

RESOLUTION NO. 1: AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS OF FOUR CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF FLORIDA. That Sections 2 and 5 of Canon 1, Section 4 of Canon 2, Section 4 of Canon 3, and Section 1 of Canon 19 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be amended as follows:

CANON 1

Of Organization of Diocese and Convention

SECTION 2. Diocesan Convention. The Diocesan Convention is the legislative authority and chief policy making body for program and finance in the Diocese and shall be composed of the Bishop, Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, and members representing each congregation of the Diocese. Congregations, who for two successive years, do not file the Annual Parochial Report by the deadline established by General Convention, or do not file the canonically required annual audit, shall have seat and voice, but not vote at the next Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Convention. Notification will be sent by ~~March~~April 30 to the Sr. Warden and Priest-in-Charge of any congregation not in compliance with this section.

Appeals for exceptions must be made to the ~~Bishop~~Ecclesiastical Authority and Diocesan Council no ~~later~~fewer than ~~November 30~~60 days prior to any annual Diocesan Convention. Lack of notification will not release congregations from their responsibility.

SECTION 5. Lists. The Diocese shall maintain lists of clergy who are canonically resident-~~and~~, clergy who have cure, and lay delegates and shall publish such lists at least ~~thirty (30)~~ninety (90) days prior to any Diocesan Convention. Any corrections, additions or replacements, with any required supporting documentation, shall be provided to the Ecclesiastical Authority not later than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of any meeting of the Convention.

CANON 2

Of Attendance of Clergy and Lay Delegates

SECTION 4. Selection of Lay Delegates. Lay delegates and alternates shall be selected at a meeting of each congregation ~~not later than thirty (30) days after the close of the preceding annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention. Each delegate shall be selected for a term of two (2) years. The terms of delegates shall be so constituted that one-half shall be selected each year. Each congregation shall designate those selected for initial one year terms.~~ Each delegate and alternate shall serve until a successor is duly selected.

CANON 3

Of Elections by the Diocesan Convention, Vacancies

SECTION 4. Nominating Committee. A Nominating Committee consisting of one person from each Region and including a mix of clergy and laity shall be appointed annually by the Bishop to serve during that year. The Bishop shall designate one member to be chair of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall, ~~before December 31 of each year~~ no fewer than 21 days prior to any annual Diocesan Convention, furnish, in writing, to the delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention a list of nominees to fill the offices of members at large to the Diocesan Council, members of the Standing Committee, Disciplinary Board, deputies to General Convention and of such other offices as may be requested of the Nominating Committee by the Bishop or Diocesan Council. _

CANON 19

Of Congregations and Vestry Meetings Selections and Duties

SECTION 1. Meetings. There may be one or more meetings annually of each congregation on the call of the rector, priest-in-charge, or chaplain, or upon the call of a majority of members of the vestry, mission board, or advisory committee, due notice of which shall be given, to conduct such business as may be brought before it.

- (a) **Meetings, Communications After Each ~~Annual~~ Convention.** There shall be a meeting of each congregation not later than thirty (30) days after the close of each annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention for the purpose of acquainting the congregation with the work of ~~the preceding annual meeting and that meeting of Diocesan Convention.~~ Additionally, there shall be a communication to select each congregation following any special meeting of Diocesan Convention acquainting the congregation with its work. Finally, there shall be a meeting of the congregation as necessary to satisfy the requirements of Canon 2, Section 4, regarding the selection of delegates to the next meeting of the Convention, and to conduct such other business as may be brought before it.

Rationale

Our committee discussed the difficulties churches were having complying with the canons after the change in date of our annual diocesan convention. Some churches were confused about multiple meetings and some were reporting delegates late or not at all. We did a general review of the canons to locate all the places where dates were set explicitly with respect to the old date of convention in mind and we propose the changes above. Where deadline dates are still being left in the canons, these are intended to give diocesan staff long enough lead times to prepare for registration and convention and to give enough time for audits and parochial reports to come in and be reviewed before the notification deadline (proposed for April 30).

