

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS**

Below are amendments to the diocesan canons as proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Canons for action at Diocesan Convention, November 3, 2018. As a reminder, changes to either the constitution or the canons require approval in votes by orders. Canonical changes only need to be approved at one convention in order to be adopted and become effective.

*Words to be added are underlined and words to be removed are stricken through.*

### **1. Amend Canon 1.1(c)**

the death, retirement, resignation, transfer, deposition or suspension of clergy, together in case of deposition or suspension with the basis therefore and in case of suspension with the terms, conditions and period thereof; and

*The purpose of the proposed amendment is to ensure that the diocese has complete records on all canonically resident clergy.*

### **2. Amend Canon 3.1.**

1. The Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to give the notices and reports specified in Articles 3, 4, ~~10~~ 11 and ~~17~~ 18 of the Constitution, and in Canon 1, Sec. 1(b) and Sec. 1(c), Canon 2, Sec. 3. and Canon ~~112~~, Sec. 4.; to present to the Convention the lists of clergy as required by Canon 2, Sec. 1.; to record the proceedings of all sessions of the Convention and, under the supervision of the Bishop, to see to the printing and distribution of the Journal; to certify records of the Corporation when required; and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Constitution, Canons and Rules of Order, or delegated to her or him by the Bishop or Diocesan Council. It shall also be the duty of the Secretary to maintain a list of the names and addresses of all lay and clerical delegates to the Convention and to provide the same to any delegate who requests the same in writing.

*The purpose of the proposed amendment is to update inaccurate cross-references in the canon.*

### **3. Amend Canon 10.2(d)**

~~2 (d) The first Diocesan Mission Strategy shall be prepared and submitted not later than the 1996 Diocesan Convention. Thereafter, the Diocesan Mission Strategy shall be reviewed, amended, and approved by Convention at least once every three years.~~

2(d) From time to time as determined by the Diocesan Council and the Bishop, but in any event no less frequently than once every ten years, the Diocesan Council and the Bishop shall review the Diocesan Mission Strategy and submit it to the Convention for approval with such amendments, if any, as the Diocesan Council and the Bishop may determine are necessary or desirable.

*The purpose of the proposed amendment is to recognize that the diocesan mission strategy reflects the changing priorities and resources of the diocese and may need to be revisited more or less often than triennially. The amendment would provide flexibility to the Diocesan Council and the bishop to determine when amendments to the diocesan mission strategy should be submitted to the convention, while ensuring that the diocesan mission strategy remains subject to periodic review.*

### **4. Amend Canon 12.2**

2. Eligibility The cleric so elected shall be canonically resident in the Diocese. The laity so elected shall be confirmed adult communicants of this Church, in good standing in the Diocese but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese. ~~communicants of the Church having domicile in the Diocese. No one shall be eligible who has reached his or her seventy-second birthday at the time of the election.~~

*The purpose of the proposed amendment is to bring the diocesan canons into conformity with the canons of the Episcopal Church.*

### **5. Amend Canon 13.1**

~~The laity so elected shall be communicants of the Church, having domicile in this Diocese.~~ The laity so elected shall be confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese.

*The purpose of the proposed amendment is to bring the diocesan canons into conformity with the canons of the Episcopal Church.*

## **6. Amend Canon 19.2.10**

2.10 Accord. No less than thirty days prior to the issuance of an Accord, the initiating body or party shall notify the Bishop of the intent to issue an Accord and shall confer with the Bishop concerning the proposed terms of the Accord. The foregoing shall not apply to a proposed Accord reached between the Bishop and a respondent.

*The proposed amendment is made upon the recommendation of the chairperson of the Diocesan Disciplinary Board. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to clarify that the thirty-day notice and consultation period required by Canon 19, Sec. 2.10 does not apply to an Accord to which the Bishop is a direct party, which will eliminate unnecessary delay in the issuance of Accords as to which the Bishop is fully informed and to which the Bishop has assented.*

## **7. Amend Canon 19.2.11**

2.11 Order. The opportunity of the Bishop and Complainant to be heard on the proposed terms of an Order by a Conference or a Hearing Panel in accordance with Canon IV.14.7 of the Church Canons shall occur no less than thirty days prior to the issuance of the Order unless both the Bishop and the Complainant waive the aforementioned thirty-day waiting period.

*The proposed amendment is made upon the recommendation of the chairperson of the Diocesan Disciplinary Board, who reports that there is often a desire by all parties to a disciplinary proceeding to finalize the terms of an Order so that an expeditious resolution of the matter may be reached, but that as written, Section 2.11 of Canon 19 prohibits this by imposing a mandatory 30-day waiting period. The proposed amendment would allow for the parties to waive the 30-day waiting period upon mutual consent, and would thus promote faster and more efficient resolutions in appropriate cases.*