

**Proposed Amendments
to Selected Bylaws
of
The Order of the Daughters of
the King**

**To Be Presented to the Delegates at the
2009 Triennial Business Meeting in
Anaheim, California
July 2009**

**Prepared by
The Bylaws Committee**

The Bylaws Committee's Work

Lena Nealley, Chair of the Bylaws Committee, has orchestrated the lengthy and complicated process of proposing amendments, getting feedback, and proposing revised and re-revised versions. She has been assisted by two province presidents, Phyllis Larson, of Province I, and Phyllis Easley, of Province VI. This core committee then received help from off-Council coordinator Diane Brown, who in 1987-88 actually worked on the original amendments that permitted chapters to be formed in Roman Catholic churches for the first time. The committee also benefited from frequent consultation with a highly qualified parliamentarian, Eleanor Siewert, who had also been parliamentarian in 1988.

Once a coherent draft was in hand, the committee consulted the rest of the Province

Presidents, and during this past year received feedback from several Province retreats and assemblies, as well as individual comments from Daughters who reviewed the proposal that was posted on the DOK website. In October, when the National Council met in Anaheim, Lena reviewed with them the points in the proposal that had received the most comment, and the Council asked for further changes. The committee then incorporated those, with a final round of editorial work in which they were particularly helped by a Province VIII Board member, Flo Krejci.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, . . . ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given . . ." James 1:5.

Checking Textual Accuracy

When this bylaws committee was formed, we received some inquiries as to which version of the bylaws we were going to use. These inquiries suggested that changes had been made that had not been voted on by the Triennial delegates but specifics were not given.

So I created an Excel Spreadsheet to compare the different versions of the bylaws. I first compared the bylaws in the handbook dated 2005 to the bylaws in the handbook dated 2004. They were not the same. Next I compared 2004 to 2003. They were not the same. My next step was to compare 2005 to 2003. Except for some minor "word smithing" (which did not change the essence of the bylaw) they were the same. I then compared 2005 to 1997. There were some word changes but again the essence of the bylaws remained the same. It was discovered that a bylaw change made at the 1997 Triennial was never put in the bylaws. That has now been corrected.

So the bylaws in the 2005 handbook were used as a starting point once they were corrected with the changes made at the 1997 and 2006 Triennials.

For His Sake,

Phyllis Larson
Province I President



Lena
Nealley



Phyllis
Easley, R.N.



Phyllis
Larson



Lena reviews comments on the bylaws amendments with the National Council.

Selected Current Bylaws

(from the 2006 Edition of the DOK Handbook)

Article III. Members

Section 1. All members must be women communicants of the Episcopal Church, or of other Churches in communion with it, or of Churches with the Historic Episcopate but not in communion with it.

Section 2. Every woman who becomes a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King shall take the vow to observe the two Rules of the Order: The Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service, at a Service of Admission in the Church.

A. The Rule of Prayer: Each member promises, in addition to seeking to grow daily in a life of prayer, to pray daily for the spread of Christ's Kingdom; for God's blessing upon all members of the Order; and for the spiritual growth of the parish.

B. The Rule of Service: Each member promises to take part regularly in the worship, study and work of the Church; to undertake a personal program of evangelism to bring others to Christ; to give aid to the Priest-in-charge for the up-building of the parish; and to minister to God's people wherever she is.

C. Corporate Communion of the Order: In addition to faithful participation in the Eucharist, each member shall regard it as her duty and privilege to prepare for and attend, if possible, a Corporate Communion of the Order on All Saints' Day.

Proposed Amendments to Selected Bylaws

Article III. Members

Section 1. All members must be baptized women communicants of the Episcopal Church, of other Churches in communion with the Episcopal Church, or of Churches with the Historic Episcopate but not in communion with the Episcopal Church. Every member of the Order is referred to as a Daughter in these bylaws. All Daughters paying full dues are entitled to equal membership status (right to vote and hold office).

