

**2024 REPORT OF THE 2024 CONVENTION COMMITTEE ON
CHARTER AND CANONS**

I. INTRODUCTION

This 2024 Convention Committee on Charter and Canons (the “2024 Committee”), continues to address some of the challenges experienced at the time of the two (2) most recent special Diocesan Conventions called for the purpose of electing a Bishop Coadjutor (the “Special Conventions”). We have first reviewed the report of the 2023 Committee and have picked up from that report. We continue to review The Articles of Reincorporation of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida, Inc. (the “1972 Articles”) and certain of the Canons of the Diocese (the “Canons”).

The 2024 Committee, as was the 2023 Committee, consists of individuals who are all communicants of parishes and missions located within the Diocese, including the current Chancellor of the Diocese. The results of our work is set forth in this 2024 Report.

We continue to be assisted by Diocesan staff, including Keith Daw, the current COO.

We believe, after numerous Zoom meetings and lots of prayer, we have completed the charge to the 2024 Committee. This Report addresses the Resolutions that will be presented at Diocesan Convention on September 21, 2024. For each Resolution, we include a statement intended to address the subject of each Resolution, the recommended Resolution itself and our Explanation for the Resolution. Not suggesting or implying that some Resolution is more important than others, in reading this Report you will see that statements and explanations, in some cases, are more extensive than others.

A. RESOLUTION NO. 1

As for changes in the Articles, be reminded that at Diocesan Convention held November 11, 2023, changes to Article VII, Section 4, providing for quorum requirements at any Diocesan Convention, for any purpose, is a simple majority of the clergy order and the lay order was approved. There were also various changes made to the articles to drop temporary portions no longer needed, reference other governing documents of the organization (canons and Florida statutes), and generally cleaning up language, labels, and formatting. The text below will be the full text of our articles if this second reading of the resolution is adopted. Being a change to the Articles, in order for the change to be finally adopted, it must be approved by action of two (2) successive Diocesan Conventions. For the second reading, it will be again presented at Diocesan Convention to be held September 21, 2024.

A. RESOLUTION NO. 1-SECOND READING

RESOLUTION NO. 1: AMENDMENT AND RESTATEMENT OF THE ARTICLES OF REINCORPORATION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA.

That the Articles of Reincorporation of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida, Inc. be amended and restated as follows:

**THE AMENDED AND RESTATED ARTICLES
OF REINCORPORATION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA, INC.**

**ARTICLE I.
Name; Governance**

The name of this corporation is "The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida, Inc." The corporation is sometimes referenced in these Amended and Restated Articles of Reincorporation (these "Articles") as the "Diocese." The corporation shall be governed pursuant to these Articles and by bylaws of the corporation, which bylaws shall be known as the "Canons" of the Diocese. These Articles are adopted as provided and stated herein.

ARTICLE II.
Purposes

The general nature of the objects and purposes of this corporation shall be:

- (a) To propagate and disseminate the Gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ.
- (b) To be a constituent governing part of the "Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America" and, subject only to any limitations in the laws of Florida, the corporation recognizes, accedes to and adopts the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and acknowledges its authority accordingly.
- (c) To do all things necessary and proper in the pursuit of such objects and purposes.

ARTICLE III.
Location

The office of the corporation shall be in the City of Jacksonville, County of Duval, State of Florida, or such other place as may be designated from time to time by the annual convention of the Diocese (the "Annual Diocesan Convention"). Under the Constitution of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and until further action by such national body, the jurisdiction of the corporation comprises all that part of the State of Florida lying North of the Southerly boundary of the Counties of Levy, Alachua, Putnam, and Flagler, and East of the Easterly boundary of the Counties of Jackson, Calhoun and Gulf (that is, along the Apalachicola River, including that portion of Franklin County lying East of said River) as they existed in the year 1972.

ARTICLE IV.
Qualification of Members

The membership of the corporation shall consist of all persons resident within the jurisdiction of the corporation who are members of the Episcopal Church as such membership may be defined from time to time by the Canons.

ARTICLE V.
Term of Existence

This corporation is to exist perpetually.

ARTICLE VI.
Organization

Section 1. The affairs of the corporation are to be managed by the Bishop of the Diocese (who shall be President and Chief Executive Officer of the corporation), a Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council (which shall consist of not less than three (3) members), and such other officers and agencies as may be provided from time to time by the Canons. The Canons shall provide for the time and manner in which the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council and other officers and agencies are elected and appointed.

