

Proposed Amendment One

Proposed by the Rev. Leeann Culbreath, St. John and St. Mark, Albany

Co-sponsored by the Rev. Nathan Wilson, St. Paul's, Jesup

Amendment to Canon I.I.8 in the Proposed Canons

Canon I.I.8 Of Commissions shall be amended to read:

Sec. 4. Creation Care Commission. There shall be a Creation Care Commission that shall support the diocese's congregations, schools, and groups in their ministries of reconciliation with God's Creation. Through education, inspiration, and action, it shall develop life-giving and healing conservation practices, cultivate climate change mitigation, and advocate for environmental justice across the diocese. It shall serve as a liaison between the diocese and environmental stewardship groups within and beyond the Episcopal Church. Members and a Chair shall be nominated annually by the Bishop and elected by the Convention, with at least one member representing each convocation of the diocese.

Sec. [4]5. Elections and Terms. At each annual meeting, the Convention shall elect members of Commissions upon nomination by the Presiding Officer. Unless specified otherwise by Canon, the term of the elected members of Commissions shall be for one year.

Sec. [5]6. Other Commissions. Unless by amendment of Canon, other Commissions of the Diocese may be recognized by the Bishop and Diocesan Council annually in a procedure that shall be established and published by the same.

Sec. [6]7. Vacancies. The Bishop shall have the authority to fill vacancies in any commission for which no specific provision in these canons is made for the filling of vacancies.

Sec. [7]8. Funding. All Commissions of the Diocese in Canon 8 shall be sufficiently resourced and funded in the budget adopted by the Convention or as amended upon by Diocesan Council (I.4.1) to ensure the vitality of their ministry.

Proposed Amendment Two

Proposed by the Rev. Ian Lasch, St. Francis of the Islands, Savannah

Co-sponsored by The Rev. Guillermo Arboleda, the Rev. Kelly Steele, the Rev. Dwayne Varas, the Very Rev. William Willoughby

Amendment to Canon I.I.8 in the Proposed Canons

Canon I.I.8 The Election of a Bishop shall be amended to read:

Sec. 8. The Election of a Bishop. When there is a vacancy in the office of bishop, by death or otherwise, the Standing Committee shall meet within ten days and take such order as in its judgment the best interests of the Diocese require. The Standing Committee shall have oversight and responsibility for the election of a bishop. The election of a bishop shall be made in an annual meeting of the Convention, or in a special meeting of the Convention called for that purpose. If such a special meeting of Convention is called, at least ninety (90) days' notice shall be sent to all Lay and Clerical Delegates to the most recent Annual Convention as well as to each congregation of the Diocese. The election shall be a vote by orders and taken by secret ballot. Provided that two-thirds of Clerical and Lay Delegates are present, a concurrence of a majority of both orders present and voting shall be necessary to elect; otherwise, a concurrence of two-thirds of both orders present and voting shall be necessary to elect. From time to time, the Standing Committee shall publish a policy and procedure for the Election of a Bishop in the Policy Manual consistent with Article III.7 of the Constitution and this Canon, provided that notice of such policy and procedure is given to all Lay and Clerical Delegates at least ninety (90) days in advance of the election. Immediately following the election of a bishop, the voting delegates of the Convention shall proceed to sign the Canonical Testimonial.

Proposed Amendment Three

Proposed by the Very Rev. Tom Purdy

Co-sponsored by the Very Rev. Billy Alford, the Rev. Guillermo Arboleda, the Rev. Bill Barton, the Rev. Ted Clarkson, the Rev. DeWayne Cope, the Rev. June Johnson, the Rev. Michael White

Proposed amendment to Canon I.9.2 in the Proposed Canons

We are proposing an addition to the proposed canonical change, inserting the language indicated by <<<,>>> into the existing proposed language

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Canon I.9..2: Of Convocations and Convocational Councils shall be amended to read:

Section 2: Convocational Council

There shall be a Convocational Council in each Convocation consisting of the Dean of that Convocation together with the Clerical and Layperson voting members of Convention. <<<Each congregation shall have a maximum of two votes at Convocation Council meetings consisting of one Clerical and one Layperson from their delegation. Voting members should be identified at the start of a meeting.>>> Should a Cleric qualify to be a member representing more than one Congregation, that Cleric shall have only one vote in any proceedings of the Convocational Council.

Rationale:

We fully support the canonical change to the makeup of Convocation Councils to include all voting members of Diocesan Convention in that Convocation. We also realize that one unintended consequence of this structural change may be a dilution of the representation of all small congregations, including congregations of color. As we become aware of how institutional structures can inadvertently diminish diversity, we see an opportunity to “split the difference” by including all convention delegates in the Council and also keeping an equitable voting arrangement with two votes per congregation.