

Proposed Resolution to Adopt Part E to Rules of Order

Background and Rationale

The standing Rules of Order for the Diocese do not include provisions that explicitly define the “place” for a meeting of Convention, or state that the requirement of a “place” for a meeting of Convention may be met through the use of the Internet or other electronic communications technology, provided certain requirements are met. The law of Pennsylvania governing nonprofit corporations permits those organizations to hold their meetings through electronic means that accommodate remote participation, and Canon XVII, Section 9 allows the various leadership bodies in the Diocese to conduct their meetings using electronic means that allow remote participation. The proposed resolution would add a new Part E to the Rules of Order, and extend this ability to conduct business through remote attendance to Convention itself, should the circumstances again warrant it.

Proposed Resolution to Adopt Part E to Rules of Order

Resolved, that Convention adopts a new Part E to the Rules of Order, stating as follows:

E. Place of Meetings of Convention

1. The preferred place for a meeting of Convention shall be a specific geographic location within the Diocese where all members, others entitled to attend, and guests are able to safely congregate, worship, and conduct the business of Convention.
2. Whenever, in the judgment of the Bishop, and subject to the approval of Diocesan Council, it shall appear that it would be impractical or unsafe, because of a risk to the health or safety of the public or individual members of Convention, to hold a meeting of Convention that requires all members to attend the meeting at a specific geographic location, the meeting may be held by means of the Internet or other electronic communications technology in a fashion pursuant to which Clergy and Lay Deputies, wherever they may be physically located, have the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members of Convention, pose questions to the President of Convention and members of any other body, make appropriate motions and comment on the business of the meeting, and express their consent or dissent to any matter presented to Convention for action.
3. The participation by a member of Convention at a meeting conducted using the technological means specified in paragraph 2, including voting and taking any other action, shall constitute the presence of, or vote or action by, or consent or dissent of the member of Convention for the purposes of that meeting of Convention.
4. The detailed plan and mechanics for conducting the meeting of Convention using the technological means specified in paragraph 2 shall be published in a Pre-Convention Journal for the meeting at least two weeks in advance.
5. The procedures adopted shall include a means by which the qualifications of those entitled to vote shall be confirmed and may be challenged as at a convention held in a physical place.