

## **Proposed Amendments to Canon V to Implement Restructuring of Diocesan Council**

### **Background and Rationale**

Should Convention approve on Second Reading the amendments to Article XI, Section 1 of the Diocesan Constitution, restructuring Diocesan Council, then corresponding amendments will be necessary to Canon V, Of the Diocesan Council.

The proposed amendments to Canon V are shown below. The revisions to Sections 2, 3, and 4 are necessary to implement the recommendations of the Governance Working Group of Project CREED that the terms of service of the District representatives on Council be four years, like the terms of service on the Standing Committee, and that Council be afforded more flexibility in terms of the minimum number of meetings each year.

The amendment of Section 5, expressly authorizing Council to elect a Secretary who is not a member of Council, comports with past practice and Council's By Laws. A new sentence in Section 5 requires the President of Diocesan Council to be a different person from the President of the Standing Committee. After amendment, Article XI, Section 1 will make all of the members of the Standing Committee members of Diocesan Council, but the bodies have distinct canonical roles and this will require them to have different presiding officers.

A new subsection (h) in Section 6 authorizes and encourages Council to recruit and involve other Clergy and Lay members of the parishes of the Diocese, who are not members of Council, in the work of Council. This also comports with past practice, and now the canon will expressly authorize it.

The changes first appear below in track-changes, followed by a clean copy showing the canon after the amendments are accepted.

## Canon V

### Of the Diocesan Council

*Section 1.* The Diocesan Council shall act on behalf of the Convention when the Convention is not in session. In particular, it shall evaluate the policies, programs, and other activities of the Diocese, make recommendations to the Convention, and give general oversight to the work, mission, budget and human resources of the Diocese. The Council shall perform such other functions and tasks as the Convention may assign to it.

*Section 2.* The Diocesan Council shall hold at least ~~five~~ six regular meetings each year and such additional meetings as may be called by its presiding officer or by the Bishop.

*Section 3.* Those persons who are to be elected to Diocesan Council as provided in Article XI of the Constitution shall be elected in the following manner. Whenever a vacancy occurs or is about to occur for any reason in a position on the Diocesan Council being filled by a person from a particular District established pursuant to Canon XVIII hereof, the District Commission shall nominate at least two Lay one or more persons; Clergy or Lay as appropriate, who are Deputies to the Convention and who are canonically resident within such District. At least one nominee shall be a Deputy from a parish that does not have a member serving on or nominated for service on the Standing Committee, and nominations shall be administered such that adequate and appropriate consideration is given to the richness and depth of diversity within the Diocese, including size and location of parishes. A successor shall be elected by the members of such District Commission at the annual meeting of the Commission held during the Convention.

*Section 4.* The terms of office of elected members of Diocesan Council shall be ~~four~~ three years, ~~on a staggered basis within Districts.~~ No Council member who has served four consecutive years on Council two successive three year terms shall be eligible for subsequent election or appointment to Council or the Standing Committee until one year has passed since said Council member was last a member of the Council. Members of Diocesan Council whose terms as Deputy to Diocesan Convention expire or whose canonical residence has changed to a different District prior to completion of their term of office to Diocesan Council shall continue, at the pleasure of the electing District, for the remainder of their Council term as a member of Diocesan Council. Vacancies due to death, removal or resignation occurring between Conventions shall be filled as provided in Article IX, Section 5 of the Constitution.

*Section 5.* The Diocesan Council shall elect its presiding officer and such other officers as it shall designate, and may elect a Secretary who is not a member of Council. The person serving as the presiding officer of Council shall not be the same as the person serving as the President of the Standing Committee.

*Section 6.* The Diocesan Council shall prescribe its operating rules and procedures which shall, among other things, provide for:

- a. assistance to the Bishop in carrying out the Bishop's responsibilities for budget and financial administration under Canon XII.
- b. hearing assessment appeals in accordance with Section 4(d) of Canon XII.
- c. a means to receive, develop and propose resolutions to be presented to Diocesan Convention.
- d. publication of advance agenda and minutes of the meetings.
- e. such working groups as may be required to address current mission goals or strategy.

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*f.* an executive committee appropriate to effective leadership of the above.

*g.* appointment of a Judge of Assessments and a Judge of Audits.

~~*g-h.*~~ recruitment and involvement of Clergy and Lay members of the parishes of the Diocese who are not members of Diocesan Council in the work of Council under such supervision and authority as shall be determined by Council.

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