Rationale: All Daughters promise to follow the Rule of Life. "No taxation without representation."

Section 2. The Rule of Life: Every woman who becomes a member of the Order of the Daughters of the King shall take the vow to observe the two Rules of the Order, the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service, at a Service of Admission in the church. (*Rationale: Adds title, for clarity.*)

A. The Rule of Prayer: Each Daughter seeks to grow daily in a life of prayer and promises to pray daily for the spread of Christ's kingdom, for God's blessing on all Daughters, and for the spiritual growth of her church. (*Rationale: Slight rewording and punctuation changes, for clarity.*)

B. The Rule of Service: Each Daughter promises to take part regularly in the worship, study, and work of the church, to undertake a personal program of evangelism to bring others to Christ, to give aid to the clergy of her church for its upbuilding, and to minister to God's people wherever she is. (*Rationale: Slight rewording for clarity.*)

Moved to Article III, Section 3, E.

(Rationale: The basic requirements for membership are listed first.)

Article III (continued)

Section 3. Membership

A. In an existing parish or Institutional Chapter:

1) Upon approval of the Rector or Priest-in-charge, any woman communicant of a parish or mission who accepts the two Rules of the Order, shall be eligible for membership after a three-month preparation period of concentrated study, training, prayer and service.

2) Any baptized woman communicant in a church-related or non-church related institution who accepts the two Rules of this Order and is approved by the head of the Institution, its Chaplain or the Bishop if it is a non-church related institution (retirement, assisted living facility or prison) shall be eligible for membership.

B. In a Diocesan Chapter, sometimes called a Bishop's Chapter:

1) Those eligible to become members shall be women in rural areas, or in parishes where there is no chapter. In special cases a woman who is unable to belong to the Chapter in her parish may be eligible.

2) Preparation for membership shall be under the direction of the Chapter President, the Diocesan President or the Bishop.

See Article III, Section 6, D.

Article III (continued)

Section 3. Membership

A. Discernment Period: Every woman seeking to become a member of the Order shall participate in a period of preparation, prayer, service, and concentrated study at least 3 months in length, using an approved study guide and led by a Daughter if possible, before being admitted to the Order.

(Rationale: Discernment period is clearly stated for all Daughters.)

B. Admission to a Chapter: A woman is admitted to the Order as a member of a chapter.

1) In an existing or newly formed chapter, a woman who is approved by the senior clergy and accepts the two Rules of the Order shall be eligible for membership in that chapter after the appropriate discernment period.

(Rationale: Reworded for clarity).

2) Similarly, a woman who meets membership requirements, is approved by the head of an institution and its chaplain (or the Bishop if it is a non-church-related institution), and accepts the two Rules of the Order shall be eligible for membership in an institutional chapter after the appropriate discernment period.

(Rationale: Reworded for clarity).

Diocesan Chapters are now covered in Article IV, Chapters, Section 1, E.B. 2 Omitted. Preparation is the same for all Daughters, as stated in Article III, Section 3, C (2).

3) The Greek Fleury Cross, which belongs to the Order, shall be sent for each new Daughter.

(Rationale: Moved from Dues: Art III, Section 3, C, 6, for order. Reworded for clarity.)

Article III, Section 3. (continued)

C. Daughters-at-Large:

- 1) Daughters who are not members of a chapter shall be called Daughters-at-Large.

- 2) Daughters who leave the Episcopal Church to become members of Churches having Affiliate Chapters may become Daughters-at-Large in such Churches and should follow the appropriate procedures for Daughters-at-Large in that Church.

- 3) Daughters in good standing who leave their church to become members of churches in which chapters may be formed but in which no chapters have yet been formed may remain Daughters-at-Large subject to their vows and their obligation to continue to pay membership dues (new: 2006 Triennial).

- 4) They shall pay National, Provincial and Diocesan dues and any offering to the National Office.

- 5) Contact should be maintained with the National Chairman for Daughters-at-Large whose name and address appear in *The Royal Cross* and with the Provincial and Diocesan Chairman for Daughters-at-Large.