Section 2. The Bishop shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. When there is no Bishop, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese for all proper purposes.

Section 3. (a) The Diocesan Convention shall be the Legislative Authority of the Diocese. It shall be composed of clergy and lay delegates as provided by the Canons. There shall be an annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention at such time and place as the Canons shall provide. The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall have the power to call a special Diocesan Convention, provided that at least thirty (30) days' prior written notice thereof shall be given to all clergy canonically resident in the Diocese (as provided in the Canons) and congregations entitled to representation (as provided in the Canons), in writing, specifying the time and place of meeting and the business to be transacted.

(b) Each clergy and lay delegate to the Diocesan Convention shall be entitled to one vote; unless a vote by orders shall be called for by three clergy members or by the lay delegation from one congregation. If a vote by orders shall be called for, the clergy and laity shall vote separately, and a concurrence of both orders on the same ballot shall be necessary to constitute a decision.

Section 4. The election of a Bishop of the Diocese shall be had in regular or special Diocesan Convention. The quorum required for the election of a Bishop shall be a majority of all clergy delegates entitled to vote and a majority of all lay Delegates entitled to vote at such convention. The election shall be in the following manner: After nominations have been made in open Convention, vote(s) shall be taken by orders (clergy and lay) and by secret ballot until a qualified Bishop or Presbyter shall be chosen. A concurrent majority of those present and voting in both orders shall be necessary for election of a Bishop.

ARTICLE VII. Canons

Section 1. The Diocesan Convention shall provide such Canons for the conduct of the business and the carrying out of the purposes of the corporation as it may deem necessary from time to time, consistent with the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the laws of the State of Florida.

Section 2. Such Canons shall be subject to amendment from time to time by the Diocesan Convention in such manner as may be provided therein.

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments

These Articles may be amended by a resolution introduced in writing and considered in any annual Diocesan Convention. If approved by a majority of that convention, it shall lie over until the next Annual Diocesan Convention when, upon consideration again, if it be approved in a vote by Orders, the amendment shall become effective.

ARTICLE IX. Non-Profit Status

Section 1. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of any individual or member.

Section 2. No person, firm or corporation shall ever receive any dividends or profits from the undertakings of this corporation.

Section 3. The corporation shall not carry on propaganda or otherwise act to influence legislation.

ARTICLE X.
Powers

In order to promote the purposes of this corporation, it may acquire property by grant, gift, purchase, devise or bequest, and hold and dispose of such property as the corporation shall require for the benefit of the members and not for pecuniary profit.

ARTICLE XI.
Articles Consolidation

These adopted Articles supersede all prior articles of incorporation and reincorporation of the corporation and all amendments to those prior articles.

ARTICLE XII.
Adoption; Effective Date

As required by Section 617.1007, Florida Statutes, it is stated that these Articles contain amendments to the preexisting articles of incorporation of the corporation that required member approval. These Articles were adopted by the Diocesan Conventions meeting on November 11, 2023, and _____, 2024, and the votes cast in the respective Orders at both Diocesan Conventions were sufficient for approval and adoption of these Articles.

I submit this document and affirm that the facts stated herein are true. I am aware that the false information submitted in a document to the Department of State constitutes a third degree felony as provided for in Section 817.155, Florida Statutes.

Dated: _____, 2024

Signature: _____
(By Bishop or Chair of Standing Committee as Ecclesiastical Authority)

(Typed or printed name of person signing)

(Title of person signing)

EXPLANATION

On matters other than the election of a Bishop, the Canons do not require a 2/3rds quorum in order to conduct business at a regular or special Diocesan Convention, but only require a simple majority of both orders. From an efficiency, governance and operational standpoint, the 2/3rds requirement for a quorum provides too great a possibility of stalemates and impedes the ability of the Diocese to conduct a Diocesan Convention for the election of a Bishop. The 2/3rds quorum requirement remains incongruous with the fact that the Canons, as it relates to the election of a Bishop, only requires a simple majority of each order of the eligible attending delegates, to actually elect a Bishop. For example, if there are 100 eligible clergy and 100 lay delegates, only 51 votes from each would be required to elect a Bishop, whereas 67 of each group would be required to constitute a quorum under the 2/3rds requirement in order to conduct a Diocesan Convention for the election of a Bishop. By this example, the refusal to attend of only 34 delegates from either order, acting in concert or due to problems attending, would prevent the conducting of a Diocesan Convention for the election of a Bishop and thereby undermine or block a potential majority of the delegates who would elect a Bishop.

