



The Canons

The Canons of the Free Church of England

A. Organisation & Duties of Convocation

B. Diocesan Synods

C. Bishops

D. Presbyters & Deacons

E. Readers

F. Ministerial Appointments & Duties

G. Congregations

H. Church Meetings & Officers

I. Worship

J. Discipline

K. Miscellaneous

CANONS OF CONVOCATION

A. THE ORGANISATION AND DUTIES OF CONVOCATION

A.1 THE PRESIDENT OF CONVOCATION

The Bishop Primus of this Church, or his Commissary specially authorised, shall preside at all meetings of Convocation. In case of death, resignation, or incapacity of the said Bishop Primus, or without having appointed a Commissary for the purpose, Convocation shall appoint some Bishop or Presbyter present to preside.

A.2 VOTING AT CONVOCATION

If a division be called for upon any question, all the Members shall vote together unless upon the divisions being called, five Members at least shall require the Vote to be taken by Orders; in which case it shall be so taken, and a majority of each Order, clerical and lay, shall be necessary to constitute a Vote of Convocation. The Bishops, Presbyters and Deacons shall vote together on all matters except that of election of Bishops, for which special provision is made (see Canons C.4 and C.7). The President shall have an ordinary and a casting vote.

A 3 POWERS OF CONVOCATION TO AMEND CANONS

The Constitution and Canons Ecclesiastical, as herein set forth, shall be unalterable, unless any proposed alteration, addition, or rescission of the same, shall be approved by a majority of three-fourths of the Members present and voting, at one Meeting of Convocation, and ratified by a similar majority at the ensuing Annual Convocation, provided that there shall be not less than three calendar months between the two meetings.

The Declaration of Principles shall be unalterable.

A.4 POWERS OF CONVOCATIONS TO MAKE BYE-LAWS, ETC.

The Convocation may make from time to time, such Bye-Laws, Orders, Regulations, and Injunctions as it may deem necessary; and may amend, annul, and make void, any Bye-laws, Orders, Regulations or Injunctions, provided always, that no Bye-law, Order, Regulation or Injunction, made or operating in opposition to the Declaration of Principles, or to the Constitution and Canons themselves, shall be good or valid to any intent or purpose whatsoever; and provided further, that no Bye-Law, Order, Regulation or Injunction shall be made, amended, annulled or made void, as aforesaid, except by a majority of at least three-fourths of the Members of Convocation present and voting.

A.5 ORDERS OF CONVOCATION TO BE BINDING ON ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

Every Bye-law, Order, Regulation and Injunction made by Convocation on any subject whatsoever connected with the Church, shall be binding on all the Bishops, Clergy and Members of the Church, and on all the Congregations connected therewith, unless specially expressed to the contrary.

A 6 RECORD TO BE KEPT OF ALL PROCEEDINGS

All Canons, Bye-laws, Regulations, Resolutions, Injunctions, and Acts whatsoever of Convocation shall be entered in the Minute Book kept for that purpose, and when entered, shall be confirmed as correct during the time such Convocation is assembled.

They shall then be subscribed by the President, and the Secretary for the time being and when so entered and subscribed shall be taken and received to be, and shall be, the Acts of Convocation, and such Entry and Subscription as aforesaid, shall be taken and received to be, and shall be, evidence of all and every such acts of Convocation, without the aid of any other proof.

A 7 POWER TO EXPEL MEMBERS

The Convocation may expel any Member thereof who shall be proved to maintain doctrines contrary to the Declaration of Principles and the Thirty-nine Articles of Religion of this Church, or who shall be proved to be guilty of immoral conduct, or who shall refuse to obey the orders of Convocation, or to conform to the usages of this Church:

Provided, that such expulsion as aforesaid shall be by Resolution, upon the Report of the Court of Discipline, and after due notice of the intention to move such expulsion has been given to the party accused:

Provided also, that Convocation at any sitting may suspend any Member thereof for the remainder of such sitting, or for any further period not exceeding twelve months.

During such period, the Member so suspended shall not be allowed to exercise his rights and privileges as a Member of Convocation.

A.8 THE SECRETARY AND HIS DUTIES

The Secretary of Convocation who shall be the General Secretary shall be elected annually, and shall have power to appoint, with the approval of Convocation, such Assistants as may be necessary.

He shall perform the duties which usually appertain to his office, and such other duties as Convocation may assign to him, from time to time.

A.9 THE REGISTRAR AND HIS DUTIES

The Registrar of Convocation shall be elected annually thereby. He shall take charge of, preserve and file, all Papers, Documents, Reports, etc., relating to the business of Convocation, and which have been handed to him for safe keeping on behalf of Convocation.

He shall keep a Record of the Consecration of Bishops in this Church, designating therein the time and place of the same, with the names of the Bishops and Presbyters of this, and of other Churches, who officiate at such Consecration.

He shall keep also, a Register of all the Ministers of this Church, whose names shall be delivered to him in the following manner, that is to say:

Every Bishop of this Church, or where there is no Bishop, the Council shall deliver, or cause to be delivered to the said Registrar, at least fourteen days before the Meeting of each Annual Convocation, a List of the names of all Ministers of this Church, within the respective jurisdictions, including names of their respective charges, or of their Stations in any Colleges or other Seminaries of Learning, or, in regard to those who have not any charges or other stations, their places of residence only; and also particulars of time and place of all such Ministers who have been ordained or received from other Churches, or who have resigned or died, or may have been subjected to discipline since the preceding Convocation, and the said List shall be published in the Journals of Convocation.

All Documents which Convocation shall direct to be preserved in the Archives of this Church, shall be kept in a fireproof safe, access to which shall be by keys, in the custody respectively of the Bishop Primus, the Secretary, and the Registrar.

A.10 THE TREASURER AND HIS DUTIES

The Treasurer, who shall be a Layman, shall be elected annually by Convocation.

He shall receive all monies raised or contributed under the authority of Convocation, and of which the collection and disbursement shall not be regulated otherwise, and shall disburse the same under the directions of Convocation, or of the Council acting on behalf of Convocation.

His accounts, duly audited by an Accountant who is qualified to be an auditor under Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006 or any re-enactment thereof or a firm of Accountants which is so qualified, appointed by the Secretary of Convocation, with the approval of the Bishop Primus, shall be rendered annually to Convocation, and shall be subject to its authority.

A.11 POWER TO FILL UP VACANCIES

In the case of any vacancy occurring in the Office, or Offices of Secretary, Registrar, or Treasurer, the Council shall appoint some suitable person, or persons, to serve in such Office, or Offices, until the ensuing Annual Convocation.

A.12 APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Convocation shall appoint at its Annual Meeting the following Committees which shall act until the ensuing Annual Convocation:-

- (1) Council which shall consist of:
 - (a) The Bishops, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Registrar, the Secretaries of the Dioceses and the Treasurers of the Dioceses all of whom shall be ex-officio and
 - (b) Not less than eight and not more than ten elected members of whom there shall be an equal number of Presbyters and Laymen.

The Secretary of Convocation shall be the Secretary of Council. Meetings of Council shall be held twice in every year in such places as Council itself shall direct or as Convocation shall appoint provided always that the Bishop Primus may convene additional meetings at his discretion.

Council shall exercise *ad interim* administrative authority until the next ensuing Annual Convocation and six shall form a quorum.

- (2) A Standing Committee on Doctrine and Worship, consisting of the Bishops, the Secretary, three Presbyters, and three Laymen, to whom shall be referred all alterations of, or additions to, the Prayer Book, Offices, or Articles of Religion of this Church.
- (3) A Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons, consisting of the Bishops, the Secretary, three Presbyters, and three Laymen, to whom shall be referred all alterations of, or additions to, the Constitution and Canons of this Church.
- (4) A Standing Committee on Finance, consisting of the Bishops, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and four other Laymen, who shall perform the duties usually pertaining to such a committee.

Providing that not less than fourteen days previous notice in writing shall be given of meetings of such Committees as are in this Canon mentioned, or Special Committees as named in Canon A.13, and notice through the minister of the church shall be deemed to be valid service.

A.13 APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

The Convocation shall have power to appoint such other Committees as it may determine. A record of proceedings shall be kept, and reported to Convocation at the ensuing Annual Meeting.

A.14 QUORUM OF COMMITTEES

In the meetings of any of the above Committees, except Council, not less than one-third of the Members shall constitute a Quorum for the transaction of business.

A.15 POWER TO FULL UP VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES

In the case of death, incapacity, or refusal to act, of any person or persons appointed to serve on any Committee, the Council shall appoint some other person, or persons, to act on such Committee.

A.16 BISHOPS AND SECRETARY TO BE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEES

The Bishops of this Church, and the Secretary of Convocation, shall be ex-officio Members of all Committees.

A.17 EXPENSES OF CONVOCATION

The expenses of Convocation, and of the Officers thereof, shall be defrayed by payments out of a Fund, which shall be raised by such means, as Convocation may authorise and direct from time to time.

B. OF DIOCESAN SYNODS

B.1 ORGANISATION

This Church shall have such Dioceses as Convocation shall decide. Such Dioceses may within or outwith the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Any Diocese which is not within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland shall be termed an Overseas Diocese. Each Diocese shall form a Diocesan Synod.

The boundary of the Dioceses shall be as Convocation shall determine by Byelaw.

