DIOCESE of CHRIST our HOPE

2026.3 Residency Requirement
RE: Title I, Canon 3, Section 2.1; Canon 4, Sections 5- 8; and Canon 5, Sections 1.1, 2.1, and 3.1

Proposed by Bp. Alan Hawkins

INITIALLY PROPOSED LANGUAGE

Canon 3
Section 2. Eligibility, Qualifications, Nomination and Selection, and Oath
1. Eligibility
Only those communicants in good standing of a Congregation or Mission of this Diocese who are over 21 years of age and have also been confirmed or received by a Bishop of the Province shall be eligible to serve on the Diocesan Council. In addition, laity shall have been members of their Congregation or Mission for at least 2 years, and clergy shall have been canonically resident in this Diocese for at least 2 years. Nevertheless, the Bishop may grant exceptions for communicants who have not been confirmed or received by a Bishop of the Province, provided that the other eligibility criteria and qualifications set forth in this section are met.

Canon 4
Section 5. The Chancellor
The Chancellor of the Diocese is appointed by the Bishop and approved by the Diocesan Council. He or she shall be and remain a communicant in good standing and have been a member of a congregation or mission of this Diocese for at least 2 years. He or she shall be learned in the law and licensed to practice law in one of the jurisdictions encompassed by the Diocese. The Chancellor shall have responsibility for the legal affairs of the Diocese and shall serve as counsel to the Bishop and the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council, with the advice of the Chancellor, may appoint assistant chancellors as necessary. The Chancellor and the assistant chancellors, if any, shall be entitled to such compensation as the Diocesan Council may approve.

Section 6. The Secretary
There shall be a Secretary of the Diocesan Council appointed by the Bishop. He or she shall be and must remain a communicant in good standing and have been a member of a congregation or mission of this Diocese for at least 2 years. He or she shall keep the minutes of the meetings of the Diocesan Council and shall submit such reports as the Bishop may request. The Secretary of the Diocese will serve in other such duties as outlined in the Canons or requested by the Bishop.

The Bishop may appoint assistant secretaries as necessary.

The Secretary and the assistant secretaries, if any, will be entitled to such compensation as the Diocesan Council may approve.

Section 7. The Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Diocese, elected by the Diocesan Council, shall be and remain a communicant in good standing and have been a member of a congregation or mission of this Diocese for at least 2 years. He or she shall be the custodian for all of the funds of the Diocese. The Treasurer shall be bonded and insured, if eligible, in such amount as the Diocesan Council from time to time shall deem appropriate, shall prepare the annual diocesan budget and shall file an annual report to the Synod on the financial status of the Diocese, including reports of account for all funds under his or her custody or control, profit and loss statements, and balance sheets. The Treasurer will also be responsible for the preparation of such periodic financial reports as may be required by the Diocesan Council.

The Treasurer shall serve a three-year term, and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The Treasurer shall have full access to the services and support of the Diocesan administrative staff in the fulfillment of his or her duties as Treasurer.

The Treasurer will be entitled to such compensation as the Diocesan Council may approve.

Section 8. The Registrar

The Registrar, appointed by the Bishop, shall be and remain a communicant in good standing and have been a member of a congregation or mission of this Diocese for at least 2 years. He or she shall be the custodian of official records of the Diocese and shall issue such certification as may be directed by the Bishop or the Diocesan Council. The Secretary may serve concurrently as the Registrar.

The Registrar shall have full access to the services and support of the Diocesan administrative staff in the fulfillment of his or her duties as Registrar.

Canon 5

Section 1. Finance Committee

1. Establishment

There shall be a Finance Committee of the Diocese, appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Treasurer, and approved by the Diocesan Council. There will be three to five Finance Committee members, in addition to the Treasurer and one representative ex officio from the Diocesan Council. In addition, the Chancellor shall serve as an ex officio member of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer shall be a voting member of the Finance Committee and shall serve as the Chairman of the Finance Committee. The members of the Finance Committee other than the Treasurer shall serve staggered terms of three years, and the initial Finance Committee shall be divided into appropriate groups of different terms to give effect to this provision. Each member of the Finance Committee shall have been a member of a Congregation or Mission of this Diocese for at least 2 years, and shall be and

remain while serving a clergy or lay communicant in good standing of a Congregation or Mission of this Diocese.

Section 2. Committee on Constitution and Canons

1. Establishment

There shall be a Committee on Constitution and Canons, which shall consist of nine members: four clergy and five lay. In addition, the Bishop and the Chancellor shall serve as ex officio members of this Committee with voice but no vote. The Bishop shall appoint three members of the Committee on Constitution and Canons for staggered three-year terms. The remaining six members shall be elected by the Synod for staggered three-year terms. The Diocesan Council shall fill vacancies which may arise between meetings of the Synod, with such appointments to serve until the next annual Synod. Each member of the Committee on Constitution and Canons shall have been a member of a Congregation or Mission of this Diocese for at least 2 years, and shall be and remain while serving a communicant in good standing of a Congregation or Mission of this Diocese. Members of the Committee may serve for two consecutive terms. Retiring members shall be ineligible for election or appointment for two years.

