

# **ACTION ITEMS**

## **Committee on Canons Proposed Amendments in the Constitution and Canons For the Consideration of Diocesan Convention, November 9 and 10, 2012**

### **Canon II Revision**

The Committee on Constitution and Canons moves that Canon II, "Of Deputies," be replaced in its entirety with the following text:

#### **Canon II Of Deputies**

*Section 1.* Deputies to the Convention shall consist of two Lay members from each Parish in union with the Convention plus additional Lay Deputies based on the number of Communicants in Good Standing reported on the Parochial Report. Additional Deputies are allocated as follows:

Communicants in Good Standing	Additional Deputies	Total Deputies
81 – 180	1	3
181 – 300	2	4
301 – 440	3	5
441 – 600	4	6
601 – 780	5	7
781 – 980	6	8
981 – 1200	7	9
1201 – 1440	8	10
1441 – 1700	9	11
1701 – 1980	10	12

There is no limit on the number of additional Deputies a Parish may have. The proper number of Deputies for larger parishes may be found by extending the table using the pattern established therein.

*Section 2.* Deputies from a Parish shall be elected by the Vestry of the Parish or by the Congregation in a meeting of the Parish, as provided in its By-laws. Deputies shall be elected for three-year terms, and, insofar as possible, their terms shall be staggered. No Deputy who has served for two successive three-year terms shall be eligible to serve again until the expiration of one year. The term of each Deputy shall begin on the first day of July preceding the Annual Convention for which the Deputy was first elected. Each Parish may appoint or elect a Leader of Deputation from among its Deputies, whose specific duties shall be provided for in the Parish By-laws. Each Parish may also elect such number of Alternate Deputies from among its Lay members as it shall deem necessary, not to exceed the number of Deputies to which the Parish is entitled.

*Section 3.* Deputies and Alternate Deputies to the Convention, as well as the Leader of Deputation, shall be certified in writing by a Warden or by two members of the Vestry to the Secretary of the Convention not later than the thirtieth day of June preceding the Annual Convention, unless granted an extension

because of special circumstances by the Ecclesiastical Authority. The certificate shall state the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address (if any) of each person and certify that each Deputy and Alternate Deputy named was chosen by election from the Communicants in Good Standing of the Parish. The certificate should indicate whether each Deputy is newly elected or serving a second or third year of a three-year term. An amended certificate shall be sent promptly to the Secretary of the Convention if, because of a vacancy caused by death, resignation, or removal for any cause, a replacement Deputy or Alternate Deputy is elected or an Alternate Deputy is selected to complete the unexpired term of a Deputy. Deputies who have not been certified by their Parish to the Secretary of the Convention within thirty (30) days shall not be entitled to Seat or vote at the Convention.

*Section 4.* A Rector, Interim Rector, or Priest/Deacon/Minister-in-Charge of a Parish in union with the Convention but not entitled to vote in the Convention shall have the privilege of the floor of the Convention, but shall have no vote.

*Section 5.* Lay members of the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council, the Board of Trustees for the Diocese, and the Committee on Constitution and Canons, if they are not Deputies to the Convention, shall have the privilege of the floor of the Convention, but shall have no votes.

**Rationale.** Beginning in 2009, a number of people voiced concern to members of the Committee on Constitution and Canons that Canon II does not equitably apportion lay deputies to parishes. While parishes in compensation categories I and II were consistently able to qualify for additional lay deputies based on their number of communicants, many parishes in categories III and IV were assigned the same number of deputies as parishes in category V because of Canon II's numerical thresholds, which only permit an additional deputy for each additional 200 communicants. This system does not recognize the different roles that levels III, IV, and V fulfill within the diocese. Over the past two years, as congregations have resumed participation in the diocese or are in rebuilding, the effects of the existing numerical thresholds appeared to be particularly outdated.

Last year, the Committee presented the idea of revising Canon II to Diocesan Council for comment, and, after receiving feedback, decided to hold the issue over for work in 2012. The 2012 Committee on Constitution and Canons therefore began work on Canon II immediately. The Committee considered how other dioceses allocate lay deputies, available measures of parish size, minimum and maximum numbers of deputies for a parish, and a variety of ways to associate parish size to deputation size. The Committee also considered the effect various decisions would have on diocesan convention and on individual parishes.

The Committee strove to achieve a plan that was more equitable, while retaining many of the features of the present canon, including number of communicants as a measure of parish size. Consistent with this conservative approach, the Committee decided to reject plans that took deputies away from any parish, a decision that meant that the size of the lay order in convention would necessarily increase.

