DIOCESE of CHRIST our HOPE

2026.4. Clarify Transfer and Permission to Serve
RE: Title III, Canon 5, Section 2

Proposed by Revs. Bryan Wandel, Blake Johnson, Nick Lannon, Lou Bayly Mahr, and Ms. Melika McKinnis

INITIALLY PROPOSED LANGUAGE

Canon 5
Section 2
(Beginning a new paragraph after the letter of transfer paragraph ending in "*(Signed by the transferring bishop.)")*
This Diocese may grant transfer or permission to serve (commonly called licensure) to clergy (deacons or presbyters) domiciled in other dioceses to serve as deacons in the Diocese. This Diocese only grants transfer or permission to male presbyters to serve as presbyters in the Diocese.

Rationale:
The current canons address the ordination of men and women to the diaconate and men to the presbyterate. The canons do not specifically address what roles ordained women canonically domiciled in other dioceses may serve in the Diocese of Christ Our Hope. It is thus open to interpretation whether the standards on ordination in the Diocese apply to clergy who transfer in or are permitted (licensed) to serve in the Diocese. Amending this canon will bring clarity to this question and confirm the diocesan position.

It is the intention of this amendment to apply only to permissions to serve granted after its adoption. Permissions granted prior to its adoption shall remain in effect, subject to the discretion of the Bishop Ordinary of the Diocese and shall not be subject to challenge on the basis of this amendment.

The canons on permission to serve (licensure) are in Title III, Canon 5, Section 6, "Concerning Clergy Domiciled in Other Jurisdictions." There is a requirement in that section noting that requirements for clergy transfer in III.5.2 also apply to permission to serve. Thus, it is clear that the change, though noted only in III.5.2, applies to both Transfer and Permission to Serve.

Constitution and Canons Committee Initial Comments (March 27, 2026 – 221 days before Synod)
The Committee suggests revising the second sentence of this amendment to read: "This diocese only grants transfer or permission to serve as presbyters in the Diocese to clergy who meet the requirements for ordination in this diocese detailed in Title III, Canon 2." This language avoids

directly addressing male presbyters and may ameliorate some conflict.

Reviewed by Diocesan Council (April 23, 2026 – 198 days before Synod)
One member expressed: I agree with the Constitution and Canons Committee's suggestion to revise the second sentence of the 2025.4 Clarify Transfer and Permission; RE: Title III, Canon 5, Section 2 amendment to read: "This diocese only grants transfer or permission to serve as presbyters in the Diocese to clergy who meet the requirements for ordination in this diocese detailed in Title III, Canon 2."
Rationale: why invite more conflict on this issue? The committee's suggested wording invites grace instead.

Revisions from Submitter

UPDATED PROPOSED LANGUAGE

(Beginning a new paragraph after the letter of transfer paragraph ending in "*(Signed by the transferring bishop.)")*

This Diocese may grant transfer or permission to serve (commonly called licensure) to clergy (deacons or presbyters) domiciled in other dioceses to serve as deacons in the Diocese. This Diocese only grants transfer or permission to serve as presbyters in the Diocese to presbyters who meet the requirements for ordination in this Diocese detailed in Title III, canon 2.

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
*See attached document titled "College of Bishops Response – Title III, Canon 5, Section 2."

Comments from the College of Presbyters
*See attached document titled "College of Presbyters Response – Title III, Canon 5, Section 2."

Comments from the College of Deacons
*See attached document titled "College of Deacons Response – Title III, Canon 5, Section 2."

Comments from the College of Laity
*See attached document titled "College of Laity Response – Title III, Canon 5, Section 2."

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

Diocesan Council Governance Working Group Feedback to Submitter (September 1, 2026 – 67 days before Synod)
Updated Proposed Language:
The Diocese may grant transfer or permission to serve (commonly called licensure) to clergy (deacons or presbyters) domiciled in other dioceses to serve as deacons in the Diocese. All such clergy who are so transferred or licensed and in good standing in the Diocese shall be recognized as eligible to serve as deacons in Ordained Ministry throughout the Diocese if they meet the requirements for ordination in this Diocese detailed in Title III, Canon 2. This Diocese only grants transfer or permission to serve as presbyters in the Diocese to presbyters who meet the requirements for ordination in this Diocese detailed in Title III, Canon 2.

Rationale:
This change may head off an acrimonious part of a potential debate at Synod about a double standard (where some churches do not recognize women deacons despite the diocesan position). The submitters have said that their intent is to confirm the diocesan position. This change also clarifies the diocesan position. It is drafted not to infringe on personal convictions or Rector hiring discretion. However, a female priest who transfers into Christ our Hope to serve as a deacon or is licensed as a deacon should have her orders as a deacon recognized throughout the Diocese.

***Additional Response from the Bishop Ordinary (September 12, 2026).**
*See attached document titled "Bishop Ordinary Response – Title III, Canon 5, Section 2."

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 further revisions to this amendment.

FINAL PROPOSED LANGUAGE

(Beginning a new paragraph after the letter of transfer paragraph ending in "*(Signed by the transferring bishop.)")*

This Diocese may grant transfer or permission to serve (commonly called licensure) to clergy

(deacons or presbyters) domiciled in other dioceses to serve as deacons in the Diocese. This Diocese only grants transfer or permission to serve as presbyters in the Diocese to presbyters who meet the requirements for ordination in this Diocese detailed in Title III, canon 2.