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THE CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF ANTIOCH



The Canons of the Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch

A BOOK OF ORDER

General Information about the Administration of the Church.

Web www.churchofantioch.org E-mail antioch1@swcp.com

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Published by the
CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF ANTIOCH

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Canon I – Introduction

Principle 1: The Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch (hereinafter, the Catholic Church of Antioch, or the Church) is a not-for-profit Corporation Sole, incorporated in the State of California.

Principle 2: The Catholic Church of Antioch is a constituent member of Christ’s One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, which unites all Christians throughout the world and throughout history.

Principle 3: The Catholic Church of Antioch confesses that Jesus Christ sought his Church to be one body which unites all of humanity. To this end, the Church of Antioch shall maintain its membership open to all persons who sincerely desire to follow the Way of the Christ and are in agreement with the policies and practices of the Church. The Church shall also maintain to the best of its ability an active role in the ecumenical and independent Catholic movements, working toward the visible unity of the Body of Christ.

Principle 4: These canons create an organization which is apostolic and hierarchical in nature, consistent with the operation of church polity since ancient times. It is understood, however, that wisdom is not the exclusive possession of the clergy and that Sophia, God’s Holy Wisdom, speaks to all in the Church. It is anticipated, therefore, that the leadership of the Church will consult the clergy and the laity whenever possible concerning those matters that directly affect them.

Principle 5: Each chartered ministry of the Church shall use the name “Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch” as part of its official title. Chartered ministries of the Church that do not already include this as part of their official name at the time these Canons are approved are exempted from this requirement. The name of each charter must be approved by the Presiding Bishop prior to incorporation with the state government. No future charters will be

1 approved if the ministry does not include this as part of its official
2 name.

3
4 **Principle 6:** These canons may, on rare occasions, use
5 masculine singular pronouns. In all cases such pronouns shall be taken
6 to apply equally to all genders. The Catholic Church of Antioch
7 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, gender
8 identification, sexual orientation, physical disability, national origin,
9 socioeconomic status or political belief with respect to all of its
10 offices, positions and chartered ministries.

11
12 **Canon II - Purpose**

13
14 **Principle 1:** The primary purpose of the Catholic Church of
15 Antioch is to witness to the world the love of God as evidenced by the
16 life, teachings and examples of Jesus of Nazareth, God’s Anointed One.

17
18 **Principle 2:** In order to obtain this purpose, the Church may
19 establish dioceses, worshipping communities or other ministries as led
20 by the Spirit.

21
22 **Principle 3:** Although Jesus the Christ remains the center and
23 focus of all the Church’s teachings and actions, the Catholic Church of
24 Antioch recognizes that God’s revelation to the world continues in
25 new and diverse ways, in ways that are relevant to culture and era,
26 both past and present. The Church honors and respects these
27 revelations and encourages openness to them in both theory and
28 practice to the extent that they harmonize with the centrality of the
29 teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

30
31 **Canon III – The Presiding Bishop**

32
33 **Principle 1:** As a corporation sole, all authority in and for the
34 Catholic Church of Antioch, both temporal and spiritual, resides in the
35 office of the Presiding Bishop. The Presiding Bishop shall be the chief
36 spiritual leader, ecclesiastical authority and the sole officer of the
37 jurisdiction.

38
39 **Principle 2:** The Presiding Bishop may establish a Board of
40 Advisors drawn from the bishops and apostolic administrators of the
41 Church, active and in good standing, to advise the Presiding Bishop on
42 the spiritual and temporal matters concerning the Church. The Board
43 shall be advisory in nature only and any advice, suggestions or
44 recommendations made to the Presiding Bishop shall not be binding
45 on the Presiding Bishop in any way. Any advice is to be given serious
46 and prayerful consideration before a final decision is made.

1
2 **Principle 3:** At the discretion of the Presiding Bishop, the Board
3 of Advisors may be expanded to include representatives of the clergy
4 and laity of the Church.

5
6 **Principle 4:** All members of the Board of Advisors serve at the
7 pleasure of the Presiding Bishop and may be removed from the Board
8 by the Presiding Bishop at his or her discretion.

9
10 **Principle 5:** Ecumenical dialog and the pursuit of
11 Intercommunion Agreements is both a charge and a prerogative of the
12 Presiding Bishop. However, the Presiding Bishop may at his or her
13 discretion appoint a Director of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs
14 with the responsibility for pursuing ecumenical dialog and the
15 negotiation of Intercommunion Agreements. The responsibility for the
16 approval of any and all Intercommunion Agreements remains the sole
17 prerogative of the Presiding Bishop.

18
19 **Principle 6:** The Presiding Bishop shall be selected by a
20 ministerial synod of validly consecrated Bishops and duly appointed
21 Apostolic Administrators, currently in good standing, as herein
22 outlined. These are the electors. Collectively this body shall be called
23 the Electors. Only the Electors shall be eligible to participate in the
24 selection process or be selected as Presiding Bishop. The term of
25 office of the Presiding Bishop shall be ten years, beginning with the
26 Presiding Bishop elected in 2009. A Presiding Bishop may serve more
27 than one term if so selected.

28
29
30 **Principle 7:** The newly selected Presiding Bishop shall
31 immediately assume office, unless she or he has not been consecrated
32 as a Bishop, in which event the newly elected Presiding Bishop shall
33 assume the position once consecrated.

34
35 **Principle 8:** The Presiding Bishop may resign at any time. Such
36 resignation shall take effect at the time specified. The acceptance of
37 such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

38
39 **Principle 9:** Upon election, each new Presiding Bishop shall
40 appoint, in writing, a bishop from the Electors who, in the event the
41 Presiding Bishop is unable to complete his or her term of office due to
42 death, disability, retirement or resignation, shall complete the elected
43 Presiding Bishop's term of office. The bishop so appointed shall
44 become the Presiding Bishop with all the rights, duties and
45 responsibilities of the office. The name of the bishop so chosen for
46 succession shall be made public to the Church at large.