On the other matters amended by this resolution, temporary portions of the articles that are no longer required have been eliminated and the articles renumbered. Other changes have been made to increase legibility, comprehensibility, and recognition of other statutes (not then in existence) that now govern the operation of the corporation.

Accordingly, it is our recommendation that Article VII, Section 4 of the Articles of Reincorporation of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Florida be adopted at its second reading on September 21, 2024.

B. RESOLUTION NO. 2

As it relates to the conduct of the business of the Diocese at any Diocesan Convention we, as did the 2023 Committee, considered and evaluated the propriety of delegates at any Diocesan Convention attending and voting electronically or by other communicative means. No action was taken at Diocesan Convention held November 11, 2023. This is addressed in this 2024 Report and will be considered on September 21, 2024.

B. RESOLUTION NO. 2- AMENDMENT TO CANON 2 OF THE CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA, “OF ATTENDANCE OF CLERGY AND LAY DELEGATES”, ALLOWING FOR OTHER MEANS OF COMMUNICATION BESIDES PHYSICAL PRESENCE, AND, AND CANON 29 OF THE CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA, “OF RULES AND PROCEDURE.”

That Section 2 of Canon of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be amended to add a new section (e) as follows:

SECTION 2. Diocesan Convention.

(e) Participation by Communication Means. Delegates eligible to vote at any regular or special Diocesan Convention may participate in and vote at such convention through the use of any means of communication (including telephonic or electronic means then generally recognized, such as Zoom or Teams) by which all delegates participating may simultaneously hear each other during any such meeting. A delegate participating in any such meeting by this means is deemed to be present in person.

And that Canon 29 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be amended as follows:

CANON 29
Of Rules and Procedure

Diocesan Convention and all Diocesan agencies may adopt such rules of procedure as are not inconsistent with the Articles of Reincorporation of the Diocese of Florida, these Canons, or those as set forth by General Convention; and in all matters of procedure not otherwise provided for, Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, or Robert's Rules of Order as revised shall be followed.

EXPLANATION: Establishes the requirement to comply with the Articles and with Florida Statutes that govern not-for-profit corporations and to confirm that Robert's Rules of Order will be followed.

EXPLANATION

This proposed amendment would allow for the attendance and participation of all delegates at Diocesan Conventions, to be conducted in accordance with Section 617.0820, Florida Statutes, which permits the participation of directors, in our case, delegates, through a communication system or systems that allows by such means, delegates to participate and sit at regular or special Diocesan Conventions, including those called for the election of a Bishop. Whichever system that is ultimately adopted, would allow all delegates participating, either in person by this other means to simultaneously hear each other and speak during a Diocesan Convention. This proposed amendment thus tracks the Florida Statutes' provisions which also deems that a delegate participating and in a meeting by these means is deemed to be present in person at the meeting. The amendments also expressly (rather than by interpretation or inference) make Chapter 617, Florida Statutes, on not-for-profit corporations, an acceptable source of Diocesan procedures and rules.

Accordingly, it is our recommendation that proposed changes to Canon 2 be adopted on September 21, 2024.

C. RESOLUTION NO. 3:

As was the 2023 Committee, we were also charged with reviewing provisions in the Canons concerning approval of debt obligations of the Diocese in order determine if there is a better way to

facilitate a logical and efficient review of such undertakings and identification of the responsible offices or bodies of the Diocese for such review, consideration, or approval, but not changing the ultimate responsibility for final execution thereof. No action on this issue was taken at Diocesan Convention held November 11, 2023. This is addressed in this 2024 Report and will be considered September 21, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 3: AMENDMENT TO CANON 12 OF CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA “OF FINANCE AND INVESTMENT,” RENAMING CANON “OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, DISPOSITION AND ENCUMBRANCE; OF FINANCE AND INVESTMENT,” AMENDING ALL SECTIONS, AND CREATING NEW SECTION 3, “PROCESS FOR SELLING, DISPOSING OR ENCUMBERING DIOCESAN REAL PROPERTY.”

