

REPORT TO 2021 ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION:

At its two (virtual online) meetings this year, our Committee considered clarifications to several canons and provided input to others with respect to resolutions that would require amendments to the Diocesan Constitution or Canons. The following are changes that the Committee recommends for passage at Convention.

First Vote on Changes to Constitution

Our diocesan Constitution provides (in Article XXI) that it may be amended by a majority vote of the two orders voting separately at two successive annual meetings of Convention. The following amendments are proposed for their first vote.

1. Article I: Name and Jurisdiction

The Church in that portion of the State of Washington lying west of the summit of the Cascade range of mountains and including the Counties of Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island, Clallam, Jefferson, Snohomish, King, Kitsap, Grays Harbor, Mason, Thurston, Pierce, Pacific, Lewis, Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania shall be known by the name and description of the “Diocese of Olympia, of ~~the~~ the Episcopal Church ~~in the United States of America~~,” hereinafter referred to as “~~the~~ the Diocese of Olympia,” “this Diocese”, or “~~the~~ the Diocese.”

2. Article II: Acceding to General Convention:

The Church in the Diocese of Olympia accedes to the Constitution and Canons of ~~the~~ the Episcopal Church and recognizes the authority of the General Convention of the same.

3. Article III: The Authority of the Diocese:

The authority of this Diocese is vested in and exercised by its Bishop, and as it may be assigned, to a Bishop Coadjutor (if there be one), and to its Convention and ~~the~~ Standing Committee.

4. Article IV: The Bishop:

Section 2: Upon the death of the Diocesan Bishop, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall pass temporarily to the Bishop Coadjutor (if any), or in the absence of a Bishop Coadjutor, to the Suffragan Bishop (if any). Such temporary authority shall continue until a new Diocesan Bishop is consecrated.

Section 3: During any period when the Standing Committee determines that the Diocesan Bishop is by reason of disability unable to serve, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall pass temporarily to the Bishop Coadjutor (if any), or in the absence of a Bishop Coadjutor, to the Suffragan Bishop (if any). Such temporary authority shall continue for the period of the Diocesan Bishop’s disability, as determined by the Standing Committee.

Section 4: During any period when the Diocesan Bishop is absent from the Diocese, the Bishop may delegate the Ecclesiastical Authority to the Bishop Coadjutor (if any), or in the absence of a Bishop Coadjutor, to a Suffragan Bishop (if any). Such temporary authority shall cease upon the Bishop’s return to the Diocese.

Section 5: Where the Ecclesiastical Authority is temporarily transferred under Sections 2, 3 or 4 of this Article, and where there is neither a Bishop Coadjutor nor a Suffragan Bishop, the authority shall pass to the Standing Committee.

5. Article V: The Cathedral:

Section 1: Saint Mark's ~~Parish Church~~ of Seattle is hereby designated and declared to be the Cathedral ~~Church~~ of this Diocese, and the official seat of the Bishop of the same.

6. Article X: Standing Committee:

Section 1: ...Members of the Standing Committee shall serve a four-year term and shall not be eligible for re-election until one year ~~has~~shall have elapsed following the expiration of the four-year term to which they have been elected. However, a person who serves a short term of no longer than two years shall not be subject to the one-year disqualification....

Second Vote on Changes to Constitution

The following amendments are proposed for second votes:

7. Article VI: The Convention of the Diocese:

Section 1: *After "the time and place [of Convention] shall be fixed by the Bishop no less than 120 days before the convening of said Convention," insert: "The Bishop may call for a virtual online Convention, provided that Convention must be a live meeting at least every second year, unless the Bishop determines that considerations of public health or budget make such a meeting impractical."*

8. Article VIII: Officers of Convention:

Section 4: In the event of a ~~temporary absence or incapacity~~vacancy in the aforementioned offices, the Bishop, acting in consultation with the Standing Committee, may select another person to serve pro-tempore. In the event of a vacancy, the Bishop, acting in consultation with the Standing Committee, shall fill the vacancy.

9. Article XII: Deputies and Alternate Deputies to General Convention:

Section 2: At least eight candidates shall be nominated from each order. Nominations shall be made from the floor, unless otherwise provided in the Rules of Order adopted by Convention.

10. Article XIV: Nominations and Elections:

Section 2: *Revise first sentence as follows:*

[The nominating committee] ...shall select as nominees at least two persons for each position to be filled by Convention on the Standing Committee and on the Diocesan Council, except that only one nominee is required when an incumbent Council member stands for re-election. The nominating committee shall also recommend ~~and~~ at least one person for the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, Archivist and Historiographer.

Reword the last sentence as follows: Further nominations for all these positions may be made from the floor of Convention, unless otherwise provided in the approved Rules of Order.

Votes on Changes to Canons:

Pursuant to Canons 28 and 29, canons can be enacted or amended by a "vote of a majority of each Order." These amendments "take effect upon the adjournment of the meeting of Convention at which they are enacted," unless the Convention votes unanimously for the changes to take immediate effect.

11. Canon 2, Section 4(b):

~~Commencing with the 2011 Diocesan Convention, t~~The Secretary of Convention shall certify as eligible to vote only those lay delegates from Congregations in Good Standing...

12. Canon 4, Section a:

There shall be the following Committees of Convention appointed by the Bishop:

- a. Dispatch of Business: up to two clergy and two lay members who shall offer recommendations to Convention as to its business agenda and any special orders or rules to govern resolutions or elections.
- c. Admission of New Parishes and Missions: one clergy and one lay member, in years when needed.
- e(1). All Resolutions...shall be ~~distributed~~mailed to delegates and alternates by the Secretary.
- e(2). The Committee shall have authority to combine similar Resolutions or to divide them so long as the ~~intent~~sense of the originals is retained.
- e(4). The Committee shall consider all Resolutions received and shall report them to Convention, either as received or as amended, ~~or~~ or combined, or divided, with recommendations,...
- e(6). The Committee shall be appointed by the Bishop no later than ~~within~~ 90 days before after ~~the adjournment of~~ the next Annual Convention.

Faithfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION
& CANONS

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