Section 3. Committee on Nominations for Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, and Bishop Suffragan

1. Composition and Duties

A special Committee on Nominations, consisting of seven Clergy and six Lay Delegates chosen with the intent to provide a diverse representation of the Diocese, may be elected as needed by the Synod, subject to the following requirements:

1. The clergy members shall include one member of the Diocese's staff;
2. The lay members shall include at least one member of the Diocesan Council;
3. For so long as the Diocese is organized into deaneries, each deanery shall be represented by at least one Clergy or Lay member, each of whom shall be selected in consultation with the dean of his or her deanery; and
4. The Suffragan Bishops, if there be any, shall be members ex officio of the Committee on Nominations.

As used in this section, a diverse representation of the Diocese includes, but is not limited to, age, sex, geography, and, where applicable, clergy order.

If any member of the Committee on Nominations is nominated for Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, and assents to his nomination, he shall be removed from the Committee immediately upon such assent. In such cases, the Diocesan Council shall fill the resulting vacancy, subject to the requirements noted in this section.

The Committee on Nominations shall be responsible for receiving, considering, and publishing all accepted nominations for Bishop and Assistant Bishop as provided by these canons. Each member of the Committee on Nominations for Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, and Bishop Suffragan shall have been a member of a Congregation or Mission of this Diocese for at least 2 years, and shall be and remain while serving a communicant in good standing of a Congregation or Mission of this Diocese.

Rationale:
Adding these requirements ensures that clergy and lay serving in diocesan leadership roles have had ample time and opportunity to fully enter into the life and culture of our diocese, become well known by their local church community, and are committed to the same mission and values.

Anticipated Potential Objection:
Why two years?

Response:
Two years gives people a chance, as new members of the diocese, to attend at least one Synod, at least one Come and See event, and at least one Deanery event, thereby assuring that our officers have an extensive understanding and experience of the life of the diocese.

Constitution and Canons Committee Initial Comments (March 27, 2026 – 221 days before Synod):
The proposed amendments do not include exceptions highlighted in the proposal that we believe the submitter intended to apply to these cases. The Committee suggests a revision incorporating those exceptions in each section or adding a generalized exception in Title I. Committee members were concerned about what effect, if any, this could have on finding members for the Committee, especially laity. Other committee members believed a residence requirement will ensure members of these bodies have appropriate institutional knowledge. Finally, the Committee is unsure how the requirement to be "a member of a Congregation or Mission" would apply to parts of our Diocese that are not congregations or missions (e.g., Interest Groups). Other amendments slated for 2027 may address this concern, but we wanted to note it.

Reviewed by Diocesan Council (April 23, 2026 – 198 days before Synod)
For the Diocesan Council there is a way for the Bishop to grant exceptions to a person who is waiting for Confirmation or Reception. There is no method to grant an exception to the 2 year clause.
In addition, what if an current, existing member/officer does not meet the 2 year mark?

Revisions from Submitter
The submitter (Bp. Alan Hawkins) has no revisions to this amendment at this time as he was on a trip to Rwanda.

Submitted for review to the Colleges (May 1, 2026 – 190 days before Synod)

Feedback from Colleges (June 15, 2026 – 145 days before Synod)

Comments from the College of Bishops
No comments offered.

Comments from the College of Presbyters
Of the responses received, two offered no opinion on the amendment. Among the two expressing a view, there was general support for the proposal, with one respondent affirming that it is reasonable to require individuals serving in diocesan leadership to have sufficient time to become familiar with the Diocese's life, culture, and relationships before assuming officer or committee responsibilities. Another respondent expressed qualified support, noting some ambivalence but observing that, as the Diocese matures institutionally, exceptions to such requirements should become increasingly uncommon.

Comments from the College of Deacons
No comments offered.

Comments from the College of Laity
No comments offered.

Revisions from Submitter to Constitution and Canons Committee, Diocesan Council, and the Bishop (August 1, 2026 – 98 days before Synod)
The submitter had no revisions to this amendment.

Diocesan Council Governance Working Group Feedback to Submitter (September 1, 2026 – 67 days before Synod)
The Diocesan Council Governance Working Group had no comments or proposed revisions on this amendment.

Final draft provided by Submitter to Constitution and Canons Committee, Diocesan Council, and Bishop (October 1, 2026 – 37 days before Synod)
The submitter had no revisions to this amendment.

FINAL PROPOSED LANGUAGE
There are no updates to the final proposed language