

# Governing Documents and Standing Resolutions of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

as Amended through August 2018

## The Rule

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### Preamble

To be a brother is to become a witness to the love of God in your every living moment; to live humbly, with patience and in service; to meet Christ your brother in every man, woman, and child, no matter who they be; and to greet that Christ with the open arms of love. To be a brother is also to live a life of joy and celebration, exemplified in the Daily Offices and in the Holy Eucharist. It is, in fact, to live in such a way that life itself would have no reason if it were not for the presence of Christ's redeeming love.

### Of vows

A brother makes the vow of poverty by dedicating a major portion of the fruit of his labor to the Church and to the Brotherhood.

*As a witness to Poverty and service to the church, at its first meeting in a calendar year, Council shall distribute one-half of income over expenses from the previous year to eligible not-for-profit programs or entities, in amounts that it shall determine. This disbursement is reported to the Community at its annual Chapter. (Council November 2006). Any Council member who makes a grant request shall recuse himself from voting on the grants at that session of Council. (Council April 2012)*

*A member of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory who creates, or collaborates in the production of, a work or works for the use of or publication by the Brotherhood, and who wishes to retain his copyright, shall grant to the Brotherhood in writing the irrevocable right to print, publish, perform, revise or adapt and reprint or republish such work or works in original or revised form. A member who wishes to transfer copyright to the Brotherhood shall do so in writing. Any exceptions or restrictions shall be specified in the grant of permission. A form is available for granting permission and / or transfer. (Council January 2004)*

A brother makes the vow of chastity as follows: Chastity is the decision to live with all in love, with respect for each person's integrity. It is not a denial of one's sexuality and capacity for love, but a dedication of the whole self to God: free from indecency or offensiveness and restrained from all excess, in order to be free to love others without trying to possess or control.

*The practice of sexual harassment (persistent and unwelcome sexual advances towards another person) is inherently incompatible with the vow of chastity as understood by the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, in which the members are bound to live "free from indecency or offensiveness and restrained from all excess, in*

*order to be free to love others without trying to possess or control.” Those who persist in such behavior, either within or without the community, will be held to be in violation of the vow of chastity, and subject to disciplinary action or dismissal by Council, the standards of due process, fair hearing, examination and substantiation of evidence being observed. The more serious matter of sexual misconduct (forced or coerced sexual domination of another person) must also be seen as a violation of the vow. (Council October 1992) See Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy page 21.*

A brother makes the vow of obedience to Jesus Christ as his only Lord and Savior, to the discipline of the Episcopal Church, the provisions of the Rule of the Brotherhood, and to the Minister General and other pastoral officials as appropriate.

### **Of the life of a brother**

It shall be the objective of a brother to live deliberately and actively, corporately and singly, in such a manner that his every living moment may be an exemplification of the motto of the Brotherhood: “Soli Deo Gloria—To God alone the glory,” that those persons who may come to know him may by his example be brought the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. A brother must endeavor to witness to our Redeemer's love with quietness, patience, humility, charity, courage and prayer, knowing that it is not he who shall finally bring the light, but only that he shall become a messenger for the One who is the light.

### **Of the life of the Brotherhood**

It is the obligation of the Brotherhood to support the work of a brother in his own witness to the gospel. Every brother is vital to the Brotherhood and is an integral member of the body. Let none be lost through negligence, ignorance or pride; but let each be continually fortified and strengthened with brotherly love one toward another.

#### *Regarding ordination:*

*Members of the community who believe they may have a vocation to ordained ministry shall, prior to beginning the ordination process, write an essay to the Minister General setting forth their understanding of the relationship between the religious life and ordained ministry. The Minister General shall use this essay, in consultation with the Director of Education, as a basis for the pastoral support and guidance of the member throughout the discernment and training process. (Council January 1997) The Minister General and Director of Education, making use of this essay, will work with the brother to select a Brotherhood Ordained Ministry Discernment Committee (BOMDC), consisting of at least three members, including, where possible: the Minister Provincial of the member's Province, a member of the community presently serving in the order of ministry to which he feels called, and a brother resident in the same diocese. It shall be the responsibility of the BOMDC to assist the member in discernment prior to engaging with the formal ordination process in his own parish and diocese. (Council March 2001)*

*While the canons of the Episcopal Church provide for a religious community to sponsor a member for ordination, due to the apostolic and nonresidential nature of the Brotherhood, a seconding letter or letter of recommendation rather than canonical sponsorship by Council and the Minister General is deemed appropriate. (Council October 1996)*

*Regarding communication:*

*In light of increased use of the Internet, and the fact that not all members have access to it, an ad hoc committee appointed by Chapter recommended the following procedures to assist in dissemination of news:*

*1) all Ministers Provincial should be on line; where this is not possible, a Minister Provincial should appoint someone to print out and send (or relay by telephone at their mutual agreement) all messages on a regular basis; and*

*2) each Minister Provincial must ensure that all essential information reaches those in the province who are not on line, by appointing an on-line member to convey messages to off-line members through a means agreed upon by both individuals.*

*It was further recommended that the "bulk mail" address be used for personal, Community, or church news, and prayer requests; that senders use the summary line to note urgent messages; that e-mail subscribers notify the "bulk mail" list manager of changes in e-mail addresses; that those using the "bulk mail" for general letters be mindful of those not on line, and send hard copy to them; and that e-mail not become a substitute for more personal means of communication between members. (Chapter August 1997)*

## **Of the work of the Brotherhood**

It is the work of the Brotherhood to witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus, which has been freely bestowed upon us and upon all of creation. This witness grows and is nurtured by a life in conversation with God, and is nourished daily by active prayer and meditation while living fully in the secular world.

A brother will develop the talents given to him by God in his service in the work and worship of the Church. A brother shall use these talents to the best of his ability in the apostolate and ministry to which he is called.

*The Brother John E. Nidecker Memorial Continuing Education Scholarship Fund is established for education assistance to professed members of the community seeking to enhance their ministry. Under custodianship of Director of Education. Grants to be made semiannually at Convocations. Written applications for specific amounts must include back-up material concerning enrollment, cost, purpose, etc. Applications will be reviewed by the Education Committee and one Chapter-elected representative. (Chapter August 1987) No member of the Education Committee, or the representative elected by Chapter, may participate in the discussion of grant requests at any session of the Committee to which he has applied for such a grant himself. (Chapter 2003)*

*Support from the Nidecker Fund is to be used only for tuition and related expenses\* in a program of study leading to a degree, certificate, or credit. This would include both seminary or divinity school training, programs such as EFM, or diocesan ministry training programs such as the Institute of Theology. (Council April 1992). (\* The IRS defines related expenses as including things such as books, fees, supplies; but not food, housing or travel.)*

*It is suitable for members of the Community to serve on the vestry of their parish. (Council November 1986)*

## **Of common worship**

It is the obligation of each brother to participate in the celebration of the eucharist at least once in each week and, when possible, once in each day. He shall properly prepare for and give thanks for this privilege.

