

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION ONE: BOARD of TRUSTEES—reduce number of members

The Constitution and Canons Committee moves the following change to Article X, Section 1 of the Diocesan Constitution. This is the first vote on this amendment.

Article X (Current version with *changes* to be made)

The Board of Trustees for the Diocese

Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall consist of the Bishop, ~~five~~—four Lay persons appointed by the Bishop, and one Lay person from each District and ~~seven~~ four other Lay persons without limitation as to District, elected in the manner and for the term specified by Canon. The Bishop shall appoint the President of the Board of Trustees each year, and the Board of Trustees shall elect other officers as it shall deem appropriate.

Article X (Clear copy, new wording)

The Board of Trustees for the Diocese

Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall consist of the Bishop, four Lay persons appointed by the Bishop, and one Lay person from each District and four other Lay persons without limitation as to District, elected in the manner and for the term specified by Canon. The Bishop shall appoint the President of the Board of Trustees each year, and the Board of Trustees shall elect other officers as it shall deem appropriate.

Rationale: The Bishop convened a special group with more than 40 participants from all parts of the diocese to work on re-imagining the diocese (Project CREED). The goal was to create a new way to work together as a diocese to pursue our mission that was adapted to our current size and focus as a diocese and the various parishes and groups within it. Those present then organized into several groups to focus on different aspects of the life and mission of the diocese and its governance. The group working on governance produced a report that suggested ways to streamline the governance. One recommendation was to reduce the size of the Board of Trustees from 16 to 12 members. All members other than the Bishop would continue to be Lay members. The twelve would include 4 members elected at-large for 3-year terms from Diocesan Convention, one member elected for a 3-year term from each of the 4 districts (i.e. 4 total), and 4 members appointed for 3-year terms by the Bishop. The Bishop would continue to appoint the President of the Board of Trustees. Currently, the Convention elects 7 members and the Bishop appoints 5 members. District membership ensures that the Trustees will have members from all parts of the diocese. The Bishop's appointments help to ensure that the Trustees include some members with skills and/or experience not found among the elected members.

Should the changes above pass, the Constitution and Canons Committee will recommend to the 2020 Convention the appropriate canon changes to align diocesan canons with the proposed constitutional changes.

RESOLUTION TWO: DIOCESAN COUNCIL—restructuring

The Constitution and Canons Committee moves the following change to Article XI, Section 1 of the Diocesan Constitution. This is the first vote on this amendment.

Article XI, Section 1 (Current version with *changes* to be made)

Diocesan Council

Section 1. The Diocesan Council shall consist of the Bishop, ~~the Secretary of the Convention,~~ the Chancellor of the Diocese, ~~the President of the Board of Trustees, the President of the Standing Committee, the President of the Episcopal Church Women and three~~ *the members of Standing Committee, and one Lay Deputy* ~~Deputies~~ to Convention from each District (~~two Lay and one Ordained~~) elected in the manner and for the term specified by Canon.

Article XI, Section 1 (Clear copy, new wording)

Diocesan Council

Section 1. The Diocesan Council shall consist of the Bishop, the Chancellor of the Diocese, the members of Standing Committee, and one lay Deputy to Convention from each District elected in the manner and for the term specified by Canon.

Rationale: This is another change proposed by the Governance group of CREED. The change provides a major streamlining of Diocesan Council by following a model used in several other dioceses whose canons also make the Standing Committee members all or part of Diocesan Council (e.g., Diocese of Eastern Michigan, Diocese of Kansas, and Diocese of Oklahoma). Council remains a separate body with its own officers, and remains the Convention in recess. Its membership continues to have twice the number of lay members as clergy, thus reflecting the larger role of laity in the Diocesan Convention. Election by Districts retains the geographic diversity of Convention, and increases the likelihood that there will be members from different sized parishes. It keeps the role of financial management done by the Board of Trustees separate from the budgeting responsibility of Convention and Council. It requires no change to the structure of the Growth Fund, or the Diocesan Finance Committee. The Council will continue to have all of its current duties.

RESOLUTION THREE: STANDING COMMITTEE—remove enabling language from 1952

The Constitution and Canons Committee moves the following change to Article IX, Section 1 of the Diocesan Constitution. This is the first vote on this amendment.

Article IX (Current version with *changes* to be made)

Section 1. The Convention shall ~~at the Convention of 1952~~ elect a Standing Committee, to consist of four members of the Clergy and four Lay persons as follows:

~~One member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall be elected for a period of four years; one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall be elected for a period of three years; one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall be elected for a period of two years; one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall be elected for a period of one year.~~ At each Annual Convention ~~thereafter~~ one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall be elected for a period of four years. No member of the Standing Committee shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself until the next Convention following the expiration of term of office.

The Standing Committee, when there is no Bishop, Bishop-Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop, or no one of them is capable of acting, shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

Article IX, Section 1 (Clear copy, new wording)

Section 1. The Convention shall elect a Standing Committee, to consist of four members of the Clergy and four Lay persons as follows:

At each annual Convention one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall be elected for a period of four years. No member of the Standing Committee shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself until the next Convention following the expiration of term of office.

The Standing Committee, when there is no Bishop, Bishop-Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop, or no one of them is capable of acting, shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

Rationale: This amendment removes the implementation language included in 1952 when the current structure of Standing Committee was created. It makes no changes to the number, duties, or membership of Standing Committee.

RESOLUTION FOUR: STANDING COMMITTEE—limit number of members from any one parish to 2

The Constitution and Canons Committee moves the following change to Article IX, Section 1 of the Diocesan Constitution. This is the first vote on this amendment.

Article IX (Current version with *changes* to be made)

Section 1. The Convention shall elect a Standing Committee, to consist of four members of the Clergy and four Lay persons as follows:

At each Annual Convention one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall be elected for a period of four years. No member of the Standing Committee shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself until the next Convention following the expiration of term of office. *No individual parish shall be eligible to provide more than two concurrent members to the Standing Committee, regardless of Clergy or Lay status.*

The Standing Committee, when there is no Bishop, Bishop-Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop, or no one of them is capable of acting, shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

Article IX, Section 1 (clear copy, new wording)

Section 1. The Convention shall elect a Standing Committee, to consist of four members of the Clergy and four Lay persons as follows:

At each Annual Convention one member of the Clergy and one Lay person shall be elected for a period of four years. No member of the Standing Committee shall be eligible to succeed himself or herself until the next Convention following the expiration of term of office. No individual parish shall be eligible to provide more than two concurrent members to the Standing Committee, regardless of Clergy or Lay status.

The Standing Committee, when there is no Bishop, Bishop-Coadjutor, or Suffragan Bishop, or no one of them is capable of acting, shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

Rationale: The Governance group of CREED also recommended a limit on the number of members on the Standing Committee from a single parish, to no more than two at any given time. The Committee has chosen to separate the removal of implementation language from Article IX, Section 1 from the substantive change proposed by the Governance Group of CREED to more clearly focus discussion. The wording of this change assumes Convention has passed the routine change made in the previous amendment. Under the current structure one or two parishes could entirely fill the seats on Standing Committee. Unlike the Board of Trustees or Diocesan Council, there is no election of members from various Districts, a requirement which ensures some diversity of parishes on those bodies. This change would first apply in elections in 2022 and thus does not affect any current members of the Standing Committee and gives the Diocese time to adjust to this restriction.