

# DEANERY STATUTES

## I. THE DEANERY OF PARISHES WITHIN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF THYATEIRA AND GREAT BRITAIN

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### Section 1. DEFINITION/NAME

This Deanery is an association of those Parishes and Eucharistic Communities situated in Great Britain and Ireland that were formerly part of the Archdiocese of Orthodox Parishes of Russian Tradition in Western Europe, and which from November 2019 have formed part of a Deanery within the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain within the Ecumenical Patriarchate, and any parishes and Eucharistic Communities which subsequently join them, and who continue in that tradition.

The name of this association shall be such name as shall be approved for the Deanery by the ruling Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain (hereinafter the “**Deanery**”); until such name is approved it shall be “**The Deanery within the Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain**”.

These Statutes entirely replace those Statutes made in 2012 when the Deanery was part of the Archdiocese of Orthodox Parishes of Russian Tradition in Western Europe.

### Section 2. OBJECTS

The objects of this association of Parishes are to advance the Orthodox Christian Faith for the benefit of the public in accordance with the doctrines and character of the Orthodox Christian Faith.

The character of the Orthodox Christian Faith shall mean the faith of the One Holy Orthodox-Catholic and Apostolic Church, rooted in the Holy Tradition, and taught by the Holy Scriptures, the Seven Ecumenical Councils and the Local and Provincial Councils, and by the Holy Fathers, and as preserved and taught by the Churches of the four ancient Patriarchates of Constantinople, Jerusalem, Antioch, and Alexandria, and by the Churches now in communion with any or all of them.

### Section 3. LANGUAGE

The working language of the Deanery is English.

## Section 4. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Deanery are Parishes and Eucharistic Communities, constituted according to the clauses in ARTICLE II, in Great Britain and Ireland headed by priests under the omophorion of the Archbishop, or any subsequent Bishop, provided in accordance with these Statutes.

## II LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

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### Section 5. DEFINITIONS

The life of the Church as a sacramental community is manifested in a given place or area through the regular celebration of the Eucharist under the local presidency of the Presiding Bishop, or a Presbyter appointed by him. The local congregations are the heart of the Church and its fullest expression in the world. "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst" (Matt 18:20). It is during the Liturgy celebrated by every community that the Lord is "known in the breaking of bread." (Luke 24:35)

Local congregations can be of two kinds:

**PARISHES:** those established communities which have a formal structure as set down in SECTIONS 7–16 of this ARTICLE; and

**EUCCHARISTIC COMMUNITIES:** less established communities, aspiring to become Parishes, but having as much of the formal structure set out below for Parishes as is, in the view of the Presiding Bishop, required for the regulation of their communal life, and as set down in SECTION 10 of this ARTICLE.

### Section 6. FUNCTION

A local congregation, whether constituted as a Parish or as a Eucharistic Community, serves as a centre of Church life in which the members of the royal priesthood (i.e. clergy and laity), realise the fellowship of the Church in its sacramental life and prayer; proclaim the Gospel and teach the Orthodox faith; and work together 'for the building up of the body of Christ' (Eph 4:12) through pastoral concern and care, both within the Church and in the community amongst whom they live.

## Section 7. PRESIDING PRESBYTER

The Parish or Eucharistic Community has at its head the Presbyter to whom the Presiding Bishop delegates his ministry of local oversight and who by virtue of his ordination and the authority given him, shall:

- i. celebrate the Holy Mysteries and lead the community in prayer;
- ii. take responsibility for ensuring that the Gospel is preached and the Orthodox faith is taught;
- iii. act as pastor and spiritual father of his flock, treating all equally, “for God shows no partiality” (Rom 2:11);
- iv. supervise the prayer of the community and ensure that the premises are suitable for liturgical use.

The Presiding Bishop may appoint, in concert with the Parish or Eucharistic Community, assistant Presbyters and other clergy to serve at the Holy Table, under the direction of the Presiding Presbyter.

## Section 8. ESTABLISHMENT AND DISSOLUTION OF A PARISH OR EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY

Any group of Orthodox Christians may ask the Presiding Bishop through the Dean to be recognised as a Parish or as a Eucharistic Community, and thereby become members of the Deanery for the purposes of SECTION 9 of these Statutes.