*Those who wish to remain quiet during the Peace at Community celebrations of the eucharist should remain seated to indicate this preference.(Chapter July 1993)*

*One, or at most two, members of the Community may be designated by the editor of The Servant to take still photographs or record a videotape during Community liturgies. No other photography or videotaping by members is permitted during the liturgy. (Chapter July 1994)*

*In Community liturgies, every effort will be made to include members in all orders of ministry carrying out the functions assigned in the Book of Common Prayer.(Council October 1996)*

It is the obligation of each brother to pray the offices on a daily basis, and the Book of Common Prayer, or the authorized prayer book of the national or provincial church where a brother resides, is to be used for this purpose. Other offices may be substituted only when a brother is taking part in a communal or public service.

*As part of the adoption of the Book of Common Prayer as office book for the community, Chapter (September 1984) called for an ad hoc committee to draw up guidelines for praying the offices of the Book of Common Prayer in choir. In July 2002, Chapter adopted additional customs for use at Convocation and other gatherings. Some guidelines have been incorporated in the Customary. Others are:*

- *Rite Two forms, and the contemporary language version of the Lord's Prayer are used at all offices.*
- *At the conclusion of all offices, all present observe a period of two to three minutes of silence, ending as indicated by the Officiant*
- *The Confession is omitted at the major offices, since it is an invariable part of Compline. If the community will not be gathered for Compline, the Confession might be used at another office.*
- *The Psalter for Morning and Evening Prayer is taken from the 30-day cycle. In months having 31 days, the Psalter of the 30th day is repeated.*
- *Two Lessons are used at Morning Prayer. After each, the Canticle suggested on page 144 is said (or sung).*
- *One Lesson (normally the Gospel) is used at Evening Prayer, and the Canticle is always Magnificat. On Holy Days (p. 996 ff.) two Lessons are provided for Evening Prayer, and Nunc dimittis is used as the Canticle after the second Lesson. Most major feasts have special Readings provided for Evening Prayer on the Eve of the feast. In these cases the three Lessons appointed for the day are read at Morning Prayer, the lesson from the gospels following the second Canticle. Then the two lessons appointed for the Eve are read at Evening Prayer, with Nunc dimittis used after the second reading.*
- *At Morning Prayer: The Apostle's Creed is always said unless the Eucharist with its own creed is to follow immediately; that is, as part of the same liturgy. It is appropriate to ask the Bishop Visitor, when present, to conclude Morning Prayer with a blessing. Necessary announcements for the day are made after the silence at Morning Prayer (or at an appointed time such as a House Meeting).*
- *At Evening Prayer: The Community Collect is said following the hymn or prayer for mission. The Officiant uses the closing sentence, "The grace of our Lord..." at the end of the Office, and the gathered community responds, "And with our absent brothers."*

*The following collect was authorized for provisional use by the officiant in communal worship, or privately, as an alternative to the “Brotherhood Collect” also known as the “Community Collect” (Council April 2015):*  
*Almighty God, you gave to Gregory the Great the wisdom and will to devote himself to ministry in your church as a servant of the servants of God: Grant that we, who have taken up his name, may serve your people with that same spirit of devotion, Soli Deo Gloria, to God alone the glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

### **Of private devotion**

A brother is required to meditate for fifteen minutes in each day unless he is to hear or deliver a sermon or homily on that day.

A brother shall set aside two hours or more in each week for the study of Holy Scripture or other material on the spiritual life.

The example and teachings of our patron, Saint Gregory the Great, shall be held in high esteem by each brother. A portion of his biography or his writings shall be included in the annual reading of each brother, to be assigned by the Minister General at Annual Chapter.

The strength of the Brotherhood is dependent on the prayer life of each brother.

### **Of individual renewal**

A brother shall make a careful examination of conscience as to his observance of the Rule and report as directed. He shall heed any counsel which may be given to him as a result of this report. All brothers shall be alert to the possibility of a call to retreat at the weekend closest to the patronal festival of the Brotherhood, or at the embertides.

### **Of work as an apostolate**

Work, being our share in creation and partnership with God in that creation, can be sanctified. All labor is equal in glory, honor and importance and the work of a brother should bear these qualities. Keeping in mind that all talents are gifts of the Holy Spirit, the work of all brothers must be to the greater glory of God. Work is an oblation to God, as is service to our fellow man. We must therefore give the best that we can offer.

# **The Constitution**

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## **Article I: Of name**

The community shall be known as the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory.

## **Article II: Of purpose**

- A. The Brotherhood shall, through the consecration of life offered through its Rule, aid in the development of the spiritual life of each of its members.
- B. Members of the Brotherhood shall express and exercise in the world their particular consecration in their apostolic activity, witnessing through daily life to the love of God in Christ Jesus.
- C. The Brotherhood, through its common bond, shall encourage the growth and unity of all its members, as an example to all with whom they come in contact.
- D. Following the direction of the Holy Spirit, the Brotherhood shall serve God in the work and worship of the church.

## **Article III: Of obedience to the church**

The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory observes the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church as the supreme authority under which it functions in obedience. The doctrine and worship of the Episcopal Church is set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, and authorized additions and supplements thereto. The discipline of the Episcopal Church is set forth in its Constitution and Canons.

## **Article IV: Of government**

- A. The three documents by which the members of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory shall be governed, are the Rule, the Constitution, and the Customary.
- B. The amendment of these documents shall require the following majorities of Chapter:
  1. The Rule requires a seven-eighths majority for amendment.
  2. The Constitution requires a three-fourths majority for amendment except for those clauses requiring a greater majority for action; in which cases the same majority required for action shall be required for amendment. This exception itself may only be amended by the largest such majority required in any clause of the Constitution.
  3. The Customary requires a simple majority for amendment.
- C. All amendments to the governing documents must be submitted to the Secretary, in writing, no less than 45 days prior to the beginning of the Convocation at which Chapter will meet, and distributed by him to voting members of Chapter no less than one month prior to the beginning of said Convocation. This requirement may be dispensed with, and other amendments taken up for consideration, by a two-thirds majority vote of Chapter.