As far as congregational meetings are concerned, the canons will require a meeting within 30 days of the annual meeting of the diocesan convention. There is no longer a requirement for a congregational meeting after special conventions. This is not necessarily the parish annual meeting and the canons do not require this. Congregational meetings after any diocesan conventions are required to inform the congregation of the actions of convention and to handle any necessary response (for instance, adjusting bylaws or policies to comply with new canons). As long as our annual diocesan convention remains in the Fall, this will likely require multiple meetings of congregations who still wish to handle their congregational annual meeting business at the beginning of the calendar year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2: AMENDMENT TO CANON 1 OF CANONS OF THE
DIOCESE OF FLORIDA “OF ORGANIZATION OF DIOCESE AND CONVENTION,”
TO REVISE SECTION 3, “COMPOSITION.”**

That sub-Section 3(e) of Canon 1 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be amended to delete the current caption and language of that Section and revise that Section using language from the former sub-Section 3(f) as such language is amended to read as follows:

- (e) — ~~Delegates at Large. The Diocesan Council may, upon nomination by the Bishop, elect delegates at large from this Diocese.~~
- [f] Deputies to General Convention.** ~~The year of the General Convention and the year following the General Convention every~~ Every Deputy and Alternate Deputy to General Convention who is not otherwise a member of ~~the Convention. Diocesan Convention until a successor to such Deputy or Alternate Deputy is duly elected.~~

Rationale

We heard the voice of the Special Convention in June, when it overwhelmingly voted to remove Delegates at Large from the rules governing the election of the bishop despite the parliamentarian’s opinion that this would have no material effect unless it was removed from the canons. The above resolution removes Delegates at Large from the canons, giving effect to the rule change favored by a super-majority of the special convention.

We also propose to simplify language about General Convention deputies to remove confusion about when General Convention deputies serve as delegates to “until a successor . . . is duly elected.”

**RESOLUTION NO. 3: AMENDMENT TO CANON 5 OF CANONS OF THE
DIOCESE OF FLORIDA “OF THE SECRETARY,” TO REVISE SECTION 2, “DUTIES.”**

That Section 2(c) of Canon 5 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be to read as follows:

- (c) The Secretary shall transmit to the secretaries of the General Convention a copy of the Journal and will make a copy of the Journal electronically available to the Diocese.

Rationale

This is a perceived need to require the publication of the convention journals so that they are available in more ways than they have been in recent history (in person at diocesan house). Convention journals contain all the matters before, material presented to, and participants of the diocesan convention. This is in furtherance of transparency, and as the Secretary must submit the journal in writing to the General Convention, this additionally requires that it be made available electronically to the diocese.

**RESOLUTION NO. 4: AMENDMENT TO CANON 1 OF CANONS OF THE
DIOCESE OF FLORIDA “OF ORGANIZATION OF DIOCESE AND CONVENTION,”
TO REVISE SECTION 2, “DIOCESAN CONVENTION.”**

That sub-Section 2(e) of Canon 1 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be amended to delete such sub-Section in its entirety as follows:

(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 this Resolution shall take effect immediately following the adjournment of 182nd Annual Convention of the Diocese.

Rationale

There were two inquiries concerned about electronic participation in the bishop’s election during the special convention, and this is another instance of Charter and Canons trying to answer canonical questions with proposed revisions. We were present for the voting process during the special convention and it was decidedly less smooth than the voting process during the previous diocesan convention when everyone was present in person.

We heard reports from the voting vendor that it is difficult to integrate in-person electronic voting with online Zoom-based voting, and that Zoom-based voting makes a secret ballot impossible because of the limitations of the technology.

We heard reports from the diocesan staff that hosting such a “hybrid” convention also inordinately increases the cost of the event and taking the cost required to enable electronic participation to meet the standard set by the canon and the number of remote participants in the meeting meant that the cost/participant for remote participants exceeded the cost/participant for in-person participants. The cost of remote participation is being subsidized by in-person participants.

There are also questions about whether or not “simultaneously hear each other” is equal participation in the proceedings of the convention. The technical staff made efforts to make our remote speakers visible to the dais and to the room, and the side effect is that during one portion of the meeting remote

participant votes were being displayed on the screen. While it's always true that voting by secret ballot will be seen by the Zoom host, great care has to be taken to ensure that it's not seen by the dais or by the room.