1 **Principle 10:** In the event the bishop chosen to succeed the
2 **Presiding Bishop should the Presiding Bishop be unable to complete**
3 **his or her term of office is also unable or unwilling to assume the**
4 **office of Presiding Bishop, the Electors shall elect by simple majority**
5 **vote a member of the Electors to serve as the Acting Chief Executive**
6 **Officer (CEO) of the Church. The Acting CEO shall have full authority**
7 **to manage the temporal and financial affairs of the Church.**

8
9 **Principle 11:** The Acting CEO shall consult the Electors within 15
10 **days of assuming the office of Acting CEO for the purpose of**
11 **establishing the date and time of the meeting for the election of the**
12 **new Presiding Bishop. The meeting shall take place no later than**
13 **ninety days after the resignation or death of the duly elected Presiding**
14 **Bishop. Attendance at the meeting may be in person, telephonically,**
15 **via videoconferencing or any combination thereof.**

16
17 **Principle 12:** The Acting CEO shall poll the Electors prior to calling
18 **the meeting for the election of the Presiding Bishop to determine who**
19 **from the Electors would be willing to accept nomination for the**
20 **position. If no Elector is willing to accept nomination for the position**
21 **of Presiding Bishop, the Acting CEO shall poll all priests active and in**
22 **good standing in the Church to determine who would be willing to**
23 **accept nomination to the position. Any priest willing to accept**
24 **nomination may attend the meeting at which the election is to take**
25 **place, but may not vote in the election. Deacons are ineligible for**
26 **consideration for election to the office of Presiding Bishop.**

27
28 **Principle 13:** The Acting CEO shall facilitate the election using
29 **accepted democratic voting procedures. A quorum consisting of a**
30 **simple majority of the Electors must be established in order to call a**
31 **vote after reasonable discussion. The acting CEO may call for as many**
32 **votes as is needed, until it is established that a simple majority of the**
33 **established quorum has voted and elected a successor.**

34
35 **Principle 14.** If the candidate chosen is a bishop active and in good
36 **standing with the Church, s/he shall automatically and immediately**
37 **be in charge of the Church and the duties of the Acting CEO shall end.**
38 **If the candidate chosen is a priest active and in good standing with**
39 **the Church, s/he shall first be consecrated to the episcopacy at which**
40 **point s/he shall automatically and immediately be in charge of the**
41 **Church and the duties of the Acting CEO shall end. Until the priest**
42 **chosen to become Presiding Bishop is consecrated to the episcopacy,**
43 **the Acting CEO shall continue to manage the temporal and financial**
44 **affairs of the Church. Upon consecration to the episcopacy the priest**
45 **chosen to become Presiding Bishop shall automatically and**
46 **immediately be in charge of the Church and the duties of the Acting**
47 **CEO shall end.**

1
2 **Principle 15:** The Presiding Bishop shall serve as such without
3 salary. Expenses incurred in connection with the performance of
4 official duties may be reimbursed.

5
6 **Canon IV- Clergy**
7

8 **Principle 1:** Clergy in the Catholic Church of Antioch is defined
9 as those ordained to the major orders of the diaconate, presbyterate or
10 episcopate.

11
12 **Principle 2:** When either ordained or received into the diaconate,
13 presbyterate, or episcopate of the Catholic Church of Antioch, all
14 clergy make promises of allegiance first to God, and loyalty to the
15 jurisdiction, its Canons, and its hierarchy. These promises of
16 obedience are made before God and the world either at ordination or
17 incardination. They are made to the hierarchical structure of the
18 Church as embodied in the Office of the Presiding Bishop. Flagrant
19 disregard of episcopal authority is by definition a breach of this sacred
20 trust and breaking of the promise made at ordination or incardination.

21
22 **Principle 3:** Clergy status is jurisdictional in nature. Clergy of the
23 Church possess valid faculties throughout the jurisdiction, including
24 all dioceses should such be established.

25
26 **Principle 4:** All clergy are required to pay annual clergy dues at a
27 rate set by the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Board of
28 Advisors. Dues must be paid in order to be considered in good
29 standing. Any clergyperson may request a temporary or permanent
30 reduction in dues because of reduced income or economic hardship.
31 Such reduction may be granted at the discretion of the Presiding
32 Bishop.

33
34 **Principle 5:** Clergy may resign from the Church by informing the
35 Presiding Bishop, either in person, telephonically, by email or by
36 postal mail, of their intention to resign. Resignations submitted in
37 person or telephonically are to be followed up by a written letter of
38 resignation from the clergyperson resigning. The Presiding Bishop
39 shall accept all resignations submitted but may delay acceptance until
40 s/he has had an opportunity to speak with the clergyperson
41 concerning the reasons for resignation. Every effort shall be made to
42 speak with the clergyperson at the earliest possible opportunity. The
43 Presiding Bishop or designee shall issue a written letter of release. A
44 clergyperson who resigns from the Church shall not be subject to any
45 discrimination or detrimental acts by virtue of resignation.
46

1 **Principle 6:** Resignation from the Catholic Apostolic Church of
2 **Antioch shall automatically excommunicate the clergyman and release**
3 **him or her from any and all obligation to the Church. Any and all**
4 **charters held by the clergyman resigning are automatically voided**
5 **and are to be returned to Church Central.**

6
7 **Canon V – Deacons**
8

9 **Principle 1:** All candidates for ordination to the diaconate shall
10 **have completed the course of study required for ordination as outlined**
11 **in the Catalogue of Sophia Divinity School.**