*The Secretary shall send a reminder to the community no less than two months prior to the beginning of the Convocation at which Chapter will meet, so that reports can be generated and sent to him by a deadline set no less than forty-five days prior to the beginning of Convocation. Proposed amendments to the governing documents of the community should be sent at the same time as any reports. The Secretary shall assemble an Agenda for each meeting and shall distribute that Agenda to the community no less than one month prior to the beginning of Convocation. All reports shall be filed with the Secretary via email. (Chapter July 2014)*

- D. The final interpretation of the documents of the Brotherhood shall rest with Council.
- E. In addition to the documents above, the members shall be governed by any statutes or rulings of Chapter or Council, which statutes or rulings shall be kept in the minutes of Chapter and Council meetings. No motion (other than procedural or subsidiary) shall be considered for discussion by Chapter or Council until it has been put in written form, delivered to the Secretary, and seconded, except by a two-thirds majority vote.
- F. All amendments to the governing documents and actions of Chapter and Council become effective immediately upon the adjournment of the meeting at which they are adopted, unless an alternative effective date is specified in the enabling resolution.

#### **Article V: Of the Visitor**

- A. The Visitor is the guardian of the Constitution of the community, and is the guarantor to the church at large of the community's sound administration, stability, and right to confidence, and he is also the final court of appeal for the maintenance of its discipline.
- B. The community will seek to serve the Visitor as desired.
- C. The Minister General will report to the Visitor from time to time on the work of the community.
- D. The Community and its leaders may seek the advice, guidance, and counsel of the Visitor from time to time as they deem appropriate.
- E. Upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of Visitor, the Minister General shall invite members of Chapter to nominate bishops determined by the nominators to be willing to serve as Visitor. Council shall elect a Visitor from among the nominees presented.

#### **Article VI: Of Provinces**

- A. Council may establish provinces of the community. All provinces will approximate (as nearly as possible) the provincial lines of the Episcopal Church or churches in communion with it, and shall be referred to by the same designation as used by the church. A minimum of four active professed brothers resident in a province of the church is required for designation as a province of the community. Members resident in provinces of the church which do not have the sufficient number for the formation of a province of the community are assigned as extra-provincial members of the nearest or most convenient province of the Brotherhood, as determined by Council. Should the number of brothers in a province fall below four, Council may dissolve the province, relieving the Minister Provincial of his duties and powers, and

assign the members of the former province as extra-provincial members in accordance with the foregoing.

- B. Provincial Chaplains shall be priests or bishops of the Episcopal Church or church in communion with it who may be appointed by the Minister Provincial to serve as confessors and counselors to the brothers in that province.

### **Article VII: Of the Minister General**

- A. The Founder of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory shall serve as Minister General until his death unless he elects to retire from office (at which time he will give written notice to Chapter and to the Visitor), assumes inactive membership or is removed from office.
- B. A Minister General serving subsequently to the Founder shall be elected to a term of five years by a three-fourths majority vote of Chapter. A Minister General so elected may serve unlimited successive terms. A Minister General must be an active life professed brother.
- C. The election of a Minister General shall take place at the meeting of Chapter at or following which a vacancy in the office occurs. The Secretary of Chapter shall notify the Visitor of the election. The institution of the Minister General shall be accomplished through the Visitor (or a person delegated by the Visitor), at a celebration of the Holy Eucharist to be attended by as many members as possible.
- D. Should it become necessary to seek the removal of the Minister General, Chapter, at a regular meeting or special meeting called by a majority of the Ministers Provincial, shall consider a motion for removal, which shall require a seven-eighths majority for adoption. If motion for removal is adopted, the election of a successor shall then be considered.
- E. Of the duties, rights and powers of the Minister General
  - 1. The Minister General shall guide the Brotherhood with love and affection, with patience, quietude, humility and justice, and being mindful of the motto of the Patron of the Brotherhood, Saint Gregory the Great, be a “Servant of the Servants of God.”  
*The Minister General's Discretionary Fund is available for expenses relating to the exercise of his office. (Chapter August 1990)*
  - 2. The Minister General shall lead the brothers under the guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He shall seek the prayerful advice of Council. He shall also seek the wise counsel of the Visitor.
  - 3. The Minister General, when present, shall serve as chair to the meetings of Chapter and Council, or appoint a professed member of the community to act as chair. When acting as chair the Minister General may vote to break or make a tie. The Minister General has veto power over any action of Chapter or Council, but that veto may be over-ridden by a two-thirds majority vote of the respective body.

### **Article VIII: Of Ministers Provincial and other pastoral and administrative officials**

- A.

1. Ministers Provincial shall be active professed brothers elected by the voting members in the applicable province, with the consent of Council. Other pastoral and administrative officials shall be active professed brothers elected by Council. Council may appoint other officials to offices created by it, and not named in this Article, to assist in the operation of the community, and for its well-being.

*Council has created the following additional offices:*

*Director of Convocation Liturgy and Music, whose responsibilities include planning the Convocation worship schedule, including selection of appropriate hymnody, propers for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and preachers; and working with the director of the schola, arrange for the selection and performance of appropriate choral and instrumental music (Council August 2003)*

*Convocation Infirmarian, who shall be a certified caregiver to assist with emergency and chronic health situations, as appropriate, when the Community is gathered for Convocation (Council August 2003)*

*Cellarer, whose primary duty shall be provisioning snacks and beverages for community use during Convocation recreation (Council January 2004)*

2. Detailed accountabilities of all officials may be subject to periodic review.
3. All officials shall be subject to annual performance review. The Minister General shall be subject to annual performance review by Council.
4. Officials serve for terms of three years, and may serve unlimited successive terms. Officials remain in office until the expiration of their term, their resignation, or their removal.
5. Council may remove an official from his position at any time for just cause.
6. If at any time an official desires to resign his office for any reason, he must notify Council in writing and grant as much notice as he can afford, but not less than thirty days.
7. Upon the end of an official's exercise of an office, equipment, tools or materials purchased or supplied by the community for the exercise of the office, and documents, files or other records, generated or received in the exercise of the office are to be conveyed to his successor in office. Council has the final authority to make decisions concerning the disposition of such items.

*Procedure for election of a Minister Provincial: If a vacancy in the office of Minister Provincial occurs less than three months prior to Annual Chapter, the election shall be held at Convocation at a meeting of the brothers of the Province. Votes by proxy or electronic means are permitted.*

*If a vacancy occurs at other times, the Secretary shall organize an election providing for voting by secret ballot, and upon election the Secretary shall poll the Council for consent. The brother elected shall take office immediately upon receiving the consent of a majority of the members of Council, and shall serve a short term of between two and three years, ending at Annual Chapter. The liturgical commissioning of the brother elected should take place at the first suitable opportunity.*

*In either case, election shall always be by a majority of votes cast. If no candidate receives sufficient votes for election, additional ballots are taken. In all successive ballots, the liberty of voters to vote for any candidate shall not be restricted (for example, it is not permitted to hold "run-offs" between top candidates). Additional nominations may always be made. After any ballot (including the one which constitutes an election) all voters shall be notified of the total votes for each candidate. (Council October 2017)*

*Members having concerns about the performance of officials should bring their concerns to them, or share them with their Ministers Provincial, the Minister General, or one of Chapter's Councilors as appropriate. (Council October 1995)*

*The official BSG stationery is to be used only by those serving in official posts in the community. (Chapter September 1983)*

B. Each Minister Provincial shall coordinate, facilitate and oversee the activities of the community in his province.

*Official visitations by the Minister Provincial or another designated member of the community to all novices' parishes during their novitiate is recommended; financial support for travel expenses involved to be covered by BSG. (Council July 1992).*

C. Pastoral officials

1. The Director of Vocations is responsible for the maintenance of the procedures by which applicants come into contact with the community; specifically the application procedure itself, including organizing and monitoring the interview process, and providing spiritual guidance through the discernment process.