D. Junior Daughters of the King

- 1) There shall be Junior Daughters of the Order. They shall be under the direction of the National Council, one of whose members shall be appointed Chairman for Junior Daughters. The Junior Chapter shall be under the guidance and support of the Senior Chapter in the parish where one exists.

- 2) The Directress of the Chapter shall be a Senior Daughter.

Article III, Section 3. (continued)

C. Daughters-at-Large:

- 1) A Daughter who is a member of a church that does not have a chapter shall be called a Daughter-at-Large. A member of the National Council shall be appointed chair for Daughters-at-Large.
(Rationale: Reworded for clarity.)

- 2) A Daughter who is a member of a church where a chapter exists is a member of that chapter.
(Rationale: A Daughter vows to support the clergy of the church she attends.)

Section 3, C 2) Omitted
(Rationale: No "Affiliate Chapters.")

3) A Daughter-at-Large is responsible for continuing to fulfill the Rule of Life. She shall send full dues with any funds offering to the National Office.
(Rationale: Rewording for clarity—combines meaning of 3) and 4) of current bylaws.)

4) A Daughter-at-Large shall maintain communication with the National Office and the national Daughters-at-Large chair (whose name and address appear in *The Royal Cross*) and with the provincial and diocesan Daughters-at-Large chairs, including her contact information and whether she has become a member of a chapter.
(Rationale: Rewording for clarity.)

D. Junior Daughters of the King

- 1) Junior Daughters are baptized girls from 7 to 21 who accept the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service for as long as they remain members.

- 2) The Junior Daughters of the King shall be under the general direction of the National Council. A member of the National Council shall be appointed chair for Junior Daughters.

(Refer to Article III, Section II, C).

3) A Junior Chapter of at least three eligible girls may be organized in any parish in which a Daughters' chapter is eligible to be formed with the approval of the clergy and an adult Daughter serving as Directress.

4) A Junior Daughter who is at least 16 and meets membership requirements may become an adult Daughter after participating in a period of discernment, study, prayer, and service.

5) The Junior DOK will have a handbook.
(Rationale: 3) through 5) More complete information about Jr. DOK, per their handbook.)

E. Corporate Communion of the Order: In addition to faithful participation in the Eucharist, each Daughter shall regard it as her duty and privilege to prepare for and attend, if possible, a Corporate Communion of the Order on All Saints' Day.
(Rationale: Moved from Article III, Section 2, C, for order. Basic requirements listed first.)

Section 4. Resignation or Death:

A. If a member finds that she cannot fulfill the vow, she may resign from the Order, after consultation with her Priest- in-charge or Rector. She or the Secretary of the Chapter shall return the Cross of the Order to the National Office and ask that her name be removed from the Membership list. There shall be no refund of dues or registration fees upon resignation.

B. Any Daughter, unable to attend meetings because of advanced age, failing health or invalidism:

1) Should not feel it necessary to, or be required to, resign and return the Cross. She has taken the vow and is entitled to wear the Cross in good faith.

2) If a member is unable to pay dues, her Chapter is encouraged to pay them for her so she may continue her membership, receive *The Royal Cross* and be listed at the National Office. Scholarship funds are available upon request.

Section 4. Resignation or Death

A. Resignation: If a Daughter finds she cannot fulfill her vows, she may resign from the Order after consultation with her clergy.

1) If she is a member of a chapter, she or the secretary of her chapter shall return the cross to the National Office and ask that her name be removed from the membership list.

2) If she is a Daughter-at-Large, she may consult with her clergy and a DAL chair (national, provincial or diocesan). She shall return the cross to the National Office and ask that her name be removed from the membership list.

3) There shall be no refund of dues or registration fees.

(Rationale: Reworded for clarity.)

B. A Daughter unable to attend meetings or to fully live out the Rule of Life because of advanced age, failing health, or invalidism should not feel it necessary to, or be required to, resign or return her cross.