That Canon 12 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be amended as follows:

CANON 12
**Of Property Management, Disposition and Encumbrance;
of Finance and Investment**

SECTION 1. Management. Subject to the provisions of this Canon 12, Diocesan Council shall take charge of, manage, and control all lands, tenements, hereditaments, trusts, money and other things belonging to the Diocese, and authorize the execution of all documents as may be required for such purposes. Further, subject to the provisions of this Canon 12, the Bishop Diocesan and the Finance and Investment Committee, together with the Treasurer, shall be authorized to conduct such business matters as Diocesan Council may deem advisable.

SECTION 2. President and Directors. The Bishop Diocesan shall be the President of the Diocesan Corporation, and Diocesan Council shall function as the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

SECTION 3. Process for selling, disposing or encumbering real property owned by the Diocese. Anything contained herein or in any Canon of the Diocese of Florida to the contrary notwithstanding, any sale, other disposition or encumbrance of any real property owned by the Diocese requires the approval of the Bishop Diocesan and the Standing Committee. In the absence of a Bishop Diocesan such approval is required from the Standing Committee in its role as the Ecclesiastical Authority and from Diocesan Council, each as applicable, an acting authority and hereafter, the “Acting Authority”.

- (a) **Sale or Disposal of Property.** Any proposed sale or disposal of any of the real property owned by the Diocese shall first be presented in writing to the Finance and Investment Committee, explaining the reason for such sale or

disposal, the proposed terms, and the proposed disposition of the proceeds of the sale. Following its receipt and review of any such proposal, the Finance and Investment Committee shall report the same to the Acting Authority, with its recommendation, with copy of that recommendation provided to the individual, parish, mission or other body within the Diocese submitting the proposal. If the recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee is to deny the proposed sale or disposal of property or to approve the same with changes objected by the individual, parish, mission or other body within the Diocese proposing the same, that person, parish, mission or other body has the right to appeal the recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee directly to the Acting Authority.

- (b) **Encumbrance.** Any proposed encumbrance of any real property of the Diocese shall be presented in writing to the Finance and Investment Committee, explaining the reason for such encumbrance and the proposed terms. Following receipt and review of any such proposal, the Finance and Investment Committee shall report the same to the Acting Authority with its recommendation, with copy of that recommendation provided to the individual, parish, mission or other body within the Diocese submitting the proposal. If the recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee is to deny the proposed encumbrance or to approve the same with changes objected by the individual, parish, mission or other body within the Diocese proposing the same, that individual, parish, mission or other body has the right to appeal the recommendation of the Finance and Investment Committee directly to the Acting Authority.

SECTION 4. Finance and Investment Committee.

- (d) **Secretary of the Finance and Investment Committee.** The Finance and Investment Committee shall appoint one of its number to be secretary thereof to keep a record of its meeting and to certify to the same.
- (e) **Power of Finance and Investment Committee.** The Finance and Investment Committee is authorized: i) to manage and invest Diocesan assets; ii) to review and make recommendations to Diocesan Council on proposals to sell, dispose or encumber Diocesan real property as provided in Section 3 of this Canon 12; iii) subject to Diocesan Council approval, to borrow such sums of money at such rates and upon such terms as may be deemed necessary or expedient in meeting the budget approved by Diocesan Convention or as amended by Diocesan Council; and iv) to authorize the execution of such documents as may be required for such purpose.
- (f) **Limitations on Borrowing Power.** The Finance and Investment Committee, upon approval by Diocesan Council, is authorized to borrow money for the use by the Diocese or for the needs of a parish or mission within the Diocese, requesting the same.

Provided:

- (i) Any parish or mission within the Diocese requesting that money be borrowed for it shall submit to the Finance and Investment Committee, in writing and signed by the constituted authorities of the parish or mission, the amount requested, a detailed reason for the

- request, and a detailed plan for repayment;
- (ii) The evidence of the indebtedness of the Diocese for money borrowed shall be its promissory note executed as provided in Section 5 of this Canon 12;
 - (iii) Any parish or mission that requests borrowing and is denied such request, or the request of which is granted with changes to the request, shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Finance and Investment Committee to the Acting Authority.

SECTION 5. Bishop's Compensation and Contingent Expenses. Diocesan Convention shall annually provide for the payment of the Bishop Diocesan's compensation and contingent expenses. The Chair of the Finance and Investment Committee in consultation with the Vice-Chair of the Diocesan Council shall annually review such compensation and contingent expenses and make recommendations to the Budget Committee of the Diocesan Council.

