

Amendments related to The Annual Meeting of Convention

Canon 1.1

Sec. 1.(a) There shall be an annual meeting of the Convention, the time and place to be set by the Bishop in consultation with the Standing Committee, **and announced at the annual meeting the preceding year.**

(b) In the event of an emergency as determined by the Bishop in consultation with the Standing Committee, the Bishop, with the concurrence of the Standing Committee, may call for any Annual or Special Convention to be conducted, in whole or in part, by electronic transmission or by electronic video screen transmission pursuant to rules of order that provide the Clerical and Lay members a reasonable opportunity to participate in the Convention and to vote on matters submitted to the Convention, including an opportunity to read or hear the proceedings of the Convention concurrently with those proceedings. The Secretary of the Convention shall maintain a record of any votes or other actions taken by means of electronic transmission or electronic video screen communication. Participation in the Convention through the use of electronic transmission or electronic video screen communication pursuant to this Canon constitutes presence in person at the Convention for all purposes.

Sec. 3. Notice of the time and place of every annual or special meeting of the Convention, **and of any change therein,** shall be given by the Secretary to every Member of the Clergy, to every lay delegate whose election has been certified to the Secretary, and to the Clerk of every Congregation in the Diocese at least 30 days before the time appointed for the meeting. In the case of a special meeting, the notice shall also include a verbatim copy of the call issued by the Bishop. Failure to provide timely notice of the annual meetings of the Convention shall not, however, invalidate the Convention.

Sec. 4. (a) At least ~~three~~ six months prior to the annual Convention, the Bishop shall appoint the committees of Convention which shall include a Committee on Dispatch of Business, ~~a Committee on Credentials, a Committee on Constitution and Canons, a Committee on Resolutions of Policy,~~ a Committee on Courtesy, and such other Committees as may be necessary for the Convention to carry out its responsibilities. Each committee shall have an odd number of members. The members of these committees shall be selected from among the lay and clergy delegates certified to the Secretary as of the date of appointment, **or Officers,** and shall be, to the extent possible, representative of both orders and the breadth of the diocese. No delegate may serve on more than one of these committees. The appointments shall be communicated to all delegates.

(b) The Committee on the Dispatch of Business shall consist of at least 3 members, including at least one lay and one clergy delegate. The Secretary of the Convention shall be an ex officio, voting member. The Committee shall meet not later than 60 days prior to the annual Convention, shall prepare the Order of Business to be presented, and shall cause a copy of the Order of Business to be sent to each Member of the Clergy in the Diocese and to each Lay Delegate not later than 30 days prior to the annual Convention. The Committee shall also present the Order of Business at the opening of the annual Convention *for* approval, as presented or amended, by the delegates.

~~(c) The Committee for Certification of Minutes shall consist of the Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, or designee, and the Parliamentarian. In consultation with the Bishop, the~~

~~committee shall review the minutes prepared by the Secretary and certify their accuracy and completeness within 30 days of the close of convention.~~

~~((c))The Committee on Constitutions and Canons shall consist of at least five members, including at least two lay and two clergy delegates. The Chancellor shall be a non-voting ex officio member ex officio. The committee's duties are to review any proposed amendments to the Constitution or Canons of the diocese for legality, consistency with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and The Episcopal Church and practicality, to hold at least one a hearing, at Convention, on each proposal, to make recommendations on all amendments submitted to the Convention, including any further amendments approved by the committee, which may include further amendments, to the Convention, and to ensure the accuracy of the record of any amendments adopted. The Committee shall also have the power to initiate and recommend proposals for amendments to the Constitution and Canons.~~

~~(d) The Committee on Resolutions of Policy shall consist of at least five members, including at least two lay and two clergy delegates. It shall review all resolutions regarding policy submitted for consideration by the convention not otherwise assigned to any committee of Convention established under Canon 1.1.4, hold a at least one hearing, at Convention, on each one and make recommendations on all, which may include revisions or substitutes, on all to the Convention.~~

~~(e) The Committees on Constitution and Canons and on Resolutions may hold additional hearings on the matters before them prior to the Convention, by electronic transmission, so long as notice of each hearing and its subject matter is provided at least two weeks in advance to all Members of the Clergy, certified Lay Delegates and Clerks of the congregations in the Diocese. The arrangements must provide reasonable opportunity for full participation by members of the committee holding the hearing, other delegates and members of the Diocese, and minutes or a recording of the hearing to be made available to absent committee members.~~(f) The Committee on Courtesy shall consist of at least three members, including one lay and one clergy delegate. It shall draft one or more appropriate resolutions to express the gratitude of the Convention and present them to the Convention for approval.

~~(g) The Committee for Certification of Minutes shall consist of the Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, or designee, the Secretary, or designee, and a member each of the Resolutions and Constitution and Canons Committees. the Parliamentarian. In consultation with the Bishop, the~~ The committee shall review the minutes prepared by the Secretary and certify their accuracy and completeness within 30 days of the close of convention.