Although increasing the number of lay deputies was not a Committee objective, doing so offers a number of advantages. Having more deputies provides a larger pool from which district representatives to Diocesan Council may be elected, an important consideration given the recently restored requirement that districts be represented on Diocesan Council by two lay deputies and one member of the clergy. Increasing the number of lay deputies allows more people to be involved in diocesan decision-making, offers opportunities to enhance a sense of community within the diocese, and encourages participation in convention workshops and other activities. Because a vote by orders can be requested on every measure, increasing the number of lay deputies need not dilute the voice of clergy entitled to vote.

The proposal put forward by the Committee allocates a third deputy to a parish with as few as 81 communicants, a significantly lower threshold than the current 201. Parishes with a settled, full-time rector will generally qualify for having three or more deputies. If an additional deputy were to be awarded for each additional 80 communicants, however, the number of laypeople in convention would become unwieldy, and a few large parishes would likely dominate convention decisions. Therefore, in the proposed Canon II, the maximum number of additional communicants needed to be awarded an additional deputy increases with parish size, rather than being 200 irrespective of parish size but with a limit on total deputies. A church with 1 communicant needs 80 more to get a third deputy, 100 beyond that to get a fourth, another 120 to get a fifth, etc. The overall effect is to increase the relative influence of mid-size parishes while keeping a check on the power of the very largest parishes.

The Committee considered various thresholds at which a third deputy would be allocated and subsequent increments for additional deputies beyond the third. The Committee concluded that the plan described above provided the most reasonable means of awarding additional deputies without unduly increasing the size of the convention. As a result, the size of the lay order at convention increases by a modest percentage under the proposed canon compared to the increase under other scenarios considered that were consistent with the objective of creating a fair balance among parishes of differing populations.

Although the Committee focused on how lay deputies are allocated, the proposed Canon II has been reworked for clarity, conciseness, and to account for situations not provided for in the current canon, which is reproduced at the end of this explanation. Note that the current canon bases the number of deputies assigned to a parish on the “No. of Duly Registered Communicants,” a term defined neither in diocesan nor Episcopal Church canons. The proposed revision bases representation on “Communicants in Good Standing,” which is properly defined. This is not intended to be a substantive change, as actual numbers are taken from parochial reports listing communicants in good standing.

The current Canon II is the following:

**Of Deputies**

*Section 1.* The Lay Deputies to the Convention shall consist of two members for each Parish in union with the Convention, and additional Lay Deputies for Parishes to be determined upon the following basis of representation, up to maximum of ten:

For each Parish, two Lay Deputies.

No. of Duly Registered Communicants	Additional Deputies	Total
201–400	1	3
401–600	2	4
601–800	3	5
801–1000	4	6
1001–1200	5	7
1201–1400	6	8
1401–1600	7	9
Over 1600	8	10

Duly registered communicants shall be counted as provided in Canon III.

*Section 2. Lay Deputies*

- a.* Lay Deputies from a Parish shall be elected by the Vestry of the Parish or by a meeting of that Parish, as provided in its by-laws. Deputies shall be elected for three-year terms; and, where the number of Deputies permits, their three-year terms shall be staggered. No Deputy who has been so elected for two successive three-year terms shall be eligible for re-election as a Deputy until the expiration of one year. The Deputies shall be elected and certified to the Secretary of Convention not later than the thirtieth of June prior to the Annual Convention and all terms of Lay Deputies shall begin as of the first day of July preceding the Annual Convention for which they were first certified. Each Parish shall also elect such number of Alternate Deputies as it shall deem necessary. Each Parish shall also appoint or elect a Leader of Deputation whose specific duties shall be provided for in the Parish By-laws.
- b.* The election of Deputies and Alternate Deputies to the Convention shall be certified in writing by a Warden or two members of the Vestry; and the certificate shall state the name, address and telephone number of each Deputy and Alternate and that each Deputy and Alternate Deputy named in said certificate was chosen from the communicants of said Parish. The certification form shall list all deputies elected by parish, whether newly elected or in their second or third year of term. The certificate shall be furnished to the Secretary of the Convention not later than the thirtieth of June, preceding the Annual Convention. If Deputies and Alternate Deputies are elected to fill out vacancies caused by death, resignation, or removal for any cause, the election shall be certified in writing by forwarding an amended certificate to the Secretary of Convention. Any Parish failing to timely furnish the certificate to the Secretary of the Convention shall not be entitled to Seat or vote at the Convention.

