

# CONSTITUTION OF THE CATHEDRAL

of the

## DIOCESE OF OLYMPIA

Whereas, St. Mark's Church of Seattle is designated and declared by the Constitution of the Diocese of Olympia to be the Cathedral Church of the Diocese, and

Whereas, a close relationship between the Cathedral and the Diocese is mutually beneficial, now therefore

By the authority of the Bishop of Olympia; of St. Mark's Cathedral Parish; and of the Convention of the Diocese of Olympia, this Constitution is adopted, replacing any and all former Constitutions, effective upon approval of the said three parties.

### ARTICLE ONE

Section 1. The corporation named "St. Mark's Cathedral Parish" and situated in the City of Seattle and the State of Washington, hereby declares its adherence to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and conforms to its Constitution and Canons and also to those of the Diocese of Olympia, or of any Diocese of which the City of Seattle may be territorially a part.

### ARTICLE TWO

Section 1. Pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the Diocese of Olympia wherein "St. Mark's Church of Seattle is designated and declared to be the Cathedral Church of the Diocese, and official seat of the Bishop of the same," the Cathedral Chapter is hereby abolished and the Cathedral shall instead be governed by a Vestry composed and selected as provided in Article Three.

### ARTICLE THREE

Section 1. The Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral shall have fourteen to twenty-three members, consisting of the Dean of St. Mark's *ex officio*, the Bishop of Olympia *ex officio*, nine to twelve members representing the parish of St. Mark's, three to six members representing the Diocese of Olympia, and zero to three members representing the wider community. Within these limits, the Bylaws of St. Mark's Cathedral Parish may fix or change the number of parish representatives, diocesan representatives, community representatives, if any, and total members, provided that any amendment to the Bylaws to increase the number of diocesan representatives to more than three shall require the prior consent of the Bishop and the Diocesan Council.

Section 2. The Vestry shall be selected as follows:

- a. Nine to twelve members shall be elected from among parishioners at St. Mark's who are Communicants in Good Standing, three or four to be elected at each annual meeting of the parish. The terms of parish representatives shall commence at the first meeting of the Vestry following their election at the annual parish meeting and shall continue for three years and until their successors are elected and qualified.
- b. Three to six members shall be elected by the Diocesan Convention, one or two to be elected at each annual convention of the Diocese of Olympia. These members shall be Communicants in Good Standing at their congregations of record within the Diocese, or a member of the clergy in good standing canonically resident in the Diocese. No more than one member of the clergy may be a diocesan representative

on the Vestry at any one time. A diocesan representative must not be eligible to serve as a parish representative. The term of office of a diocesan representative shall commence at the first meeting of the Vestry following the annual meeting of St. Mark's in the next year after s/he is elected at Diocesan Convention and shall continue for three years and until his or her successor, having been elected at Diocesan Convention, becomes qualified to serve at the first meeting of the Vestry following the next year's annual meeting of St. Mark's.

- c. The Vestry may annually appoint one community representative to a three year term, whose appointment shall be announced at the annual meeting of St. Mark's. A person so appointed shall be a person of demonstrated qualities of dedicated commitment to a faith community, leadership and vision, and responsiveness to the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world as to mark them as a desirable candidate for service on the Vestry. Beginning in 2013, a community representative must not be eligible to serve as a parish representative.
- d. In the event of ambiguity in the timing of election or selection of Vestry members, it is the intent that all Vestry terms of the same class year commence and expire at the same time.
- e. In the event of a resignation or vacancy occurring prior to the end of a full three year term, the Vestry may fill a vacancy in its own membership (1) for the unexpired term of a parish representative or community representative, or (2) for the unexpired term of a diocesan representative from nominees named by the Bishop.

Section 3. A nominating committee shall be appointed each year at least six months prior to the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention. The Vestry shall appoint eight persons from the parish of St. Mark's to serve on the nominating committee, and may also appoint two persons from the outside community. The Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Vestry, shall appoint two persons from the Diocese to serve on the nominating committee. The Dean shall also serve on the committee.

- a. For persons to be elected as parish representatives, the nominating committee shall present to the annual meeting of St. Mark's a list of nominees the number of which shall be at least twice as many as there are positions for parish representatives to be filled. Nominations from the floor shall also be called for prior to balloting.
- b. For persons to be elected at the annual Diocesan Convention, the nominating committee shall timely present to the nominations committee of the Diocese at least one nominee for each position to be filled. Nominations from the floor shall also be called for prior to balloting.
- c. For community representatives, if any, the nominating committee shall present to the Vestry at least one nominee for each position to be filled.

Section 4. There shall be one senior warden, who shall be chosen by the Dean from among parish representatives on the Vestry. There shall be one or more junior wardens, at least one of which shall be selected from among parish representatives on the Vestry. All junior wardens shall be selected by vote of the Vestry.

Section 5. At any Vestry meeting, the Dean shall preside unless s/he delegates this responsibility to a warden and may vote to break a tie. The Bishop may designate one representative each year to attend meetings as needed in the Bishop's stead. The Bishop may elect whether to have the rights to move motions and vote, and the Bishop's Representative shall have the same rights as the Bishop elects. Neither the Dean, nor the Bishop, nor the Bishop's representative shall be counted in determining the presence of a quorum or in determining how many votes are required to pass

any measure, except that if the Bishop has elected to vote, the Bishop or Bishop's representative shall be counted in determining how many votes are required to pass any measure considered during a Vestry meeting at which either of them is present.

Section 6. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Dean, the Bishop shall act as Dean until the office is filled. After consultation with the Vestry, the Bishop may appoint a member of the clergy to serve as priest-in-charge. The priest-in-charge shall exercise the duties of Dean and Rector, subject to the authority of the Bishop.

#### ARTICLE FOUR

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution may be made by the Diocesan Convention. No amendment shall be proposed to a Diocesan Convention without the prior consent of the Bishop of Olympia and of St. Mark's Cathedral Parish. All amendments, unless otherwise provided, shall take effect immediately upon adjournment of the meeting of Convention at which they are adopted.

Approved:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop of Olympia

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Canon Missioner, for and on behalf of St. Mark's  
Cathedral Parish

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of Convention for the Diocese of Olympia,  
for and on behalf thereof