Any property, including churches and items of liturgical use used by such Parishes or Eucharistic Communities shall be held in a charitable entity.

Such entities could be established using the template governing document and instructions provided by the Deanery Trustees at the time, and which have been previously approved by the Deanery Assembly (or committee appointed by them). The governing document for each entity shall incorporate any donor’s wishes, as to the purposes of the entity (providing these are charitable) and how any assets of the entity shall be applied on dissolution of the entity.

The entity shall be managed by trustees who are appointed in close consultation with the relevant Parish or Eucharistic Community, in accordance with terms of the entity’s governing document (the “**Parish Property Trustees**”); and any assets so held shall be dealt with or disposed of by the Parish Property Trustees in accordance with the terms of the entity’s governing document. Such entities shall be registered with the Charity Commission, the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, or the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (or the equivalent in any other relevant jurisdiction) if they meet the registration requirements.

The *antimension*, provided by the Presiding Bishop at the founding of a local congregation, shall be the property of the Presiding Bishop and be returned to him on the dissolution of a local congregation.

If the Presiding Bishop determines that a Parish or a Eucharistic Community has ceased or should cease to function as such, he may, after consultation with the Dean and Presbytery, dissolve it.

Parishes and Eucharistic Communities may also withdraw from membership of the Deanery by written notice to the Presiding Bishop and the Dean following a two-thirds majority vote by secret ballot of the parish or community concerned, and thereby cease to be represented at any meeting of the Deanery.

### Section 9. DEFINITION OF A MEMBER PARISH OF THE DEANERY

A member Parish, is a community, in possession of an episcopal decree of establishment; having at its head a Presiding Presbyter, appointed by the Presiding Bishop, which Presiding Presbyter resides in the vicinity of the Parish, and to whom an *antimension* (bearing the name of the Presiding Bishop, or any of his predecessors) has been granted, whose members have accepted responsibility, in accordance with these Statutes, for the maintenance and development of Church life in a particular place or area, and who have undertaken to organise themselves under officers elected according to Parish statutes.

### Section 10. DEFINITION OF A EUCHARISTIC COMMUNITY

A Eucharistic Community is a group of Orthodox Christians in possession of an episcopal decree of establishment, who have not adopted Parish statutes as provided for in this constitution, but whose intent is to develop community life to the point of becoming a Parish. Such communities are served by a priest within the Deanery.

### Section 11. DEFINITION OF A MONASTIC COMMUNITY

In addition to local congregations, there is a community of men and women following a monastic life, established with the blessing of the Presiding Bishop, living a solitary or communal life in various locations across the Deanery. All are living according to a monastic rule in obedience to the Presiding Bishop. Their welfare is co-ordinated by an appointed priest monk, or other monk, appointed by the Presiding Bishop, and each is served through local arrangements by priests of the Deanery. For the purposes of this Governing Document, monastic communities shall be treated as Eucharistic Communities.

## Section 12. THE PARISH MEMBERSHIP ROLLS

Any Orthodox Christian, sixteen years old or above who has regularly received Communion in any Parish of the Deanery within the previous year, who has been resident or has received pastoral care in the Parish for at least twelve months, may apply in writing to the Presiding Presbyter for inclusion on the Membership Roll of that Parish. The person concerned may not be on the Roll of another Parish of the Deanery or a congregation outside the Deanery.

It is the responsibility of the Parish secretary to provide applicants with a form to fill in giving the details required for Parish records.

In the event of a person transferring from one local congregation to another, the date on which the transfer takes effect is 1 September following their request in writing to do so. Names are added to or removed from the Roll under the authority of the Presiding Presbyter and Parish Advisory Council; if the decision is not acceptable to the person concerned, appeal may be made to the Presiding Bishop, whose decision shall be final.

## Section 13. PARISH MEETINGS

Parishes should hold a meeting open to all members on the Parish roll at least once a year. All Parish meetings shall be announced at every Sunday Liturgy or prayer service in the three weeks prior to the date of the meeting, and also by letter and/or email to the members of the Parish at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting.

The functions of the Parish meeting shall be:

- i. to elect voting representatives and an alternate, or alternates, to the Deanery Assembly;
- ii. at the intervals and according to procedure laid down by each Parish's statutes or by-laws, to elect the members of the Parish Advisory Council set out in SECTION 14;
- iii. regularly to meet in order to discuss, initiate and approve measures to strengthen the life of the Parish;
- iv. give guidance and recommendations to the Parish Property Trustees concerning the acquisition, encumbrance, or disposal of property of whatever nature provided for the use of the Parish.

