

Executive Summary

Proposed Constitutional & Canonical Changes 2018

September 2018

Bishop Menees announced at the 2016 Diocesan Convention that he would again form a Task Force to address the Canons and Constitution of the Diocese. The purpose of this review was to bring up to date the governing structures of the Diocese to reflect the Mission of the Diocese of San Joaquin. The filters of 'is it helpful', 'does it further the mission of the church', and 'does it promote ministry' were also employed. Additionally issues of governance were reviewed in light of other ACNA dioceses.

The Bishop asked the following to work with him on the Task Force: Fr. David Miller, Mr. Michael McIntosh, Fr. Michael Sclafani, Fr. James Sweeney, Fr. Karl Dietze, Fr. Mark Hall and Fr. Jim Snell.

The result is our best effort to evaluate and amend the Constitution and Canons, under the direction of our Bishop, using the criteria mentioned above. Our Diocesan Convention 2017 passed the first reading of the Constitutional changes. This year's Convention is asked to affirm the desire to make the Constitutional changes. However since the proposed Constitutional changes make significant changes to our Canons, we published our intended canonical changes last year and now present them to the convention in 2018 for action. Everyone has had over a year to review and consider the canonical changes. If you have any questions or concerns, they should have been addressed before now and certainly before the November Convention. If you still have concerns, please contact anyone on the task force before November.

We are proposing two major areas of change. First, we are combining our two governing groups, Standing Committee and Diocesan Council, into one elected body. It will function as the council with the additional task of being the Ecclesiastical authority if the Bishop is unable to act. Following the ACNA Canons, we chose to call it the Standing Committee. Second, we are eliminating the distinction between Parish and Mission. The documents will now identify the local church as a congregation, again following the ACNA Canons.

The Bishop and Task Force members now present both the second reading of the Constitution changes and the proposed changes to our Canons to the members of Convention. It has been our honor & privilege to work together to strengthen the Mission and Ministry of the Diocese of San Joaquin.

On behalf of the Task Force on Constitution and Canons,
Fr. Jim Snell