

subsection, either (i) upon the request of any parish or separate congregation whose certificate may be offered for record, or (ii) upon the request of the convention of the diocese for and on behalf of any parish or separate congregation which may neglect or decline for any reason to offer its own certificate for record, in which latter event the certificate may be made and signed by the bishop, or the president of the standing committee, and the secretary of the convention in the place and stead of the vestrymen of any such parish or separate congregation.

310. Nonfunctioning parish.

If the vestry of a parish, now or hereafter subject to the provisions of this subheading, or the members thereof, for any reason shall cease to have the services of public worship, and ministry of the Word and Sacraments carried on, or shall otherwise abandon the minimum functions of a parish, the bishop, whenever and however such facts shall have come to his knowledge, shall forthwith make, or cause to be made, a full and complete investigation and careful study of the matter, and if he shall find, in his opinion, that such parish is, in fact, nonfunctioning as herein defined, he shall report the facts in detail to the secretary of the convention not less than 60 days before the next annual meeting of the convention, and send copies of such report to the members of such vestry then in office, or if there be none, then to one or more of the adult members of the parish with the request that such member or members show said report to other members of the parish; but if no members of the vestry then in office or adult members of the parish are known to the bishop, or are not otherwise ascertainable, then the bishop shall state that fact in his report to the secretary of the convention, who shall forthwith cause a notice of the filing of said report to be published once a week for at least two weeks in a daily or weekly newspaper printed or published in said parish, or if there be none, then in a newspaper printed or published in each of the parishes contiguous to the parish so investigated in the manner aforesaid.

At its next annual meeting, the convention shall consider the report of the bishop, and hear such members of the vestry and members of such parish, or any other person or persons on behalf of such parish, as shall appear and request to be heard, if any, and the convention shall thereafter make a finding as to whether such parish is in fact nonfunctioning as herein defined.

If the convention shall find that said parish is in fact nonfunctioning as aforesaid, then, but not until then, the bishop shall temporarily take over and administer the affairs of such parish upon obtaining for its use and benefit sufficient missionary financial support to continue its functions, if he shall deem it to be feasible to do so, and, in any event, the bishop shall