The chair of the Parish meeting will be the Presiding Presbyter or, at his request another member of the Parish, and shall have a second casting vote in the event of a tie. In consultation with the Parish officers, the chair may invite other persons to attend and speak but without the right to vote. Any significant decisions of the Parish meeting are to be communicated to the Presiding Bishop by the Presiding Presbyter.

## Section 14. PARISH ADVISORY COUNCILS

The purpose of a Parish Advisory Council is to further any significant decision of the Parish, under the direction of the Presiding Presbyter.

The members of the Parish Advisory Council shall be the clergy assigned to the Parish and, those elected in accordance with the model Parish statutes, to include at least the following:

- i. a **Parish Warden** who, as senior lay officer of the Parish, shall under the guidance of the Parish Advisory Council, and as necessary by the Parish Property Trustees, be responsible for ensuring the care of property used by the Parish, the provision of supplies for church use, provision of public liability insurance, and full lay participation in all the practical aspects of Parish life and liaise with the treasurer of the charitable entity set up to hold property regarding the funding of the above;
- ii. a **Secretary** of the Parish, who shall keep the minutes of Parish meetings and Parish Advisory Council meetings, a register of all members of the Parish, and be responsible for correspondence with the charitable entity set up to hold property and any other correspondence as directed by the Presiding Presbyter;
- iii. a **Welfare & Protection Officer**, who shall ensure all children, young people and vulnerable adults, and those who work with them, are kept safe from harm; and that key members of the Parish know the procedures to follow, in the event of any concern about a child or vulnerable adult's welfare, or, if there are complaints or allegations of abuse made within or without the church organisation.
- iv. At least as many **Lay Representatives** as are fixed by the statutes of the Parish.

The chair of the Parish Advisory Council will be the Presiding Presbyter or, at his request, another member of the Parish who shall have a second casting vote in the event of a tie. In consultation with the Parish warden and secretary, the chair may invite other persons to attend and speak but without the right to vote. Any significant decisions of the Parish Advisory Council are to be communicated to the Presiding Bishop by the Presiding Presbyter.

## Section 15. PROPERTY

No individual within a Parish may own or have sole control over liturgical items or property that has been donated to the Parish. All significant donations shall be entrusted to one, or more, charitable entities which the Parish shall establish in accordance with the terms laid out under SECTION 8 of this ARTICLE, and which shall be managed by the Parish Property Trustees.

Until such Parish Property Trusts are established, all parish property must be held in the names of at least two responsible persons over the age of 18 years as trustees for the Parish.

Deanery Statutes – as passed at Assembly 30 October 2021.

The Parish Property Trustees are responsible for safeguarding and maintenance of any property held by them as they see fit, in accordance with the following sub-clause:-

The responsibilities of the Parish Property Trustees are to:

- i. Make material provision for liturgical prayer according to the rites of the Orthodox Church, through safeguarding any money, (including offerings in church, tithes, subscriptions, and legacies), and any liturgical items (including plate, vestments, icons, and liturgical books) and any donated property;
- ii. Prevent the use or disposal of money, items (including items for use in prayer, vestments, and reliquaries) and property for purposes other than according to the terms of the trust;
- iii. Keep an inventory of any money, items and property owned, in co-ordination with the Parish Warden;
- iv. To keep a record of the wishes of donors if expressed, according to a predetermined form, or by additional trust deed;
- v. Make provision, if they see fit, for the employment and remuneration of any clergy as requested by the Presiding Bishop, or for officers as requested by the Presiding Presbyter; and
- vi. Make provision for such property insurances as are required for the above.

The Parish Property Trustees shall be selected according to the governing document of the charitable entity in which the property is held by them.

Neither clergy nor Parish Wardens may be a treasurer of a charitable entity in which the property is held.

To foster awareness and exchange of information either the Parish Advisory Council or the Parish Property Trustees may invite members of the other body to attend their meetings.

## Section 16. PARISH STATUTES

Each member Parish shall adopt a set of statutes reflecting, at minimum, the requirements established in SECTION 12 to SECTION 14 above.