*The Director of Vocations is responsible for instructing all applicants of the procedure for obtaining background checks, and coordinates the Brotherhood's part in the process. (Council November 2002)*

2. The Director of Postulants and Novices is responsible for the training of the postulants and novices. He shall work with the Director of Education in the development of postulants and novices and make frequent reports to the Ministers Provincial under whose jurisdiction his charges come.
3. The Director of Education is responsible for the education of all members of the community. He shall appoint an education committee and head its activities in the development of the educational program of the community.

*The Education Committee meets at each convocation to plan the retreat / workshop for succeeding convocations. Time for individual one-session elective workshops is set aside at Winter Convocations. Those wishing to present workshops, and members with suggestions should contact the Education / Retreat committee prior to the Council meeting. (Council January 1993; April 2015)*

*The Nidecker Fund (q.v.) is under custodianship of Director of Education. (Chapter August 1987)*

D. Administrative officials

1. The Administrator shall supervise arrangement for facilities for meetings of Council and Convocation, and carry out such other administrative tasks as Council may from time to time assign.
2. The Secretary is responsible for maintaining the minutes of Chapter and Council, and for the preparation of documents and their incorporation into the record of the community. The Secretary shall execute and tally all mail ballots required for Chapter or Council.

3. The Treasurer shall maintain the fiscal records of the community.  
*The Treasurer is to transfer funds between the community's accounts in order to avoid bank charges and maintain as high a balance as possible in the interest-bearing accounts. (Council October 1995)*
4. The Director of Public Relations shall maintain and increase contact with communications media and disseminate information about the Brotherhood and its members.  
*Any use of the Brotherhood mailing list soliciting financial support for any program or entity not directly governed by the Community requires the prior approval of Council. (Council January 2001, modified 2011)*

### **Article IX. Of Rules of Order and the Conduct of Meetings**

- A. The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, except as superseded by the Constitution or duly modified, shall be the rules of order governing conduct of meetings.
- B. In the absence of the Minister General or his designee, the senior active professed brother present shall chair the meeting or appoint an active professed brother as chair. The appointed chair may vote to break or make a tie.
- C. Rules on voting
  1. A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the voting members, either present, or voting by letter or telephone.
  2. Majorities are to be determined based upon the number of votes cast in a given ballot.
  3. In all Chapter and Council decisions, absent brothers may vote by telephone or letter.
  4. All elections are to be by secret ballot.
  5. Voting on all matters affecting membership in the community is to be by secret ballot.

### **Article X: Of Chapter**

- A. Chapter shall consist of all active professed brothers, each of whom shall have one vote.
- B. Meetings of Chapter
  1. Chapter shall meet each year, as called by Council. All active professed brothers are required to attend.  
*When the Minister Provincial grants dispensation from Convocation or Chapter attendance, a memo to that effect is to be copied to the person dispensed, the member's Minister General, the Administrator, and in the case of a postulant or novice, the Director of Postulants and Novices. (Chapter July 1998, modified 2011)*  
*All Ministers Provincial, the Director of Education Director of Postulants and Novices, Director of Vocations, Secretary, Treasurer, and Webmaster, provide annual reports to update Chapter on activities since the last Chapter meeting. No confidential matters should be included in these reports. The officials will be notified by the Secretary regarding a submission deadline. (Chapter July 2014)*
  2. Special Chapters may be called by a majority vote of Council, for specific purposes. Notices to attend such Special Chapters shall be written; provided that in an emergency, a Special Chapter may be called through other media.
  3. Postulants and novices may attend Chapter meetings with voice but no vote.

4. In the election or removal of a Minister General, the dissolution of the community, and the amendment of the Rule or Constitution, all voting members are expected to participate.
- C. Duties of Chapter
1. The amendment of the Rule, Constitution and Customary of the community
  2. The election of a Minister General
  3. The dissolution of the community
  4. Chapter may also consider and legislate such matters as are not the specific responsibility of the Minister General or Council.

*Chapter also elects a representative to the Education Committee for determination of grants from the Nidecker Continuing Education Fund. (Chapter August 1987)*

*Chapter may explore the "Consensus Technique" as a way to determine the "mind of the house" before voting. (Council December 1990)*

## **Article XI: Of Council**

- A. Council shall consist of the Minister General, the Ministers Provincial, the Director of Education, the Director of Postulants and Novices, and the Director of Vocations. The Minister General, the remainder of Council concurring, may relieve either of his appointees. Chapter may recall either of its appointees for due cause at any time.
- B. Council shall be consulted by the Minister General on such pastoral matters as may from time to time be required.
- C. Council shall have juridical force, and may not be overruled by the Minister General, in the following matters:
1. The expenditure of more than ten percent of the assets of the community on any one project, mission or program, except in cases where such funds have specifically been received, collected, donated or allocated
- Council establishes budget ceilings on various accounts at the Fall Council meeting. (Chapter August 1990)*
- All contributions to the principal of the Trust Fund maintained with The Episcopal Church are to be authorized by Council. (Council October 1995)*
- The Brotherhood is to maintain only a minimum of needed vestments and liturgical equipment for its own use. The community declines gifts or donations of such items unless approved by Council. (Council October 1995)*
2. The interpretation of the documents of the community
  3. The dismissal of a brother
- D. Council shall meet at least once annually. At other times, meetings may be called as required, and decisions may be reached by letter or telephone as necessary. All members of Council must vote on the issues described in Article XI.C.

*When a Council meeting is held at a facility or retreat or conference center, all Council members shall plan to arrive the night before the meeting if at all possible. (Council December 1988)*

*Individual members of Council are able to ask each other for information on members' observance of the rule (preserving confidentiality, but acknowledging general performance or failure to perform). (Council May 2005)*

*The Secretary shall send a reminder to all Officials holding Council responsibilities no less than four weeks prior to each Council Meeting so that reports can be generated and sent to him by a deadline set no less than three weeks prior to the meeting date. Ministers Provincial shall include in their reports to Council the current activities of all members within their jurisdiction. The Secretary shall assemble an Agenda for each meeting and shall distribute that Agenda to all Officials no less than two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. All reports shall be filed with the Secretary via email. (Council April 2014)*

- E. Active professed brothers may attend Council meetings with voice but no vote, except when Council enters executive session. The Administrator, Treasurer and Secretary shall have seat and voice at meetings of Council, including executive sessions.