12
13 **Principle 2:** Upon completion of the approved course of study, the
14 **candidate's file shall be reviewed by the Dean of Sophia Divinity**
15 **School and the Presiding Bishop. The Presiding Bishop may request**
16 **input concerning the candidate's fitness for ordination from other**
17 **clergy in the Church. However, only the Presiding Bishop may approve**
18 **a candidate for ordination. Should dioceses be established in the**
19 **Church, the Presiding Bishop shall consult with the Ordinary of the**
20 **diocese concerning the candidate's suitability for ordination. Any**
21 **advice is to be given serious and prayerful consideration before a final**
22 **decision is made. However, only the Presiding Bishop may approve**
23 **the candidate for ordination.**

24
25 **Principle 3:** The Catholic Church of Antioch recognizes two types
26 **of diaconal ministry; viz., the permanent diaconate and the**
27 **transitional diaconate. A permanent deacon is defined as a deacon**
28 **whose goal is to remain in the diaconate on a permanent basis and not**
29 **seek ordination to the presbyterate. A transitional deacon is defined**
30 **as a deacon who is preparing for ordination to the presbyterate and for**
31 **whom the diaconate is an intermediate state. Although the permanent**
32 **diaconate is understood to be a unique and discreet level of ministry,**
33 **the Church recognizes that the Spirit may call a person in the**
34 **permanent diaconate to ordination to the presbyteral state. In such**
35 **instances, a permanent deacon may request ordination to the**
36 **presbyterate following a period of discernment with the Presiding**
37 **Bishop or designee.**

38
39 **Principle 4:** Transitional deacons are required to serve a period of
40 **six months of diaconal ministry before they can be ordained to the**
41 **presbyterate. Permanent deacons who later seek ordination to the**
42 **presbyterate are also required to have served a period of six months of**
43 **diaconal ministry and to have completed the course of study for**
44 **ordination to the presbyterate before they can be ordained to the**
45 **presbyterate.**
46

1 **Principle 5:** Deacons incardinated from other jurisdictions shall
2 not be considered for ordination to the presbyterate until a minimum
3 of six months has passed from the date of their incardination and
4 until they have completed all required course work for ordination to
5 the presbyterate.

6
7 **Principle 6:** The Presiding Bishop may waive any of the preceding
8 principles in the interest of spiritual economy.

9
10 **Principle 7:** Deacons may baptize, witness weddings, preside at
11 funerals, memorials and burial services. They may preside at a
12 Eucharistic Service in the Absence of a Priest, distribute the
13 consecrated elements, proclaim the Gospel and preach.

14
15 **Principle 8:** All deacons will be granted a letter of faculty by
16 either the Presiding Bishop or the Diocesan Ordinary should dioceses
17 be established. Deacons may not exercise their ministry unless in
18 possession of a current letter of faculty issued by the Catholic Church
19 of Antioch.

20
21 **Principle 9:** With the exception of minor traffic violations, no
22 person shall be incardinated or ordained as a deacon if she or he has
23 been convicted of a crime, unless expressly approved by the Presiding
24 Bishop. The Presiding Bishop shall consult with the Board of Advisors
25 concerning the applicant for incardination or ordination. Their
26 advice is to be given serious and prayerful consideration before a
27 final decision is made.

28
29 **Principle 10.** No person shall be incardinated or ordained as a
30 deacon who is actively addicted to any illegal drugs or who is abusing
31 prescription medication or who has any addiction or compulsion that
32 would interfere with his or her ability to function effectively as a
33 deacon.

34
35 **Principle 11:** No person shall be incardinated or ordained as a
36 deacon who has an active, untreated mental illness that would
37 interfere with his or her ability to function effectively as a deacon.

38
39 **Principle 12:** No person shall be incardinated or ordained a deacon
40 who has demonstrated a gross inability to manage his or her affairs.

41
42 **Principle 13:** Any deacon of the Church who is known to be or is
43 suspected of being addicted to illegal drugs, of abusing prescription
44 medication, or who is known to have or is suspected of having an
45 addiction to any substance, or having any compulsion that would
46 interfere with the deacon's ability to function effectively, shall meet
47 with the Presiding Bishop to discuss the foregoing. The Presiding

1 **Bishop may temporarily suspend the deacon’s faculties, require the**
2 **deacon to suspend public ministry, and enter the appropriate level of**
3 **professional treatment. Upon successful completion of treatment, the**
4 **deacon’s faculties may be restored and the deacon may be allowed to**
5 **resume active ministry. Should the deacon refuse to suspend active**
6 **ministry as requested, enter treatment when requested to do so, or**
7 **complete a course of treatment once undertaken, the Presiding Bishop**
8 **shall consult with the Board of Advisors concerning the appropriate**
9 **course of action to be taken, up to and including release from the**
10 **Church. The advice of the Board of Advisors is to be given serious and**
11 **prayerful consideration before a final decision is made. The Presiding**
12 **Bishop may ask the deacon to resign from the Church. Should the**
13 **deacon refuse to resign, the Presiding Bishop shall release the deacon**
14 **from the Church and remove all the deacon’s faculties. The final**
15 **decision to release rests with the Presiding Bishop.**

16
17 **Canon VI – Priests**

18
19 **Principle 1: All candidates for ordination to the presbyterate shall**
20 **have completed the course of study required for ordination as outlined**
21 **in the Catalogue of Sophia Divinity School.**

22
23 **Principle 2: Upon completion of the approved course of study, the**
24 **candidate’s file shall be reviewed by the Dean of Sophia Divinity**
25 **School and the Presiding Bishop. The Presiding Bishop may request**
26 **input concerning the candidate’s fitness for ordination from other**
27 **clergy in the Church. However, only the Presiding Bishop may approve**
28 **a candidate for ordination. Should dioceses be established in the**
29 **Church, the Presiding Bishop shall consult with the Ordinary of the**
30 **diocese concerning the candidate’s suitability for ordination. Any**
31 **advice is to be given serious and prayerful consideration before a final**
32 **decision is made. However, only the Presiding Bishop may approve**
33 **the candidate for ordination.**