A copy of these as originally promulgated or amended from time to time shall be sent to the Presiding Bishop and shall be valid unless he expresses formal disapproval within three months of receipt.

In the event that the Presiding Bishop expresses his formal disapproval within three months of such set of statutes or amendments being referred to him, then the matter shall be referred back to such Parish or Eucharistic Community for further discussion, but ultimately the Presiding Bishop's decision will be final.

### **III THE DEANERY PRESBYTERY**

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#### **Section 17. PURPOSE**

The Presbytery is the body which brings together all the Presbyters ('elders') of the Deanery serving in the member Parishes and Eucharistic Communities of the Deanery to assist the Presiding Bishop in fulfilling his role as pastor.

#### **Section 18. MEMBERSHIP**

The Presiding Bishop and priests permanently assigned to the Deanery constitute the Presbytery and have a right to vote at Presbytery meetings.

The Bishop may, with the approval of the Presbytery, invite all deacons permanently assigned to the Deanery and any retired clergy to attend its meetings, but without the right to vote.

#### **Section 19. THE DEAN OF PRESBYTERS**

The duties of the Dean, who shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop, are to:

- i. act as secretary and convenor of the Presbytery;
- ii. serve as an ex officio voting member of the Deanery Executive;
- iii. visit and acquaint himself with the Parishes and Eucharistic Communities and their resources and plans;
- iv. co-ordinate provision of Presbyters when any Presbyter appointed by the Presiding Bishop is absent;
- v. Any further duties assigned to the Dean in writing by the Presiding Bishop.

#### **Section 20. MEETINGS**

The Presbytery shall meet at least twice a year on a suitable day mutually agreed by the Presiding Bishop and the Dean with at least four weeks' notice of the meeting given to members.

The Dean must call further meetings of the Presbytery if requested by the Presiding Bishop or by one third of its voting members, with four weeks' notice of the meeting.



## Section 21. PROCEDURES

The Presiding Bishop shall be Chairman of the Presbytery.

The Dean shall act as secretary and convenor of the Presbytery and, in the absence of the Presiding Bishop, as its chairman.

The Presbytery shall choose a minuting secretary from among those attending. Minutes will be circulated to all members of the Presbytery, and a summary to the Presiding Bishop.

## IV THE DEANERY ASSEMBLY

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### Section 22. PURPOSE

The Deanery Assembly in the Deanery is the body in which the Presiding Bishop, clergy and laity of the Deanery take part together to:

- i. Represent the activities and objectives of the Deanery and Archdiocese to Parishes in Britain and Ireland, and in turn,
- ii. Communicate and promote the activity and objectives of member Parishes of the Deanery at the Archdiocesan level

In order to achieve the above:-

- i. to promote and undertake activities at the level of Great Britain and Ireland, or any of its constituent nations, that cannot be undertaken by individual (or groups of) Parishes, such as national conferences, youth camps and other meetings;
- ii. to facilitate regional and local groupings of Parishes for assemblies, festivals, and other symposia;
- iii. to establish and appoint members of committees to study proposals to meet the needs of Parishes;
- iv. to make material provision for the corporate prayer of the Deanery (not otherwise relevant to Parishes or to the Archdiocese), according to the rites of the Orthodox Church, and
- v. to determine the amount of Parish contributions to the Deanery.

### Section 23. CHAIR OF THE DEANERY ASSEMBLY

The Chair of the Meeting shall be the Presiding Bishop, or in his absence, the Dean or another priest nominated by the Presiding Bishop.

The Chair shall open and close meetings. The Chair shall have both a vote and a casting vote if there is a tie.

## Section 24. MEMBERSHIP

The Deanery Assembly shall be composed of all serving clergy and those lay representatives duly elected (reflecting the number of assigned clergy) at the Parish level to attend the Deanery Assembly, plus a member from each Eucharistic Community appointed by the priest responsible for that community, or elected, and any retired clergy as observers.

The Secretary and Treasurer of the Deanery, if they are not elected lay representatives of a Parish, shall be ex-officio members of the Deanery Assembly.

Lay delegates shall be elected by the Parishes in good time before the Annual Assembly of the Deanery.

All members of the Deanery Assembly must accept the canonical jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop.

