DIOCESE of CHRIST our HOPE

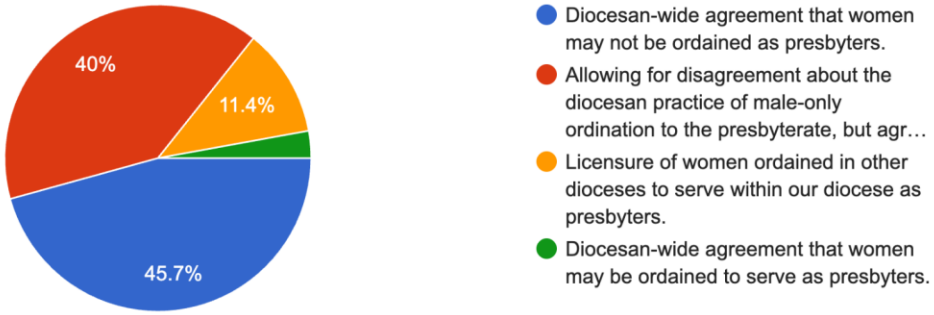
Response to the 2026 Proposed Canonical Amendment on Transfer and Permission to Serve
Diocese of Christ Our Hope College of Presbyters
June 15, 2026
Submitted by Rev. Benji Davis and Rev. Dan Claire, Chair and Vice Chair of the College of Presbyters

Clarifying Presbyteral Transfer and Permission
As noted above, we received only 4 responses: one in favor and three opposed to bringing this amendment before the Synod at this time. However, this proposed amendment to our canons came into being through the efforts of the 2025 College of Presbyters. The working group on Holy Orders presented their findings at last year's College of Presbyters meeting. Subsequent to that gathering, the chairs surveyed the college regarding the issue, with 70 DCOH presbyters responding. With Bishop Alan's permission, we share 3 survey questions and the response data below.

Summary of Responses to the Canonical Amendment:
Of the four recent responses, one gave unconditional support for this canonical amendment. The other three opposed the amendment, expressing concern that it is being brought forward too quickly and risks creating unnecessary division within the Diocese. While acknowledging the desire for greater clarity in our canons, these respondents noted the ACNA's "dual integrities" position, which has enabled clergy and congregations with differing convictions to remain together. They argued that passing this amendment would resolve the existing ambiguity in one particular direction rather than clarifying current practice. They therefore recommended tabling or delaying the amendment to allow for broader deliberation under diocesan leaders, in hopes of fostering charity, mutual understanding, and faithful coexistence amid differing convictions. Several respondents also raised concerns about the disproportionate attention given to the question of women serving as presbyters while differing practices regarding the ordination of women to the diaconate receive comparatively little scrutiny.

December Survey Questions and Results:
1. Only 14.3% of surveyed respondents supported women presbyters serving within DCOH:

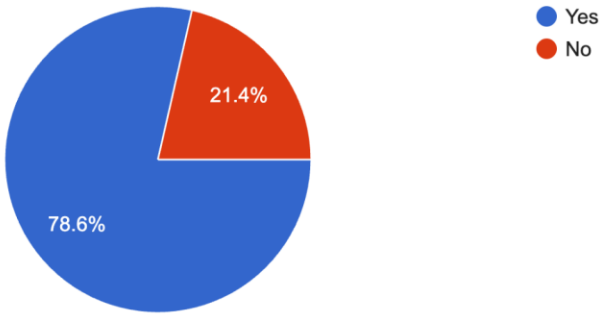
In your opinion, which of the following outcomes would be best for the Diocese of Christ our Hope?
70 responses



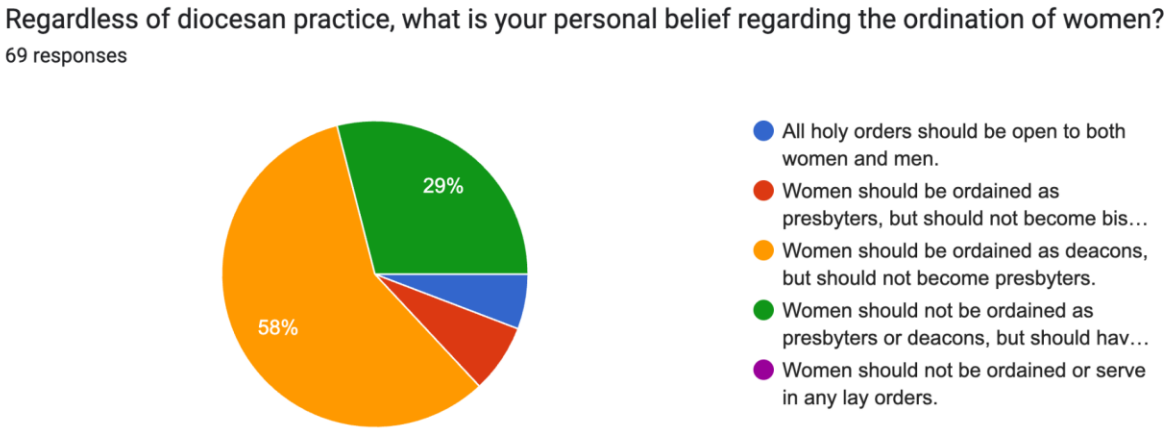
Note: The full answer for the red response states: "Allowing for disagreement about the diocesan practice of male-only ordination to the presbyterate, but agreement that women may not serve as presbyters within our diocese"

2. 78.6% of survey respondents supported the canonical amendment.

Do you favor a canonical clarification stating that our diocese does not license female presbyters to serve in that role?
70 responses



3. 87% of survey respondents believe that women should not be ordained to the priesthood.



Note: The full answer for the red response states: "Women should be ordained as presbyters, but should not become bishops."

Note: The full answer for the green response states: "Women should not be ordained as presbyters or deacons, but should have the opportunity to serve within lay orders, e.g., as deaconesses.