*Section 3.* Clergy canonically resident in other dioceses but serving as a priest-in-charge or interim for a parish in union with the diocese and lay members of the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council, the Board of Trustees for the Diocese, and the Committee on Constitution and Canons, if they not be Deputies to the Convention, shall have the privilege of the floor of the Convention, but shall have no votes.

*Section 4.* Lay members of the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council, the Board of Trustees for the Diocese, and the Committee on Constitution and Canons, if they not be Deputies to the Convention, shall have the privilege of the floor of the Convention, but shall have no votes.

## Effect of Proposed Changes

Parish	City	Communicants (2011)	Deputies (Current)	Deputies (Proposed)	Added Deputies
St. Peter's	Blairsville	18	2	2	0
St. Barnabas	Brackenridge	60	2	2	0
St. Peter's	Brentwood	350	3	5	2
All Saints	Bridgeville	56	2	2	0
All Saints	Brighton Heights	28	2	2	0
St. Thomas	Canonsburg	78	2	2	0
Atonement	Carnegie*	26	2	2	0
St. Christopher's	Cranberry/Warrendale*	4	2	2	0
Nativity	Crafton	261	3	4	1
St. John's	Donora*	21	2	2	0
Calvary	East Liberty	1007	7	9	2
St. Brendan's	Franklin Park	249	3	4	1
Christ Church	Greensburg	35	2	2	0
St. Andrew's	Highland Park	405	4	5	1
St. Matthew's	Homestead	68	2	2	0
Holy Cross	Homewood	112	2	3	1
Christ Church	Indiana	101	2	3	1
Advent	Jeannette	55	2	2	0
St. Mark's	Johnstown	116	2	3	1
St. Paul's	Kittanning	110	2	3	1
St. Michael's	Ligonier	215	3	4	1
St. Stephen's	McKeesport	75	2	2	0
St. Paul's	Monongahela*	40	2	2	0
St. Paul's	Mt. Lebanon	1419	9	10	1
Christ Church	North Hills	961	6	8	2
Emmanuel	North Side	180	2	3	1
All Souls	North Versailles	24	2	2	0
St. Thomas	Northern Cambria	28	2	2	0
St. Thomas	Oakmont	422	4	5	1
St. James	Penn Hills	25	2	2	0
St. David's	Peters Twp.*	40	2	2	0
Trinity	Pittsburgh	109	2	3	1
St. Bartholemew	Scottdale	32	2	2	0
St. Francis	Somerset	52	2	2	0
Redeemer	Squirrel Hill	160	2	3	1
St. Stephen's	Wilkinsburg	81	2	3	1
	<b>Totals</b>	7023	96	116	20

\* Number is approximate

## Canonical Changes

DISTRICT CHART WITH ALLOCATION OF DEPUTIES for 2013  
Using Proposed Canon as determined by 2011 Parochial Report  
(Those participating parishes not submitting a parochial report receive 2 deputies)

Total Lay Deputies eligible to vote: 116

### District 1

All Saints, Brighton Heights	2
St. Barnabas, Brackenridge	2
St. Christopher's, Cranberry	2
St. Brendan's Franklin Park	4
St. Paul's, Kittanning	3
Christ Church, North Hills	8
Emmanuel, North Side	3
Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

*Not submitting Parochial Reports: Our Saviour, Ambridge; Trinity, Beaver; St. Peter's, Butler; St. Christopher's, Cranberry/Warrendale; Grace Church, Edgeworth; St. Luke's Georgetown; St. Thomas-in-the-Fields, Gibsonia; Church of Our Savior, Glenshaw; Prince of Peace, Hopewell; Christ Church, New Brighton; St. Philip's, Moon Township; St. Stephen's Sewickley.*

### District 2

Calvary, East Liberty	9
St. Andrew's, Highland Park	5
St. Matthew's, Homestead	2
Holy Cross, Homewood	3
St. Thomas, Oakmont	5
St. James, Penn Hills	2
Redeemer, Squirrel Hill	3
St. Stephen's Wilkinsburg	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>

*Not submitting Parochial Reports: Seeds of Hope, Bloomfield; Fox Chapel Episcopal Church, Fox Chapel; Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood; St. Martin's, Monroeville; St. Andrew's, New Kensington; Ascension, Oakland; All Saints, Rosedale; Shepherd's Heart, Uptown.*