34
35 **Principle 3: Priests may confect the Eucharist, baptize, witness**
36 **weddings, anoint the sick and the dying and administer the Sacrament**
37 **of Reconciliation. Priests may also administer the Sacrament of**
38 **Confirmation when so authorized by the Presiding Bishop or the**
39 **Diocesan Ordinary should dioceses be established. Priests may also**
40 **bless the oil of the sick.**

41
42 **Principle 4: All priests will be granted a letter of faculty by either**
43 **the Presiding Bishop or the Diocesan Ordinary should dioceses be**
44 **established. Priests may not exercise their ministry unless in**
45 **possession of a current letter of faculty issued by the Catholic Church**
46 **of Antioch.**

1 **Principle 5:** With the exception of minor traffic violations, no
2 person shall be incardinated or ordained as a priest if s/he has been
3 convicted of a crime, unless expressly approved by the Presiding
4 Bishop. If an applicant has been convicted of a crime, the Presiding
5 Bishop shall consult with the Board of Advisors concerning the
6 individual and seek their advice before making a decision. Their
7 advice is to be given serious and prayerful consideration before a
8 final decision is made.

9
10 **Principle 6.** No person shall be incardinated or ordained as a
11 priest who is actively addicted to any illegal drugs or who is abusing
12 prescription medication or who has any addiction or compulsion that
13 would interfere with his or her ability to function effectively as a
14 priest.

15
16 **Principle 7:** No person shall be incardinated or ordained as a
17 priest who has an active, untreated mental illness that would
18 interfere with his or her ability to function effectively as a priest.

19
20 **Principle 8:** No person shall be incardinated or ordained a priest
21 who has demonstrated a gross inability to manage his or her affairs.

22
23 **Principle 9:** Any priest of the Church who is known to be or is
24 suspected of being addicted to illegal drugs, of abusing prescription
25 medication, or who is known to have or is suspected of having an
26 addiction to any substance, or having any compulsion that would
27 interfere with the priest's ability to function effectively, shall meet
28 with the Presiding Bishop to discuss the foregoing. The Presiding
29 Bishop may temporarily suspend the priest's faculties, require the
30 priest to suspend public ministry, and enter the appropriate level of
31 professional treatment. Upon successful completion of treatment, the
32 priest's faculties may be restored and the priest may be allowed to
33 resume active ministry. Should the priest refuse to suspend active
34 ministry as requested, enter treatment when requested to do so, or
35 complete a course of treatment once undertaken, the Presiding Bishop
36 shall consult with the Board of Advisors concerning the appropriate
37 course of action to be taken, up to and including release from the
38 Church. The advice of the Board of Advisors is to be given serious and
39 prayerful consideration before a final decision is made. The Presiding
40 Bishop may ask the priest to resign from the Church. Should the
41 priest refuse to resign, the Presiding Bishop shall release the priest
42 from the Church and remove all the priest's faculties. The final
43 decision to release rests with the Presiding Bishop.

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Canon VII – Bishops

Principle 1: Any priest in good standing who has completed a minimum of five years of active priestly ministry in the Church may be considered for ordination to the episcopacy.

Principle 2: All candidates for ordination to the episcopacy shall have attained the minimum age of thirty-five.

Principle 3: Any clergy or laity may recommend a candidate for episcopal ordination. However, the Presiding Bishop must approve any and all candidates proposed for the episcopate. Prior to granting approval for ordination, the Presiding Bishop is to consult with the Board of Advisors. Their advice is to be given serious and prayerful consideration before a final decision is made.

Principle 4: The Presiding Bishop, in the interest of economy, may waive the requirement of five years of priestly ministry in the Church and the minimum age requirement. Prior to doing so, the Presiding Bishop is to consult with the Board of Advisors concerning the individual being considered for episcopal ordination. Their advice is to be given serious and prayerful consideration before a final decision is made.

Principle 5: A validly ordained bishop from another Church recognized as possessing valid Apostolic Succession may be received into the Catholic Church of Antioch through the process of incardination. All requests for the incardination of a bishop will be reviewed by the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the Board of Advisors. The advice of the Board of Advisors is to be given serious and prayerful consideration before a final decision is made. However, the final decision to admit rests with the Presiding Bishop.

Principle 6: Bishops received through incardination shall be recognized as possessing the fullness of Holy Orders. However, at the discretion of the Presiding Bishop, a limited role may be assigned to the newly incardinated bishop. Such action is not a reflection of the validity of his or her orders. Rather, it affords an opportunity for the bishop to adjust to the spirit and polity of the Church. It may also reflect the personal desires or qualifications of the newly received bishop.

