

REPORT (Part Two)
OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO REVIEW CANONS AND RULES OF ORDER
January 6, 2017

Part Two completes the report of this Special Committee. Part One, filed November 11, 2016, addressed the committee's review of and recommendations for amendments of the Canons of our Diocese. Part Two addresses the committee's review of and recommendations for amendments to the Rules of Order for Conducting the Business of the Annual Convention of the Diocese.

The present Rules of Order, drafted by the first Chancellor of our Diocese, the late Albert J. Tully, Esq., served our Diocese well through the years. However, experience has demonstrated need for an order of procedure known and understood by all members of each Annual Convention yet one that allows both flexibility in the order of procedure and more participation by Delegates in deciding this order.

The committee offers the following recommendations to meet these ends as well as to provide gender-neutral language, grammatical corrections, and deletion of matters already contained in our Canons or in more than one place within our present Rules.

It has been an honor to serve with my colleagues on this special committee. Our hardest task was to say farewell to the Rev. Steve Pankey who, in the last days of December, moved with his family to Bowling Green, Kentucky, to begin his new ministry as rector of Christ Church there. We prayerfully wish him all the best in his new ministry. We miss him.

On behalf of committee members, I note our appreciation to Bishop Kendrick for his supportive participation in this work.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee,

S. Albert Kennington, Chair,
Vicar, Immanuel Episcopal Church, Bay Minette

RULES RESOLUTION 1: *Title – page 1, line 2, and present Rule XXI, page 5 line 28*

Resolved, that line 2 of the Title be amended as follows:

"FOR CONDUCTING THE BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL CONVENTION"
and present Rule XXI, page 5, line 28 be amended as follows:

"The above shall be the Rules of Order of all future Annual Conventions . . ."

Explanation: These Rules are only for the Annual Diocesan Convention (Canon 3, Section 2), and not for a Special Convention nor a Convention to elect a Bishop for which special rules of order should be adopted.

RULES RESOLUTION 2: *Rule IV*

a. Resolved, that Rule IV shall be amended as follows: *page 1, line 24*

"The President ~~may~~ shall appoint the following ~~standing~~ committees of the Diocesan Convention:"

Explanation: This clarifies that certain committees shall be appointed by the President at each Convention, but that these committees shall not continue over to another Convention except by appointment of the President.

b. Resolved, that Rule IV shall be amended as follows: *page 1, lines 26 – page 2, line 3*

"1. ~~Unfinished Business~~ (Dispatch of Business) - to consider and recommend to the Convention an Agenda (order of business) for the Convention.

2. Credentials and Privileges - to consider and recommend to the Convention granting courtesy seat and voice to designated persons and to consider and recommend to the Convention on delegates with questioned credentials.

3. ~~Charter and Canons~~ and Rules of Order - to consider and recommend to the Convention actions concerning Canons and Rules of Order.

4. Status of Parishes and Missions and Admission of New Parishes - to consider and recommend to the Convention on change of status of congregations as well as admission of new congregations.

5. ~~The State of the Church~~

65. Finance - to consider and recommend to the Convention on the budget of the Diocese, on use of offerings during Convention liturgies, and on other matters of financial concern of the Diocese.

76. Elections - to act as tellers of votes for election of Standing Committee members, of Clerical and Lay Deputies to General Convention, and of other offices as needed except for the election of a Bishop for which special rules of order shall be adopted.

8. Such other committees as the President shall determine.

Explanation: The purpose of each Convention committee is defined.

RULES RESOLUTION 3: *Rule V, page 2, lines 7–10*

Resolved, that Rule V shall be amended as follows:

All reports of Officers and Committees, Agencies, Commissions, and Coordinators ~~to the Convention shall be in writing, and~~ shall be submitted in writing to the Bishop no later than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Convention; and distributed to each congregation no later than ten (10) days prior to the opening of the Convention.

Explanation: Rules for reporting to the Bishop before Convention are made more specific.

RULES RESOLUTION 4: *Rule VI, page 2, lines 13–40*

Resolved, that Rule VI shall be amended as follows:

(a) Section 1. All Resolutions to be presented by Delegates to the Convention shall be submitted, in written form, to the Secretary no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the opening of the Convention. These pre-filed Resolutions shall be distributed to each congregation within the Diocese no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of each Convention.

Section 2. Resolutions to alter or amend the Canons of the Diocese shall be submitted, in written form, in accordance with Canon 28, to the Secretary ~~not less~~ no later than ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the Convention and shall be distributed to the congregations of the Diocese ~~not less~~ no later than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of Convention.