~~(d) Each of the other committees shall have an odd number of members with at least one lay and one clergy delegate, with the duties set out below.~~

~~(e) The Committee on Resolutions of Policy shall receive for review all resolutions regarding policy submitted for consideration by the convention, hold a hearing on each one and make recommendations, which may include revisions, to the Convention.~~

~~(f) The Committee on Courtesy shall draft one or more appropriate resolutions to express the gratitude of the Convention and present them to the Convention for approval.~~

~~(g) At least three months before the convention the Bishop shall appoint a Committee on Constitution and Canons whose members shall be selected, to the extent possible, from among the lay and clergy delegates certified to the secretary as of the date of appointment, and representative of both orders and the breadth of the diocese. The Chancellor shall be a member ex officio. The committee's duties are to review any proposed amendments to the Constitution or Canons of the diocese for legality, consistency and practicality, to hold a hearing at Convention on each proposal and to make recommendations, which may include further amendments, to the Convention, and to ensure the accuracy of the record of any amendments adopted. The Committee shall also~~

~~have the power to initiate and recommend proposals for amendments to the Constitution and Canons.~~

Sec. 5. (a) All proposals for amendments to the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese, shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary by the person or persons initiating such changes at least 90 days prior to the annual Convention. ~~As soon as practicable,~~ Within five business days, the Secretary shall send copies of the proposed changes to each member of the Committee on Constitution and Canons, to each Member of the Clergy **entitled to seat and vote,** ; to each Lay Delegate and to the Convocations.

(b) Any member of a Congregation in the Diocese or Member of the Clergy entitled to seat and vote at Convention may propose an amendment to the Constitution or Canons after obtaining the written sponsorship or endorsement of a Lay Delegate, ~~a~~ Member of the Clergy entitled to seat and vote, a Vestry or Bishop's Advisory Committee, a Convocation, or a Commission or Committee of the Diocese.

~~(c) All proposals for amendments to the Constitution or Canons submitted under the foregoing sections to the Committee on Constitution and Canons shall be reported to the floor of Convention for action.~~

Sec. 6. (a) Resolutions ~~of Policy~~ shall be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary by the person or persons initiating them at least ~~90~~ 45 days prior to the annual Convention. Within five business days, ~~The~~ the Secretary shall ~~immediately~~ send copies of the proposed resolution to each member of the Committee on Resolutions ~~Constitution and Canons~~, to each Member of the Clergy in the Diocese **entitled to seat and vote,** to each Lay Delegate and to the Convocations. Resolutions ~~of Policy~~ not submitted in accordance with this provision may be referred to the Committee on Resolutions ~~of Policy~~, by a three-fourths vote of the convention based on a reading of the title of the resolution, ~~for its recommendation and for action by Convention.~~ to be processed in the same manner as set out in Sec. 4(d) above.

(b) Any member of a Congregation in the Diocese or Member of the Clergy entitled to seat and vote at Convention may propose a resolution ~~of policy~~ after obtaining the written sponsorship or endorsement of a Lay Delegate, a Member of the Clergy entitled to seat and vote, a Vestry or Bishop's Advisory Committee, a Convocation, or a Commission or Committee of the Diocese.

Sec. 7. At any session of the Convention, the Bishop, or other duly constituted President of the Convention, may designate a temporary presiding officer from among the Lay or Clerical Delegates present at that particular session to preside over the Convention.

Sec. 8 (a). At or before each annual meeting of the Convention, the Bishop shall appoint a Post Convention Committee, consisting of five persons, including at least one lay and one clergy delegate from the Convention, to serve until the Committee reports to the next annual Convention. The Bishop shall also appoint one of the members as convener, who, working in cooperation with the Secretary of Convention, shall call the first meeting of the Committee, to be held within 20 days after the meeting of Convention adjourns.

(b) The duties of the Post Convention Committee shall be:

(i) To refer any business referred to it by the Convention to the appropriate entity for implementation, and to monitor the progress of any such business;

(ii) To report to the next annual meeting of Convention and to interim meetings of Diocesan Council concerning the implementation of the business and resolutions of the prior Convention.

Proposed by: Constitution and Canons Working Group

Explanation:

The several proposed changes in 1.1 are intended to align our canons related to the administration of the Convention with the needs and realities of our convention practices. Changes address the reality of new communication media and rhythms of convention deadlines. Some changes are made to reflect the ongoing practical reality of the diocese: for example, that we have not in recent practice had a Committee on Credentials and because credentialing is managed by diocesan staff, we do not need one. Other changes include revising timelines for submitting resolutions and proposals for amendments. Finally, some revisions are intended to make provisions in the canon more clear in their intent.