

## **Amendments related to The Annual Meeting of Convention**

Canon 1.1

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

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

15 **Sec. 2.** Notice of the time and place of every annual or special meeting of the Convention, and  
16 of any change therein, shall be given by the Secretary to every Member of the Clergy, to every  
17 lay delegate whose election has been certified to the Secretary, and to the Clerk of every  
18 Congregation in the Diocese at least 30 days before the time appointed for the meeting. In the  
19 case of a special meeting, the notice shall also include a verbatim copy of the call issued by the  
20 Bishop. Failure to provide timely notice of the annual meetings of the Convention shall not,  
21 however, invalidate the Convention.

22 **Sec. 3.** (a) At least ~~three~~ six months prior to the annual Convention, the Bishop shall appoint the  
23 committees of Convention which shall include a Committee on Dispatch of Business, a  
24 Committee on Constitution and Canons, a Committee on Resolutions of Policy, a Committee on  
25 Courtesy, and such other Committees as may be necessary for the Convention to carry out its  
26 responsibilities. Each committee shall have an odd number of members. The members of these  
27 committees shall be selected from among the lay and clergy delegates certified to the Secretary  
28 as of the date of appointment, or Officers, and shall be, to the extent possible, representative of  
29 both orders and the breadth of the diocese. No delegate may serve on more than one of these  
30 committees. The appointments shall be communicated to all delegates.

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

39 (c) The Committee on Constitutions and Canons shall consist of at least five members, including  
40 at least two lay and two clergy delegates. The Chancellor shall be a non-voting ex officio  
41 member ex officio. The committee's duties are to review any proposed amendments to the

42 Constitution or Canons of the diocese for legality, consistency with the Constitution and Canons  
43 of the Diocese and The Episcopal Church and practicality, to hold at least one a hearing, at  
44 Convention, on each proposal, to make recommendations on all amendments submitted to the  
45 Convention, including any further amendments approved by the committee, which may include  
46 further amendments, to the Convention, and to ensure the accuracy of the record of any  
47 amendments adopted. The Committee shall also have the power to initiate and recommend  
48 proposals for amendments to the Constitution and Canons.

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

55 (e) The Committees on Constitution and Canons and on Resolutions may hold additional  
56 hearings on the matters before them prior to the Convention, by electronic transmission,  
57 so long as notice of each hearing and its subject matter is provided at least two weeks in  
58 advance to all Members of the Clergy, certified Lay Delegates and Clerks of the  
59 congregations in the Diocese. The arrangements must provide reasonable opportunity  
60 for full participation by members of the committee holding the hearing, other delegates  
61 and members of the Diocese, and minutes or a recording of the hearing to be made  
62 available to absent committee members.

63 (f) The Committee on Courtesy shall consist of at least three members, including one lay  
64 and one clergy delegate. It shall draft one or more appropriate resolutions to express  
65 the gratitude of the Convention and present them to the Convention for approval.

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

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

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

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

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

85 amendments, to the Convention, and to ensure the accuracy of the record of any amendments  
86 adopted. The Committee shall also  
87 have the power to initiate and recommend proposals for amendments to the Constitution and  
88 Canons.

89

90 **Sec. 4.** (a) Any member of a Congregation in the Diocese or Member of the Clergy entitled to  
91 seat and vote at Convention may propose an amendment to the Constitution or Canons after  
92 obtaining the written sponsorship or endorsement of a Lay Delegate, a Member of the Clergy  
93 entitled to seat and vote, a Vestry or Bishop's Advisory Committee, a Convocation, or a  
94 Commission or Committee of the Diocese.

95 (b) All proposals for amendments to the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese, shall be  
96 submitted, in writing, to the Secretary by the person or persons initiating such changes at least  
97 90 days prior to the annual Convention. ~~As soon as practicable,~~ Within five business days, the  
98 Secretary shall send copies of the proposed changes to each member of the Committee on  
99 Constitution and Canons, to each Member of the Clergy entitled to seat and vote, to each Lay  
100 Delegate and to the Convocations.

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

104

105 **Sec. 5.** (a) Any member of a Congregation in the Diocese or Member of the Clergy entitled to  
106 seat and vote at Convention may propose a resolution of policy after obtaining the written  
107 sponsorship or endorsement of a Lay Delegate, a Member of the Clergy entitled to seat and  
108 vote, a Vestry or Bishop's Advisory Committee, a Convocation, or a Commission or Committee of  
109 the Diocese.

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

119

120 **Sec. 6.** At any session of the Convention, the Bishop, or other duly constituted President of the  
121 Convention, may designate a temporary presiding officer from among the Lay or Clerical  
122 Delegates present at that particular session to preside over the Convention.

123

124 **Sec. 7** (a) At or before each annual meeting of the Convention, the Bishop shall appoint a Post-  
125 Convention Committee, consisting of five persons, including at least one lay and one clergy  
126 delegate from the Convention, to serve until the Committee reports to the next annual

127 Convention. The Bishop shall also appoint one of the members as convener, who, working in  
128 cooperation with the Secretary of Convention, shall call the first meeting of the Committee, to  
129 be held within 20 days after the meeting of Convention adjourns.

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

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

133 (ii) To report to the next annual meeting of Convention and to ~~interim~~ meetings of  
134 Diocesan Council concerning the implementation of the business and resolutions of the prior  
135 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.