

CANON 3. THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Current: **Section 3. NOTICE OF CONVENTION.** The Ecclesiastical Authority shall call the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention by giving at least three months written notice to each congregation. The Ecclesiastical Authority may call a special meeting of the Diocesan Convention with thirty days written notice. In the case of emergency, the Ecclesiastical Authority may change the time and/or place of convention.

Proposed: **Section 3. NOTICE OF CONVENTION.** The Ecclesiastical Authority shall call the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention by giving at least three months written notice, **either electronically or printed**, to each congregation. The Ecclesiastical Authority may call a special meeting of the Diocesan Convention with thirty days written or **electronic** notice. In the case of emergency, the Ecclesiastical Authority may change the time and/or place of convention.

Current: **Section 5. PREPARATION FOR AND BUSINESS OF CONVENTION.**

b. Reports of the legislation and resolutions committees, except for courtesy resolutions, shall be prepared in final form, **printed and distributed** to the delegates at least thirty days prior to the annual convention.

Proposed: **Section 5. PREPARATION FOR AND BUSINESS OF CONVENTION.**

b. Reports of the legislation and resolutions committees, except for courtesy resolutions, shall be prepared in final form, **distributed** to the delegates at least thirty days prior to the annual convention.

Explanation: This change modernizes notification delivery.

Submitted by: Standing Committee

Budgetary impact: None

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Current: **Section 7. OPENING AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.** Every session of the convention shall be opened with the prayers of the Church. The order of business shall include:

- a. The committee on privilege shall certify to the convention that a quorum is present, advising the convention of the number present and entitled to vote.
- b. A quorum being present, **the presiding officer** shall declare the convention organized for business.
- c. **The chair** shall appoint tellers to count and report ballots whenever a written ballot shall be called for by these canons or by motion duly passed by convention.

Proposed: **Section 7. OPENING AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.** Every session of the convention shall be opened with the prayers of the Church. The order of business shall include:

- a. The committee on privilege shall certify to the convention that a quorum is present, advising the convention of the number present and entitled to vote.
- b. A quorum being present, **the presiding officer** shall declare the convention organized for business.
- c. **The presiding officer** shall appoint tellers to count and report ballots whenever a written ballot shall be called for by these canons or by motion duly passed by convention.

Explanation: This changes clarifies role and makes language consistent within this canon.

Submitted by: Standing Committee

Budgetary impact: None

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Current: **Section 7. OPENING AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.**

k. Election of members of Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, deputies and alternates to the General Convention, ~~the Church Advocate~~ and members of the Ecclesiastical trial court.

Proposed: **Section 7. OPENING AND ORDER OF BUSINESS.**

k. Election of members of Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, deputies and alternates to the General Convention, ~~the Church Advocate~~ and members of the **Disciplinary Board**.

Explanation: Church Advocate is no longer a position within TEC canons. Disciplinary Board is a name change of the formerly titled Ecclesiastical trial court.

Submitted by: Standing Committee

Budgetary impact: None

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CANON 5. DUTIES OF OTHER OFFICERS

Current language: **Section 3. TREASURER.** The Treasurer is chief fiscal officer of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall collect and disburse all money under the authority of the Diocese. The Treasurer shall report annually to Diocesan Convention on all collections and disbursements. The Treasurer shall serve as convener of the Department of Finance.

Proposed changes: **Section 3. TREASURER.** The Treasurer is chief fiscal officer of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall ~~oversee the collection~~ and ~~disbursement of~~ all money under the authority of the Diocese. The Treasurer shall report annually to Diocesan Convention on all collections and disbursements. The Treasurer shall serve as convener of the Department of Finance.

Explanation: This change clarifies duties of Treasurer.

Submitted by: Diocesan Finance Department

Budgetary impact: None

Current: **Section 5. CHURCH ADVOCATE.** The Church Advocate shall act as the official prosecutor in all ecclesiastical trials under these canons. The Diocesan Convention shall elect for a

three-year term a communicant in good standing, who is learned in trial advocacy and admitted to the practice of law before the Supreme Court of Montana, to be Church Advocate.

Proposed: ~~-Section 5. CHURCH ADVOCATE. The Church Advocate shall act as the official prosecutor in all ecclesiastical trials under these canons. The Diocesan Convention shall elect for a three-year term a communicant in good standing, who is learned in trial advocacy and admitted to the practice of law before the Supreme Court of Montana, to be Church Advocate.~~

Explanation: Church Advocate is no longer a position within TEC canons. This change reflects current Tile IV and places our canons in concert with the Canons of the General Convention.

Submitted by: Standing Committee

Budgetary impact: None

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CANON 6. Section 2. MEMBERSHIP.

Current: The Diocesan Council shall consist of the following voting members:

- a. The Bishop, who shall be the president.
- b. Six clergy and six lay people, to be elected at the annual Diocesan Convention for three-year terms each, with their terms so staggered that two clergy and two lay people shall be elected each year. Upon the expiration of the term of office of an elected member of the Diocesan Council, such member shall not be eligible for membership on the Diocesan Council until one year shall have elapsed after the expiration of the term of office.

Proposed: The Diocesan Council shall consist of:

- a. The Bishop, who shall be the president;
- b. Six clergy, **canonically resident and domiciled**, and six lay people **who shall be communicants in good standing of some congregation in the Diocese**. Each year the Diocesan Convention shall elect two clergy persons and two lay persons, each to serve for three-year terms. **In the event that there is a vacancy in the membership, the remaining members shall elect by a majority vote of the membership a new member who shall serve that unexpired term.** Upon the expiration of a **full** term of office of an ~~an elected~~ member of the Diocesan Council, **the member shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed to the Diocesan Council until the next Diocesan Convention.**

Explanation: This change makes language consistent regarding Diocesan Council membership and terms of office with that of Standing Committee as specified in Canon 4.2.