Our committee understands that enabling remote participation was intended to ensure that we would not have quorum problems at our upcoming bishop's election and we have taken several approaches to correcting this problem already:

- 1) Revising the Articles of Reincorporation to reduce the quorum threshold to 50%
- 2) Granting vote to non-canonically resident clergy with cure
- 3) Canonically resident clergy no longer count against quorum unless they have cure, or have pre-registered

Because of the cost increases required to accomplish hybrid conventions, the difficulty in ensuring equal participation, the lack of ability for secret ballot, and the other strategies already in place to correct our previous quorum problems, we propose to eliminate remote participation in conventions.

There is a later resolution that would make a corresponding change to the Special Rules of the Electing Convention.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5: AMENDMENT TO CANON 9 OF CANONS OF THE
DIOCESE OF FLORIDA “OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE,” TO REVISE SECTION
4, “MEETINGS.”**

That the first sentence of Section 4 of Canon 9 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be amended to read as follows:

Meetings. The Standing Committee shall meet ~~at least~~no less often than once ~~each year~~per quarter. The president may call a special meeting whenever the president shall deem it necessary on reasonable notice. The Committee shall meet on the call of the Bishop, whenever the Bishop shall desire their advice, and they may meet on their own accord and agree to their own rules when they may be disposed to advise the Bishop.

Rationale

Under current canon, the meeting of Standing Committee immediately following the close of business at convention would meet the requirements of the canons until the following convention when new Standing Committee members were elected. We have heard that there was at least one year in the life of our diocese where this was the case.

This revision seeks to keep the Standing Committee active and involved even beyond the point where they are the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese. The Standing Committee has responsibilities enumerated in The Episcopal Church canons that cannot be accomplished in a single meeting per year.

This revision does not *limit* the Standing Committee to quarterly meetings, but sets this as the minimum standard.

RESOLUTION NO. 6: AMENDMENT TO RULE 2 OF SPECIAL RULES FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NINTH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE ADOPTED JUNE 14, 2025, “PARTICIPATION BY COMMUNICATION MEANS,” TO DELETE SUCH RULE.

That the Special Rules for the Election of the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese adopted June 14, 2025, be amended to delete Rule 2 in its entirety as follows:

Participation by Communication Means. ~~In keeping with Canon 1, Section 2 (e) of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida, delegates eligible to vote at the Bishop Election 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 the remaining Rules of the Special Rules for the Election of the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese adopted June 14, 2025, shall be renumbered to reflect such deletion.

Rationale

This is not a revision to the canons of the diocese, but rather to the Special Rules enacted by our special convention in June. Committee Resolution 4 seeks to change the canons concerning electronic participation in diocesan conventions. See resolution 4 for the general rationale for this proposed change.

If resolution 4 passes, this resolution would harmonize the rules of the election with the new reading of the canons.

If resolution 4 does not pass, and this resolution passes, this outcome would allow digital participation in regular conventions but would disallow digital participation in the bishop's election.

RESOLUTION NO. 7: AMENDMENT TO CANON 11 OF CANONS OF THE
DIOCESE OF FLORIDA “OF COMMITTEES OF THE DIOCESE,” TO REVISE
SECTION 2, “COMPOSITION.”

That Section 2 of Canon 11 of the Canons of the Diocese of Florida be amended to read as follows:

CANON 11
Of Committees of the Diocese

SECTION 2. Composition. The ~~Bishop~~ Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint the chair and members of each committee ~~with~~ subject to the concurrence of the Diocesan Council. Each committee shall be composed of ~~not less~~ no fewer than five members, one of whom shall be appointed chair and one of whom shall be appointed secretary. ~~The Bishop shall be~~ Additionally, the ~~ex-officio chair of each committee. The appointed chair, unless an elected member of Bishop~~ Diocesan Council, or, in the event of a vacancy in the office of Bishop Diocesan, the President of the Standing Committee, shall be an ex officio member ~~with voice but not vote. Each of each~~ committee may organize itself as it sees fit.

Rationale

This changes the rules of our diocesan committees such that the Bishop Diocesan or Standing Committee President (in the absence of a bishop) is an ex-officio member of every diocesan committee. Additionally, this change would also grant vote to committee chairs.