## Section 25. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS

The Deanery Assembly decides the time and place of its General Meetings.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Deanery Assembly may be called by the Presiding Bishop and the Deanery Trustees and it must be convened within thirty days of such a meeting being requested by one third of the members of the Deanery Assembly.

There shall be thirty days' notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Deanery Assembly.

The Deanery Assembly may choose to hold further or regional meetings in addition to its annual ordinary meeting.

## Section 26. AGENDA

Written suggestions for the agenda may be made to the secretary of the Deanery Assembly up to twenty-one days before the date of a meeting.

The secretary consults with the Presiding Bishop through the Dean, with the Deanery Trustees, given the nature of the proposed agenda, and then draws up the agenda, which should be dispatched to members of the Deanery Assembly not less than ten days before the meeting.

The agenda may be changed by a simple majority vote of the Deanery Assembly.

## Section 27. QUORUM

One third of the lay and one third of the Presbyter members, taken separately, shall constitute a quorum.

## Section 28. SECRETARY AND MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings of the Deanery Assembly shall be prepared by the Secretary, if necessary with the assistance of a minuting secretary. In their absence, the Deanery Assembly shall appoint substitutes.

The minutes shall be reviewed by the chairman and the Presiding Bishop before distribution and shall be signed by the Chairman after their approval by the Deanery Assembly at its next meeting.

Within thirty days of the adjournment of the Deanery Assembly, the minutes shall be mailed to each member, together with notice of any formal disapproval of a resolution by the Presiding Bishop.

## **V THE DEANERY TRUSTEES**

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### Section 29. PURPOSE

The Deanery Trustees constitute the executive body governed by the Charitable Incorporated Organisation which is responsible in law for property or funds for the purposes of:

- i. Holding funds or property on behalf of the Deanery;
- ii. Holding property or funds that cannot be devolved to Parishes, and property owned or given to Eucharistic Communities;
- iii. Holding funds for contributions to the Archdiocese; and

- iv. Being a legal body representing the Archdiocese vis-a-vis other Christian bodies, e.g. for church sharing arrangements, which relate to Parishes or Eucharistic Communities within the Deanery.

## Section 30. FUNCTIONS

The Deanery Trustees shall:

- i. make arrangements for the receipt of Parish contributions and other funds, and the provision of such funds to the Archdiocese, as they see fit;
- ii. carry out whatever duties are delegated to them by the Presiding Bishop or any General Assembly of the Archdiocese, as they see fit;
- iii. temporarily administer (if necessary or appropriate through the creation of a separate charitable entity or entities) any money, liturgical items or property and to devolve them as soon as possible to a relevant Parish, or use them for the purposes of the Deanery
- iv. administer (if necessary or appropriate through the creation of a separate charitable entity or entities), any money, items for use in prayer, or property donated to a Parish or Eucharistic Community (or monastic community) for use in the UK and Ireland;
- v. prevent the use or disposal of money, items (including liturgical items, vestments, reliquaries etc.) and property for purposes other than according to the wishes of the donors;
- vi. keep an inventory of such money, items and property;
- vii. keep a record of the wishes of donors, according to a predetermined form, or by additional trust deed; and
- viii. make all returns required by the Charity Commission, Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, Charity Commission for Northern Ireland or other statutory authorities.

No individual Deanery Trustee may own or have sole control over liturgical items or property that has been donated to the Deanery.

## Section 31. MEMBERSHIP

All Deanery Trustees must be members of the Deanery Assembly. There shall be seven Deanery Trustees as follows:

- i. the Dean, as Chairman, ex officio on behalf of the Presiding Bishop;
- ii. the Secretary, elected by the Deanery Assembly for a term of three (3) years (but who may also be appointed ex officio), who shall not be a member of the clergy;
- iii. the Treasurer, elected by the Deanery Assembly for a term of three (3) years (but who may also be appointed ex officio) who shall not be a member of the clergy;
- iv. two priests, elected by the Presbytery for a term of three (3) years; and
- v. two members of the laity elected by the Deanery Assembly for a term of three (3) years.

The Presiding Bishop may attend all meetings of the Deanery Trustees.