Principle 7: Bishops possess the fullness of Holy Orders and may validly confect all the sacraments. However, permission is required from the Presiding Bishop to ordain to the minor or major orders for service in the Catholic Church of Antioch. Permission from the

1 **Presiding Bishop is also required in order to participate in the**
2 **episcopal ordination of a candidate in another jurisdiction—also**
3 **known as serving as a co-consecrator. Furthermore, permission is**
4 **required from the Presiding Bishop in order to ordain an individual to**
5 **the diaconate or presbyterate or to the minor orders for service in**
6 **another jurisdiction when legitimately requested to do so.**
7

8 **Principle 8: Any bishop who ordains to the minor or major orders**
9 **for service in Catholic Church of Antioch or in another jurisdiction**
10 **without the permission of the Presiding Bishop is immediately**
11 **suspended from exercising his or her ministry in the Church. The**
12 **Presiding Bishop shall meet with the bishop, either in person or**
13 **telephonically, to discuss the reasons for the bishop’s actions. The**
14 **Presiding Bishop shall also discuss the bishop’s actions and**
15 **explanation with the Board of Advisors, following which the Presiding**
16 **Bishop may either discontinue the suspension, continue it, or apply**
17 **any other measures that may be indicated, up to and including**
18 **dismissal from the Church.**
19

20 **Principle 9: With the exception of minor traffic violations, no**
21 **person shall be incardinated or ordained as a bishop if s/he has been**
22 **convicted of a crime, unless expressly approved by the Presiding**
23 **Bishop. If an applicant has been convicted of a crime, the Presiding**
24 **Bishop shall consult with the Board of Advisors concerning the**
25 **individual and seek their advice before making a decision. Their**
26 **advice is to be given serious and prayerful consideration before a**
27 **final decision is made.**
28

29 **Principle 10. No person shall be incardinated or ordained as a**
30 **bishop who is actively addicted to any illegal drugs or who is abusing**
31 **prescription medication or who has any addiction or compulsion that**
32 **would interfere with his or her ability to function effectively as a**
33 **bishop.**
34

35 **Principle 11: No person shall be incardinated or ordained as a**
36 **bishop who has an active, untreated mental illness that would**
37 **interfere with his or her ability to function effectively as a bishop.**
38

39 **Principle 12: No person shall be incardinated or ordained a bishop**
40 **who has demonstrated a gross inability to manage his or her affairs.**
41

42 **Principle 13: Any bishop of the Church who is known to be or is**
43 **suspected of being addicted to illegal drugs, of abusing prescription**
44 **medication, or who is known to have or is suspected of having an**
45 **addiction to any substance, or having any compulsion that would**
46 **interfere with the bishop’s ability to function effectively, shall meet**
47 **with the Presiding Bishop to discuss the foregoing. The Presiding**

1 **Bishop may require the bishop to suspend active ministry temporarily**
2 **and enter the appropriate level of professional treatment. Upon**
3 **successful completion of treatment, the bishop may be allowed to**
4 **resume active ministry. Should the bishop refuse to suspend active**
5 **ministry as requested, enter treatment when requested to do so, or**
6 **complete a course of treatment once undertaken, the Presiding Bishop**
7 **shall consult with the Board of Advisors concerning the appropriate**
8 **course of action to be taken, up to and including release from the**
9 **Church. The advice of the Board of Advisors is to be given serious and**
10 **prayerful consideration before a final decision is made. The Presiding**
11 **Bishop may ask the bishop to resign from the Church. Should the**
12 **bishop refuse to resign, the Presiding Bishop shall release the bishop**
13 **from the Church and remove all the bishop's faculties. The final**
14 **decision to release rests with the Presiding Bishop.**

15 Canon VIII – Incardination

16
17
18 **Principle 1: Only clergy from Churches or jurisdictions with valid**
19 **apostolic succession may be received into full communion with the**
20 **Catholic Church of Antioch through the process of incardination.**
21 **Clergy received into the Church of Antioch without valid apostolic**
22 **succession will be ordained to the level for which their training and**
23 **education have prepared them. If doubt exists concerning the validity**
24 **of orders received in another Church or jurisdiction, the individual**
25 **shall be ordained *sub conditione*.**

26
27 **Principle 2: All requests for incardination shall be directed to the**
28 **Presiding Bishop or designee. The Presiding Bishop shall contact the**
29 **person seeking incardination and set up an in-person or telephonic**
30 **meeting with the candidate.**

31
32 **Principle 3. The person seeking incardination shall provide the**
33 **Presiding Bishop with the following documentation: (a) transcripts of**
34 **all completed post-secondary academic work and (b) proof of**
35 **ordination containing the name of the ordaining bishop, the**
36 **jurisdiction in which the ordination took place, the date and time of**
37 **the ordination and, if possible, the place.**

38
39 **Principle 4. The Presiding Bishop shall review the documentation**
40 **and may request clarification of any of the material from either the**
41 **candidate for incardination or the academic or ecclesiastical source of**
42 **the material.**

43
44 **Principle 5. The Presiding Bishop shall review the candidate's**
45 **educational material with the Dean of Sophia Divinity School to**
46 **determine if any additional course work through the Divinity School**
47 **shall be required before the candidate can be received into the Church.**

1
2 **Principle 6.** All candidates for incardination shall be subject to a
3 **criminal background check in accordance with the process in place at**
4 **the time of the request for incardination.**

5
6 **Principle 7.** All candidates for incardination shall be subject to a
7 **psychological assessment in accordance with the process in place at**
8 **the time of the request for incardination. Upon review of the report**
9 **from the assessing psychologist, the candidate may be requested to**
10 **undergo a more extensive psychological screening process.**

11
12 **Principle 8:** All candidates for incardination are required to
13 **participate in the foregoing process. Failure to do so may result in the**
14 **candidate being disqualified for incardination.**

15
16 **Principle 9.** All candidates for incardination are expected to be
17 **engaged in ministry or willing to become engaged in ministry within**
18 **six months of incardination. However, at the discretion of the**
19 **Presiding Bishop, an individual who is not engaged in ministry may be**
20 **accepted into the Church on inactive status. Clergy may either**
21 **participate in an established ministry of the Catholic Church of**
22 **Antioch or other Christian denomination or establish a ministry of**
23 **their own choosing. If establishing their own ministry, clergy are**
24 **expected to incorporate the ministry as a not for profit corporation at**
25 **the state level and obtain a charter from Church Central. Failure**
26 **either to become involved in an established ministry of the Catholic**
27 **Church of Antioch or other Christian denomination or to establish an**
28 **incorporated and chartered ministry within six months of reception**
29 **into the Church may result in excardination at the discretion of the**
30 **Presiding Bishop.**