SECTION 6. Execution of Documents. All deeds, notes, mortgages, and conveyances of property of the Diocese shall be executed by the Bishop Diocesan, or, if there be no Bishop Diocesan or in the event of the disability of the Bishop Diocesan, by the President of the Standing Committee, and attested by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Diocese.

In the event there is no Bishop Diocesan, and the President of the Standing Committee is unavailable, the vice chair of Diocesan Council may execute deeds, notes, mortgages, and conveyances of property of the Diocese.

SECTION 7. Prohibition on Alienation. Except as otherwise provided in this Canon, no parish is, nor are the corporate officers or congregation thereof, authorized or permitted to encumber, dispose, sell, alienate, transfer, or convey any real property, the title to which is or may be held by or for the use of the parish, and any such purported encumbrance, disposal, sale, alienation, transfer or conveyance otherwise, is void.

EXPLANATION

Under this current Canon, the incurring of debt obligations of the Diocese, the sale or encumbrance of real property owned by the Diocese is undertaken by the Finance and Investment Committee with ambiguous language regarding Diocesan Council regulating the rates and terms. This is contrary to the requirements of the Articles and Canons of ECUSA and certain changes to this Canon corrects the process for the approval to sell or encumber real property owned by the Diocese. The current Canon 12, Section 3. (c) and the proposed amended Canon are set forth above.

Accordingly, it is our recommendation that proposed changes to Canon 12 be adopted on September 21, 2024.

D. RESOLUTION NO. 4

This resolution is a group of technical fixes to wording and the naming of governing bodies of the diocese, and does not make material changes to the function of the canons.

E. RESOLUTION NO. 5

The matter related to qualification of clergy eligible to vote at any Diocesan Convention, special or regular, was presented at Diocesan Convention on November 11, 2023, but no action was taken. This issue remains to be resolved, is addressed in this 2024 Report and will come before the delegates on September. 21, 2024.

E. RESOLUTION NO. 5 -AMENDMENT TO CANON 1 OF CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA “OF ORGANIZATION OF DIOCESE AND CONVENTION,” TO REVISE SECTION 3, “COMPOSITION. (A) CLERGY DELEGATES,” TO ADD A NEW SECTION 4, “CURE,” AND TO ADD A NEW SECTION 5, “LISTS.”

That Section 3(a) of Canon 1 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be amended as follows:

SECTION 3. Composition. Diocesan Convention will be composed of the following who shall have seat, voice and vote unless otherwise prohibited by Section 2** of this canon:

(a) Clergy Delegates:

- (1) All Clergy in good standing having cure in the Diocese; and
- (2) Clergy in good standing and canonically resident in the Diocese who would not otherwise qualify as clergy delegates under subsection (a)(1) above because they do not have cure in the Diocese may register as clergy delegates with the diocesan office at least 60 days in advance of Diocesan Convention.
- (3) No later than 45 days prior to Diocesan Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall provide notice directly to any canonically resident clergy without cure who have registered but whose registration will not be accepted and shall publish a notice to the Diocese of the same; any such notice shall be accompanied by the justification for such determination. Clergy whose registration as clergy delegates will not be accepted pursuant to that notice may appeal to the Standing Committee that determination by the Bishop Diocesan within 5 days of the notice’s

publication; however, in the absence of a Bishop Diocesan, such determination shall be final and unappealable upon the publication of a notice by the Ecclesiastical Authority. Any appeal must be concluded, and the Clergy notified in writing of the result of that appeal, no fewer than 30 days prior to Diocesan Convention.

And that Canon 1 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be amended to add a new Sections 4 and 5 as follows:

SECTION 4. Cure. For the purposes of this Canon 1, *cure* refers to the leadership and pastoral responsibility undertaken by clergy within the Diocese. Clergy with cure include: Clergy who are heads of diocesan congregations and ministries who are canonically resident or licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority; full and part-time associate priests who participate in a minimum of 12 Eucharists per year in the Diocese and are canonically resident or licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority; deacons assigned to diocesan congregations and ministries by the Ecclesiastical Authority; and military chaplains canonically resident in this Diocese.

SECTION 5. Lists. The Diocese shall maintain lists of clergy who are canonically resident and clergy who have cure and shall publish such lists at least thirty (30) days prior to any Diocesan Convention.