Diocesan Synod shall be composed of the Bishop of the Diocese, together with all the Ministers of this Church, ecclesiastically resident within the limits of the Diocese, and duly licensed to officiate therein, and of the churchwardens and two Lay Delegates, from each Congregation within the Diocese.

B.2 POWERS OF DIOCESAN SYNODS

Each Diocesan Synod shall have absolute independence in all matters whatsoever within the limits of its jurisdiction, except where otherwise ordered in these Canons; provided also that any Resolution or Injunction of Diocesan Synod, may be appealed against to Convocation, whose decision shall be final.

Six Members (exclusive of Ex-officio Members) shall form a Quorum for the transaction of business.

The Bishop and the Secretary shall be ex-officio Members of the Synod, and of all Committees of such Diocese.

C. OF BISHOPS

C.1 THE BISHOP PRIMUS

The Bishop Primus shall be chosen annually from among the Bishops, by Convocation, and he shall continue in office until the close of the meeting at which his successor is elected, provided, that such Annual election shall not preclude the re-election of the same Bishop.

The Bishop Primus shall be, ex-officio, the President of Convocation, and Chairman of all its Committees, and shall have jurisdiction over all Congregations and Ministers for which other Canonical oversight has not been provided.

C.2 QUALIFICATION FOR ELECTION AS BISHOP

Any duly ordained Presbyter of this Church in good standing and who shall not for the time being be in any secular avocation or employment deemed by Convocation to be incompatible with the office may be elected as a Bishop of this Church.

C.3 ELECTION OF BISHOPS BY DIOCESAN SYNODS

In the event of decease of the Bishop of a Diocese, or upon his retirement, or if for any reasons listed in Canon C.20, he shall cease to act as a Bishop of this Church, the Synod of the Diocese, with the consent of the General Council shall proceed to the election of a new Bishop of the Diocese according to the procedures set out in the following Canons.

One month's notice of the intention to propose the election of a Bishop shall be given by the Secretary of the Diocesan Synod to every member thereof at his last recorded address.

Any Diocese duly organised according to Canon B.1 may elect as the said Bishop of the said Diocese, any Bishop, or any duly ordained Presbyter of this Church; but such Bishop-elect shall not be consecrated, or be qualified to exercise jurisdiction until his election by the Diocese has been confirmed by Convocation. In the event of such election not being confirmed, the Diocesan Synod shall proceed to another election.

C.4 MODE OF ELECTING BISHOPS AT A DIOCESAN SYNOD

At any Meeting of the Diocesan Synod, at which it is proposed to elect a Bishop, there shall first be prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Clerical and Lay Members present shall vote by voting papers, each for one or more persons, (not exceeding three) being Presbyters of good standing in this Church, and not less than thirty years of age; provided, that no person shall be entitled to vote for himself.

The Bishops shall vote with the Presbyters, and in this instance, the Deacons shall vote with the Laymen.

The voting papers shall then be examined, and the names of the two persons who shall have obtained the largest number of votes of the Members of each Order, present and voting, shall be placed on a Select List, and it shall be in the power of the Diocesan Synod, by a majority of both Orders, to add names to this Select List.

Any Presbyter whose name shall be placed on the Select List and who shall for the time being be ineligible for election by virtue of Canon C.2 shall before any further vote is taken make disclosure thereof to the Meeting and his name shall thereupon be deleted from the Select List. Any Presbyter whose name shall be placed on the Select List and who shall at the time be absent from the Meeting for any reason shall be deemed to have made disclosure of ineligibility by virtue of Canon C.2 unless he shall have given notice in writing to the presiding Bishop in the fourteen days immediately preceding the election that he is not in secular avocation or occupation other than such as Convocation may permit and such written notice shall thereupon be placed before the Convocation or Diocesan Synod by the presiding Bishop.

The Members of each Order shall then proceed to vote on the names so selected, each Member voting for one Member only; and such voting shall be repeated, if necessary, until one person shall have obtained a clear majority of the votes of the Members of each Order, present and voting.

The name of that one person shall then be proposed to the Diocesan Synod; and if two-thirds of the Members present signify their consent to the election of that person, such consent to be given by ballot, he shall be declared elected.

If the required proportion of Members consenting be not obtained, it shall be held that no election is made, and no further action shall be taken at that Diocesan Synod in relation to the election of a Bishop.

C.5 CONFIRMATION BY CONVOCATION OF AN ELECTION BY A DIOCESAN SYNOD

The name of the person elected by a Diocesan Synod shall be proposed to the next ensuing Convocation; and if a majority of the Members present signify their consent to the election of that person, such consent to be given by ballot, he shall be declared elected.

C.6 ELECTION OF BISHOPS BY CONVOCATION

A Bishop may be elected by Convocation, at any Meeting thereof; provided that one month's notice of the intention to propose the election of a Bishop shall have been given by the Secretary of Convocation, to every Member thereof at his last recorded address.

It shall be the responsibility of Council to decide whether or not to proceed to an election at the following Convocation.

Such decision may be made either in the event of the decease of a Bishop other than a Diocesan Bishop, or upon his retirement, or if for any reasons listed in Canon C.20 he shall cease to act as a Bishop of this Church, or upon representation that the consecration of an additional Bishop shall be advantageous to the ministry and mission of this Church.

If Council deems that an election is to be held, it shall also define the title and ministry to which the Bishop is to be elected.

The Jurisdiction, powers and duties of a Bishop-elect shall be such as Convocation may assign or define.

C.7 MODE OF ELECTING BISHOPS AT CONVOCATION

At any Meeting of Convocation, at which it is proposed to elect a Bishop, there shall first be prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Clerical and Lay Members present shall vote by voting papers, each for one or more persons, (not exceeding three) being Presbyters of good standing in this Church, and not less than thirty years of age; provided, that no person shall be entitled to vote for himself.

The Bishops shall vote with the Presbyters, and in this instance, the Deacons shall vote with the Laymen.

The voting papers shall then be examined, and the names of the two persons who shall have obtained the largest number of votes of the Members of each Order, present and voting, shall be placed on a Select List, and it shall be in the power of Convocation, by a majority of both Orders, to add names to this Select List.

Any Presbyter whose name shall be placed on the Select List and who shall for the time being be ineligible for election by virtue of Canon C.2 shall before any further vote is taken make disclosure thereof to the Meeting and his name shall thereupon be deleted from the Select List. Any Presbyter whose name shall be placed on the Select List and who shall at the time be absent from the Meeting for any reason shall be deemed to have made disclosure of ineligibility by virtue of Canon C.2 unless he shall have given notice in writing to the presiding Bishop in the fourteen days immediately preceding the election that he is not in secular avocation or occupation other than such as Convocation may permit and such written notice shall thereupon be placed before Convocation by the presiding Bishop.

The Members of each Order, shall then proceed to vote on the names so selected, each Member voting for one Member only; and such voting shall be repeated, if necessary, until one person shall have obtained a clear majority of the votes of the Members of each Order, present and voting.

The name of that one person shall then be proposed to Convocation; and if two-thirds of the Members present signify their consent to the election of that person, such consent to be given by ballot, he shall be declared elected.

If the required proportion of Members consenting be not obtained, it shall be held that no election is made, and no further action shall be taken at that Convocation in relation to the election of a Bishop.

C.8 CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

Before his consecration or admission to Office, every Bishop-elect shall produce to the Bishop Primus, a Certificate of his election, signed by the Secretary of Convocation, or of the Diocesan Synod at which he was elected; and in the case of a Diocesan Election he shall also produce a Certificate of the confirmation of such election, by Convocation.

C.9 CERTIFICATE OF GOOD LIFE AND LEARNING

Before his consecration, the elected Bishop shall present to the Bishop Primus, a Certificate signed by a clear majority of Convocation or Synod electing, in the following form:

We, whose names are hereunder written, are fully sensible how important it is that the office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion, without partiality fear or affection, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that the Reverend A.B., Bishop-elect, is not, as far as we are informed, justly liable to evil report, either for error in religion or for viciousness of life, and that we do not know or believe that there is any impediment on account of which he ought not to be consecrated to that office.

We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we do in our conscience believe him to be of such soundness in the faith and of such virtuous and pure manners and godly conversation, that he is apt and meet to exercise the office of a Bishop, to the honour of God and the edifying of His Church and to be a wholesome example to the flock of Christ.

This certificate, together with the certificate of election, shall be publicly read at the beginning of the service of Consecration.

C.10 CONSECRATION OF BISHOPS

After the Election of a Bishop by Convocation, or the Confirmation by Convocation of the Election of a Bishop by a Diocesan Synod, the Bishop Primus, or some other Bishop designated by him, together with such other Bishops as he may invite, shall proceed to the Consecration of the Bishop-elect, according to the Form established by this Church, and in such place, and at such time as the said Bishop Primus shall direct.

C.11 BISHOPS OF OTHER CHURCHES ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION IN THIS CHURCH

Any duly consecrated Bishop of another Church, and of good standing in such Church, may be elected a Bishop of this Church by the Vote of Convocation, or as the Bishop of a Diocese, by the Vote of the Synod thereof, subject to the provisions of Canons C.3 and C.4, but no such Bishop shall be permitted to assume the duties of the office for which he may be thus elected, until he shall have been duly received into this Church by the proper authorities thereof, and shall have signed the Declaration contained in Article V, of the hereinbefore recited Constitution.