31
32 **Principle 10.** Upon review of the required documentation, the
33 **results of the background check and the psychological assessment or**
34 **screening, the Presiding Bishop shall consult with the Board of**
35 **Advisors concerning the candidate's request prior to making a final**
36 **decision about the candidate. In the case of a bishop seeking**
37 **incardination, consultation with the Board of Advisors is not optional**
38 **but is required. Additionally, the Presiding Bishop may require the**
39 **candidate to meet with the Presiding Bishop or designated**
40 **clergy person of the Church, preferably a member of the Board of**
41 **Advisors whenever possible, for a formal interview. However, the final**
42 **decision concerning any candidate's suitability for service in the**
43 **Catholic Church of Antioch rests with the Presiding Bishop.**

44
45 **Principle 11:** The procedure for incardination may be modified by
46 **the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the Board of Advisors.**
47

1 Canon IX – Clergy Status and Chartered Ministries

2
3 **Principle 1:** Ordination to the clerical state is for the purpose of
4 active ministry to the people of God. All clergy in good standing with
5 the Church are expected to be engaged in active ministry. Clergy may
6 be engaged in an established ministry of the Catholic Church of
7 Antioch or other Christian denomination, or they may establish a
8 ministry of their own choosing.

9
10 **Principle 2:** Prior to ordination to the diaconate, the candidate
11 for ordination shall inform the Dean of Sophia Divinity School of the
12 candidate’s plan for ministry.

13
14 **Principle 3:** If the candidate does not plan to be engaged in an
15 established ministry of the Catholic Church of Antioch or in the
16 ministry of another Christian denomination, or if the Dean determines
17 that the planned ministry in the other Christian denomination is not
18 acceptable for any reason, the candidate shall be required prior to
19 ordination to the diaconate to establish an acceptable ministry under
20 a charter obtained from Church Central.

21
22 **Principle 4:** If required to establish a ministry under a charter
23 obtained from Church Central, the candidate for ordination shall first
24 establish the ministry as a not-for-profit corporation with the
25 appropriate governmental agency. The name of the ministry shall
26 include the words identifying the ministry as a ministry of the
27 Catholic Apostolic Church of Antioch.

28
29 **Principle 5:** Upon recognition as a not-for-profit corporation, the
30 candidate shall apply for a charter from Church Central. Upon receipt
31 of a charter and having met all the financial and educational
32 obligations to Sophia Divinity School, the candidate may then be
33 ordained to the diaconate.

34
35 **Principle 6:** Involvement in an acceptable ministry, whether a
36 ministry established under a charter obtained from Church Central or
37 a ministry from another Christian denomination constitutes active
38 clergy status in the Catholic Church of Antioch.

39
40 **Principle 7:** Clergy who are not engaged in active ministry and
41 who have no immediate plans to do so, and who wish to maintain their
42 connection with the Catholic Church of Antioch are eligible for
43 inactive status. Inactive clergy retain their clerical faculties and may
44 confect the sacraments on an as needed basis. Should a clergyperson
45 on inactive status desire to become active, s/he may do so provided
46 the clergyperson meets the requirements for involvement in an active
47 ministry and pays the clergy dues required for active status.

1
2 **Principle 8:** Clergy who have reached the age of 70, who are not
3 engaged in active ministry, and who have no immediate plans to do so,
4 may apply for retired status. Should a clergyperson on retired status
5 desire to become active, s/he may do so provided the clergyperson
6 meets the requirement for involvement in an active ministry and pays
7 the clergy dues required for active status.

8
9 **Principle 9:** Clergy affiliated with the Catholic Church of Antioch,
10 whether active, inactive, or retired shall be required to pay annual
11 clergy dues as set by the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the
12 Board of Advisors. In addition, all clergy, whether active, inactive, or
13 retired shall be required to provide a yearly report of continuing
14 education relating to ministry or the spiritual life. Failure to pay the
15 required clergy dues or to provide the yearly report may be grounds
16 for release from the Church, at the discretion of the Presiding Bishop.

17
18 **Canon X – Sacraments**

19
20 **Principle 1:** The Catholic Church of Antioch recognizes as
21 sacramentally valid any baptism administered by water and the use of
22 the Trinitarian formula, regardless of Church or jurisdiction. Any
23 baptized individual who joins the Catholic Church of Antioch shall not
24 be re-baptized. If doubt exists concerning the validity of baptism
25 conferred in another Church or jurisdiction, the individual may be
26 baptized *sub conditione*.

27
28 **Principle 2:** The statistics of all baptisms performed by clergy of
29 the Catholic Church of Antioch shall be reported to Church Central by
30 the clergy performing the baptism. Church Central shall maintain a
31 central record keeping system of all baptisms.

32
33 **Principle 3:** The Catholic Church of Antioch recognizes as valid
34 the Sacrament of Confirmation conferred in another Church or
35 jurisdiction with valid apostolic succession. Any validly confirmed
36 individual who joins the Catholic Church of Antioch shall not be re-
37 confirmed. If doubt exists concerning the validity of the Sacrament of
38 Confirmation received in another Church or jurisdiction, the
39 individual may be confirmed *sub conditione*.

40
41 **Principle 4:** The usual minister of the Sacrament of Confirmation
42 is the bishop. However, the faculty to confirm may be given to any
43 priest of the Catholic Church of Antioch.

