



## DECREE OF ERECTION OF THE PERSONAL ORDINARIATE OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The supreme law of God is the care of all people. As such, throughout its history, the Church has always found the pastoral and juridical means to care for God's people, wheresoever they may be.

The Progressive Episcopal Church follows the Anglican heritage and tradition of the *Via media*, that common ground where we may walk together in common ministry and in communion with each other.

The Anglican structure of The Progressive Episcopal Church is such that it requires its clergy to be ordained by a bishop duly consecrated with valid Apostolic Succession. Those persons seeking ordination, or those ordained in other traditions and seeking affiliation, may be granted Licentiate Minister status. This Licensure has the effect of limiting the functions of these clergy duly ordained in other traditions without Apostolic Succession, and restricts them from presiding over Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, as well as administration of Anointing.

This Church recognises that there are those clergy who are validly ordained outside the Apostolic Succession who have vibrant reconciling ministry and who wish to affiliate with the larger body of The Progressive Episcopal Church without the loss or impediment of their active pastoral ministry that would occur if they affiliated as Licentiate Ministers.

This Church also recognises that there exist vibrant progressive faith communities which may follow in an Anglican tradition but are of a truly ecumenical nature, who may wish to affiliate with The Progressive Episcopal Church without loss of their unique identity.

In order that clergy and communities in these situations described may enjoy the rights and benefits of being affiliated with an established denomination while retaining their independence and unique nature, The Progressive Episcopal Church hereby

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this Personal Ordinariate of St John the Evangelist within the territory of the Diocese of the West of the Progressive Episcopal Church.

1. The Personal Ordinariate of St John the Evangelist is juridically equivalent to a diocese. It includes those progressive clergy and communities who desire affiliation with The Progressive Episcopal Church, but who for canonical or other reasons are unable to be full members.
2. The clergy and communities of the Personal Ordinariate of St John the Evangelist are entrusted to the pastoral care of the Personal Ordinary.
3. The clergy and communities of the Ordinariate who later wish to be received into full membership as clergy and communities of The Progressive Episcopal Church through the Ordinariate must manifest this desire in writing to the Ordinary.
4. For clergy resident in the Ordinariate who previously were ordained as ministers outside the Apostolic Succession and now seek conditional ordination, there is to be a clergy-specific program of preparation, prior to conditional ordination in The Progressive Episcopal Church, according to what will be established by the Ordinary in conformity to the Constitution and Canons, and the particular circumstances of the Candidate.
5. Clergy who are validly ordained outside the Apostolic Succession who wish who desire affiliation with The Progressive Episcopal Church through the Ordinariate will submit their petition in writing.
6. Clergy who are accepted into the Ordinariate will be considered **Affiliate Clergy** of The Progressive Episcopal Church. They will retain all faculties & privileges granted them at their ordination. They will be under the pastoral care of the Ordinary. They will endeavour to maintain general conformity to the canons of The Progressive Episcopal Church, though as Affiliate Clergy will not be fully bound by them, with the exception of Child Safety and Vulnerable Adult Protection policies.
7. Communities who desire affiliation with The Progressive Episcopal Church through the Ordinariate will submit their petition in writing.
8. Communities who are accepted into the Ordinariate will be considered **Affiliate Communities** of The Progressive Episcopal Church. They may retain all existing local customary in keeping with their identity, mission, and purpose. They will be under the pastoral care of the Ordinary. They will endeavour to maintain general conformity to the canons of The Progressive Episcopal Church, though as Affiliate Clergy will not be fully bound by them, with the exception of Child Safety and Vulnerable Adult Protection policies.
9. The authority of the Ordinary will be that of pastoral oversight. Clergy and communities will retain their full independence, but have the benefit of pastoral support from The Progressive Episcopal Church.
10. The Ordinary retains the right to revoke membership of clergy and communities in the Ordinariate in the event such clergy and/or communities are deemed to be non-conforming to the progressive and fully inclusive ministry and mission of The Progressive Episcopal Church. Notice of revocation of membership will be communicated in writing by the Ordinary.

11. Clergy and communities may at any time request dissolution of their affiliation with the Ordinariate. Such request will be submitted in writing to the Ordinary, giving the reason for the request. Unless there is valid justification to the contrary, the request will be granted.

12. Membership of clergy and communities in the Ordinariate of St John the Evangelist is voluntary. The only stipulation is that member clergy and communities conform to the canons regarding Child Safety and Vulnerable Adult Protection.

14. St John the Evangelist is the patron of this Personal Ordinariate. John was the beloved disciple "whom Jesus loved," and who bore witness to and wrote the Gospel's message. Tradition tells us he commended a young man in whom he was interested to a bishop, and bade him keep his trust well. Some years after he learned that the young man had become a robber. Saint John, though very old, pursued him among the mountain fastnesses, and by his tenderness recovered him.

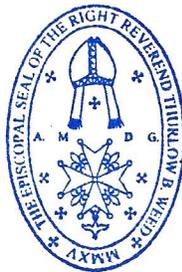
In his old age, when unable to do more, he was carried into the assembly of the Church at Ephesus, and his sole exhortation was, "Little children, love one another."

15. The shield of the Ordinariate is a Golden Eagle representing St John upon a field of blue, the colour of healing and of the Water of Life.

16. The Presiding Bishop of The Progressive Episcopal Church or his/her designee shall be the successor to the undersigned Ordinary.

Everything to the contrary notwithstanding.

Lancaster, Ohio, from the Offices of the Bishop of the Diocese of the West of The Progressive Episcopal Church, 27 February 2016, the Feast of St Gabriel the Archangel.



  
✠ Thurlow Weed  
Ordinary

