

Committee on Constitutions and Canons
Report to Diocesan Convention 2026
Submitted by Ian Everhart, Chair

The Diocese of Pittsburgh Committee on Constitutions and Canons met electronically in February, April, August (once at a regular meeting, and again at a special meeting) and October 2026, to discuss ideas for improvements in the diocese's governing documents.

One proposal is developed enough to be submitted for a vote at this year's convention:

- Amendments to the Regional Disciplinary Board Compact. The bishops and chancellors of the six constituent dioceses have proposed several reforms to the Regional Disciplinary Board, including:
 - selection and tenure of members and leadership,
 - creation of a vice president role,
 - improved communications,
 - creation of the role of Chancellor to the Board,
 - clarification of mandatory recusal rules, and
 - requiring training in Title IV disciplinary rules.

Other matters discussed included:

- Ideas for improvements relating to resolutions at diocesan convention;
- Drafting model "recommended" parish bylaws as contemplated in Canon XVI, Section 3;
- Reconsideration of the numerical membership thresholds for allocation of diocesan convention deputies in Canon 2;
- Granting of rights to participate in Diocesan Convention for clergy not canonically resident in the Diocese of Pittsburgh;
- Updates to the process for electing alternate deputies to General Convention;
- Refinements to the definitions for various terms in Canon XXIII (including titles for clergy); and
- Reforms to Canon XXXII (relating to the amendment process);

The committee is composed of three clergy and three lay members, elected at diocesan convention to staggered three-year terms. For the 2026 calendar year, members were the Rev. Jack Brownfield, the Rev. Carter Hawley, the Rev. Julie Smith, Charles Bell, William Bevan, and Ian Everhart. Ian Everhart served as chair. Chancellor Andrew Roman and Vice Chancellor Stephen Bloomberg, as well as Bishop Ketlen Solak, are members ex officio.