments thereof) given or bequeathed to the Diocese or the Trustees, or transferred to the Trustees, (a) in trust on specific terms stated in an agreement or will, or (b) with restrictions or designations as to the use of principal or income and under conditions that require holding the funds, monies or securities for longer than twelve months. The Trustees shall hold title to real estate vested in them as provided in this Canon. The provisions of any will or agreement controlling investment, management, use or disbursement of funds and property vested in the Trustees shall be complied with in each instance. The Trustees shall keep the Diocesan House in repair and the grounds in good order and are authorized to provide an allowance for these purposes.

EXPLANATION
The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, together with the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, make adequate provision for the authority of the Standing Committee to act as Ecclesiastical Authority when there is no Bishop in place. When considering what might occur when the Bishop might need to step away from her or his episcopal duties for a period of time, the TEC Canons allow the Bishop to make a written request to the Standing Committee to act as Ecclesiastical Authority during that absence. Such a request might arise in the context of illness, recovery from surgery or injury, during an extended time for medical treatment, during a sabbatical, or other circumstances. The proposed amendment takes recognition of the need to have the President of the Standing Committee authorized to act as a Trustee during such a temporary absence in addition to the circumstances where the office of Bishop is vacant due to death, resignation, deposition, removal or incapacity.