

CANONS OF ORDINATION

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CANONS OF ORDINATION

These compilations of canonical law came through revisiting series of inconsistencies with ordinations performed. This was codified during the Newark Council, and written chiefly by Ecumenical Metropolitan Auriel Jones of Antioch.

CANON 1

If any one has desired the office and order of the episcopacy or the presbyterate, in accordance with the Scriptures of the Church, they have indeed desired a noble work. If any one has desired these things, let them find within themselves the movement of God within their life to accept the vocation, in accordance with God sending shepherds after His heart to tend to the Church of Christ, and with the Holy Spirit making bishops in their vocation.

CANON 2

Upon discerning the providence of God Most High, let the desired presbyter or bishop to come be a man beyond reproach. Let them be a male, not a fornicator or adulterer—yet faithful to their love of their spouse or the one purposed to become their spouse. Let them be sober-minded and maintain self-control. Let them be respectable, not showing hostility. Let them be a lover of teaching. Let them not be a drunkard and neither a lover of money. Let them manage their own household well, that they may manage the household of God well. Let them not be a recent convert, and let them be thought of well by those even outside the Ancient Orthodox Catholic Apostolic Church. Let the desiring spirit subject themselves to the authority of the seminary from which their autocephalous church proves those men desiring the noble work of the presbyterate and episcopate. Let them maintain their work well, and let their teaching hierarchs be graceful in all things toward them until they are deemed ready for the work of God in His Church.

CANON 3

Let the proven disciple of the Christ be henceforth admitted into ordination into the Ancient Orthodox Catholic Apostolic Church. Let them be greatly praised, and let them feast in the presence of their own for their labors then and to come. If possible, let them be assigned under a local chorbishop if ordination is not possible yet appointment without the laying of hands is; and ultimately under the jurisdictional bishop and head of

the autocephalous church. Let them remain among the clergy, that one day they might be ordained as bishop in the Church.

CANON 4

Let anyone desiring the work of the diaconate whether in holy orders or by lay office, likewise make the same finding within themselves. Let the desiring deacon, male or female, be a dignified spirit lacking double-tongued speech and actions. Let them neither be drunkard, nor a greedy or fraudulent person. Let them do the work of the diaconate with a clear conscience, and let them also be in seminary that they might be proven blameless. Let their wife or husband also have dignity, forgoing slandering. Let them be sober-minded and faithful in all things as the desiring deacon must be. Let neither be a fornicator nor adulterer, and faithful to their spouse or the one purpose to become their spouse; and let them manage their own households well. Let them, when they are proven, be praised and gather to feast for their labors then and to come. Let them be assigned under the overseership of the presbyters and bishops, which are under the Christ, that the gates of Hades never prevail. Let those males younger than sixteen years of age aspiring to the ordained ministry be counted forth into the subdiaconate. Let all aspiring subdeacons lack double-tongued speech and actions. Let them neither be a drunkard, nor a greedy or fraudulent person. Let them perform their work according to the Ancient Orthodox Catholic and Apostolic religion. Let them be sober-minded and faithful in all things as all who are ordained must be. When they are proven, let them be praised and gather to feast for their labors then and to come. Let them be assigned under the overseership of the ordained deacons, as they serve with the presbyterate and episcopacy. Let the males being forechosen generationally to the office of acolyte—whether seven years of age or less than eighteen—come forth. Let them be of good report among the people of the world and the people of the Church. Let them be faithful in all things. When they are proven, let them be greatly praised and gather to feast for their labors then and to come. Let them be assigned under the overseership of the bishops, as they serve to attend to the forefront while their co-laboring subdeacons attend to the deacons of the Church.

CANON 5

Let all presbyters—whether chorpresbyters by appointment or ordained presbyters—and all episcopates—whether chorbishops by appointment or ordained bishops—subject themselves also through membership in the Great Order of Christ.