## **Article XII: Of membership**

### **A. Eligibility and admission**

1. Any adult male communicant in good standing of the Episcopal Church or any church in communion with it, may apply for membership in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, provided he is at least eighteen years of age and has the conviction that he is called to the religious life as practiced by the Brotherhood.

*Council interprets the term “male” as “a cis male or trans male, stable and secure in a male gender identity, regardless of gender expression.” (Council October 2016)*

2. The right to admit candidates to postulancy belongs to Council.
3. The character and maturity of applicants should be tested. Expert advice may be sought. Recent converts should not be admitted until their constancy has been tested and firmly established.
4. In accord with the above requirements, and any others that may from time to time be deemed necessary, Council shall require of all applicants:

*From the time the Director of Vocations determines (through a preliminary questionnaire) that an inquirer is a viable candidate to submit a full application, all communication between them, including the application itself, will be direct and not go through the main Brotherhood office. No applicant shall be contacted to schedule an interview until such time as his application is complete, all references have been received, and the Director of Vocations has determined the candidate's suitability for further examination. When such suitability has been determined, copies of his complete application shall be sent to all Council members, and an interview arranged, but no less than three weeks from the receipt by Council of the application. (Council March 2001, and Council December 1987, amended)*

*All applicants are required to submit, along with their application, payment and authorization as necessary for the execution of background checks in accordance with the policy established by the House of Bishops Standing Committee on Religious Communities. (Council November 2002)*

*The Education Committee, in consultation with the Director of Vocations is authorized to limit the number of applicants interviewed. (Council October 1996)*

*Applicants are expected to cover their own travel expenses for their initial interview, and the Community will offer “scholarship” assistance if needed, and cover housing and meals. (Council March 2006)*

- a. written proof of parish affiliation and church membership
- b. evidence of date of birth
- c. the names and addresses of three references: pastoral, parochial and personal

- d. a complete curriculum vitae, resume or biography, including information concerning association with any other order, community, or institute, whether of this communion or another
  - e. a personal interview to be arranged by the Director of Vocations, to include the prospective Minister Provincial and at least one other professed brother.
5. A person shall have been invalidly accepted, and will be subject to immediate dismissal if:
- a. any information given by him in his application or interview shall be shown to be false or intended to mislead
  - b. he has concealed previous or current association with any other order, community or institute
  - c. he is liable to furnish an account of his actions to a judge or some other authority making legitimate inquiry

*Inquirers are encouraged to attend Provincial Quiet Days, especially Vocation Days. They may attend the Convocation main service (Saturday) and may – if necessary – arrive on Friday afternoon or evening, departing Saturday evening, or Sunday. Postulants-prospective will not be admitted until Friday, the retreat time of Convocation providing them with an opportunity to consider the step they are about to take. (Council June 1989)*

#### B. Postulancy

1. Postulancy is a period of probation in which newly admitted members begin their training in the religious life of the community, that they may more deeply consider their vocation from God, and especially to the Brotherhood, and that they may test their own resolve and fitness.
2. Postulancy shall normally require a minimum of one year. Extensions or variations shall be at the discretion of Council, as shall be the release of a postulant who is felt by them not to have a true vocation to this community.
3. A postulant may withdraw from association with the Brotherhood at any time, if he feels that the life of this community is not that to which God is calling him. He shall give notice of his intent to withdraw to his Minister Provincial, who is responsible for the recovery of his cross.

*It is the responsibility of the Minister Provincial to notify the community of the departure or withdrawal of a postulant, novice or brother. (Council April 2000)*

#### C. Novitiate

1. A postulant shall be received as a novice by Council. Special regard shall be paid to the opinions of the Minister Provincial of the candidate's province, the Director of Postulants and Novices, and the Director of Education.

*Based upon the report of the Director of Postulants and Novices, Council approves the advancement of postulants to the novitiate at the Spring Council meeting. (Council April 2015)  
Official visitations by the Minister Provincial or another designated member of the community to all novices' parishes during their novitiate is recommended; financial support for travel expenses involved to be covered by BSG. (Council July 1992)*

2. The term of the novitiate shall be two years but may be extended. Such extension shall not go beyond one additional year. If at that time the novice is not nominated and approved for profession, he shall be released from the community by Council.
3. The novice should be led by the Brotherhood to the cultivation of human and Christian virtues; guided on the path of perfection through humility of heart; formed in the application of the principles of the interior life; instructed to contemplate the mystery of salvation and to read and meditate upon Sacred Scripture; educated in a program of life consecrated to God and to humanity in Christ by means of the vows; taught the nature, purpose, spirituality, discipline and history of the community; and exercised in the style of life proper to the Brotherhood.
4. Members of the community should take care that they cooperate in the training of the novices by example of their life and work.
5. A novice may be released at his own request, or be dismissed at any time for just cause, by Council. The Minister Provincial is responsible for the recovery of the former novice's cross and habit.

*It is the responsibility of the Minister Provincial to notify the community of the departure or withdrawal of a postulant, novice or brother. (Council April 2000)*

#### D. Profession of vows

1. Procedure
  - a. One month before the Council meeting prior to the possible date of his profession, a novice shall inform Council, in writing, of his desire to make first profession of vows.
  - b. Council shall determine the readiness of the novice to make first profession. Special regard shall be paid the opinions of the Minister Provincial of the candidate's province, the Director of Postulants and Novices, and the Director of Education.
  - c. Upon the positive recommendation of Council, the active professed brothers of the novice's province shall vote to determine their support for his profession.

*When Council votes on membership matters, balloting is based upon a 0–10 scale vote rather than Yes/No vote; balloting for first or life profession is also carried out in this way. (Council December 1990)*
2. The annual vows of profession shall be in force for one year at a time, and are to be renewed at the end of each year. Council may alter the term of annual vows.
3. By means of the annual vows, the brother takes upon himself the public observance of the three evangelical counsels, namely poverty, chastity and obedience, as described by the Rule of the Brotherhood, stabilized by a sacred promise to God, and the signing of an instrument of profession.
4. By making his first profession of vows a novice becomes a full member of the community, entitled to all privileges of the same, as well as becoming liable for all the responsibilities full membership entails.
5. A brother must have completed his twentieth year of age before being eligible for annual profession.

6. One month before the Council meeting prior to the possible date of his renewal of annual vows, a brother shall inform his Minister Provincial of his desire to make this continued commitment. The Minister Provincial shall communicate this request to Council for information.

