

Section C

Action Items

ACTION ITEMS

Resolutions Referred to Diocese from the 78th General Convention

Proposed Constitutional Amendments, First Reading

The following Constitutional amendments shall be read by the Secretary of the Diocesan Convention preceding the final vote at the 79th General Convention in 2018, such reading to be certified by the Diocesan Convention with the Secretary of the General Convention.

B011: Amend Article II.7

Resolved, That the Constitution of the General Convention (2012) Article II.7 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 7. ~~It shall be lawful for~~ The House of Bishops ~~to~~ may elect a ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* who, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, shall be in charge of the work of ~~those persons of this Church who serve as chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States, and such other agencies as may be specified by the Presiding Bishop.~~ The ~~Suffragan~~ Bishop *Suffragan* so elected shall be *ordained and consecrated* and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. ~~The Suffragan Bishop shall be eligible for election as Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop of a Diocese.~~

D003: Amend Article V

Resolved, That Article V, Section 1 is amended to read as follows:

A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the General Convention and under such conditions as the General Convention shall prescribe by General Canon or Canons, (1) by the division of an existing Diocese; (2) by the junction of two or more Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses; or (3) by the erection into a Diocese of an unorganized area evangelized as provided in Article VI. The proceedings shall originate in a Convocation of the Clergy and Laity of the unorganized area called by the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ for that purpose; or, with the approval of the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~, in the Convention of the Diocese to be divided; or (when it is proposed to form a new Diocese by the junction of two or more existing Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses) by mutual agreement of the Conventions of the Dioceses concerned, with the approval of the ~~Bishop Ecclesiastical Authority~~ of each Diocese. ~~In case the Episcopate of a Diocese be vacant, no proceedings toward its division shall be taken until the vacancy is filled.~~ After consent of the General Convention, when a certified copy of the duly adopted Constitution of the new Diocese, including an unqualified accession to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, shall have been filed with the Secretary of the General Convention and approved by the Executive Council of this Church, such new Diocese shall thereupon be in union with the General Convention.

D008: Amend Article I.1

Resolved, That Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1. *There shall be a General Convention of this Church, consisting of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, which Houses will sit, debate, and vote separately, unless otherwise provided for by this Constitution or the Canons. The Houses by majority vote of each House may call for the Houses to sit, debate, and vote, or any combination thereof, together. The General Convention may by Canon establish procedures for such sessions. In all deliberations freedom of debate shall be allowed. Either House may originate and propose legislation, and all acts of the Convention shall be adopted and be authenticated by both Houses.*

Committee on Constitution and Canons

Resolution to Reorganize the Current Content of Canons I, II and III to Promote Clarity

The Committee on Constitution and Canon is recommending the following canonical changes.

RESOLVED, that the title of Canon I be amended to read “Of Clergy” and the current content of Canon I become a new Section 1 of that Canon;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that what is now Section 5 of Canon III be moved from Canon III to become Section 2 of Canon I;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the content that is currently contained in Section 3 of Canon II that addresses clergy be moved into a new Section 3 of Canon I and restated as follows:

Clergy canonically resident in other Dioceses but serving as a priest-in-charge or interim for a parish in union with the Diocese shall be admitted to the sittings of the Convention with voice but without vote.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Section 3 of Canon II be restated as follows:

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 be admitted to the sittings of the Convention with voice but without vote.

Explanatory Note

A Deputy observed at the 2015 Diocesan Convention that the reference in Canon II, Section 3 to the right of a member of the Clergy who is not canonically resident but who was serving as a priest-in-charge or interim at a parish of the Diocese to attend and speak at Convention did not seem to fit under that Canon. In response, the Committee on Constitution and Canons began a wholesale review of the Diocesan Constitution and Canons for how they addressed the rights of clergy and lay members of the Diocese to attend, speak at, and vote at Convention. The Committee concluded that work in 2017 and is now recommending the canonical reorganization in the Resolution. These changes are intended to promote clarity and consistency. No substantive canonical change is involved.

Resolution to Conform Canon III.2.b to Constitution Article III.2

The Committee on Constitution and Canon is recommending the following canonical change.

RESOLVED, that the words “Clergy and” be deleted from Section 2.b of Canon III so that this subsection will read as follows:

In case of failure to present the Parochial Report to the Diocese not later than March 1 any and all Deputies of such delinquent Parishes shall not be entitled to seats in the Convention.