C.12 THE BISHOP TO RESIDE IN HIS DIOCESE

Every Bishop of this Church shall reside within his own Diocese or Jurisdiction, unless excused from so doing by a Vote of Convocation.

C.13 THE BISHOP'S RIGHT OF ENTRY INTO ANY CHURCH

At all reasonable times, the Bishop shall have the right of entry into any church within his Jurisdiction, for the purposes of Preaching, Enquiry, the rectifying of any abuse, Counsel in any difficulty, or performing such other duties as pertain to his Office, and shall take any action that may be necessary in the interests of the Minister or Congregation; such action to be reported to the ensuing Meeting of the Diocesan Synod or of Convocation.

C.14 TRIENNIAL VISITATION

At least once in three years, it shall be the right and duty of every Bishop to visit every church within his Jurisdiction, for the purpose of holding Visitation or Confirmation; and upon three months' notice to the Minister, giving, in writing, date and hour of the proposed Visitation, to require such Minister to prepare and present such as are ready and desirous to be confirmed.

Every Bishop, at his discretion, shall address Pastoral Letters to the people of his Diocese.

C.15 THE BISHOP TO REPORT HIS PROCEEDINGS

At each Annual Meeting of Convocation, as well as to his own Diocesan Synod, every Bishop shall report his proceedings, and the state and condition of the Congregations under his Episcopal care.

C.16 FEES FOR EPISCOPAL DUTIES

The Fees as referred in Canon K.3 in addition to the travelling and out-of-pocket expenses of the Bishop, and of any person or persons assisting him, or acting under him in the performance of any Episcopal function, or for the issue of Letter of Orders, Licences, etc., or for Visitations or Confirmations, etc., shall be defrayed by the Person or Congregation on whose behalf, and at whose request, any Episcopal act or acts shall be performed provided also, that Convocation shall provide for the maintenance of the Episcopate.

C.17 A BISHOP NOT TO ACT FOR OTHER CHURCHES WITHOUT SANCTION OF CONVOCATION

No Bishop shall ordain, confirm, or perform any other act of the Episcopal Office, at the request of any Bishop, Minister, or Congregation not connected with this Church, except he shall first obtain the sanction of Convocation, or of the Council, to his performance of such Episcopal act.

C.18 A BISHOP MAY RESIGN HIS JURISDICTION

Any Bishop in good standing, with the consent of Convocation, may resign his Diocese or Jurisdiction, in which case he shall perform no Episcopal functions, thereafter, except at the special request of some other Bishop, or of the Council.

Any Bishop who may thus resign his Diocese or Jurisdiction, shall retain his Seat, and be entitled to vote in Convocation or Diocesan Synod, and be amenable to the authority thereof.

The provision of this Canon shall not apply in the case of a Bishop who may be translated from one Diocese to another.

C.19 A BISHOP MAY LEAVE THIS CHURCH

Any Bishop of this Church, in good standing, who may desire to withdraw from the Communion thereof, shall be permitted to do so upon the recommendation of the Council, and shall be furnished with a Letter Dimissory duly signed by the Bishop Primus, to any Christian Church.

C.20 OFFENCES, MISDEMEANOURS, BANKRUPTCY, OR INCAPACITY

Any Bishop of this Church, who, by any British Court of Justice, shall be found guilty of any criminal offence or misdemeanour, or shall be adjudicated bankrupt, shall cease to act as a Bishop of this Church, and the Jurisdiction of such Bishop shall be declared vacant.

If, by legal process, any Bishop of this Church is found or certified to be of unsound mind, or through age or disease, is found incapable of managing himself or his affairs, and a Deputy has been appointed under Section 16 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 or any re-enactment thereof; whilst so incapacitated he shall cease to perform any Episcopal function in this Church, until the legal proceedings have been discharged, or, on the Certificate of two qualified medical Practitioners conversant with mental disease, he has been pronounced of sound mind and understanding

During the incapacity of such Bishop, the duties of his Office shall be discharged by the Bishop Primus or some other Bishop appointed by him.

C.21 OVERSIGHT OF NEGLECTED OR VACANT DIOCESE

If, from any cause, any Bishop shall neglect to perform the duties of his Office, the Bishop Primus shall arrange for the proper performance of the same.

In case of death or resignation of a Bishop, or vacancy by other cause, the oversight of any vacant Diocese or Jurisdiction, until the same be provided for again, by the appointment of a new Bishop, shall devolve upon the Bishop Primus, who shall have power to appoint some other Bishop to act on his behalf in the said oversight.

In the event of the Office of the Bishop Primus becoming vacant, the Council shall appoint some other Bishop to perform the duties of the said Office until the next Convocation.

D. OF PRESBYTERS AND DEACONS

D.1 OF ADMISSION AS A CANDIDATE FOR HOLY ORDERS

Every person desiring to be considered a candidate for Holy Orders is, in the first instance, to consult his Minister, or, if he have none, some other Minister to whom he is personally known, setting before him the grounds of his desire for admission to the Ministry, together with such circumstances as may bear on his qualification, or tend to affect his course of preparation.

If, as the result of a thorough inquiry into the qualifications of the applicant, he is encouraged by the said Minister to persevere in his intentions, he shall make his desire known in writing to the Bishop having jurisdiction.

The Bishop shall then require the applicant to make a written application in a form to be approved for this purpose by Council, and shall hold such interviews with the applicant as he thinks fit.

If the Bishop is satisfied, he shall accept the applicant as a candidate for Holy Orders and shall report the same to Council. The candidate shall be informed that his ordination depends on successful completion of a prescribed course of study and of a satisfactory assessment of his capabilities by those who shall be involved in his training.

D.2 THE CENTRAL BOARD OF EXAMINERS

There shall be a Central Board of Examiners of candidates for the Ministry of this Church which shall be nominated jointly by the Diocesan Bishops and the names of their nominees shall be notified annually to Convocation.

It shall be the duty of the Central Board of Examiners

- a) to assist the Bishops in drawing up a syllabus of required study for candidates for ordination, such syllabus to be submitted to Council for approval;
- b) at the request of the Bishop having jurisdiction to conduct the examinations of a candidate for the Ministry or of a Minister received from another Church. Such examinations shall be substantially in writing. The Central Board of Examiners shall, when so requested by the Bishop having jurisdiction, give oversight to candidates and advise them in regard to their studies and preparation.
- c) to advise the Bishop having jurisdiction on exemptions from or modifications to the agreed syllabus in the case of candidates possessing theological qualifications or being over forty years of age or in the light of other relevant considerations.

The Central Board of Examiners shall report promptly, in writing, to the Bishop having jurisdiction, the results of all examinations held by them, whether satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

A candidate undergoing a course of training shall be required to meet regularly with his Bishop and with such Presbyters and Laity as the Bishop may appoint to support him in his training and to ascertain that the candidate is well acquainted with the Holy Scriptures, and with the History, Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of this Church and that he has a sufficiency of good learning.

D.3 REQUIREMENTS OF SUCH AS ARE TO BE ORDAINED

No person desiring to be ordained a Deacon, shall be admitted into Holy Orders by the Bishop, except he be three and twenty years old, unless he have a Faculty from the Bishop Primus. The candidate shall also have completed such elements of the approved syllabus as the Central Board of Examiners shall recommend.

No Deacon may be admitted to the Presbyterate, until he be four and twenty years of age complete, and possesses a sufficiency of good learning, and is able to yield an account of his Faith according to the Articles of Religion received in this Church, and to confirm the same by sufficient testimonies out of the Holy Scriptures. The candidate shall have completed such remaining elements of the approved syllabus as the Central Board of Examiners shall recommend.

Prior to ordination, each candidate shall exhibit

- a) where applicable, a reference from the College or educational course or institution at which he has studied;
- b) Letters Testimonial of his good life and conversation together with the subscription and testimony of other credible persons who have personally known his life and behaviour by the space of three years next before;
- c) a Si Quis form;
- d) the report of the Central Board of Examiners;

e) Certificates of his Baptism and Confirmation and such other papers as the Bishop, or Convocation, or Council may order.

None shall be ordained Presbyter, unless first ordained a Deacon, or received as a Deacon into the Ministry of this Church; and none shall be ordained Deacon and Presbyter upon one and the same day.

D.4 TITLES OF SUCH AS ARE TO BE ORDAINED

A candidate for Ordination shall be required to serve as a Reader in an approved parish for the space of six months, at the least, under the direction of one of the Bishops.

No ordination of an approved candidate shall take place until such candidate receives a Title to Orders, complies with the requirements herein recited, and satisfies the Examiners in all the Subjects in the approved syllabus..

A Bishop may ordain to general assistance in his diocese, or for missionary purposes overseas, pursuant to any Rules made by Convocation.

Ordinations shall be held in the Seasons of Advent, Lent, and Trinity, as provided in Article XIII of the hereinbefore recited Constitution, unless the Bishop having jurisdiction shall otherwise direct.

The Bishops shall report to the Council, all pending Ordinations of Deacons and Presbyters..

D.5 THE RECEP1ION AND DISMISSION OF MINISTERS FROM OR TO OTHER CHURCHES

Any duly ordained Minister of another Church may be received by a Bishop into the Ministry of this Church, under such Regulations as Convocation may approve; provided proof be given of his literary and theological acquirements, and of his good standing, and religious character.