#### E. Life Profession

1. A brother is eligible for life profession of vows when he has completed a term of five years in annual vows, and Council feels that he is prepared for this commitment. A brother considering life profession shall make this known to his Minister Provincial no less than ten months prior to his prospective life profession. Following upon a process of engagement and discernment, the Minister Provincial may nominate the brother for life profession at the Council meeting preceding the the date of the proposed life profession. A Minister Provincial considering life profession shall engage with the Minister General in a similar process. Upon the positive recommendation of Council, all active life professed members shall vote to determine their support for his life profession.

*Council interprets the phrase "in annual vows" in Art. XI.E.1 as not including time spent on full dispensation. This period of time shall not be counted towards the five year term required before eligibility for Life Profession. (Council December 1987)*

2. While life profession carries with it no further authority, it is understood that those who have by the grace of God made this dedication of themselves are due respect worthy the dignity of their consecration.

#### F. Termination of Membership: Withdrawal or Dismissal

1. Termination of membership in the community, whether at the request of a member or by the decision of Council, brings about release from all responsibilities and obligations to the community, relinquishment of all rights and privileges therein, and full dispensation from observance of its Rule and statutes.
2. Withdrawal from the community
  - a. A professed brother may withdraw from the community by submitting his withdrawal in writing to Council. Council may request a brother submitting his withdrawal to meet with it to discuss his reasons. Upon Council's ratification of this withdrawal, which shall not be withheld without reason being given in writing, the brother's membership shall be considered terminated.
  - b. A professed brother who upon the determination of Council has abandoned the communion of the Episcopal Church shall be held to have requested withdrawal from membership in the community, notified of this determination, and given reasonable opportunity to respond before the withdrawal is ratified.

*Chapter 2003 clarified that a brother who challenges the determination of Council concerning his withdrawal can not be held to have withdrawn or requested withdrawal, and that if further action were desired it would have to come under the title of dismissal, and addressed accordingly.*

- c. The failure of a brother in annual profession to renew his vows will be considered as equivalent to request for withdrawal.

3. Dismissal from the community
  - a. Council may initiate proceedings for the termination of a professed brother's membership in the community for cause, not limited to the following:
    - i. Persistent disobedience, or refusal to accept the obligations of the community embodied in the Rule
    - ii. Having been the culpable cause of imminent and very grave or exterior scandal, or of harm to the community
  - b. Council must follow this procedure in order to effect dismissal:
    - i. Council must vote to initiate the proceeding. This initiation requires only a simple majority.
    - ii. The member whose dismissal is under consideration shall be notified by certified return receipt mail, or by hand with signed acknowledgment of receipt, that such an action is being contemplated, and must be given the date, location and time of the meeting called to give effect to the dismissal.
    - iii. The member shall be notified of the reason for the proposed dismissal and shall be given opportunity to offer any defense.
    - iv. Only after these conditions have been met shall Council vote on the actual dismissal. The dismissal shall require a three-fourths majority, and will be effective immediately.
4. The Minister Provincial of the province of a former member is responsible for the recovery of his cross (and life profession ring) and habit, and for notifying the community of the withdrawal or dismissal.

#### G. Membership Status: Active or Inactive

1. Members who are able to participate fully in the common life of the community regardless of temporary dispensation are “active” for all purposes set forth in this Constitution, Rule and Customary.
2. Members who become unable at the determination of Council to participate substantially, if at all, without grave difficulty in the common life of the community due to physical or mental disability shall not be subject to dismissal solely on account of this inability to participate. In accordance with guidelines established from time to time by it, Council may designate such members as “inactive” in order that such members might remain lovingly and meaningfully a part of the Gregorian community for the rest of their natural lives.
3. Use of the adjective “active” in this Constitution, Rule and Customary shall necessarily exclude from its meaning “inactive” members. An inactive brother may attend Chapter with voice but no vote. Nor shall an inactive member vote in Province elections or any other decisions, though he shall retain a voice when permitted to attend meetings.

*Council adopted the following guidelines for Inactive Status at the July 2005 meeting and added a proviso at the October 2005 meeting:*

1. *The Minister Provincial, acting on a professed brother's request, or, if the brother is unable to act, the Minister Provincial on his own initiative, may petition Council to place the brother on an*

- “inactive” status of community membership. Said petition should summarize the factual justification for inability to participate fully in the broad life of the community, with or without dispensation. In an exercise of due diligence appropriate for the individual circumstances of the case presented, Council shall ensure that the criteria for “inactive” status have been satisfied. (Note: placement on inactive status requires a majority vote of Council. In the case of a Minister General inactive status may only be assigned at his request.)*
- 2. Inactive status is appropriate when a brother suffers from a severe physical or mental disability rendering him unable to participate substantially in the life of the community without grave difficulty, if at all. Examples of when Council might approve inactive status include, without limitation, the following:
    - a. The brother is diagnosed with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease; or*
    - b. The brother needs to and does reside in an assisted living center, or nursing home, or other similar long-term residential institution, where travel is unadvised or amounts to an undue burden; or*
    - c. The brother is receiving hospice care; or*
    - d. But for the physical assistance of a partner, spouse, or health professional, the brother could not safely live in an independent setting and instead would require an institutional living arrangement with proximate availability of health care.**
  - 3. Inactive status may be reversed upon the request of a brother or upon the determination of Council.*
  - 4. A brother granted inactive status remains as an inactive member of a province. (October 2005)*

### **Article XIII: Of temporal possessions and dissolution**

- A. The administration of the temporal possessions of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory is the responsibility of Council.
- B. The decision to dissolve the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory is the responsibility of Chapter. The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory may only be dissolved by a seven-eighths majority vote of Chapter, with the approval of the Visitor.
- C. In the event of the dissolution of the community, or if it should cease to exist, the following formula applies: All property is to be sold and monies realized from such sale, together with monies held in trusts or bank accounts, to be centralized into a single fund. After the settlement of any and all outstanding debts, the total residue is then to be divided into shares representing the number of brothers under vows of profession at the time of dissolution. These shares are to be presented to the dioceses in which those brothers were resident in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

## **The Customary**

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### **Of the habit**

The habit of a professed brother is a white tunic with hood, extending to the ankles; a cincture of brown with the three-fold vows represented by knots; and a brown scapular. The Brotherhood cross shall be worn, with a silver-colored chain. The Minister General's chain shall be gold-colored.

Those in life vows shall wear a plain gold band on the third finger of the right hand.

The habit of a novice is a white tunic with hood, and a cincture of brown. The Brotherhood cross without the obverse inscription shall be worn with a brown or black cord.

A postulant does not have a habit. He shall wear the Brotherhood cross without obverse inscription.

