

**CHARTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ALABAMA**

AN ACT

To incorporate the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama, and the several congregations thereof, and to regulate the tenure of Church property, and to enable said Church to establish religious, charitable or educational institutions.

PREAMBLE

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama is a part of The Episcopal Church, which is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, a Fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church in communion with the See of Canterbury, upholding and propagating the historic Faith and Order as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. This Diocese and all of its Parishes and other organizations are subject to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE I

The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama, including all of the Parishes and other organizations of The Episcopal Church within its territorial jurisdiction, is hereby created a corporation by the name of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama. By that name may sue and be sued; receive, own, mortgage, and convey real and personal property; borrow money; and exercise all powers incident to a religious corporation not inconsistent with the Constitution and Laws of the State of Alabama. From and after the beginning of the year 1971, A. D., the territorial jurisdiction of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama, which prior hereto included the entire State of Alabama, shall be all of the State of Alabama lying North of the Northern boundaries of the counties of Barbour, Pike, Crenshaw, Butler, Wilcox, Clark, and Choctaw as then located. As used herein, the word Diocese shall, depending on the context, mean either The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama or the area of its territorial jurisdiction.

ARTICLE II

The Bishop of the Diocese shall be its Chief Pastor and its principle executive officer. The Diocesan Convention shall be its central governing body. Selection, authority, and duties of the Bishop and of the Diocesan Convention shall be as provided in the Canons of the Diocese, as shall all other matters for the governance of the Diocese and its Parishes and other organizations.

ARTICLE III

Title to real property acquired by a Parish prior to the charter of the Diocese by the Legislature of Alabama on December 12, 1864, is not affected by this charter, except as to consecration of structures used solely for Divine Services. Title to real property acquired by a Parish between December 12, 1864 and February 1, 1962, may continue to be held by the Parish, except as to consecration of structures used solely for Divine Services, provided that the use and alienation thereof shall be the same as though title had been conveyed to the diocese as provided below. The title to real property acquired by a Parish after February 1, 1962, on which its Church, Chapel, Parish House, or Rectory then or thereafter is located shall be conveyed to The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama, as Trustee, in Trust for the use and benefit of the Parish to which the property pertains. After February 1, 1962, no church, Chapel or other structure used solely for

**CHARTER OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE DIOCESE OF ALABAMA**

(continued)

Divine Services by a Parish shall be consecrated unless the title thereto and to the ground on which it is located is vested in The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama, as Trustee for the use and benefit of the Parish to which it pertains. Any Parish may elect to convey other real or personal property to the Diocese, as Trustee, for its use and benefit. In the event that a Parish shall become dormant, its property shall become the property of the Diocese, for use in accordance with the original purposes thereof, or similar purposes. Real property of the Diocese and each Parish and other organization thereof shall be used, alienated or withdrawn from the Diocese in accordance with the Canons. Deeds and mortgages shall be signed for the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama by the Bishop, or if there be no Bishop, as provided by the Canons.

ARTICLE IV

This Charter can be amended by resolution adopted by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the clergy and two-thirds (2/3) of the lay delegates present and voting at two successive Annual diocesan Conventions, which resolutions may be evidenced by a certificate thereof executed by the first four (4) principal officers of the second such Diocesan Convention, being its Bishop, its Secretary, its Treasurer, and its Chancellor.