Any Minister of this Church, in good standing, at his own request, may be dismissed, to unite with any Christian Church, and shall be entitled to a Letter Dimissory, signed by the Bishop having jurisdiction.

D.6 MINISTERS MAY FOLLOW SECULAR AVOCATIONS

A Presbyter or a Deacon, in each case with the consent of the Bishop Primus in writing, and under such conditions and limitations as he may prescribe, may follow any proper Secular Avocation, for the support of himself and others dependent upon him.

D.7 BAR TO ORDINATION

No person shall be ordained to the Ministry of this Church, who, for reasons affecting his moral character, has been refused ordination elsewhere. A Bishop who shall finally reject the application of a candidate for Holy Orders, shall notify such rejection immediately, to every Bishop or other Ecclesiastical Authority in this Church.

E. OF READERS

E.1 COMMUNICANTS MAY BE ADMITTED AND LICENSED AS READERS

A Lay Communicant of this Church, in good standing, may be admitted by the Bishop as a Reader, and Licensed to conduct the Service of the Church, but not to administer the Sacraments, in a Congregation convened for Public Worship. Such License may be given by the Bishop, of his own motion, for service in any vacant Parish, Congregation, or Mission.

Where a Minister is in charge, his request and recommendation must have been signified previously in writing to the Bishop.

Such License must be given for a definite period, not longer than one year from its date. It may be renewed by the Bishop's endorsement, from time to time but it may be revoked, at his absolute discretion, at any time.

E.2 READERS TO CONFORM TO REGULATIONS

Every Reader shall be subject to such Regulations as the Bishop may prescribe; and in all matters relating to the conduct of the service, and to Sermons or Homilies to be delivered or read, he shall conform to the directions of the Minister in charge of the Parish, Congregation, or Mission in which he is serving; or to the directions of the Bishop, when there is no Minister in Charge.

F. OF MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS AND DUTIES

F.1 EVERY MINISTER TO BE LICENSED

No Minister of this Church shall be admitted to any Ecclesiastical Living or Office, nor suffered to preach, or to execute any other Ecclesiastical function, except he be licensed thereto by the Bishop having jurisdiction, under his hand and seal.

F.2 EVERY MINISTER TO SUBSCRIBE THE DECLARATION

No Minister licensed as aforesaid shall execute any Ecclesiastical function unless he first make and subscribe the Declaration contained in Article V of the hereinbefore recited Constitution, in the presence of the Bishop (or his Commissary) having jurisdiction.

F.3 CAUTIONS FOR INSTITUTION OF MINISTERS

No Bishop shall institute to a Living, any who has been ordained by any other Bishop, except first, he produces his Letters of Orders, and a sufficient testimony to his former good life and behaviour, and shall appear, upon due examination, to be worthy of his Ministry.

F.4 NONE TO BE ASSISTANT CURATES, BUT ALLOWED BY THE BISHOP

None shall be allowed to serve as Assistant Curate but such as has been approved by the Bishop having jurisdiction.

F.5 THE LICENCES OF MINISTERS REFUSING CONFORMITY TO BE VOID

If any Minister, licensed as aforesaid, after he has made and subscribed the Declaration aforesaid, shall refuse to conform himself to the Laws, Ordinances, or Rites Ecclesiastical established in this Church, he shall be admonished in writing by the Bishop of the Diocese, or the Bishop having jurisdiction.

If within the space of one month after such admonition he does not conform himself, the Licence of such Minister shall thereupon be void, and of none effect. The said Minister shall then be informed in writing by the Bishop that he shall be proceeded against in a Court of Discipline and asked whether he considers himself amenable to the authority of such Court. If the Minister shall state that he is not so amenable or shall not have replied to the Bishop within the space of one month, he shall be deemed to have left the Communion of this Church and to be no longer a member thereof.

F.6 PRECAUTION AGAINST IMPOSTERS

No Minister in charge of any congregation, and no Wardens, Church Councillors, or Trustees of any Congregation shall permit any person professing to be an ordained Minister to officiate or preach therein, without sufficient evidence of his being a duly recognised or ordained Minister of the Gospel.

F.7 PULPIT EXCHANGES WITH OTHER MINISTERS TO BE ALLOWED

Pulpit exchanges by Ministers of this Church with Ministers in good standing of other Evangelical Churches, and the occasional occupancy of the pulpits of this Church by such Ministers of other Churches, shall be allowed; and it shall be a fundamental principle of this Church that its Clergy may partake of or administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in any Evangelical Church, at the request of its Minister.

F.8 INCUMBENTS TO BE NOMINATED BY THE CONGREGATION

With the approval of the Bishop having Jurisdiction any Presbyterian of this church in good standing, may be nominated as the Incumbent of a Congregation by the Wardens and Church Councillors, of such Congregation; subject to the right of the Bishop to veto any nomination.

F.9 INCUMBENTS TO BE INSTITUTED BY THE BISHOP

On the election of a Presbyterian as the Incumbent or Minister of any Church or Congregation, the Churchwardens shall give notice thereof in writing to the Bishop having Jurisdiction, and if the said Bishop shall approve of such election, he or some Presbyterian appointed by him under his hand and seal, shall proceed to institute and install the said Minister in the form established in this Church; provided that no such election shall be valid and no such institution or installation shall be conducted in respect of a Presbyterian who shall for the time being be in full time secular avocation or occupation.

Such Appointment shall be on the terms and subject to the obligations and conditions specified in a Deed of Appointment in the form approved by Convocation from time to time, and executed in triplicate by all necessary parties. One copy shall be retained by the Solicitor to the Free Church of England otherwise called the Reformed Episcopal Church, one copy by the Appointee and the third copy by the Wardens of the Church to which the Appointee is appointed.

F.10 PASTORAL RELATIONS MAY BE TERMINATED

An Incumbency or Pastoral connection in this Church may be terminated at any time by the consent of both the Incumbent and the Congregation, the latter being represented by the Churchwardens and Church Councillors; or, on the appeal of one party after giving due notice to the other party, by the decision of the Bishop and Council having Jurisdiction, whose decision shall be final.

Provided that the matter has been considered and reported upon first by the Synod having Jurisdiction, and also by a Committee of Enquiry established thereby.

In case either party refuses to abide by such decision of the Bishop as aforesaid, such party shall forfeit the right, if a Presbyterian, of a Seat and a vote in Convocation and in Diocesan Synod, or, if Wardens and Church Councillors, of having their Congregations represented in the same; but, either party shall in other respects be amenable to the Ecclesiastical authority, as if such forfeiture of rights had not been incurred; provided that either party, by giving due notice, shall have the right of appeal to the ensuing Convocation, whose decision shall be final.

F.11 BISHOP TO TAKE CHARGE OF VACANT LIVING

In the event of a vacancy occurring in any Living the oversight thereof shall devolve upon the Bishop having Jurisdiction, who may himself take charge, or appoint, in writing, under his hand and seal, some other Minister of this Church to take charge of the said Living on his behalf, and for such period as he shall decide, until such time as an Incumbent shall be duly nominated and admitted thereto.

F.12 MINISTERS TO GIVE NOTICE OF EPISCOPAL VISITATION

It shall be the duty of every Minister of this Church in charge of a Congregation to give due notice of an Episcopal Visitation, and to prepare and present to the Bishop who may hold such Visitation, any persons who are ready and desirous to be confirmed, with a list of their names.

F.13 MINISTERS TO KEEP REGISTERS OF BAPTISMS, ETC.

Every Minister in charge of a Congregation shall keep Registers of Services, Baptisms, Confirmations, Receptions by letter from other Churches, Communicants, Marriages, and Burials, with a list (as far as practicable) of the families within his charge; which Registers shall be the property of the Church, and be preserved for the use of his successor.

F.14 MINISTERS TO RENDER ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BISHOP

Every Minister in charge of a Congregation, or the Wardens, shall, within a month of the Annual Congregational Meeting in each year, present to the Bishop, or in his absence, to the General Council, or other Canonical Authority of the Jurisdiction, in the form provided for the purpose, a statement of the number of Baptisms, receptions to the Communion by Confirmation or otherwise, Communicants, Marriages, Burials, Number of Sunday Schools and Scholars, amount of benevolent, religious and parochial contributions, and such other matters relating to the state of the Congregation.

Ministers without charge shall report by the end of February in each year to the same Ecclesiastical Authority any ministerial acts they may have performed, and the Bishop or Authority aforesaid shall acknowledge receipt of the same.

An Abstract of such statements shall be presented annually to Convocation by the Bishop having Jurisdiction, or in his absence by the Council.

Any Minister who shall fail to present such report as aforesaid, shall forfeit the right to a seat in Convocation until, upon compliance with the Canon, the same is restored by a vote of Convocation.

Any Minister without charge who shall have abstained from reporting himself to the Bishop for a period of three consecutive years, shall be considered to have severed his connection with this Church.

Any Minister who for the period of three years shall have failed to report himself to the Bishop or other Ecclesiastical Authority, shall be considered to have resigned his ministry, and his name shall be removed from the list of Clergy of this Church.