(Rationale: Reworded for clarity.)

Section 4B(2) moved to Section 6B, Dues and Fees.

Article III, Section 4 (continued.)

C. When a member dies:

- 1) The National Office should be notified immediately by the Chapter President.
- 2) The Cross should be returned to the National Office by the Chapter President or it may be buried or attached to a suitable marker.

Section 5. Reinstatement:

A. A member may be reinstated with the approval of her Rector or Priest-in-charge, at a Service of Rededication and the payment of dues for the current year.

B. A Daughter-at-Large or a member of a Diocesan Chapter, with the approval of the Bishop, may be reinstated in the same manner.

Section 6. Dues:

A. Registration fees are set by the National Council to reflect current costs. Consult the current issue of *The Royal Cross* for the amount of the registration fee.

B. Dues are established by the National Convention.

Article III, Section 4 (continued)

C. Death: When a Daughter dies, the National Office shall be notified immediately by her chapter president, or by the diocesan president if she is a Daughter-at-Large. The cross should be returned to the National Office by the Chapter or Diocesan President, or it may be buried with the Daughter or attached to a suitable marker.

(Rationale: Reworded for clarity.)

Section 5. Reinstatement

A. A Daughter may be reinstated at a Service of Rededication with the approval of her clergy and upon payment of dues for the current year and a nominal reinstatement fee, set by National Council.

(Rationale: Financial responsibility)

B. A Daughter-at-Large may be reinstated in a similar manner with the approval of the diocesan chaplain.

(Rationale: Reworded for clarity.)

Section 6. Dues and Fees

A. Dues for the next fiscal year are payable annually by individual Daughters, by September 1, and sent to the National Office.

1) Dues are set by the Triennial Convention of the Order.

2) The National Council shall have the authority to set new-member registration fees, in accordance with current costs, and shall publish them in each issue of *The Royal Cross*.

(Rationale: Clearly state dues policy. Combines A, B, C and E.)

B. If a Daughter is unable to pay her dues, her chapter is encouraged to pay them for her or to help her seek financial assistance from her priest, the diocesan or provincial president, or the National Office.

(Rationale: Moved from Article III, Sec 4, B, 2) above. Slight rewording for clarity). Section 6, D. moved to Article III, Sec 3, B, 3, for order.

(Rationale: Refers to Membership Benefits.)

Article III, Section 6 (continued)

C. Checks or money orders shall be made payable to The Order of the Daughters of the King, Inc., and sent to the National Office.

D. The Greek Fleury Cross, which belongs to the Order, shall be sent with a form for admission for each member. A subscription for *The Royal Cross* will be sent to all registered members in good standing.

E. National, Provincial and Diocesan dues are payable annually to the National Office.

F. A contribution of seven hundred dollars (\$700) will constitute lifetime payment of National, Provincial, and Diocesan dues and will free the member from future payment of such dues.

G. Affiliate Dues:

1) Dues for affiliate members shall be determined by National Council in consultation with the national organization of the Affiliate Chapter to reflect the costs of services to such chapters including the cost of *The Royal Cross*.

2) Payment:

- a) Members of Affiliate Chapters having their own national organization shall pay dues to that organization.
- b) Members of Affiliate Chapters having no national organization shall pay dues directly to the National Office of The Order of the Daughters of the King, Inc.

Article III, Section 6 (continued)

C. A Daughter who has failed to pay her dues by December 31 shall be notified that her dues are delinquent, and that her name will be removed from the membership roll by March 1, if they are not brought current,
(Rationale: This reflects the necessity for dues to be paid to be a member in good standing, according to the adopted parliamentary authority.)

D. A Daughter becomes a lifetime member by making a one-time contribution that frees her for the rest of her life from the obligation to pay national, provincial or diocesan dues.

1) The amount of this contribution shall be set by the Triennial Convention of the Order.

2) This contribution shall become part of the Endowment Fund and her dues paid annually from the income generated by this fund.