****for information purposes, Section 2 provides that any congregation, which for two (2) successive years does not file the Annual Parochial Report or do not file the canonically required annual audit, shall have seat and voice but not the right to vote.**

EXPLANATION

The difficulty of establishing who and how many of the clergy of the diocese are delegates to special and regular conventions of the diocese and how the quorum is determined, was revealed through election objections and quorum questions raised at all three of our most recent conventions. As the committee took up this work, we acknowledge that there are multiple ways dioceses qualify clergy and competing aims for who should be considered delegates and why. We sought to come to a compromise solution that aims for broad participation and yet still has as its highest value those who are active in the ministerial life of the diocese. Each of the aims and how our approach addresses them follows.

First and fundamentally, “what should qualify a clergy person as a delegate of the convention?” The requirement for all qualified clergy is good standing, which respects and responds

to the disciplinary processes of the church. We propose two additional qualifying factors in our change to Canon 1.3.a.

The first qualifying factor is cure. “Cure” is the term typically used and (if this change is adopted) now canonically defined to refer to those clergy who are active in the life of the diocese. The committee feels strongly that these voices are indispensable in the governance of the church, as they are the “clergy on the ground” in the present circumstances. Some members of the committee expressed their desire that this be the only way clergy should be qualified. We then examined who would be missing if the committee proposed this course, which led us to our second qualifying factor.

The second qualifying factor is canonical residence. Canonically resident clergy are clergy who are under the supervision and authority of the Bishop (or Ecclesiastical Authority) of the Diocese of Florida whether or not they are working in the diocese or at all. This includes clergy who are working in other dioceses whose letter of transfer (canonically referred to as Letters Dimmesory) have not yet been receiving by the bishop of the new diocese. This would also include clergy who have served in the Diocese of Florida and have retired or are in between cures and consider the Diocese of Florida their home. They would be able to qualify by registering themselves for the convention, making their desire to participate known. We propose this option after hearing feedback from the canonical amendments proposed to our 2023 convention. Retired clergy point out that though retired from employment, they remain clergy and still intend to live out their vows as pastor, priest, and teacher and to “take your share in the councils of the church.” Our proposal does not require this of them, and it permits them to do so. We also heard the request for boundaries around such participation, since there are more reasons than retirement or geography that a cleric might remain canonically resident and still should not be eligible to vote. This is the purpose for the Bishop’s (or Ecclesiastical Authority’s) ability to refuse a registration. An appeal process is included,

as is the requirement that such a refusal be made publicly and in writing, to prevent the pernicious application of this power.

“What effect does this have on quorum?”

The definition of quorum in the canons is unchanged. As the committee discovered, there is a discrepancy in the canons introduced by a 1996 canonical revision that would require non-canonically resident clergy with cure for quorum, yet not make them eligible to vote. We have historically handled this with a courtesy resolution from the credentials committee at the start of each convention granting seat, voice, and vote to non-canonically resident clergy with cure. The proposed revisions to clergy qualifications corrects this discrepancy, making such a resolution unnecessary in the future and requiring no revision to quorum. This is in keeping with our aim to include “clergy on the ground” in the convention under the qualification of cure discussed above.

“Where did you get the definition of cure?”

This was from the good work of the Standing Committee, who reached out and researched how other dioceses define it, seeking to correct and address questions raised at our 2023 convention. Other definitions of “active” or “engaged” for clergy were proposed (including in the 2023 proposed resolutions) all in an attempt to address the problem. We express our gratitude to the Standing Committee and propose their definition of cure in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration.

“Don’t we already have to produce a list of clergy of the convention?”

While a list of diocesan clergy is already required by the canons of The Episcopal Church, we propose that the list be maintained, that the qualification criteria we propose be included, and that the list be published 30 days *in advance* of a convention for the sake of transparency, clarity, and order.

Accordingly, it is our recommendation that proposed changes to Canon 1 be adopted on September 21, 2024.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Christopher J. Greene, Esq.
Diocesan Chancellor

Richard R. Alexander, Esq.

Rev. Wiley Ammons

Charlie Clark

Lee Haramis, Esq.

Amy Johnson

Rev. Stephen Pessah (Until July 2024)

Rev. Annette Sines

James D. Salter, Esquire

Rhonda Williams, Chair, Resolutions Committee