Definition of Clergy in Good Standing in ECCT

Submitted by: Faith & Order Commission

RESOLVED, that the 234th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut adopt the definition of “clergy in good standing” set forth in Appendix A to this resolution, to be effective upon November 1, 2018.

Explanation

Faithful participation in God’s mission needs adaptive and creative lay and ordained leadership in the Church. Continued excellence in the ordained leadership of ECCT requires clarity and accountability with respect to what it means to be “clergy in good standing,” which is not defined in the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church. The definition proposed in this resolution responds to the direction of ECCT’s 2017 Convention. Items A, C, and E are required by the Canons of The Episcopal Church. Items B and D are required by ECCT policies. Item F is required by the Constitution of ECCT.

How does this resolution further God’s mission of restoration and reconciliation with all creation?

This resolution will help us more faithfully live into the new and changing realities of ordained leadership with clarity of expectation and accountability. Such clarity fosters wholeness and health and leads to fuller participation in God’s mission.

Requirements to Implement:

The proposed canon is not anticipated to impose any incremental cost on ECCT.
APPENDIX A

Canon XVI – DEFINITION OF CLERGY IN GOOD STANDING

Section 1.  In keeping with the expectations and directives of the Constitution and Canons and the policies and procedures of The Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, the following must be met for a clergy person to be considered in good standing in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut:

A.  Make an annual report of their activities to the Bishops. The report of parochial clergy serving in a parish in ECCT is included in the parish’s annual parochial report. Non-parochial clergy and retired clergy not serving in an ECCT parish must submit an ECCT non-parochial report. Clergy serving in a parish outside of ECCT must complete an ECCT non-parochial report.

B.  Complete Safe Church (Mandatory Clergy Professional Development) every three years.

C.  Engage in continuing education by participating in a minimum of at least one of the following each year: (i) two full days of the ECCT Clergy Conference, or (ii) two of the three annual ECCT Clergy Days, or (iii) other continuing education activities equal to two full days of study, the last of which must be reported to the Bishops in the Continuing Education Report.

D.  Document participation in an anti-racism educational program (dismantling racism, and racial healing, justice, and reconciliation) every three years.

E.  Receive consent of the Bishops to enter into secular employment.

F.  Attend the ECCT Annual Convention or receive permission to be absent.

Section 2.  Clergy who are actively suspended and/or otherwise inhibited as a result of a Title IV process or episcopal pastoral directive are not considered in good standing.

Section 3.  The Secretary of the Diocese shall maintain a record of the clergy in good standing and those not in good standing.
Section 4. The Bishops of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut will not give a report of good standing for any clergy person not in compliance with the above, including clergy seeking new cures.