(Rationale: Establishes lifetime dues, without stating dollar amount.)

E. A Daughter whose dues are not current is not eligible to hold office (national, provincial, diocesan, or chapter) and is not entitled to vote.
(Rationale: Current dues status needed to be a member in good standing.)

Article III, Section 6, G omitted.

(Rationale: No "affiliate" dues. See Article IV, Section 1, D).

Article IV. Chapters

Section 1: Organization of Chapters

C. A Chapter may be organized in a non-church related institution with the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese in which such institution is situated. Chapters so formed shall be under the supervision of the Bishop or a deputy appointed by the Bishop.

D. The Order of the Daughters of the King may be organized in any autonomous church of the Anglican Communion, in a church in communion with it, or in churches with the Historic Episcopate but not in communion with it. Chapters in autonomous churches of the Anglican Communion or in churches in communion with it will be International (Branch) Chapters. Chapters in churches with the Historic Episcopate but not in communion with it will be Affiliate Chapters. Such International (Branch) and Affiliate Chapters may develop their own convention, Council support system, bylaws and/or handbook provided that:

1) Affiliate Chapters must subscribe to our Rule of Life. Affiliates must subscribe to our bylaws unless they are in conflict with their own church policy.

2) The three-month preparation period shall be required.

3) At a Service of Admission the members shall take vows of Daily Prayer and Service for the purpose of the extension of Christ's Kingdom.

4) Any International (Branch) or Affiliate Chapter of the Order thus established is requested to report to the National Office of the Order or to the national organization in their church which shall in turn report to the National Office of the Order. The report will include information about members and about activity in Prayer and Service. Reports of National organizations of International (Branch) or Affiliate Chapters will also include the number of Chapters.

5) A member of the Executive Board or a representative appointed by them shall have seat and voice but no vote at conventions of all International (Branch) and Affiliate Chapters.

Article IV. Chapters

Section 1. Organization of Chapters

C. Institutional Chapters: A chapter may be organized in a non-church-related institution (retirement or assisted-living facility or prison) with the approval of the diocesan president and the diocesan chaplain, who shall serve as chaplain for that chapter or appoint another clergy to serve as chaplain.

(Rationale: Rewording for clarity.)

D. Chapters Located Overseas

1. Chapters may be formed in churches of the Anglican Communion, in churches in communion with the Episcopal church, or in churches with the Historic Episcopate, but not in communion with it.

2. Overseas chapters may develop their own convention, Council support system, bylaws and/or handbook, patterned after those of the Order of the Daughters of the King, Inc., and adapted to the discipline and forms of their own church, provided that:

a) Such Chapters must subscribe to the Rule of Life.

b) The three-month preparation period shall be required.

c) At a Service of Admission the members shall take vows of Daily Prayer and Service for the purpose of the extension of Christ's Kingdom.

(Rationale: 1. - 2. The term "overseas chapters" is meant to replace International. There are no named Affiliates.)

3. Chapters located overseas shall submit an annual report (including officers and contact information for the chapter) to the National Office until a diocesan or national organization is formed. Then annual reports may be submitted to the diocesan or national organization, which will submit a brief annual summary to the National Office.

4. Reciprocal attendance of officers at national meetings and conventions is encouraged.

(Rationale: Overseas Chapters shall have guidelines to establish their own organization within the Order.)

Article IV, Section 1,E (continued)

E. Three or more women in parishes or missions without a Chapter, who are in good standing in a diocese, who accept these bylaws may, with the approval of the Diocesan President and Bishop, organize a Diocesan Chapter, sometimes called a Bishop’s Chapter. In a diocese where there is no Diocesan Assembly the approval of the Bishop is sufficient.

Article V. National Council

Section 1. Members

D. The President or appointed representative of a national Affiliate Order or of a Provincial or National International Order is encouraged to attend meetings of the National Council and will have seat and voice but no vote.

