

**REPORT TO 2020 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. Constitution – The Convention of the Diocese - Article VI, 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.”*

**2. Constitution – Officers of Convention - Article VIII, Section 4:**

*In the event of a temporary absence or incapacity 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.*

**3. Constitution – Deputies and Alternate Deputies to General Convention - Article XII, 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.*

**4. Constitution – Nominations and Elections - Article XIV, 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 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.*

**Second Vote on Changes to Constitution**

*The following amendment is proposed for its second vote:*

**5. Constitution - Officers of Convention - Article VIII:**

**Section 2:** *Canon 29 has traditionally specified that Diocesan elections take effect "upon adjournment" of the Convention meeting where they occur. Section 2 of Article VIII provides that the officers of Convention "serve until the following Annual Meeting," leaving some ambiguity as to who serves during the hours of Convention. To clarify this point, the Committee suggests the following amendment to Section 2:*

*"...the following officers shall be elected to serve until the close of the following Annual Meeting:..."*

**Section 3:** *The Committee proposes the following clarification of the process by which the Diocesan Chancellor is approved by Convention:*

At each Annual Meeting of the Convention the Bishop shall appoint, subject to approval by a simple majority vote of the members of Convention present, a Chancellor of the Diocese who shall be a lay member, an adult Communicant in Good Standing of the Church and regularly admitted to practice law in the State of Washington.

**6. Constitution – Nominations and Elections - Article XIV**

*The Committee proposes to clarify that a "written ballot" may be electronic:*

**Section 1:** All elections provided for in this Constitution shall be by written ballot, unless consent by unanimous vote of the Convention is given to dispense with the requirement. In the event of a failure to elect at any Convention, the person or persons already in office shall continue in office until the successor or successors shall have been appointed as provided in Article VIII, Section 4. For purposes of this section, written ballots may include an electronic ballot.

**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.*

**7. Canon 4 – Committees of Convention - Section e.7:**

Any Resolution not submitted to the Committee at least 45 days prior to Convention shall be considered by Convention only if it does not propose to modify the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese and does not call for an appropriation from the Diocesan budget, and further provided that it has been submitted, in writing, to the Resolutions Committee no later than forty-eight (48) hours before the convening of Convention, and consideration of such resolution is approved by a majority vote of the Convention.

**8. Canon 5 – The Business of Convention - Section b:**

The Secretary shall then call the list of the Parishes and Missions...

*Add a new Section f:*

By a majority vote in each order, the Convention shall adopt Rules of Order to govern the Convention. Such rules shall remain in effect until superseded by another vote of Convention.

**9. Canon 9 – Rectors, Parishes and Vestries - Section 6:**

The Rector... The Rector is entitled at all times to have access to the church building...  
The Rector shall have the direction and control of the Parish school...

Faithfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION  
& CANONS

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