

TEMA/TÍTULO: Cánones: Enmendar el Canon III.10.2(a)(2)

PROPONENTE: Canon John Wood Goldsack Esq.

PÁGINA CYC: 93

PÁGINA LA:

Se resuelve, con la aprobación de la Cámara de ____, que el canon III.10.2(a)(2) se enmienda por la presente, de manera que se lea como sigue:

(2) Antes de que se le permita hacerse cargo de una Congregación *como Rector* o de ser recibido en una Diócesis de esta Iglesia como miembro de su Clero, la Autoridad Eclesiástica deberá recibir Cartas Dimisorias o credenciales equivalentes firmadas y selladas del Obispo con cuya Diócesis la persona tuvo su más reciente relación y dichas cartas o credenciales tendrán que ser presentadas como máximo seis meses después de haber sido redactadas. Antes de recibir al Clérigo, el Obispo exigirá una promesa por escrito de que se someterá en todos los aspectos a la Disciplina de esta Iglesia, sin recurrir a ninguna jurisdicción foránea, civil o eclesiástica, y exigirá además que la persona firme y haga la declaración que exige el Artículo VIII de la Constitución en presencia del Obispo y de dos o más Presbíteros. El Obispo y por lo menos un Presbítero examinarán a la persona en lo que respecta a sus conocimientos de la historia de esta Iglesia, su culto y su gobierno. El Obispo, quedando satisfecho asimismo de las calificaciones teológicas de la persona, podrá entonces recibir a esa persona en la Diócesis como Clérigo de esta Iglesia.

EXPLANATION:

Clergy ordained by bishops of churches in communion with The Episcopal Church (Church of England, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the others listed in Canon III.10.2(a)(3)) are permitted by Canon III.10.2(a)(1) to serve in TEC congregations in certain capacities without formal reception into TEC and relinquishment of their original church membership. It is clear that a priest of such a church can serve as an assistant priest in TEC for even an extended period of time while maintaining their original church membership. A question has arisen as to whether such a clergy person would be required to be received into TEC as a condition for serving as a chaplain, interim, vicar or other priest-in-charge, or rector. As regards ELCA pastors, paragraph 22 of Called to Common Mission provides that such reception is not required for all such service but that "Ordained ministers from either church seeking long-term ministry with primary responsibility in the other will be expected to apply for clergy transfer and to agree to the installation vow or declaration of conformity in the church to which she or he is applying to minister permanently." The Principles for the Orderly Exchange of Pastors and Priests issued by the TEC Office for Ministry Development further clarifies that "A rector in an Episcopal congregation must be a priest of the EC, therefore extended service by an ELCA pastor in an Episcopal congregation would of necessity occur under circumstances other than that of 'rector'" and that "Canon III.10. Sec. 2 (a) specifies the requirements to be met before a member of the clergy ordained in other churches in communion with the EC may be permitted to officiate in an EC congregation as vicar, curate, on-going supply pastor, interim, assistant or pastor-in-charge for a specified term under a contractual arrangement." This distinction between serving as rector, for which reception into TEC would be required, and serving in these other capacities, for which reception is not required, is not clearly set forth in existing canon. Nor is the phrase "take charge" of a Congregation given uniform meaning elsewhere in TEC canons as referring to a rectorship. Accordingly, the current proposal is to clarify that "tak[ing] charge of any Congregation as

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Rector", as opposed to taking charge as priest-in-charge or otherwise, is the trigger for requiring formal reception into The Episcopal Church for priests from other denominations in communion with TEC. There is no reason why the principles articulated in Called to Common Mission and amplified by the Office for Ministry Development for ELCA pastors should not be equally applicable to members of the clergy from the other denominations listed in Canon III.10.2(a)(3) as well.

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