F.15 MINISTERS TO HAVE CONTROL OF MUSIC AND SERVICES IN THEIR CHURCHES

It shall be the duty of every Minister in charge of any Congregation, with such assistance as he may see fit to employ, to give order concerning the tunes to be sung and the music to be played at any time in his Church. He shall have control over, and be responsible for, the services conducted in his Church, subject to such directions as the Bishop may issue from time to time, provided that in the conduct of the services the Minister shall pay respect to the reasonable wishes of the Congregations expressed by a majority vote at a Special Congregational Meeting held for that purpose, after due notice given and when the same are not contrary to the Evangelical and Protestant principles and usages of this Church.

No decorations, ornaments, vestments, postures, or ceremonies calculated to teach either directly or symbolically, that the Christian Ministry possesses a sacerdotal character or that the Lord's Supper is a Sacrifice, shall be allowed in the worship of this Church; nor shall any altar, or Communion Table constructed in the form of an altar, nor any Crucifix, candles, molten, painted or graven image or images, be introduced or used; nor shall flowers, or vases, be placed on or apparently upon the Lord's Table; nor shall any Hymn Book not authorised by Convocation be used in the worship of this Church.

In the event of any dispute arising between the Minister and the Congregation upon any matter connected with the conduct of Divine Service, the matter in dispute shall be laid before the Bishop, who shall immediately give order concerning the same; but subject to the right of appeal of either party to Convocation, whose decision shall be final.

F.16 PROVISIONS FOR MINISTERIAL NEGLECT

If any Minister of this Church shall neglect to perform his duties in the Church or Congregation, and refuse, without good cause, to permit any other properly qualified Minister to perform such duties, the Churchwardens, Church Councillors, or Trustees of such Congregation, with the written consent of the Bishop and Council having Jurisdiction, shall open the doors, and it shall be obligatory upon them to permit any Minister qualified and licensed by the Bishop to officiate.

If such neglect shall continue, the Bishop, with the consent of Convocation or Council, at the expiration of three months, and after notice in writing addressed to the offending Minister, or at any time thereafter in his discretion, have power to declare the Incumbency vacant, and require the Wardens and Church Council to proceed to the Election of another Minister.

G. OF CONGREGATIONS

G.1 COMPOSITION OF A PARISH

The boundaries of a Parish or Congregation are not geographical. A Parish or Congregation consists of all the persons enrolled as Communicants thereof and duly contributing to its support. Such persons, being of full age, shall be entitled to vote at all Special or Annual Congregational Meetings of such congregation. Any congregation which for the space of three years shall have failed to conform to the Laws and Regulations of this Church, as set forth in the Canons thereof, or by the order of Convocation shall be considered to have ceased to belong to this Church, and by a vote of Convocation or Council having jurisdiction, may be removed from the list of organised congregations, without prejudice to the rights of the Free Church of England, otherwise called the Reformed Episcopal Church, to any property relating to such congregation under the Trust deeds affecting the same.

G.2 MEMBERS OF THIS CHURCH MAY ORGANISE AS A CONGREGATION OR PARISH

Persons belonging to this Church may organise as a parish or congregation with the consent of the Bishop having jurisdiction, under his hand and seal; but such congregation, before being entitled to representation in Convocation or Diocesan Synod, shall be required to recognise and accede to the Constitution and Canons, Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of this Church.

G.3 CONGREGATIONS FROM OTHER CHURCHES MAY BE RECEIVED INTO THIS CHURCH

Any Congregation of another Church that may desire to be received into union with this Church, shall declare its desire therefore, duly certified by the Authorities of the said Congregation, which Certificate, together with a declaration recognising and adopting the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of this Church, shall be presented to the Bishop having jurisdiction, who shall submit the same to Convocation, or to the Council at any time, and, in case the same are found satisfactory by Convocation, or by the Council acting during the recess, such Church or Congregation shall be received, and a record of the fact shall be made.

G.4 PROVISIONS FOR THE RECEPTION OF CHURCHES IN SPECIAL TRUSTS

Convocation, or the Council, at any time, shall have power to make such arrangements as may be deemed desirable for the reception and enrolment of Churches in Special and Peculiar Trusts, and where the provisions of the preceding Canon are inapplicable or insufficient: Provided, that the Trustees or Representatives of every such Congregation shall subscribe to the Deed of Covenant adopted and provided in this behalf.

G.5 COMMUNICANTS

A Communicant shall be deemed to be a person who shall partake of the Lord's Supper in some Congregation of this Church, at least three times in the year, of which Easter shall be one, or whose name shall appear in the Roll of Communicants of the Congregation of this Church, to which he or she shall belong, or whose name shall appear upon the Roll of Scattered Members as defined in Canon G.10.

The said Roll of Communicants shall be kept by the Minister, and Churchwardens, who shall enter therein, from time to time, the names and addresses of the regular Communicants of the Congregation and, if possible, a record of the time at which they have received the Communion.

The Roll of Communicants shall be amended immediately before the holding of the Annual Congregational Meeting in each year and the names of those Communicants who, without reasonable cause, have not partaken of the Lord's Supper, at least three times during the preceding twelve months, shall be removed from the same.

G.6 COMMUNICANTS TRANSFERRED FROM ONE CONGREGATION TO ANOTHER

A Communicant, removing from one Congregation to another, shall be furnished with a Certificate of good standing, signed by the Minister and the Parish Council (if any).

G.7 COMMUNICANTS OF THIS CHURCH MAY BE DISMISSED TO OTHER CHURCHES

A Communicant, in good standing, at his or her request shall be furnished with a Certificate or Letter Dimissory to any Christian Church.

G.8 ABANDONMENT OF THE COMMUNION OF THIS CHURCH

Any Bishop or other Minister or Communicant who by his action, statements or writings has entered into membership of any denomination not being in Communion with this Church or who repudiates the jurisdiction, Canons and Regulations of this Church shall be deemed to have left the Communion of this Church and to be no longer a member thereof.

G.9 COMMUNICANTS OF ANOTHER CHURCH MAY BE RECEIVED INTO THIS CHURCH

A Communicant of another Christian Church may be received to the Communion of this Church, on a letter of dismission, or other satisfactory evidence of Membership in the Church of Christ.

G.10 SCATTERED MEMBERS

Any person residing at a distance from an organised congregation of this Church may be admitted to Membership by the Bishop Primus, subject to such conditions as he may direct, and upon subscribing a Declaration recognising and adopting the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of this Church.

Any Communicant removing to a neighbourhood in which there is no organised Congregation of this Church may retain his or her membership as a scattered member by expressing the desire therefore to the Bishop Primus.

H. OF CHURCH MEETINGS AND OFFICERS

H.1 CHURCH OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED ANNUALLY AT AN OPEN CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

In each Congregation annually during the month of February of each year or at any time upon the organisation of a new Congregation an open Congregational Meeting shall be held for the election of Churchwardens, Church Councillors and Delegates to Convocation and Synod and for the transaction of any other congregational business. The persons entitled to attend and vote at this and all other Meetings of the Congregation are particularly designated in Canon G.1.

The Wardens and Delegates shall be chosen from among the Communicants who are of the age of not less than eighteen years and Church Councillors shall be chosen from among the Communicants who are of full age and shall hold office until the First day of March in the following year. (It is recommended that the Church Councillors be so chosen that one third of their entire number shall be elected each year).

One Warden shall be nominated by the Minister and the other by the people and the Minister shall be *ex officio* Chairman of the Congregational Meeting and of all meetings of the Church Council and other parochial bodies and meetings. The elected Delegates shall serve as Delegates to both Convocation and Diocesan Synod.

The voting shall be by show of hands but upon the request of two members may be by ballot if the meeting so decides.

H.2 SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE CONGREGATION

Special Congregational Meetings for the consideration of parish business, or for the filling up of any vacancies in the ranks of Church Officers until the Annual Congregational Meetings following, may be convened at any time by the Minister or Churchwardens, due notice of such Meeting being given in writing, signed by the Minister or Churchwardens, and affixed to the Church Door, or on the Parish Notice Board, at least three clear days before the holding of the Meeting, and of which Sunday shall be one.

H.3 CHURCHWARDENS TO SEE THAT THEIR CHURCH IS SUITABLY FURNISHED

It shall be the duty of Churchwardens to see that their Church is provided with a Pulpit and Desk, a decent Font, a Communion Table of wood, a Cup and Plate for the Lord's Supper, a Surplice, Gown and Scarf; proper Books for the conducting of Divine Service; a substantial safe for the preservation of Church Records; Register Books for Services, Baptisms, Marriages (if the building be licensed therefore) and Burials; a suitable Book for containing Roll of Communicants, a Preacher's Book, and such other articles as the Bishop shall deem requisite; but nothing shall be enjoined as requisite, or be provided, which is contrary to the Protestant and Evangelical principles of this Church.

It shall further be the duty of Churchwardens to prepare the church for divine service and to ensure that it is left in a tidy state afterwards.

H.4 CHURCHWARDENS TO BE CUSTODIANS OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CHURCH

It shall be the duty of Churchwardens to keep in repair the fabric of the Church, to guard the property belonging to the Church, and to act as Treasurers of the Funds of the Church, disbursing the same under the directions of the Minister and Church Councillors, or in case of their disagreement, under the directions of the Bishop having jurisdiction.

All accounts opened with Bankers pursuant to the provisions of this Canon shall be entitled in the name of the Church and Fund concerned; instructions shall be given to the Bankers that the two Wardens for the time being and the Minister shall be the Signatories for all cheques drawn on such accounts, but that the signatures of any two shall be deemed sufficient.

