

Request for Aided Parish Status in the Diocese of Long Island

There are seasons in the life of a parish in which it becomes difficult to manage pastoral and fiduciary obligations internally. The parish evidences serious financial deficit, a lack of capacity or limited resources for ministerial success or some combination of each. On these occasions it may be advisable for a parish vestry to apply for Aided Parish status. Aid may be provided by the Diocese to the parish in the form of financial, moral or personnel support. In some cases all three may be necessary. The Canons of the Diocese of Long Island (cf. below) outline the procedure for becoming an Aided Parish.

Aided Parish status is not intended to create a dependency of the parish upon the diocese but rather a strategic bridge to aid the parish to begin a process of church redevelopment and renewal. Thus it is envisioned in the Diocese that a parish requesting Aided Parish will also propose a plan for renewal.

Parishes who wish to begin the conversation and to learn more about the Aided Parish process should contact the Bishop's Office at 516-248-4800 x 135.

The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island Title VII, Canon 4: Aided Parishes

SECTION I. Application. A Parish may apply to the Bishop and the Department of Mission to be accepted as an Aided Parish and receive aid from any Diocesan source, missionary or otherwise, provided the Parish is willing to meet the requirements set forth hereafter in this Canon.

SECTION II. Waiver. Such application must be accompanied by a waiver from the Wardens and Vestry of their right to elect a Rector while the Parish is being treated as an Aided Parish, and by an agreement that during that period the Bishop may call upon the Rector, if there be one, or upon their Priest-in-Charge, if the Bishop appoints one, to render such service within and/or without the Aided Parish as the Bishop may, from time to time, direct.

SECTION III. Clergy. The Clergy in charge of an Aided Parish shall be appointed thereto by the Bishop and may be removed by him, acting under Title VI, Canon 3, Section VI, or assigned to other Diocesan work.

SECTION IV. Transfer of Property. An aided Parish shall, at the end of three years, transfer the title of all Real Estate and all Endowment and Trust Funds to the Trustees of the Estate, and such Real Estate, Endowment and Trust Funds shall, for the period the Parish remains an Aided Parish, be administered by the Bishop and the Trustees of the Estate.

SECTION V. Capital Expenditures. Expenditures of any Capital Funds belonging to the Aided Parish shall be made only with the full approval and consent of the Bishop and the Trustees of the Estate.

SECTION VI. Resignations. Upon acceptance as an Aided Parish, the Wardens and Vestrymen shall tender their resignations and may be appointed by the Bishop, together with others if need be, as the Bishop's Committee and such Committee shall, with the Bishop's consent, appoint a Treasurer and a Clerk and such other officers as may be required.

SECTION VII. Policies. All policies applicable to Mission congregations shall apply to an Aided Parish.

SECTION VIII. Petition to Revert. If the Aided Parish shall petition to revert to its former status, the Bishop shall call a Special Meeting of the Congregation for the purpose of electing a Vestry which shall, in turn, take the necessary Canonical steps for the election of a Rector.

SECTION IX. Properties on Reversion. If an Aided Parish reverts to its former status, it may petition the Trustees of the Estate for a conveyance of its Real Estate and the return of its Endowment and Trust Funds, and upon such petition being received, the said Trustees shall forthwith convey its said Real Estate and Return its said Endowment and Trust Funds.

n.b. It should be noted that all previously adopted parish bylaws are null and void upon becoming an Aided Parish. All Missions and Aided Parishes must abide by the Policies for Missions and Aided Parishes in the Diocese of Long Island. Copies are available on the diocesan web site.

Sample Resolution Requesting Aided Parish Status

At a regular meeting of the vestry of St. Swithens Episcopal Church, Brooklyn New York held on the _____ day of _____, quorum being had, after due deliberation it was

RESOLVED; that St. Swithens Episcopal Church petition the Episcopal Bishop of Long island for leave to become an Aided Parish in accordance with Title VII Section 4 of the Canons of the Diocese of Long Island. And be it further

RESOLVED; that the vestry in consequence of this resolution will if the petition for Aided Parish status be granted, consent to the resignation of _____ as rector of this parish.



Sample Secretary's Certificate to accompany Resolution

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

I, _____, Clerk of the Vestry of St. Swithens, Brooklyn New York do hereby certify that the Resolution attached hereto is a true copy of a Resolution duly adopted by the Vestry of St. Swithens on the _____ day of _____, and that such resolution has not been amended, modified, or rescinded and remains in full force and effect and such resolution is the only resolution adopted by the Vestry of St. Swithens relating to the matter set forth therein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and signature.

Dated: _____

(name of clerk)

Title: Clerk of the Vestry

I, _____, Rector of St. Swithens, Brooklyn, New York hereby certify that _____ is the duly appointed, qualified, and acting Clerk of the Vestry of St. Swithens and that the signature appearing above is her/his signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name.

Dated: _____

(rector/priest-in-charge's name)

Title: Rector

Sample Rector's Resignation Letter upon Parish request for Aided Parish Status

I, _____ being the rector of St. Swithens Episcopal Church, Brooklyn, New York hereby tender my resignation as rector to become effective upon the granting of the petition of St. Swithens Episcopal Church to become an Aided Parish.

Date