*\*Resumed participation in 2012*

### District 3

St. Peter's, Brentwood	5
All Saints, Bridgeville	2
Atonement, Carnegie*	2
St. Thomas, Canonsburg	2
Church of the Nativity, Crafton	4
St. Stephen's, McKeesport	2
St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon	10
All Souls, North Versailles	2
St. David's, Peter's Township*	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>

*Not submitting Parochial Reports: Church of the Advent, Brookline; Church of the Atonement, Carnegie\*; Church of the Transfiguration, Clairton; Church of the Good Samaritan, Liberty Boro; St. Philip's, Moon; Grace, Mt. Washington; St. David's, Peters Township\*; Trinity, Washington; St. George's, Waynesburg.*

### District 4

St. Peter's, Blairsville	2
St. John's Donora*	2
Christ Church Greensburg (TEC)	2
Christ Church, Indiana	3
Church of the Advent, Jeanette	2
St. Michael's, Ligonier	4
St. Mark's, Johnstown	3
St. Paul's Monongahela*	2
St. Thomas, Northern Cambria	2
St. Bartholomew's, Scottsdale	2
St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>

*Not submitting Parochial Reports: Christ Church, Brownsville; St. Mary's, Charleroi; St. John's, Donora\*; Holy Innocents, Leechburg; St. Paul's Monongahela\*; St. Alban's, Murrysville; Sts. Thomas and Luke, Patton; St. Mary's Red Bank; St. Michael's, Wayne Township; St. Peter's, Uniontown.*

**DISTRICT CHART WITH ALLOCATION OF DEPUTIES for 2013**  
 Using 2011 Canons as determined by 2011 Parochial Report  
 (Those participating parishes not submitting a parochial report receive 2 deputies)

Total Lay Deputies eligible to vote: 96

**District 1**

All Saints, Brighton Heights	2
St. Barnabas, Brackenridge	2
St. Christopher's, Cranberry	2
St. Brendan's Franklin Park	3
St. Paul's, Kittanning	2
Christ Church, North Hills	6
Emmanuel, North Side	2
Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>

*Not submitting Parochial Reports: Our Saviour, Ambridge; Trinity, Beaver; St. Peter's, Butler; St. Christopher's, Cranberry/Warrendale; Grace Church, Edgeworth; St. Luke's Georgetown; St. Thomas-in-the-Fields, Gibsonia; Church of Our Savior, Glenshaw; Prince of Peace, Hopewell; Christ Church, New Brighton; St. Philip's, Moon Township; St. Stephen's Sewickley*

**District 2**

Calvary, East Liberty	7
St. Andrew's, Highland Park	4
St. Matthew's, Homestead	2
Holy Cross, Homewood	2
St. Thomas, Oakmont	4
St. James, Penn Hills	2
Redeemer, Squirrel Hill	2
St. Stephen's Wilkinsburg	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

*Not submitting Parochial Reports: Seeds of Hope, Bloomfield; Fox Chapel Episcopal Church, Fox Chapel; Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood; St. Martin's, Monroeville; St. Andrew's, New Kensington; Ascension, Oakland; St. James, Penn Hills; All Saints, Rosedale; Shepherd's Heart, Uptown.*

*\*Resumed participation in 2012*

**District 3**

St. Peter's, Brentwood	3
All Saints, Bridgeville	2
Atonement, Carnegie*	2
St. Thomas, Canonsburg	2
Church of the Nativity, Crafton	3
St. Stephen's, McKeesport	2
St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon	9
All Souls, North Versailles	2
St. David's, Peter's Township*	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>

*Not submitting Parochial Reports: Church of the Advent, Brookline; Church of the Atonement, Carnegie\*; Church of the Transfiguration, Clairton; Church of the Good Samaritan, Liberty Boro; St. Philip's, Moon; Grace, Mt. Washington; St. David's, Peters Township\*; Trinity, Washington; St. George's, Waynesburg.*

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St. Thomas, Northern Cambria	2
St. Bartholomew's, Scottdale	2
St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

*Not submitting Parochial Reports: Christ Church, Brownsville; St. Mary's, Charleroi; St. John's, Donora\*; Holy Innocents, Leechburg; St. Paul's Monongahela\*; St. Alban's, Murrysville; Sts. Thomas and Luke, Patton; St. Mary's Red Bank; St. Michael's, Wayne Township; St. Peter's, Uniontown.*