If, however, for local reasons any Specific Funds shall be created or operated by persons other than the Churchwardens, it shall be with the consent of the Churchwardens, and Church Council, and such Funds shall be held or banked in the name of the Church and Fund concerned, provisions being made for alternative signatories to operate upon the accounts. Accounts audited by some suitably qualified person to be approved by the

Churchwardens shall be made up to the 31st December in each year, or the date of the closing of the Fund, whichever is the earlier, and submitted to the Churchwardens and Church Council in time for the Annual Congregational Meeting next following that date.

All Churchwardens shall, at the end of their year or within a month after, before the Minister and Church members, give a just account of such money as they have received and also particularly what they have disbursed for the Church.

They shall deliver up to the next Churchwardens whatsoever money or other things of right belonging to the Church which remain in their hands.

H.5 CHURCHWARDENS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE MINISTER, BUT TO REPORT ANY UNLAWFUL PROCEEDINGS TO THE BISHOP

The Churchwardens shall have free access to the Church at all reasonable time, but the Minister shall be entitled to the possession of the key or keys of the Church; and no Churchwarden or other Church Officer shall have the right to interfere with the Minister in his conduct of the services and administration of the Sacraments of the Church, or with his free and proper use of the Church buildings and property for any lawful Ecclesiastical purposes which he may deem necessary; provided, that if any services be held, or any use be made of the Church buildings in opposition to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, or to the Orders and Regulations that may be issued from time to time by Convocation, or contrary to the Evangelical and Protestant principles of this Church, the Churchwardens shall immediately report the same to the Bishop having jurisdiction, who shall enquire into the matters alleged, and take such steps as he may deem expedient.

H.6 CHURCH COUNCILLORS AND THEIR DUTIES

It shall be the duty of the Church Councillors, as the representatives of the Congregation, to act with the Churchwardens in the nomination of a Minister; to assist the Churchwardens in the discharge of their duties when desired to do so; and to take such measures as may be necessary to provide sufficient funds for the maintenance of the Church and the Services and Ministry thereof.

H.7 MEETINGS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Meetings of the Church Council may be convened by the Minister or Churchwardens at any time, or, by not less than one third of the Church Councillors for the time being. At least three clear days notice of such meetings shall be given to every member of the Church Council.

H.8 CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council shall consist of the Minister, the Churchwardens, and Delegates, *ex-officio*, together with the Church Councillors elected and appointed at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

H.9 CHAIRMAN OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

The Minister shall be Chairman of all Church Council Meetings, and Congregational Meetings, either Annual or Special, but, in the event of his absence, or there being no Minister, the members present at any meeting shall elect, from among themselves, a Chairman of such Meeting. The Chairman shall have a casting, as well as an ordinary vote.

H.10 A RECORD TO BE KEPT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS

A faithful record of the proceedings and resolutions of all Church Council Meetings and Congregational Meetings, either Annual or Special, shall be kept (in books to be provided for that purpose by the Churchwardens) by the Church Council Secretary, who shall be elected by the Church Councillors from their own number at the first Church Council Meeting held after the Annual Congregational Meeting and such record shall be open to the inspection of the Bishop or his Commissary at all reasonable times.

H.11 DELEGATES

Every organised congregation shall be entitled to elect not more than two Delegates as its representatives to Convocation, and/or Diocesan Synod. Every Communicant of full age shall be eligible for election as a Delegate.

I. OF THE WORSHIP OF THIS CHURCH

I.1 PERMITTED FORMS OF WORSHIP

The following forms of service shall be permitted for use in the Free Church of England:

- a) the forms of service contained in *The Book of Common Prayer* as certified;
- b) occasional and seasonal services (e.g. Youth Services, Harvest Festival, Carol Services);
- c) such orders as the Bishop Primus may set forth to mark days of Fasting and Thanksgiving and other special occasions for which no other provision has been made.

I.2 A BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER TO BE ADOPTED AND AUTHORISED BY CONVOCATION

A Book of Common Prayer, with its Rubrics, Administration of the Sacraments, and other Services of this Church, Articles of Religion, and Forms for ordaining and consecrating Bishops and other Ministers, shall be adopted by Convocation.

Such Book of Common Prayer shall agree with the Book of Common Prayer of the Established Church of England, as far as may be consistent with the Evangelical Principles of this Church, and, when adopted by Convocation as aforesaid, shall be valid and binding upon all Members of this Church, and shall be used at such times and with such liberty as the next succeeding Canon shall provide.

I.3 THE USE OF THE PRAYER BOOK

In Public Worship, and invariably on the Morning and Evening of the Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, and at other times at the discretion of the Minister, the Book of Common Prayer, as adopted and authorised by Convocation, is to be used in all the Congregations of this Church.

Nothing in this Canon is to be understood as precluding extempore prayer, before or after Sermons, or on emergent occasions, or at special meetings for prayer and edification.

I.4 ALTERATIONS IN THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

No alteration, or addition, shall be made in the Book of Common Prayer, or other Offices of this Church, or the Articles of Religion, as authorised aforesaid by Convocation, unless the same shall be approved by a vote of three-fourths of those present and voting at one meeting of Convocation and ratified by a similar majority at the ensuing Convocation.

I.5 EDITIONS OF THE PRAYER BOOK

No Edition of the Book of Common Prayer, the Offices, Articles and Rubrics, shall be published, except it be first compared with, and corrected by the standard Book which shall have been adopted and authorised and altered as aforesaid by Convocation.

A Certificate of such comparison and correction, signed by the Bishop Primus shall accompany each Edition.

In case any Edition shall be published without such Certificate, it shall be the duty of the Bishop Primus to give public notice that such Edition is not authorised by this Church.

I.6 SPECIAL FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE ALLOWED

The Bishop having jurisdiction may authorise and permit any Special Service, or any Form of Prayer, not contravening the principles or Canons of this Church, for use on special occasions.

I.7 OF SUNDAYS AND OTHER DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE

The Lord's Day, commonly called Sunday, is ever to be celebrated as a weekly memorial of our Lord's Resurrection and kept according to God's holy will and pleasure, particularly by attendance at divine service.

The principal Feasts to be observed in the Free Church of England are Christmas Day, the Circumcision of Christ, Epiphany, the Presentation of Christ, Easter Day, Ascension Day, Whitsunday or Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

The season of Advent and the 40 days of Lent, particularly Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, ought especially to be observed.

Good Friday is to be observed as a commemoration of the death and Passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and by attendance at divine service.

I.8 OF THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

The service of Holy Communion ought to be celebrated at least once in a calendar month at a main service.

No person shall consecrate and administer the holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper unless he shall have been ordained bishop or presbyter in accordance with Article VI of the Constitution of this Church.

I.9 OF BREAD AND WINE FOR THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Churchwardens of every parish, with the advice and direction of the minister, shall provide a sufficient quantity of bread and wine for the number of communicants that shall from time to time receive the same.

The bread shall be of the best and purest wheat flour that conveniently may be gotten, and the wine shall be the fermented juice of the grape, save that non-alcoholic wine is acceptable at the minister's discretion. The use of wine substitutes (including grape juice) is prohibited.

I.10 OF SERMONS IN CHURCHES

In every parish church a sermon ought to be preached at least once each Sunday.

The sermon shall be preached by a minister or Reader duly authorised in accordance with Canon Law.

The minister may invite a suitable person of another church to preach in accordance with the provisions of Canon F.7.

I.11 OF HOLY BAPTISM

It is desirable that every minister having a cure of souls shall normally administer the sacrament of Holy Baptism at public worship when the most number of people come together, that the congregation there present may witness the receiving of them that be newly baptised into Christ's Church, and be put in remembrance of their own profession made to God in their baptism.

The minister shall, to the best of his ability, ensure that the parents or guardians of a child brought for baptism, together with such fit persons as they shall choose to be sponsors, are instructed in the responsibilities required of them by the service of Holy Baptism.

No minister being informed of the weakness or danger of death of any infant within his cure and therefore desired to go to baptise the same, shall either refuse or delay to do so. The name of any child so baptised shall be entered in the Baptismal Register of the parish. If any infant which is privately baptised do afterwards live, it shall be brought to the church and there received into the congregation of Christ's flock.

I.12 OF SPONSORS

For every child to be baptised there shall be not fewer than two sponsors. The sponsors shall be persons who will faithfully fulfil their responsibilities both by their care for the child committed to their charge and by the example of their own godly living.

When one who is of riper years is to be baptised he shall if appropriate choose two or three to be his sponsors, who shall be ready to present him at the font and afterwards put him in mind of his Christian profession and duties. Every such candidate of riper years shall be confirmed by the bishop as soon after his baptism as conveniently may be, so that he may be admitted to the Holy Communion.

No person shall be admitted a sponsor who has not been baptised or confirmed. Nevertheless the minister shall have power to dispense with the requirement of confirmation in any case in which, in his judgement, need so requires.

I.13 OF TEACHING THE FAITH

Every minister shall take care that children and young people within his cure are instructed in the doctrine, sacraments and discipline of Christ, as they are set forth in the Holy Scriptures and explained in the Catechism and authorised liturgies of this Church. To this end he, or some godly and competent person or persons appointed by him, shall on Sundays or if need be at other convenient times diligently instruct and teach them in the same. All parents and sponsors shall take care that their children receive such instruction.