Submitted by: Bishop Marty Stebbins

Budgetary impact: None

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CANON 7. DELEGATES TO PROVINCIAL SYNOD.

Current: Up to four people in each order may be appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council as delegates to the Provincial Synod for a ~~one~~-year term.

Proposed: Up to four people in each order may be appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council as delegates to the Provincial Synod for a ~~one~~-year term.

Explanation: This change brings the diocese's canons consistent with Province IV by-laws.

Submitted by: Standing Committee

Budgetary impact: None

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CANON 12. ORGANIZATION OF A FELLOWSHIP AND A CONGREGATION.

Current: **Section 5. ANNUAL MEETING** a. The congregation shall conduct an annual meeting during January of each year. The vestry shall give notice of the annual meeting to the congregation in writing at least two weeks preceding the date of such meeting,

Proposed: **Section 5. ANNUAL MEETING** a. The congregation shall conduct an annual meeting during January of each year. The vestry shall give notice of the annual meeting to the congregation in writing, ~~electronically or printed~~, at least two weeks preceding the date of such meeting,

Explanation: This change modernizes methods of notification to delegates.

Submitted by: Standing Committee

Budgetary impact: None

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CANON 18. ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

Current: **Section 7.** Within 45 days following each Annual Meeting of the Convention, the Bishop Diocesan of each Diocese, with the advice of the Standing Committee, shall appoint one or more attorneys to serve as Church Attorney(s) for the following calendar year. The person(s) so selected may but need not be Members of the Church and need not reside within the Diocese. The Church Attorney may be removed for cause during the calendar year by the Bishop Diocesan of each Diocese with the advice of the Standing Committee.

Proposed: Within 45 days following each Annual Meeting of the Convention, the Bishop Diocesan of each Diocese, with the advice of the Standing Committee, shall appoint one or more at-

torneys to serve as Church Attorney(s) for the following calendar year. The person(s) so selected may but need not be Members of the Church and need not reside within the Diocese. **The Church Attorney is to be a person who is learned in trial advocacy and admitted to the practice of law before the Supreme Court of Montana.** The Church Attorney may be removed for cause during the calendar year by the Bishop Diocesan of each Diocese with the advice of the Standing Committee.

Explanation: This specifies the selection criteria for the Church Attorney(s).

Submitted by: Standing Committee

Budgetary impact: None

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CANON 19. EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MONTANA FOUNDATION.

Current: **Section 3.** Non-Officer members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected at Diocesan Convention, one each year for four-year terms alternating between clergy and lay representatives. Initially, two clergy and two lay representatives shall be elected serving terms based upon mutually agreed upon years (one for four, one for three, one for two, and one for one-year terms). Members of the Board of Trustees may succeed themselves.

Proposed: **Section 3.** Non-Officer members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected at Diocesan Convention, one each year for four-year terms alternating between clergy and lay representatives. ~~Initially, two clergy and two lay representatives shall be elected serving terms based upon mutually agreed upon years (one for four, one for three, one for two, and one for one-year terms).~~ Members of the Board of Trustees may succeed themselves.

Current: **Section 4.** The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once a year in the fall following Convention. At the fall meeting, the Trustees shall elect from its elected members a President, Vice-President and Secretary. Vacancies in the Board of Trustees shall be filled by the Board of Trustees for the unexpired term.

Proposed: **Section 4.** The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once a year in the fall following Convention. ~~At the fall meeting, the Trustees shall elect from its elected members a President, Vice-President and Secretary.~~ Vacancies in the Board of Trustees shall be filled by the Board of Trustees for the unexpired term.

Explanation: These changes reflect request of the Foundation Board.

Submitted by: Foundation Board 4/29/21

Budgetary impact: None

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PROPOSED CHANGE TO CONSTITUTION - requires adoption by two successive annual meetings of the Diocesan Convention by a majority vote of each order. This will be the first of those two votes on the Constitutional amendment.

Current: **ARTICLE VI. DIOCESAN COUNCIL.** There shall be a Diocesan Council which shall be the Board of Directors of the diocesan corporation, and shall administer the legal functions of the Diocese. It shall administer and implement all programs of the Diocese and shall have full power and authority to act for the Diocesan Convention in all matters not expressly reserved to the Diocesan Convention, and such other duties as may be prescribed by Canon. Membership of the Council shall be as set forth in the Canons of this Diocese. The Bishop shall preside over the Council, or, in his absence, the vice-president of the Council shall preside.

Proposed: **ARTICLE VI. DIOCESAN COUNCIL.** There shall be a Diocesan Council which shall be the Board of Directors of the diocesan corporation, and shall administer the legal functions of the Diocese. It shall administer and implement all programs of the Diocese and shall have full power and authority to act for the Diocesan Convention in all matters not expressly reserved to the Diocesan Convention, and such other duties as may be prescribed by Canon. Membership of the Council shall be as set forth in the Canons of this Diocese. The Bishop shall preside over the Council, or, in the Bishop's absence, the vice-president of the Council shall preside.

Explanation: This change makes language of Constitution gender inclusive. adopted by two successive annual meetings of the Diocesan Convention by a majority vote of each order." Then add "This will be the first of those two votes on the Constitutional amendment."

Submitted by: Bishop Marty Stebbins

Budgetary impact: None

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