Article VI. Officers

Section 1. Elected Officers

5. No elected member of Council shall be eligible to be elected President until she has served one term on the Council.

7. All National Council members shall serve no more than three terms.

Article VIII. Executive Board

Section 1. The officers of the National Council and one elected member of National Council appointed by the National President shall constitute the Executive Board.

Section 2. The President may appoint a past National Council President to serve as advisor to the Executive Board with seat and voice but no vote.

Article IV, Section 1, E (continued)

E. Three or more women in parishes or missions without a chapter who meet membership requirements and accept these bylaws may, with the approval of the diocesan president and the bishop, organize a Diocesan Chapter, sometimes called a Bishop’s Chapter. In a diocese where there is no diocesan assembly, the approval of the bishop is sufficient.

(Combines Article III, Sec 3, B, and Art IV, Sec 1, E. Rationale: Rewording for clarity.)

Article V. National Council

Article V, Section 1, D. Omitted. (Replaced by Article IV, Section 1, D).

(Rationale: No named “affiliates.”)

Article VI. Officers

Section 1. Elected Officers

5. No elected member of Council shall be eligible to be elected president or first vice president until she has served one term on the Council.

(Rationale: First Vice President may assume position of presidency, therefore needs similar experience.)

7. No National Council member shall serve more than three full terms, including terms served as provincial president, but not including partial (less than half) terms.

(Rationale: Reworded for clarity.)

Article VIII. Executive Board

Section 1. The officers of the National Council, the chair of the Finance Committee, and one elected member of National Council appointed by the National President shall constitute the Executive Board. *(Rationale: Finance Chair is needed on the Executive Board.)*

Section 2. The President may appoint a past National Council president or a past national first vice president to serve as advisor to the Executive Board with seat and voice but no vote.

(Rationale: Provides some additional experienced officers to act as advisor to future Councils.)

Article XI. Emblem, Colors, Motto

The Emblem of the Order shall be a Greek modified Fleury Cross of silver or silver-colored metal, inscribed with the words “Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine” and the letters “FHS”. It shall be worn faithfully by the members.

Article XII. Official Magazine

Section 1. The official magazine of the Order shall be *The Royal Cross*.

Article XIII. National Chaplain

The National President shall nominate the National Chaplain, with the approval of the National Council. The President shall request the Presiding Bishop to appoint the nominated Chaplain.

Article XI. Emblem, Colors, Motto

A. The Emblem of the Order shall be a Greek modified Fleury Cross of silver or silver-colored metal, inscribed with the words “Magnanimiter Crucem Sustine” and the letters “FHS”.

1) The emblem shall be worn faithfully by all members.

2) The emblem remains the property of the Order, but each member is entitled to wear it as long as she remains in good standing in the Order.
(*Rationale: Reworded for clarity.*)

Article XII. Official Magazine

Section 1. The official magazine of the Order, *The Royal Cross*, shall be sent to all members in good standing.
(*Rationale: Reworded for clarity.*)

Article XIII. National Chaplain

Section 1. Selection: The President, with the approval of the National Council, shall appoint the National Chaplain.

Section 2. Duties of the Chaplain

A. The National Chaplain shall have seat and voice on the National Council and the Executive Board, but no vote.

B. The National Chaplain shall support the Order through prayer, service, and counsel.

C. Similarly, chaplains support Daughters of the provinces, dioceses, and chapters.
(*Rationale: Rewording and details, for clarity.*)

Some Constitutional/Bylaws History

On November 5, 1891, Alpha Chapter (the first Council of the Order), adopted a brief constitution. Initially no bylaws were attached, but four of the six original Articles of that Constitution address the same topics that our first five Articles address in the present bylaws, i.e.: Article I, Name and Object; II, Formation of chapters; III, The Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Evangelism/Service; and V, the Council. The sixth article stated that the Council could amend or repeal the Constitution at any meeting if the Council members had received the proposed changes a month earlier.