The minister shall also provide for the instruction of adults within his cure in the Christian faith and life.

I.14 OF CONFIRMATION

The bishop of every diocese shall himself minister (or cause to be ministered by some other bishop lawfully deputed in his stead) the rite of confirmation throughout his diocese as often and in as many places as shall be convenient, laying his hands upon children and other persons who have been baptised and instructed in the Christian faith.

I.15 OF HOLY MATRIMONY

The Free Church of England affirms, according to our Lord's teaching, that marriage is in its nature a union permanent and lifelong, for better for worse, till death do part, of one man and one woman, to the exclusion of all others on either side, for the procreation and nurture of children, for the hallowing and right direction of the natural instincts and affections, and for the mutual society, help and comfort which the one ought to have of the other, both in prosperity and in adversity.

It shall be the duty of the minister, when application is made to him for matrimony to be solemnized in a church of which he is the minister, to explain to the two persons who desire to be married, the Church's doctrine of marriage as herein set forth, and the need of God's grace in order that they may discharge aright their obligations as married persons.

Notwithstanding the herein stated doctrine of marriage, this Church recognizes that there are exceptional circumstances in which a divorced person may be married in church during the lifetime of a former partner, and it shall be lawful for the bishops of this Church to provide advice to the clergy as to how to proceed in such situations.

In arranging, solemnising and registering a marriage the minister shall take care to fulfil all the requirements of statute law.

When a marriage is to be solemnized in any church, it belongs to the minister of the parish to decide what music shall be played, what hymns or anthems shall be sung, or what furnishings or flowers may be placed in or about the church for the occasion.

The fees for a marriage shall be those appointed by the Church Commissioners for England for the year in which the marriage takes place. Fees for additional items (for example, organist or heating) shall be determined by the Minister and Church Council.

I.16 OF MINISTRY TO THE SICK

When any person sick or in danger of death or so impotent that he cannot go to the church is desirous of receiving the most comfortable sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, the presbyter, having knowledge thereof, shall as soon as may be visit him, and unless there be any grave reason to the contrary, shall reverently minister the same to the said person at such place and time as may be convenient.

I.17 OF FUNERALS

In all matters pertaining to the burial or cremation of the dead every minister shall observe the law from time to time in force in relation thereto.

When a funeral is to be held in any church, it belongs to the minister of the parish to decide what music shall be played, what hymns or anthems shall be sung, or what furnishings or flowers may be placed in or about the church for the occasion.

The fees for a funeral shall be those appointed by the Church Commissioners for England for the year in which the funeral takes place. Fees for additional items (for example, organist or heating) shall be determined by the Minister and Church Council.

J. OF DISCIPLINE

J.1 OBJECTS OF DISCIPLINE

The objects of Christian Discipline are the removal of offences, the vindication of the Truth, the promotion of purity and harmony in the Church, and the benefit of the offender.

J.2 DISCIPLINE FOR SPIRITUAL, DOCTRINAL AND ECCLESIASTICAL OFFENCES

Discipline may be exercised with reference to spiritual, doctrinal or ecclesiastical offences. In the former cases, nothing shall be admitted as a matter of accusation which cannot be proved from Holy Scripture or the Declaration of Principles of this Church. In the latter case, nothing shall be admitted as matter of accusation which cannot be proved to be a violation of the Canons and Regulations of this Church.

J.3 OFFENCES OF COMMUNICANTS

Any lay communicant of this Church shall be liable to trial and discipline for any of the following offences:

1. Denial of the Faith
2. A walk or conversation unworthy of a Christian profession
3. If a Church Officer, refusing to comply with the Canons and Regulations of this Church; or to submit himself to the lawful authorities of this Church
4. Any actions, statements or writings detrimental to the peace, harmony and godly order of this Church, or likely to bring the name of this Church into disrepute, or to promote schism in the Body of Christ
5. Conviction of any criminal act which could incur the penalty of imprisonment.

J.4 OFFENCES OF MINISTERS

Bishops and other Ministers shall be liable to trial and discipline for any of the following offences:

1. Any offence for which a lay Communicant of this Church would be amenable to discipline
2. Holding or teaching any doctrine condemned by this Church, or contrary to its doctrinal standards
3. Habitual neglect of the exercise of his Ministerial office
4. Refusing to comply with the terms of the Declarations respectively made by them in accordance with the provisions hereinbefore contained in these Canons, and refusing to obey the regulations, laws and ordinances of this Church.

J.5 PRIVATE OFFENCES

In all cases of private offences, the offender shall be dealt with in accordance with the mode divinely prescribed in Matthew 18:15-17.

COURTS OF DISCIPLINE

J.6 COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF A LAY MEMBER

The Court for the trial of a lay Communicant shall be the Parish Court which shall consist of the Incumbent and three Communicants of the Congregation to which such Communicant shall belong, excluding all relatives and connections of the accused or accusers. The Minister shall preside, unless he be related to the accused or accusers, in which case the Diocesan Bishop shall appoint some other Minister of the Church to preside.

J.7 COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF MINISTERS AND CHURCH OFFICERS

The Court for the trial of a Minister or Church Officer shall be the Diocesan Court which shall consist of the Diocesan Bishop or another Bishop designated by him, together with two Presbyters and two lay delegates or Churchwardens. The two Presbyters shall be selected from a list of four names drawn at random. The accused and the Bishop shall each, in turn, strike one name from the list. The two lay members of the Court shall likewise be selected from a list of four names drawn at random. The accused and the Bishop shall each, in turn, strike one name from the list.

J.8 COURT FOR THE TRIAL OF BISHOPS AND DENOMINATIONAL OFFICERS

The Court for the trial of a Bishop or Denominational Officer shall be the Denominational Court which shall consist of the Bishop Primus, or a Bishop chosen by him from the Bishops of this Church, together with two Presbyters and two lay delegates or Churchwardens. The two Presbyters shall be selected from a list of four names drawn at random, but excluding Presbyters canonically resident in the Diocese in which an accused Diocesan Bishop holds office. The accused and the Bishop shall each, in turn, strike one name from the list. The two lay members of the Court shall likewise be selected from a list of four names drawn at random, but excluding laity canonically resident in the Diocese in which an accused Diocesan Bishop holds office. The accused and the Bishop shall each, in turn, strike one name from the list. In the event of the Bishop Primus being the accused, the Council shall appoint some other Bishop who shall preside.

J.9 COURT OF APPEAL

Appeals from a Diocesan or Denominational Court shall be heard by a Court of Appeal which shall consist of the Bishop Primus, or a Bishop chosen by him from the Bishops of this Church together with three Presbyters and three lay delegates or Churchwardens. One Bishop shall be chosen by the accused and one shall be chosen by the President of the Court. The three Presbyters shall be selected from a list of five names drawn at random, but excluding Presbyters canonically resident in the Diocese in which an accused Diocesan Bishop holds office. The accused and the Bishop shall each, in turn, strike one name from the list. The three lay members of the Court shall likewise be selected from a list of five names drawn at random, but excluding laity canonically resident in the Diocese in which an accused Diocesan Bishop holds office. The accused and the Bishop shall each, in turn, strike one name from the list. In the event of the Bishop Primus being the accused, the Council shall appoint some other Bishop who shall preside. No person who has served on a Diocesan or Denominational Court may subsequently be a member of the Court of Appeal dealing with the accusation in question.

A Court may appoint a barrister or solicitor to assist the Court as Judge Advocate who shall summarise the evidence before the Court considers its Judgement.

PROCEDURE

J.10 INSTITUTION OF PROCEEDINGS

The proceedings shall commence by charges in writing to be signed by the accuser or accusers. No charges shall be made when a longer period than three years has elapsed since the date of the alleged offence.

J.11 TO WHOM CHARGES ARE TO BE PRESENTED

The person to whom charges are to be presented, and whose duty it shall be to take the necessary steps under these Canons, is, in the case of a lay Communicant, the Minister of the Congregation to which the accused belongs; in the case of a Minister or Church Officer, the Bishop of the relevant Diocese; in the case of a Bishop or Denominational Officer, the Bishop Primus of this Church; in the case of the Bishop Primus, some other Bishop of this Church.

J.12 ACCUSED TO BE INFORMED OF ACCUSATION

Within fourteen days of receiving an accusation in writing, the person whose duty it is to take the necessary steps under these Canons shall inform the accused in writing of the accusations made against him. The accused shall have the right to make representation to the Commission of Enquiry established under the following Canon.

J.13 COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY TO ADVISE ON NEED FOR TRIAL AND SUSPENSION

In all cases where a charge has been presented to a Diocesan Court, the Bishop shall appoint a Commission of Enquiry, consisting of not less than one member each of the clergy and of the laity of the diocese, to be nominated by the bishop, to take evidence and to report whether a *prima facie* case has been established and, if the commission shall so decide, whether suspension from ecclesiastical functions and duties is warranted. When the commission shall have reported, the bishop, if of the opinion that the charge is vague or frivolous, or that a *prima facie* case has not been established, shall stay all further proceedings upon the petition; in which case the bishop shall state in writing the reasons for such opinion, and such statement shall be signed by the bishop and deposited with the Registrar, and a copy thereof shall forthwith be transmitted to each of the parties. If the bishop shall not stay the proceedings as aforesaid within one month from the date of the said report, the case shall proceed as hereinafter provided.