### Section 32. DEANERY TRUSTEES' TREASURER

The Deanery Trustees' Treasurer, as elected by the Deanery Assembly, shall be responsible for:

- i. keeping the Deanery Trustees' accounts including receiving contributions from Parishes on behalf of the Archdiocese;
- ii. recommending to the Deanery Assembly measures for improving Parish and Deanery finances;
- iii. liaising with the Treasurer of the Archdiocese with regard to financial matters; and
- iv. preparing financial records and documentation as required by the Deanery Trustees.

### Section 33. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEETINGS OF DEANERY TRUSTEES

Meetings of the Deanery Trustees are convened at the request of the Presiding Bishop or by the Dean, or by four of its members by letter, telephone, or electronic means with ten days' notice, and there should be at least two meetings in each calendar year.

### Section 34. QUORUM

Four members shall constitute a quorum.

### Section 35. PROCEDURE, VOTING AND DECISIONS

The role of the Chairman shall be the same as at meetings of the Deanery Assembly.

All decisions of the Deanery Trustees shall become effective unless the Presiding Bishop expresses formal disapproval within eight days of the meeting if he has been present, or, if he is absent, within fifteen days; or alternatively if there is a vacancy, the Locum Tenens expresses formal disapproval in the same manner.

If a decision of the Deanery Trustees is formally disapproved by the Presiding Bishop, then the decision will be referred back to the Deanery Trustees for the resolution to be discussed and voted upon again. If passed, then no such decision of the Deanery Trustees shall be valid if the

Presiding Bishop formally expresses his disapproval of it within fifteen days of notification of the decision to him. Should agreement still not be reached, the matter shall be referred again to the Presiding Bishop. The Trustees must give full consideration to the views of the Presiding Bishop, but because of their responsibilities in Charity Law, the decision of the Trustees has to be final.

## **VI ALTERATIONS OF THE STATUTES AND DISSOLUTION**

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### Section 36. ALTERATIONS TO THE STATUTES

(i) Subject to the following provisions of this clause, the Governing Document may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Assembly membership present and voting at a Deanery Assembly set out in SECTION IV. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.

(ii) No amendment may be made to SECTION 1 (the definition of the Deanery); SECTION 2 (the Objects clause); SECTION 37 (the dissolution clause) or this clause without a resolution passed by not less than three-quarters of the Assembly membership present and voting at a Deanery Assembly set out in SECTION IV.

### Section 37. DISSOLUTION OF THE DEANERY OF PARISHES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE

If the Presiding Bishop or the Deanery Assembly representatives decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Deanery, they will call a meeting of the Deanery Assembly. Notice (stating the terms of the proposed dissolution) must be given at least 30 days before the meeting. If the proposal is approved by two-thirds of those present and voting, the Deanery shall be dissolved, and the Deanery Trustees shall transfer or dissolve all the assets of the Deanery held in separate charitable entities in accordance with the dissolution provisions contained in each entity.

## **VII GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS**

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1 Throughout these Statutes the following definitions of words and phrases shall apply:-

“**Archbishop**” means the Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain (under the Ecumenical Patriarchate) holding office from time to time, and the canonical successors in that office;

“**Archdiocese**” is defined in SECTION 1;

“**Dean**” is defined in SECTION 19;

“**Deanery**” is defined in SECTION 1;

“**Deanery Assembly**” means as defined in SECTION IV;

“**Deanery Trustees**” are defined in ARTICLE V;

“**Eucharistic Community**” means as defined in SECTION 10;

“**Orthodox Christian Faith**” means as defined in SECTION 2, and “**Orthodox**”, “**Orthodox Christian**” and “Orthodox Church” have corresponding meanings;

“**Parish**” means as defined in SECTION 9;

“**Parish Advisory Council**” means as defined in SECTION 14;

“**Parish Property Trustees**” means as defined in SECTION 15,

“**Presbyter**” and “**Presbytery**” means as defined in ARTICLE III;

“**Presiding Bishop**” means the Archbishop of Thyateira and Great Britain in office from time to time, or any assistant bishop to whom the Archbishop delegates his canonical responsibilities and duties in the matter concerned;

“**Presiding Presbyter**” means, in relation to a Parish, as defined in SECTION 7;

“**these Statutes**” means these Statutes of the Deanery.

- 2 The Interpretation Act 1898 shall apply to these Statutes as if to an Act of Parliament.
  - 3 In this document, where applicable, references to the singular shall include the plural and references to the plural shall include the singular.
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