In his Will and burial instructions, a brother shall provide for the return of his life profession ring and Brotherhood cross to the community. It is fitting that he be buried or cremated in the tunic, scapular and cincture.

### **Of the Brotherhood cross**

The Brotherhood cross shall be inscribed on the reverse, "St. Gregory the Great," and on the obverse, "Soli Deo Gloria."

The Brotherhood cross must be worn with all clerical dress.

All brothers are encouraged to wear the Brotherhood cross with street dress.

### **Of street dress (the "work habit")**

The street dress of a lay professed brother may consist of any attire recognized as appropriate for lay religious, and the Brotherhood cross.

*There is nothing in the Customary that would prevent professed brothers from wearing the "traditional [Christian] Brothers' shirts." (Council December 1988)*

The street dress of a professed or novice brother may consist of the Witness Shirt and the Brotherhood cross.

### **Of the Brotherhood and those outside its life**

Brothers should never discuss personal problems or situations of a member of the community with anyone outside the community. The personal affairs of former brothers and private matters of other communities are not suitable for discussion by brothers.

### **Of seniority in the liturgy**

In procession, the more junior members of the community enter first. In choir, more junior members sit closer to the altar and to the choir aisle.

*Seats are assigned in choir, not to establish a hierarchy, but so individuals may be in the same place from day to day. (Chapter July 1991)*

At the eucharist during which a brother makes his life profession of vows, he receives communion immediately after the ministers, before the rest of the community.

Variations in order of procession and seating may be made when necessary.

### **Of the officiant at the offices**

When brothers gather to say the office, the senior brother present either officiates or chooses the officiant. The officiant then chooses the lector(s).

### **Of personal and corporate retreat**

A brother must make a retreat within ninety days before his first and life profession of vows. Associated with each annual chapter meeting shall be the Annual Convocation of the Brotherhood. All brothers and postulants are required to attend. Council may call other Convocations of the community, attendance at which shall not be mandatory.

*When a Minister Provincial grants dispensation from Convocation or Chapter attendance, a memo to that effect be copied to the person dispensed, the Minister General, the Administrator, and in the case of a postulant or novice, the Director of Postulants and Novices. (Chapter July 1998, amended 2011)*

*Convocation weeks begin on the third Sunday in January and last Sunday in July. (Chapter August 1990) The closing service of Annual Convocation is the Mission Service on Saturday evening, the travel days being Monday and Sunday. (Chapter July 1993) Travel days for the Winter Convocation are also Monday and Saturday. (Council April 2011) Note: Travel days and dates of Convocations will change from year to year, as set by Council.*

*Spouses and significant others should not arrive as visitors at Convocation until Saturday. If overnight accommodation for Friday or Saturday is needed, they should be referred to local facilities. It is appropriate for such visitors to attend the first and life professions of a member of the community. (Council October 2001)*

### **Of reflection and response**

Brothers shall take regular opportunities for reflection and self-examination, under the guidance of the pastoral officials of the community, who may provide resources and direction to assist them

in the exercise of this spiritual discipline. The traditional Ember Days are particularly appropriate occasions for such reflection and dialogue.

The report required by the Rule (Of individual renewal) shall be made at a mutually agreeable time, at least annually, and in person if possible. Ministers Provincial shall report to the Minister General, and other brothers shall report to their Minister Provincial. The Minister General shall report to a chaplain or spiritual director chosen by him, who need not be a member of the community.

### **Of the form of address “Brother” and the initials of the community**

A postulant may sign his name, \_\_\_\_\_, p/BSG. He shall not be formally addressed as, “Brother.”

A novice may be formally addressed as, “Brother,” and sign his name, \_\_\_\_\_, n/BSG.

A professed brother may sign his name, \_\_\_\_\_, BSG.

All novices and professed members, lay and ordained, are appropriately addressed as “Brother.”

### **Of wills**

A postulant shall deliver a sealed copy of his burial instructions to the Minister General and Minister Provincial no later than two months before his reception into the novitiate.

A novice shall deliver a sealed true copy of his Last Will and Testament to the Minister General and Minister Provincial no later than two months before his first profession of vows. A professed brother shall supply them with a true copy of any later alteration or amendment to his Will or burial instructions, no later than one month after such change is made.

No article of the burial instructions or Will may place a financial burden or other responsibility upon the Community or any of its members unless adequate provision has been made for its execution.

### **Of the tithe**

The Brotherhood joins the Episcopal Church in affirming that the tithe is the minimum standard of Christian giving. All members shall contribute at least five percent of their annual adjusted gross income to the Brotherhood. A postulant, upon admission, will contribute to the support of the Brotherhood at this level, or use the time of postulancy to reorder his stewardship in order to be able to do so by his reception into the novitiate.

All brothers are expected, in fulfillment of their vow of poverty as members of the Church and in acceptance of its discipline, to contribute no less than five percent of their adjusted gross income to the Church through their parish, diocese, province or national church.

As a further understanding of the vow of poverty, each professed brother will contribute one-half of one percent of his annual adjusted gross income to the BSG Benevolent Trust.

*The Benevolent Trust was established under this resolution (Chapter July 1993):*

**Resolved,** That Council appoint five initial Trustees charged with the creation of a BSG Benevolent Trust no later than December 31, 1993. The purpose of the Trust shall be to provide emergency assistance to members in need. The Trust shall be established in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. Professed brothers will be required to contribute to and be eligible for assistance from the Trust.
2. As a further understanding of his vow of poverty each professed brother will contribute one-half of one percent of his adjusted gross income to the Trust. This will be in addition to the five percent payable to the Community. Other voluntary contributions and bequests may be made. Under current IRS guidelines these contributions are not tax-deductible.
3. Trustees will be responsible for monitoring contributions to the Trust.
4. Trustees will be solely responsible for all decisions relative to the operation of the Trust. Trustees will make an annual report of the names of all contributors, gross receipts and disbursements, and balances available to interested brothers.
5. Except for operating expenses, funds will not be disbursed from the Trust until a capital sum of \$50,000 is reached. Benevolence grants will be made from earned income only.

*When a member is granted a dispensation regarding his financial obligation to the community, this is understood also to include dispensation from the Benevolent Trust contribution. (May 2005)*

A novice shall not be permitted to make first profession of vows until he is in compliance with this article of the Customary.

The Brotherhood shall bear the cost of all housing and meal expenses related to Chapter and Council meetings. The Brotherhood shall bear the cost of travel expenses to Chapter and Council meetings in accordance with guidelines approved by Council at its final meeting in each year, to be effective for the following year and published in the minutes of that meeting. The Brotherhood shall bear the cost of providing one complete habit for each brother.