In all cases where a charge has been presented to the Denominational Court, the Bishop Primus (or in the case of an accusation against the Bishop Primus, the next senior Bishop) shall appoint a Commission of Enquiry, consisting of not less than one member each of the clergy and of the laity, to be nominated by the Bishop, to take evidence and to report whether a *prima facie* case has been established and, if the commission shall so decide, whether suspension from ecclesiastical functions and duties is warranted. When the commission shall have reported, the Bishop, if of the opinion that the charge is vague or frivolous, or that a *prima facie* case has not been established, shall stay all further proceedings upon the petition; in which case the Bishop shall state in writing the reasons for such opinion, and such statement shall be signed by the Bishop and deposited with the Registrar, and a copy thereof shall forthwith be transmitted to each of the parties. If the Bishop shall not stay the proceedings as aforesaid within one month from the date of the said report, the case shall proceed as hereinafter provided.

In the case of a matter to be brought to a Diocesan Court it shall not be necessary for the persons appointed to the Commission of Enquiry to be members of the same Diocese as the accused.

No person who has served on a Commission of Enquiry may subsequently be a member of a Court dealing with the accusation in question.

J.14 SUSPENSION FROM DUTY UNTIL AFTER TRIAL

If, upon considering the advice of the Commission of Enquiry, the Bishop whose responsibility it is to act, shall judge that suspension of the accused from office until after the trial is warranted, the Bishop shall issue a notice of suspension in writing to the accused, to take effect from the date specified therein. A copy of the said notice of suspension shall also be sent to the Wardens of any Church to which the accused is licensed and to the other Bishops of this Church. The accused shall then cease to perform any ecclesiastical functions or duties until after his trial and acquittal of the charges laid against him.

J.15 COPY OF CITATION TO APPEAR TO BE GIVEN TO THE ACCUSED

If, upon considering the advice of the Commission of Enquiry, the Bishop whose responsibility it is to act, shall judge that the matter should be tried in a Court of Discipline, a copy of the accusation, with a citation to appear and answer to the charge shall be transmitted to the accused by the President of the Court, at least thirty days before the trial; and the citation shall be accompanied with a notice that if the accused fail to appear, either in person or through his representative, the trial shall proceed as though he or his representative were present.

J.16 TRIAL TO BE IMPARTIALLY CONDUCTED AND EVIDENCE TO BE TAKEN ON OATH OR AFFIRMATION

The trial shall be impartially conducted, and no testimony shall be received except from witnesses who shall give evidence on oath, or who, before giving evidence, shall have signed a Declaration in the following words:

'I, A B, a witness summoned to testify on the trial ofa (Communicant, Church Officer, Deacon, Presbyter, Bishop, etc, as the case may be), now pending, do solemnly affirm that the evidence I am about to give shall the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.'

A deposition, before the proper civil officer, may be presented for any witness absolutely prevented from giving evidence in person; but the accused shall be entitled to interrogated such witness, and to submit the replies to interrogatories as evidence in answer to the original deposition.

J.17 ALL EVIDENCE TO BE REDUCED TO WRITING

The testimony of each witness shall be reduced to writing, by a clerk or clerks chosen by the Court for that purpose.

J.18 JUDGMENT OF THE COURT

After the allegations and proof of the accusers, and the answers of the respondent thereto, shall have been heard, the Court shall deliberately consider the allegations and the answer, and shall give their decision on the several charges; as guilty, not guilty, or not proven.

A verdict shall not be returned except by a vote of two-thirds of the Members composing the Court; but a majority vote only shall be necessary to the verdict of not guilty, or not proven.

J.19 ACCUSED TO BE HEARD BEFORE SENTENCE AND INFORMED OF RIGHT TO APPEAL

Before sentence is passed the accused shall have the opportunity of being heard; and shall be informed, in the case of a sentence being passed by a Diocesan or Denominational Court, of his right to appeal to the Court of Appeal. If the accused fail to give notice of an intention to appeal within ten days of the finding of the Court, the sentence passed by the said Court shall be final.

J.20 A FULL RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS TO BE KEPT

Every Ecclesiastical Court convened according to the provisions of these Canons shall be a Court of Record, and shall keep full and accurate writings of its proceedings, including the whole evidence given before it, which writings shall be attested by the President and Clerk, and shall be used in case of an appeal to the Court of Appeal. The accused shall be entitled to a copy of the same, or any portion thereof, at this own expense.

J.21 SENTENCES

The sentence of any Lay Communicant found guilty of any offence shall be deposed from any office he may hold in the parish, and be suspended from the Communion, until such time as due penitence shall be manifested.

The sentence in the case of a Bishop, Presbyter or Deacon convicted of any offence shall be either reprimand, suspension from Ministerial functions, or removal from the Ministry of this Church. In the last case the guilty party may also be suspended from Communion, until such time as due penitence shall be manifested.

J.22 SENTENCES – HOW PUBLISHED

Official notice of a sentence shall be given by the President of the Court; which notice may be public or private, as the Court shall direct, and as the Court shall deem best, for the edification of the Church and the benefit of the offender.

OF APPEALS

J.23 RIGHT OF APPEAL

Any person in this Church, who may feel aggrieved by the decision of any Court of Discipline, may appeal therefrom to the Court of Appeal, in the manner hereinafter provided for.

J.24 MODE OF PROCEDURE IN CASE OF APPEAL

Any person intending to appeal from the decision of an Ecclesiastical Court must, on the determination of the matter by the Court, or within ten days thereafter, give notice of such intention to the President of the Court from which he intends to appeal. Within ten days of such notice he shall send to the said President, and also to the Secretary of Convocation, in writing, the Appeal and reasons thereof. On default of this, the Appeal shall fail for want of prosecution.

J.25 ALL DOCUMENTS TO BE TRANSMITTED TO THE COURT OF APPEAL

It shall be duty of the President of any Ecclesiastical Court, from the decision of which appeal is made, to transmit to the Secretary of Convocation, a certified copy of the decision appealed from, signed by the said President and countersigned by the Clerk, together with the Appeal and reasons accompanying the same; and the papers thus transmitted shall be the pleadings in the case.

J.26 ALL PARTIES TO BE REPRESENTED BEFORE THE COURT

On the trial of an Appeal, the Ecclesiastical Court whose decision is appealed from shall be represented by a member of the said Court, and both the accusers and the accused shall have the right to be heard, either by themselves or by Counsel.

J.27 ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE TRIAL

In the trial of an Appeal the following shall be the order observed:

1. The Decision or Sentence appealed from shall be read.
2. The Appeal and reasons of appeal shall be read.
3. Both parties shall be heard.

J.28 THE DECISION OF THE COURT

After all the parties to the case have been fully heard, and all the information deemed necessary by the Court has been gained, the Court shall reach its decision, which shall be by a majority vote.

J.29 THE SENTENCE OF THE COURT

The sentence of a the Court of Appeal shall be pronounced by the President thereof, and may be either to confirm or reverse, in whole or in part, the decision of an Ecclesiastical Court, or to remit the case to the Court, or to the person to whom the charges were originally preferred, with instructions for a new trial.

J.30 THE DECISION OF THE COURT TO BE FINAL

The confirmation or reversal of a decision or sentence by the Court of Appeal shall be the final disposition of the case.

J.31 THE DISCIPLINARY PROCESS TO BE INDEPENDENT OF CONVOCATION

The subject of any accusation shall not be discussed in Convocation until after the conclusion of all Disciplinary procedures.

K. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

K.1 RUBRICS TO FORM PART OF CANONS

The Rubrics, Directions, and Rules contained in the Book of Common Prayer of this Church shall be deemed to and shall form part of the Canons of this Church.

K.2 MATTERS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN THESE CANONS TO BE REFERRED TO CONVOCATION

Any matter of Ecclesiastical Administration or Order not provided for in the hereinbefore recited Constitution and Canons, shall be referred to Convocation.

K.3 FINANCE

In order that the necessary funds may be raised for Denominational and Diocesan purposes each Congregation shall make an annual contribution to the General Fund, the Diocesan Fund and the Publication Fund. The amount of each such contribution shall be decided in advance by the Annual Convocation.

Each Overseas Diocese shall pay 10% of the Diocesan income as an annual contribution to the General Fund.

Provided always that any Congregation or Overseas Diocese may apply to Council within three months of the relevant Annual Convocation for an abatement of its annual contribution to the General Fund, the Diocesan Fund and the Publication Fund. Council shall determine such application and its Secretary shall notify such Congregation or Overseas Diocese and the Treasurer of the amount of any such abatement in writing within fourteen days of the meeting of Council. Before making such determination Council shall take into consideration the income expenditure assets and liabilities of such Congregation or Overseas Diocese and such other relevant information as shall have been made available to Council at the date of its meeting.

In addition Council shall publish annually a scale of fees to be payable

(a) to the Diocesan Fund for Consecration or Dedication of Churches, extensions, additions and furnishings; for Ordination (to include "Letters of Orders") of a Deacon or a Presbyter; and for the issue of a license of a Reader or a Mission Room.

(b) to the Examination Board for each examination to be paid by each candidate for the Ministry of this Church.