44
45 **Principle 5:** The statistics of all confirmations performed by
46 clergy of the Catholic Church of Antioch shall be reported to Church

1 **Central by the clergy performing the confirmation. Church Central**
2 **shall maintain a central record keeping system of all confirmations.**
3

4 **Principle 6: Priests and bishops of the Catholic Church of Antioch**
5 **shall make themselves available to Christians for the Sacrament of**
6 **Reconciliation. The Church recognizes two forms of administration of**
7 **the Sacrament of Reconciliation: personal reconciliation in which the**
8 **penitent confesses directly to the priest or bishop and General**
9 **Absolution offered in the Eucharistic liturgical rite. Both forms are**
10 **considered valid and all clergy are strongly encouraged to include**
11 **some form of General Absolution in every Eucharistic liturgy.**
12

13 **Principle 7: In the absence of a priest or bishop, a deacon or**
14 **layperson is not permitted or allowed to hear confessions or**
15 **pronounce absolution.**
16

17 **Principle 8: In keeping with the Catholic tradition, the role of the**
18 **confessor is viewed as that of an intermediary for God. As such,**
19 **information obtained in confession shall not be considered the**
20 **confessor's but God's, and shall be held in strict confidence.**
21

22 **Principle 9: The Catholic Church of Antioch recognizes the**
23 **historic Catholic principle of the inviolability of the Sacrament of**
24 **Confession, also known as the Seal of Confession. The Church also**
25 **acknowledges that the requirement for strict confidence is only**
26 **superseded by the need to protect individuals from harm, hurt or**
27 **danger. Consequently, the Church removes the obligation to absolute**
28 **secrecy for all clergy who hear confessions in cases where the penitent**
29 **confesses past or planned acts of harm, hurt, abuse or neglect to any**
30 **individual.**
31

32 **Principle 10: The Church removes the obligation to absolute**
33 **secrecy for all clergy who hear confessions in cases where the penitent**
34 **informs the confessor that s/he has been the victim of harm, hurt,**
35 **abuse or neglect and identifies the alleged perpetrator. In those**
36 **instances, clergy may report the information to the appropriate legal**
37 **authorities only.**
38

39 **Principle 11: In keeping with the Church's respect for the primacy**
40 **of conscience, no clergyperson shall be disciplined by Church**
41 **authority for failure to reveal information concerning harm, hurt,**
42 **abuse or neglect to any individual obtained in the Sacrament of**
43 **Reconciliation. Additionally, no clergyperson shall be disciplined by**
44 **Church authority for revealing information concerning harm, hurt or**
45 **danger to any individual obtained in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.**
46

1 **Principle 12:** The obligation to maintain the seal of confession
2 applies only to information obtained in the Sacrament of
3 Reconciliation. Clergy who gain information obtained in counseling or
4 other encounters that they are required by law to report to state
5 agencies shall do so.

6
7 **Principle 13:** Sacramental Marriage is the commitment between
8 two people made in the presence of the Christian community for
9 intimate life together. The Catholic Church of Antioch recognizes
10 equally sacramental marriage between couples, regardless of gender or
11 gender identification. Any priest, deacon or bishop of the Church may
12 witness or officiate an authorized marriage and may refuse to do so for
13 any reason.

14
15 **Principle 14:** It is the responsibility of all clergy to comply with
16 local and state laws concerning the freedom to marry and minimum
17 age. Persons to be married must be legally free to do so.

18
19 **Principle 15:** The statistics of all marriages performed by clergy of
20 the Catholic Church of Antioch shall be reported to Church Central by
21 the clergy witnessing or officiating the marriage. Church Central shall
22 maintain a central record keeping system of all marriages.

23
24 **Principle 16:** In keeping with the established Catholic
25 understanding of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, the Catholic
26 Church of Antioch acknowledges that the Sacrament effects the
27 forgiveness of sins of those who were unable to obtain it through the
28 Sacrament of Reconciliation. Consequently, administration of the
29 Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick is reserved to clergy ordained to
30 the major orders of the presbyterate or the episcopacy. Deacons and
31 those ordained to the minor order of healer may conduct a healing
32 service that includes prayer and the laying on of hands but may not
33 anoint. Authority to bless the Oil of the Sick is reserved to priests and
34 bishops.

35
36 **Principle 17:** The Catholic Church of Antioch shall create a
37 standard Eucharistic liturgy to be used at all corporate celebrations of
38 the Holy Eucharist. In all other circumstances clergy may use any
39 Eucharistic liturgy of the Eastern or Western Churches or they may
40 write their own liturgy for use with their worshipping community. All
41 Eucharistic liturgies written by clergy of the Catholic Church of
42 Antioch shall be reviewed and approved by the Presiding Bishop prior
43 to use.

44
45 **Principle 18:** Bishops only may perform ordinations to the major
46 orders. The Presiding Bishop may authorize the elevation of priests to
47 the rank of archpriest with authority to elevate individuals to the

1 **minor orders only. Only authorized archpriests and bishops may**
2 **elevate individuals to the minor orders.**

3
4 **Canon XI – Policies**

5
6 **Principle 1: The Catholic Church of Antioch shall establish a**
7 **Policy on Sexual Misconduct, binding on all clergy, seminarians, and**
8 **laity. From time to time, the Church may also establish other policies**
9 **as appropriate. The Presiding Bishop shall be responsible for**
10 **developing and implementing all policies, with input from the Board of**
11 **Advisors and laity, as appropriate. The advice of the Board of Advisors**
12 **and the laity is to be given serious and prayerful consideration before**
13 **a final decision is made concerning the policy. However, the final**
14 **decision rests with the Presiding Bishop.**