Following the first national convention (Baltimore, 1893) the Council revised the Constitution. Margaret Franklin specifically noted in a letter to her chaplain, the Rev. Ralph Kenyon, that chapters had formed in other countries and he should take that into account in the legitimizing documents; she wanted the Order to “embrace our Anglican sisters.” So forming chapters not only in the Episcopal Church but also within other Churches of the Anglican Communion seems to be part of our DNA, a practice begun in our first decade and explicitly endorsed by our founder.

A revised constitution was adopted in 1913, under the leadership of Mrs. Adam Denmead, who was president for 15 years. It provided for Junior Daughters. During her tenure we know that both England and Canada had Councils of the Daughters of the King. The Canadian Council held its first convention in 1895 in Hamilton, Ontario. Apparently during the early 20th century there were Daughters in the Panama Canal Zone, in Hawaii, in Australia, the British West Indies, the Danish West Indies, and China. All of these overseas chapters seem to have been formed in churches that belonged to the Anglican Communion. (Although only a couple of these places have DOK chapters today, the Order has now taken root in over a dozen other countries, from Brazil to Kenya.)

The 1913 Constitution gave the Council power to adopt bylaws as needed for the transaction of business, and stipulated that each chapter and each diocesan assembly was entitled to one delegate to Triennial, the standard we still hold. Significant revisions were made in 1919 and 1922. In 1976, the bylaws were amended to limit Council members to three terms, a limit we continue to maintain.

The amendment that permitted chapters to be formed in churches “with the historic episcopate but not in communion with the Episcopal Church,” along with related amendments, was passed unanimously at the 1988 Triennial. The wording was chosen to allow chapters to be formed in Roman Catholic churches. The president at that time, Ethel Ripley, says she was so moved by the unanimous vote that she asked the delegates to confirm it with a second vote—which they did. The expectation at that time was that the Roman Catholic

chapters would multiply rapidly and eventually form their own national organization. But there are many guilds and other options for women in the Roman Catholic Church, so that after twenty-six years there are only eight Roman Catholic Chapters—far from enough to form a viable national organization. (As of October 2008, the total number of DOK chapters in the US was 1773.)

Two new significant changes have come about in the last ten years. One is that the Episcopal Church and one branch of the Lutheran Church (ELCA), are now in communion with each other. That means that DOK chapters may be formed in Lutheran Churches, so we now have two Lutheran chapters.

The other situation has been deeply troubling to all of us. Over the past five years other Churches in the Anglican Communion have declared their communion with the Episcopal Church is “impaired,” including some Churches in countries where there are a number of chapters of the Order. In addition, in the US some churches with Daughters chapters have split or withdrawn from the Episcopal Church, usually to align themselves with another Church in the Anglican Communion, such as Uganda or the Southern Cone. Our bylaws instruct us that DOK chapters may be formed in churches with the historic episcopate, and other Churches in the Anglican Communion certainly fit that description. These Churches also have been, at least until recently, in full communion with the Episcopal Church. However, the Episcopal Church regards Anglican congregations in the United States that are supervised by bishops in other countries as “irregular” and treats them as though they are outside the Anglican Communion.

Yet our bylaws do not require the Order to discern whether US congregations aligned with Anglican churches in other countries are or are not in the Anglican Communion — only whether they have the historic episcopate. Thus over the past seven years, under our current bylaws, chapters of the Order have been formed by Daughters who have become members of an Anglican church—a total of 41 chapters in October, including Junior chapters. Most Anglican churches fit within the wording that has been in the third article of our bylaws since the 1980s.

The 2003-2006 Council, after discussion and prayer, agreed that a fair interpretation of Article 7, Section 1B would entitle every chapter to have one delegate at Convention, even though past Councils had not allowed Roman Catholic or Anglican or Lutheran chapters to have voting delegates. The Council’s interpretation was challenged on the floor of the 2006 convention, but the challenge was voted down. That is where we stand at present: with the decision of the majority of the delegates at the last Triennial.

Notes