*All frequent flyer or other accumulated benefits incurred by community members in reimbursed travel to and from community events are to be used for further travel on behalf of the community. Further that all members are encouraged to take advantage of such frequent flyer programs as appropriate. (Council July 1992) Automotive travel reimbursement is set at the current rate established by the IRS. Council may establish a ceiling on total travel expenses to be reimbursed for Chapter and Council. (Council October 2005)*

*Travel Advances must be accounted for within 30 days following the event for which it was issued. Anyone failing to account for a Travel Advance within 30 days following the event, and who has not spoken with the Treasurer about a delay, will lose this privilege for future Travel Advances for the period of one year. A Travel Advance will not be issued to anyone who has not accounted for a previous Travel Advance. Reimbursement for current travel expenses will not be made until any prior Travel Advance has been*

*accounted for. (Council April 2000) All requests for reimbursements for any expenses incurred and reconciliation of advances made for travel or other expenses must be made no more than sixty days from the date on which the expenses are incurred. (Council January 2003)*

### **Of the Name in Religion**

The name in religion given at novitiate, whether sanctifying the old or signifying the new, reflects the brother's commitment to a life in community that is integral to and at unity with his whole life. Therefore, any brother who upon admission to the novitiate chooses a name in religion other than his current legal name, is required to show evidence of a legal name change no later than his first profession of vows. Any professed brother who wishes to change his name in religion must similarly show evidence of a legal name change.

*Professed brothers who wish to continue to be known by a name in religion different from their current legal name, are required to show evidence of a legal name change no later than July 2003. Any unwilling or unable to make such a change will after that time be known by their legal names. (Chapter July 2002)*

*Council interprets this not to mandate the use of a brother's legal middle name in community when it is not his practice to use it in daily life. (Council November 2010)*

### **Of Dispensation: Modification of observance of the Rule**

When a professed brother is unable for any reason to fulfill an obligation of his vows, he may request a dispensation from his Minister Provincial (or in the case of a Minister Provincial the Minister General, or of the Minister General the Minister Provincial of his province of residence), who may grant such dispensation from the observance of the relevant requirement.

The terms and conditions of the dispensation shall be specified in writing, a record of which shall be filed with Council. The Pastoral Official or Council may modify or end a dispensation at any time. A brother may request such termination or modification at any time, subject to the approval of the relevant Pastoral Official. The Pastoral Official shall file a record of the termination or modification of the dispensation with Council.

## **Miscellaneous Actions of Chapter and Council**

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### **Sexual harassment and misconduct policy (Council, October 1992; November 2002)**

The practice of sexual harassment (persistent and unwelcome sexual advances towards another person) is inherently incompatible with the vow of chastity as understood by the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, in which the members are bound to live “free from indecency or offensiveness and restrained from all excess, in order to be free to love others without trying to possess or control.” Those who persist in such behavior, either within or without the community, will be held to be in violation of the vow of chastity, and subject to disciplinary action or dismissal by Council, the standards of due process, fair hearing, examination and substantiation of evidence being observed. The more serious matter of sexual misconduct (forced or coerced sexual domination of another person) must also be seen as a violation of the vow. Further, since the Constitution XII.F.3.a.ii renders a member who is the “culpable cause of imminent and very grave or exterior scandal . . . “ subject to dismissal, and since sexual misconduct may render a person liable to civil or criminal prosecution, any member determined by Council to be guilty of sexual misconduct shall be immediately subject to dismissal, the standards of due process, fair hearing, examination and substantiation of evidence being observed.

Any knowledge or well-founded suspicion of sexual misconduct by a member of the community must be referred to the Minister General or a member of Council immediately.

Note: All Postulants within six months of their admission to the Postulancy, and all present postulants, novices, and professed, be required to file with the Secretary a certificate from their Diocese or other competent entity satisfactory to the House of Bishops Standing Committee on Religious Communities, indicating completion of the required training in Adult Sexual Misconduct Awareness.

### **Koinonia Statement (Chapter July 1995)**

Chapter affirmed the Koinonia Statement presented by the Bishop of Newark to the House of Bishops at the 71<sup>st</sup> General Convention. This affirmation does not imply full agreement with all of the assertions or conclusions of the Koinonia Statement on the part of the Chapter of the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory or its individual members, but seeks to acknowledge the Statement as an articulate, positive, and productive step in the dialogue to which the church has been called.

### **Holy Habits Resolution (Chapter 2003)**

The Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, meeting in General Chapter 2003, join the Bishops and Deputies of the 74th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in affirming the following declaration:

As Christian stewards and leaders of the Episcopal Church, we affirm that we are tithing, or have adopted a plan to work toward tithing as a minimum standard for our giving; and that, if we are not already doing so, we are committed to give priority to corporate worship, personal daily prayer and study, and Sabbath time in our own lives; and we invite all members of the Episcopal Church to join us in these holy habits.

### **Guidelines for Formation Day (Council July 2014)**

- The former Novice Day was renamed Formation Day to avoid confusion.
- All in formation, their mentors and ministers provincial, and the Directors of Education and of Postulants and Novices should attend. (Postulants-prospective would not attend.)
- The community will arrange for meals at the house, being willing to pay an additional expense if necessary for meals when there are fewer in attendance.
- Cabs can be taken from Beacon or Poughkeepsie to avoid the considerable uncertainty about cab service at New Hamburg.
- The travel day is Sunday, so that formal work can begin Monday morning.

### **Guidelines for the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory Sanctoral (Chapter 2016)**

The Brotherhood maintains a community Sanctoral (“the Sanctoral”) of commemorations and feast days for the Brotherhood.

The basis of the Sanctoral is the authorized Calendar of The Episcopal Church (as it appears in the 2006 edition of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, as ratified by General Convention 2009, and as and if it is further amended by future actions of the Church).

Exemplars of the Christian and religious life (including those recognized by the wider Church) whose witness has substantially influenced the life and ministry of the Brotherhood may be added to the Sanctoral by means of the following process:

- At the Fall Council meeting during a General Convention year, Council appoints a Sanctoral Committee of five members of the community to:
- Inform the community of authorized additions to the Church Calendar used as the basis of the Sanctoral;
- Solicit suggestions from members of the Brotherhood for additions to or changes in the Sanctoral. Suggestions are to be accompanied by a “case statement” explaining the proposed commemoration’s substantial influence on or relevance to the Brotherhood;
- Compile all suggestions, report them to the community, and solicit response using a consensus poll to determine breadth of support for each suggestion;
- Review results of the polling, and propose those commemorations meeting a threshold of broad consensus for ratification by Chapter; and
- Update the Sanctoral according to the ratification of Chapter and make the Sanctoral and related resources available to the community.

Members of the community remain fully at liberty to supplement the Sanctoral in their personal and local congregational devotional life. In accordance with the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer (pp. 1518), all commemorations apart from Principal Feasts, Sundays, and Holy Days are optional; all may, none must, some should observe them.