

Report of the Committee on
Constitution and Canons
to the
39th Annual Diocesan Convention

Right Reverend Sir,

The Committee recommends changes to certain Articles of the diocesan Constitution as follows:

Article 3 To allow for alternate modes of convening the delegates and clergy of the Diocese for a live convention, should circumstances warrant it.

Article 12 To amend the procedure for electing representatives to attend extra-diocesan synods.

Article 16 To clarify the office of Trustee for the Fund for the Episcopate.

These Constitutional amendments were approved by the 38th Annual Diocesan Convention and require ratification by this Convention, as stipulated in Article 19.

And further, the Committee recommends the repeal of the following Canon:

Canon 37 To repeal the canon, which is no longer needed in the life of the Diocese.

The text of each amendment is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. John Cruikshank

David Ebert, Esq.

The Rev. Randall Foster

Mike McBride, Esq.

Warren Norred, Esq.

The Rev. Spencer Stubblefield

PROPOSED AMENDMENT A

It is proposed to insert the words “or method” as indicated below. This amendment will allow the Diocese to meet, if needed, via any method deemed appropriate, *via a telephonic or electronic connection, or a hybrid of these with in-person gatherings*. (The amendment is *bold face, italic, and highlight*.)

This is the second reading of this amendment.

ARTICLE 3

THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF CONVENTION

The Convention of this Diocese shall assemble in the month of November at a place, time, and date set by the Bishop and Executive Council.

All meetings of the Convention of this Diocese shall be held in Fort Worth, Texas; provided, however, that an Annual Convention shall have the authority, if it so chooses, to designate the place of the next meeting of the Convention; and for sufficient cause the Bishop, with the consent of the Standing Committee, may change the date of meeting or appoint some other place *or method* for holding the Convention; provided that thirty (30) days’ notice of such change shall be given to each Parish and Mission in union with the Convention.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT B

It is proposed to change the title of the Article and to simplify the language for the election of these office-holders, while also removing the length to which the representatives hold office, to accommodate the differing terms of office for each extra-diocesan convention or synod. The existing Sec. 2 would be removed in its entirety, along with portions of Sec. 1.

This is the second reading of this amendment.

Existing text:

ARTICLE 12

DEPUTIES OR DELEGATES TO EXTRA-DIOCESAN CONVENTIONS OR SYNODS

Sec. 1 An equal number of priests and lay persons canonically resident within the Diocese shall be elected to serve as deputies or delegates to such extra-diocesan conventions, synods or meetings to which this Diocese may wish to send deputies or delegates. They shall possess the same qualifications as members of the Standing Committee and shall be elected at the Annual Convention immediately preceding any such extra-diocesan convention, synod or meeting to which this Diocese may wish to send deputies or delegates. The election of deputies or delegates shall be by straight vote ballot, with those receiving the most combined tallied ballots being declared the elected deputies or delegates, and the total number of deputies or delegates so elected shall be equal to the total number of deputies or delegates to which this Diocese may be entitled under the then-prevailing rules of the extra-diocesan convention, synod, or meeting to which this diocese may wish to send deputies or delegates. Such duly-elected deputies or delegates shall hold office for a period of three (3) years or until their successors are elected, whichever occurs first.

Sec. 2 At the same Convention at which deputies or delegates to extra-diocesan conventions, synods or meetings are elected, there shall be the same number of priests and lay persons to serve as alternate deputies or delegates. The election of alternates shall be elected determined from the same straight vote ballot as deputies or delegates, and they shall be those individuals receiving the most combined tallied ballots after determining the appropriate number of deputies or delegates.

Sec. 3 The Bishop shall assign the Alternate deputies or delegates to fill any vacancy in the delegation. In case there be no Bishop or he is unable to act, this power shall be exercised by the Standing Committee.

Report of the Committee on Constitution and Canons

The 39th Annual Diocesan Convention

Proposed text:

ARTICLE 12

REPRESENTATIVES

TO EXTRA-DIOCESAN CONVENTIONS OR SYNODS

Sec. 1 An equal number of priests and lay persons canonically resident within the Diocese shall be elected to serve as representatives to such extra-diocesan conventions, synods, or meetings to which this Diocese may wish to send representatives. They shall possess the same qualifications as members of the Standing Committee and shall be elected at the Annual Diocesan Convention by a total cumulative vote of both orders. Such duly elected representatives shall hold office until their successors are elected.

Sec. 2 The Bishop shall assign the alternate representatives to fill any vacancy in the delegation, **first choosing from among the non-elected nominees.** In case there be no Bishop, or he is unable to act, this power shall be exercised by the Standing Committee.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT C

It is proposed to insert the words indicated in paragraph 1 and remove the remainder of that paragraph following the word “Corporation.” This amendment recognizes that the Fund’s Trustees also serve as the Board of Trustees for the Corporation and simplifies who are the members. (The existing text being removed is ~~bold faced and crossed out~~, whereas the amendment is *bold face, italics, and highlight*.)

This is the second reading of this amendment.

ARTICLE 16

FUND FOR THE ENDOWMENT OF THE EPISCOPATE

There shall be a Fund for the Endowment of the Episcopate (“Fund”) which shall be managed and controlled by a Board of Trustees *of the diocesan Corporation*. ~~consisting of not less than five (5), of whom only two (2) may be Clergy, and not more than nine (9) members of the Church in this Diocese who shall be nominated by the Bishop and elected by the Convention at the Annual Meeting. The Trustees shall hold office for one (1) year or until their successors are elected.~~

They shall be entrusted with the investment and management of the Fund. They shall make an annual report of the Fund to the Annual Convention.

After paying the necessary expenses incident to the management of this Fund, ten percent (10%) of the net annual income remaining shall be returned to and become a part of the Fund. The remainder of the said net income shall be applied, so far as may be necessary, toward the support of the Bishop of this Diocese, and of the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, and of any Suffragan or Assistant Bishop if there be any.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT G

It is recommended that this canon be repealed as this Diocese does not have any existing schools. (The proposed change is shown ~~crossed out~~.)

CANON 37 **DIOCESAN SCHOOLS**

~~Sec. 37.1 Diocesan Schools may be established as Diocesan Institutions as set forth in Canon 20.~~

~~Sec. 37.2 A separate Board of Trustees ("Board") shall manage each school. An initial board of twelve (12) trustees shall be appointed by the Bishop and confirmed by the Convention. At each subsequent Convention the Bishop shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Convention, four (4) trustees who shall serve for three (3) years. At all times, at least three-fourths (3/4) of the trustees shall be adult confirmed communicants in good standing in the Diocese, certified annually.~~

~~Sec. 37.3 The Bishop shall have the right of visitation and be an ex-officio member of the Board~~

~~Sec. 37.4 A report from the Board of each school shall be prepared annually for the year ending June 30 preceding. This report shall be sent in duplicate not later than September 1 to the Secretary of the Convention. The report shall include the events of the year involving the operation of the school, and all financial accounting. The annual report shall be presented to the next Convention.~~

~~Sec. 37.5 The books and records shall be open at all times to inspection by the Bishop or his designee. All accounts shall be audited annually by a Certified Public Accountant or by such an accounting agency as shall be approved by the Department of Finance of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.~~

~~Sec. 37.6 Diocesan Schools shall follow the educational and operational guidelines set forth by the Commission on Episcopal Schools, the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools, and the State of Texas.~~

~~Sec. 37.7 Upon dissolution of the school, all property, real or personal, remaining after payment of all debts, shall vest in the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth.~~