

BY-LAWS
ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI

Revised December 8, 1985
Revised December 11, 1988
Revised January 21, 1996

Proposed Revision for January 20, 2008

ARTICLE I
TITLE

The corporate title of this parish is "Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Oxford, Mississippi."

ARTICLE II
OF THE AUTHORITY

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Oxford, Mississippi, acknowledges the authority of the Church in the Diocese of Mississippi and of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

ARTICLE III
OF THE PARISH AND VESTRY

SECTION 1: There shall be two Wardens, a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden and ten Vestry members, all of whom shall be at least 21 years of age **and confirmed communicants in good standing residing** in the parish of St. Peter's. The Wardens and Vestry members, with the Rector, shall constitute the Vestry of the Parish, and shall transact all temporal business of the Parish including the approval of the Annual Budget prepared by a duly approved Finance Committee in accordance with and under the authority of the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Mississippi.

SECTION 2: The Senior Warden and the Junior Warden shall be elected annually for a term of one year by the Vestry from among its own membership. This election shall take place at the organizational meeting of the Vestry immediately following the Parish Meeting each year. Wardens are eligible for re-election as long as they remain on the Vestry.

SECTION 3: Each year four Vestry members shall be elected at the annual Parish Meeting for a term of three years. In all cases a Vestry member shall be elected at the annual Parish Meeting for a term of three years. In all cases a Vestry member shall be ineligible for re-election to the Vestry for a period of one (1) year after completing the three-year term of service. The election of the Vestry members shall be by secret ballot. Vacancies occurring on the Vestry may be filled by the Vestry to complete the unexpired term. A meeting of the Vestry, to be valid, shall have present the Rector or, in case of the Rector's inability to act, or in case the cure is vacant, one of the Wardens

and at least six (6) other members of the Vestry. In either case, seven such members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 4: There shall be an Advisory Committee composed of all former Senior Wardens still resident in the Parish. The duties of the Advisory Committee shall be to advise the Rector and Vestry.

ARTICLE IV OF THE RECTOR

SECTION 1: The Rector shall perform all duties and assume all responsibilities imposed upon the Rector's office by the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and of the Diocese of Mississippi, and by the accepted custom and usage of the Church.

SECTION 2: When the cure of the Parish becomes vacant, the Vestry shall notify the Bishop of the Diocese of the vacancy. In all matters related to vacancies and the search for a new rector, the parish shall conform to the guidelines established by the Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi.

ARTICLE V OF THE CLERK AND TREASURER

SECTION 1: The Vestry shall appoint a Parish Treasurer, bonded as required by Canon law, to serve for such period of time as may be fixed by the Vestry. The Treasurer may or may not be a member of the Vestry.

The Vestry may appoint a Parish Clerk for a period of time to be fixed by the Vestry. The Clerk may or may not be a member of the Vestry.

SECTION 2: The Parish Clerk and the Parish Treasurer shall perform such duties as are imposed upon their offices under the provisions of the Canons of the Diocese of Mississippi.

SECTION 3: The Vestry may appoint an assistant to the Clerk and/or an assistant to the Treasurer at its discretion.

ARTICLE VI OF PARISH MEETINGS

SECTION 1: There shall be held annually on the first day of January, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the date certain to be selected by the Vestry, a Parish Meeting, at which meeting the election of Vestry members shall be held. At the annual Parish Meeting, reports of the Wardens and committee chairs of the Parish shall be presented.

SECTION 2: The outgoing Vestry members shall comprise a Nominating Committee to receive and present all nominations for the elections at the Annual Parish Meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor. All nominees must previously have agreed to serve.

SECTION 3: The Rector or, in the Rector's absence, either of the Wardens, shall give written notice to the congregation of the Annual Parish Meeting at least two (2) weeks prior thereto. A special meeting of the Parish may be called by the Rector or, in the Rector's absence, by a majority of the Wardens and Vestry members by giving due notice in the same manner.

SECTION 4: At all such elections and in all Parish meetings those qualified to vote shall be **persons present who are baptized or confirmed communicants in good standing** who are sixteen (16) years of age or over.

ARTICLE VII OF THE DELEGATES TO THE COUNCIL

The Vestry shall have full power and authority to select and appoint the Delegates to the annual Diocesan Council meeting. Such appointments shall be made known to the communicants by notice given by the Rector or, in the Rector's absence, by either of the Wardens, at some occasion of public service at least one (1) week preceding the annual meeting of the Council.

ARTICLE VIII OF ORGANIZATIONS

SECTION 1: No organization shall be created within, or associated with, the Parish without the permission and approval of the Rector. If the cure is vacant, the permission and approval of the Bishop will then be necessary.

SECTION 2: All organizations within the Parish which receive annual operating funds from the annual budget shall submit to the annual Parish Meeting a financial report and a report of their work during the past year. A yearly financial report of said organizations shall be given to the Treasurer of the Parish within thirty days of the Parish Meeting.

ARTICLE IX OF AMENDMENTS

Whenever it is deemed necessary to change, alter or amend these by-laws, the proposed change, alteration or amendment shall first be submitted to the Vestry for approval. If the Vestry so approves, the Rector, upon such approval, shall then mail immediately a copy of the proposal to the Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi for approval; if the Bishop approves the proposal, the Rector shall call a meeting of the Parish as provided in Article VI, Section 3, of these by-laws. A copy of the proposed change, alteration or amendment shall be mailed to each qualified voter of the Parish with the notification of the meeting so called. If said change, alteration or amendment shall be approved by the Vestry and the Bishop of the Diocese and be favorable to two-thirds of the qualified voters present at the meeting, it shall then become a part of these by-laws.

ARTICLE X ADOPTION

These revised by-laws shall be in force and effect immediately upon their adoption at the meeting of the Parish described in Article IX above.