



**Synod of the Diocese of the Central States
of the Reformed Episcopal Church
22 October 2020**

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND CANONS COMMITTEE

Organization:

The Constitution and Canons Committee is a body that serves by appointment of the Bishop Ordinary and is tasked with studying issues related to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and, when needed, drafting proposals for amendment of that document by the diocesan Synod.

The current Committee comprises:

The Rev. Dr. Paul Edgerton
The Rev. Bart Gingerich
The Rev. Canon Scott Houser

Actions:

The Committee looked into two issues this year at the request of the Bishop Ordinary and has two proposals for amendment to the diocesan Constitution:

1. The General Council set the boundaries of our Diocese on 13 October 2007, and our Constitution cites their action as the basis for our boundaries. In 2013 “the panhandle of Florida” was inserted into the language of our Constitution to accommodate the parish we had received in Shalimar, which later left us for another jurisdiction within the ACNA. It has been determined among the bishops of the REC that this insertion was the result of a misunderstanding and that all of Florida properly belongs under the oversight of the Diocese of the Southeast. The statement of Article III, Section 3 of our Constitution is, thus, factually incorrect.

Because the current language is not in line with the General Council action we cite therein, we propose that “the panhandle of Florida,” be stricken from Article III, Section 3 as follows:

Section 3. The territorial limits of the Diocese of Central States are those defined by the General Council of the Reformed Episcopal Church, subject to such amendment as may be later voted by a Synod of this Diocese with the consent of the General Council, as follows:

By action of the General Committee Meeting on Saturday, 13 October 2007, the Diocese of Central States is comprised of the states of Alabama, ~~the panhandle of Florida~~, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

2. Our diocese was first established as “The Missionary Diocese of the Central States of the Reformed Episcopal Church.” The name of our Diocese is stated in our Constitution currently as “The Diocese of Central States.” We have often seen the name of the Diocese written in our documents and in versions of the diocesan seal, including the tippet seal, as “Diocese of the Central States.” The latter rendering is more grammatical, indicating that we are the diocese comprising particular central states rather than generally all central states of the world, however that may be defined. The Bishop Ordinary has determined to use the version of our name that includes the second definite article and the version of the seal that includes it. The change has already been made on our website and in the Diocesan Customary. It is his desire that our name be corrected as well in the Constitution and Canons.

As an entity deriving its existence from the Reformed Episcopal Church, we do not have incorporation or non-profit organization paperwork with which a name change would conflict. Our Treasurer assures us that the change to our federal EIN and in our banking relationships will not be a problem.

We propose that in every appearance of "Diocese of Central States" in our Constitution and Canons, the definite article be inserted before "Central."

These amendments would be effected immediately upon either a unanimous vote of this Synod or upon the second two-thirds majority vote of two consecutive Synods.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul C. Edgerton", with a stylized flourish at the end.

The Rev. Dr. Paul C. Edgerton