

DIOCESE OF THE SOUTH — ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Proposed Amendment to the By-laws of the DOS | Article V, Section 2 (and the addition of a section 3)

Deans and Deaneries

Purpose

This Amendment addresses the reality that the crucial role of the dean in the administration of the Diocese of the South might require the selection (or even recruitment) of a well suited equipped priest who can most effectively navigate the complexities of the regular administrative demands of the office. Therefore, the default of the “election” mechanism as the only method of selecting a dean reflects neither the practical realities of the role nor the prerogatives of the ruling hierarch that must be considered while filling these crucial roles. This amendment also allows for the appointment of assistant deans when this is determined necessary.

Article IV, Section 3 & 4 — Clarity in usage of pronouns

Existing Text

2) Each Deanery shall be headed by a District Dean, elected for a term of three years by the priests of the Deanery from among the rectors of the Deanery and confirmed by the Diocesan Bishop. Under the direction of the Diocesan Bishop, the District Dean shall have the responsibility of leading the life of the Deanery, in consultation with the priests of the Deanery. He shall be the first instance of appeal when disputes arise within Parishes. His other duties and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the Statute of the OCA, Article XI, Section III.

Proposed Language

2) Each Deanery shall be headed by a District Dean, who shall serve for a term of three years. The District Dean shall be selected by one of the following methods, as determined by the Diocesan Bishop:

a. Election by the priests of the Deanery from among the rectors of the Deanery, subject to confirmation by the Diocesan Bishop; or

b. Direct appointment by the Archbishop, upon consultation with the Diocesan Chancellor, when the Archbishop and the Chancellor determine that they possess relevant information regarding the suitability of candidates for the role that may not be available to the clergy of the Deanery.

Under the direction of the Diocesan Bishop, the District Dean shall have the responsibility of leading the life of the Deanery, in consultation with the priests of the Deanery. He shall be the first instance of appeal when disputes arise within Parishes. His other duties and responsibilities shall be as set forth in the Statute of the OCA, Article XI, Section III.

3) Where geographic considerations within a Deanery make it necessary or appropriate, the Archbishop may appoint one or more Assistant Deans to serve within the Deanery, upon consultation with the Diocesan Chancellor. Assistant Deans shall be appointed from among the rectors of the Deanery and shall assist the District Dean in the administration and pastoral oversight of the portion of the Deanery assigned to them by the Diocesan Bishop. The appointment of an Assistant Dean shall be for a term coterminous with that of the District Dean under whom the Assistant Dean serves, unless sooner terminated by the Diocesan Bishop.

Adoption

This Amendment must be approved by the Diocesan Council and shall be submitted to all parishes within the required sixty (60) day notice, and adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Diocesan Assembly. It takes effect upon the approval of the Diocesan Bishop.