15
16 **Principle 2: All clergy and seminarians of the Church are to be**
17 **provided with all policies once approved by the Presiding Bishop.**
18 **Clergy and seminarians shall sign an attestation indicating receipt of**
19 **the policies and their intent to adhere to them. Failure to sign the**
20 **attestation may result in a denial of ordination to any seminarian, a**
21 **suspension of faculties for any deacon or priest, or the requirement**
22 **that a bishop cease active ministry. Repeated failure on the part of**
23 **any seminarian or clergy to sign the attestation may result in release**
24 **from the Church. Before releasing the individual from the Church, the**
25 **Presiding Bishop shall seek the advice of the Board of Advisors. The**
26 **advice of the Board of Advisors is to be given serious and prayerful**
27 **consideration before a final decision is made concerning release.**
28 **However, the final decision to release rests with the Presiding Bishop.**

29
30 **Principle 3: All chartered ministries of the Church shall ensure**
31 **that any and all staff or volunteers associated with the ministry are**
32 **provided copies of all Catholic Church of Antioch policies and that the**
33 **staff and volunteers have signed the attestation indicating receipt of**
34 **the policies and their intent to adhere to them. Failure of the charter**
35 **holder of the established ministry to obtain and keep on file the**
36 **signed attestations may result in revocation of the ministry’s charter.**

37
38 **Canon XII – Complaints and Grievances**

39
40 **Principle 1. All formal complaints including grievances and ethics**
41 **violations of any nature brought against any clergyperson, seminarian**
42 **or lay person affiliated with the Catholic Church of Antioch must be**
43 **filed in writing with the Presiding Bishop within 30 days of the**
44 **situation. Complaints involving alleged violations of the Church’s**
45 **Policy on Sexual Misconduct are to be reported immediately, following**
46 **the procedure outlined in the policy.**

1 **Principle 2.** The Presiding Bishop may investigate the grievance
2 or the allegation of an ethical violation personally or may appoint a
3 member of the Board of Advisors to conduct the investigation. If the
4 allegation involves an allegation under the Church's Policy on Sexual
5 Misconduct or other possible criminal activity, the Presiding Bishop
6 shall inform the appropriate law enforcement agency and provide full
7 cooperation with the agency's investigation.

8
9 **Principle 3.** With the exception of grievances concerning a
10 violation of the Church's Policy on Sexual Misconduct or an allegation
11 of criminal behavior or ethical violation, the Presiding Bishop may
12 refer any seminarians or clergy involved in a grievance to mediation in
13 an effort to resolve the situation. The Church may, at the discretion of
14 the Presiding Bishop, pay for the mediation.

15
16 **Principle 4:** Upon conclusion of any investigation of a grievance
17 or allegation of sexual misconduct or other violation of ethics or upon
18 completion of mediation, the findings shall be shared with the Board
19 of Advisors who shall then make a recommendation to the Presiding
20 Bishop of the action to be taken. The final decision concerning the
21 action to be taken rests with the Presiding Bishop.

22
23 **Canon XIII – Sophia Divinity School**

24
25 **Principle 1.** Sophia Divinity School is the official seminary of the
26 Catholic Church of Antioch. It exists as a separate corporation. Sophia
27 Divinity School generates its own income and is financially self-
28 supporting.

29
30 **Principle 2:** The Presiding Bishop of the Church is, ex officio, the
31 Rector of the Seminary.

32
33 **Principle 3:** The Presiding Bishop shall appoint a Dean of Sophia
34 Divinity School to oversee the day-to-day running of the School. The
35 Dean is responsible for creating or causing to be created all of the
36 policies, curricula and syllabi of the school. All such policies, curricula
37 and syllabi shall be reviewed with the Rector prior to implementation.
38 The final authority to implement the proposed policies, curricula and
39 syllabi rests with the Rector.

40
41 **Principle 4:** The final authority to issue any degrees or to
42 graduate anyone from Sophia Divinity School rests with the Presiding
43 Bishop as Rector of the Divinity School. The Presiding Bishop shall
44 consult with the Dean concerning the candidate prior to granting
45 approval for graduation or the issuance of any degrees.

1 **Principle 5:** Candidates for ordination to the minor or the major
2 orders must complete all academic and financial obligations to Sophia
3 Divinity School prior to elevation or ordination. It is the responsibility
4 of the Dean to inform the Archpriest or Bishop performing the
5 elevation that all such obligations have been met. No Archpriest or
6 Bishop may ordain anyone who has not met these obligations.

7
8 **Canon XIV – Amendments to the Book of Order (Canons)**

9
10 **Principle 1:** The authority to amend the Book of Order (Canons)
11 rests solely with the Presiding Bishop. Prior to any change in the Book
12 of Order, the Presiding Bishop shall inform the Board of Advisors at
13 least sixty days in advance of the proposed change. The Presiding
14 Bishop shall discuss the proposed change fully with the Board and
15 shall listen carefully and prayerfully to their advice before making a
16 final decision.

17
18 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

19
20 **The Catholic Church of Antioch acknowledges with gratitude the Most**
21 **Rev. M. J. Kimo Keawe, Presiding Bishop of the United Reform**
22 **Catholic Church International, for permission to include material from**
23 **the Code of Canon Law of the United Reform Catholic Church**
24 **International. The Church also acknowledges with gratitude the Most**
25 **Rev. William A. Wettingfeld, Presiding Bishop of the National Catholic**
26 **Church of North America, for permission to include material from the**
27 **Canonical Regulations of the National Catholic Church of North**
28 **America.**

29
30 **In consultation with the Presiding Bishop, the following members of**
31 **the Board of Advisors reviewed the Book of Order (Canons) and**
32 **participated actively in its development:**

33
34
35
36
37 _____
38 **Most Rev. Linda Rounds – Nichols**

_____ **Date**

39
40
41
42 _____
43 **Most Rev. Michael Andrew Talbot**

_____ **Date**

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Book of Order (Canons) supersedes and renders null and void any and all previous editions of the Book of Order effective November 27, 2021.

Most Rev. Mark Elliott Newman
Presiding Bishop

Date

<SEAL>