Explanatory Note

The Diocesan Constitution, in Article III, Section 2, states that Clergy in regular standing who have been canonically and physically resident in the Diocese and who meet certain other requirements “shall be entitled to a seat and vote” in the Diocesan Convention. Such Clergy are thus entitled to seats, voice and votes in Convention regardless of whether they are serving as a rector or priest-in-charge of a parish or mission fellowship of the Diocese. The recommended change to this Canon eliminates a potential conflict with the Constitution. Section 2.a of Canon III will continue to provide in part: “In every Parish the preparation and delivery of this [Parochial] Report shall be the joint duty of the Minister and Vestry.” In addition, Episcopal Church Canon I.6.1 also imposes a joint duty to prepare and file the Parochial Report on “the Rector or Member of the Clergy in charge thereof and the lay leadership” Members of the Clergy are accountable under Title IV of the Canons of the Episcopal Church for failing to meet canonical obligations.

Restatement of Canons Following Adoption of Resolutions

Canon I

~~Of a List of Clergy in the Diocese~~ Of Clergy

Section 1. The Secretary of the Convention shall request from the Diocesan Recorder of Ordinations a list of the Clergy entitled to Seats or votes in the Convention of this Diocese, in the following manner: After review and approval of the list by the Bishop, the Recorder of Ordinations shall, sixty days prior to the meeting of the Convention, deliver to the Secretary, or in the absence of the Secretary, to such other person as may be appointed by the presiding officer of the Convention, a certified list of the Clergy in regular standing and canonically connected with the Diocese, specifying their parochial responsibilities or their residences and employment respectively; and also the dates of the ordination or reception of those who have been ordained or received into the Diocese within the year immediately preceding. From this list the Secretary shall prepare, in conformity with Article III, Section 2, and Article XIV, of the Constitution, a roll of Clergy entitled to Seats or votes in the Convention; and the list thus prepared shall be *prima facie* evidence as to the rights of Clergy to Seats or votes in the Convention. The Bishop (or Ecclesiastical Authority) shall, on the day of the meeting of Convention, provide to the Secretary any additions or deletions to the certified list submitted in advance of the Convention.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of every member of the Clergy having a Seat in the Convention to attend every meeting thereof, or to send to the Bishop a sufficient excuse for absence.

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 shall be admitted to the sittings of the Convention with voice but without vote.

**Canon II
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. 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 be admitted to the sittings of the Convention with voice but without vote.~~

Canon III Of Parochial Registers and Reports

Section 1. The Vestry of each Parish shall provide a suitable book to be called the “Church Register,” which shall belong to and remain with the Vestry, as part of the Church records. In this Register the Minister, or, if there be none, the Senior Warden, shall keep a record of all the baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and burials in the Parish; specifying the name and date of the birth of the child baptized, with the names of the parents and sponsors; the names of the persons confirmed; the names of the adults baptized, and of their witnesses; the names of the persons married and the witnesses; the name and, where practicable, the age, of the person buried; and also the time when each rite was performed; and a list of all communicants in the Parish.

Section 2. Parochial Reports

- a. The Parochial Report of every Parish of this Diocese shall be prepared annually for the year ending December 31 preceding, upon the standard forms, and shall be filed with the Episcopal Church, with a copy sent to the Diocesan office, not later than March 1. In every Parish the preparation and delivery of this Report shall be the joint duty of the Minister and Vestry.
- b. In case of failure to present the Parochial Report to the Diocese not later than March 1 any and all ~~Clergy and~~ Deputies of such delinquent Parishes shall not be entitled to seats in the Convention.
- c. Every Bishop, Presbyter, or Deacon whose report is not included in a Parochial Report shall also report on the exercise of his/her office.

Section 3. The Minister of each Parish shall keep a list of all baptized persons in connection with the Parish, kept in accordance with the Canons of the General Convention. Such Minister, or, in case of a vacancy, the Wardens, shall in the Parochial Report tabulate as of December 31st of the preceding year, the number of communicants in the Parish, provided that there shall not be counted in that number any person who fails to meet the requirements of the Canons of the Church defining communicants in good standing, unless such failure has been for reasons satisfactory to the Minister.

Section 4. The certified returns above provided for shall be *prima facie* the basis of lay representation of each parish according to the schedule set out in Canon 2, Section 1. The communicant numbers of each parish, as reported on the aforesaid Parochial Reports, shall be published at each Annual Convention and a copy of the relevant sections of this Canon shall be sent by the Secretary to each Parish in the Diocese before December 31 following, with a statement as to how many Deputies such Parish is entitled to elect in the six months following, and in preparation for the next Annual Convention.

~~*Section 5.* It shall be the duty of every member of the Clergy having a Seat in the Convention to attend every meeting thereof, or to send to the Bishop a sufficient excuse for absence.~~