(b) Section 3. At the first business meeting of the Convention, the substance of each Resolution presented under the provisions of ~~paragraph (a)~~ Sections 1 and 2 shall be made known to the Convention together with assignment of ~~such~~ each Resolution to a committee of the President's choice. ⁷ ~~and~~ Each Resolutions shall be read at length at that time if requested. Copies of all Resolutions shall be made available at Convention to all Delegates.

(c) Section 4. ~~Any~~ Resolution not presented in accordance with ~~paragraph (a)~~ Sections 1 or 2 may be introduced by a Delegate to the Convention and accepted for consideration only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Convention taken at the first business meeting.

(d) Section 5. Nothing in this Rule shall prevent the Bishop from introducing new matters to the Convention for consideration or action through his the Bishop's Address ~~address~~ to Convention; and nothing in this Rule shall prevent a committee of Convention from introducing new matters to Convention through its majority report. However, neither the Bishop nor a committee of Convention may introduce proposed amendments to Canons other than in conformity with Canon 28.

~~—— (e) The Bishop may refer any Resolution to a committee for such action as it deems proper.~~

Explanation: This clarifies submission of resolutions from Delegates and the Bishop, especially with regard to Canon 28.

RULES RESOLUTIONS 5: *New Rule VII, page 3, lines 1-7*

Resolved, that a new Rule VII be adopted as follows:

RULE VII.

Nominations for Standing Committee and for Clerical and Lay Deputies to General Convention (in the years for such election) may be submitted by Delegates not later than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of Convention and distributed to each congregation no later than ten (10) days prior to the opening of Convention. This provision shall not preclude Delegates from making nominations for these offices from the floor during Convention.

Explanation: This provides in the rules a long-time practice in the Diocese of permitting Delegates to submit nominees for Standing Committee and General Convention Deputies prior to the Convention as well as allowing nominations from the floor during Convention

RULES RESOLUTION 6: *Present Rule VII, page 3, lines 9-22*

Resolved that present Rule VII be amended as follows:

RULE VII. VIII

~~The Order of Business shall be:~~ Once the Convention is organized for business in accordance with Rule II, and a Secretary elected (and assistants appointed) in accordance with Rule III, the Convention shall follow an order of business adopted by the Convention in the form of an Agenda upon presentation by the Committee on Dispatch of Business. Once adopted, this Agenda may be modified or suspended upon a two-thirds vote of the Convention. This Agenda shall include the following:

The Bishop's Address

The Report of the Standing Committee

The Reports of the General Officers

The Reports of ~~standing~~ committees of the Convention

The Adoption of the Operating Budget for the Diocese and other financial concerns

The Elections of the Officers and Committees, Commissions, Agencies, and Coordinators of the Diocese.

Explanation: This names the required matters to be included in a Convention agenda but allows flexibility in their order in planning the agenda to be adopted by each Convention.

RULES RESOLUTION 7: *Present Rule VIII, page 3, lines 24–26*

Resolved, that present Rule VIII be amended as follows:

RULE ~~VIII~~ IX.

No ~~member~~ Delegate shall be absent ~~himself~~ from the sessions of the Convention ~~unless~~ he has without leave of the President or the Delegate is unable to attend.

Explanation: This provides language that is gender-neutral and consistent with Canons.

RULES RESOLUTION 8: *Present Rule IX, page 3, lines 28–34*

Resolved, that present Rule IX be amended as follows:

RULE ~~IX~~ X.

When a ~~member~~ Delegate is about to speak in debate, or deliver any matter to the Convention, he the Delegate shall rise ~~from his seat,~~ as able, and, upon being recognized by the President and with due respect, address ~~himself~~ the President in an audible voice ~~to the President, confining himself~~ speaking only to the point in debate. No ~~member~~ Delegate shall speak twice in the same debate without leave of the Convention.

Explanation: This provides language that is gender-neutral and consistent with Canons.

RULES RESOLUTION 9: *Present Rule X, page 3, lines 36 – page 4, line 11*

Resolved, that present Rule X be amended as follows:

RULE XI.

When the President is putting any question, the ~~members~~ Delegates shall continue in their seats and not hold private discourse. Every ~~member~~ Delegate present shall vote when a question is put, unless excused by the Convention. ~~In a vote by orders, the name of the President shall be called last.~~

Section 1. Action upon a question put by the President shall be determined by a majority of votes cast, except on a question for which a two-thirds vote is required by these Rules or the Canons.

Section 2. When the question is for the election of members of the Standing Committee, Clerical and Lay Deputies to General Convention, and to any other office in the Diocese excepting the election a Bishop for which special rules of order shall be

adopted, the following will apply: If, after the second ballot, all open positions are not filled by majority vote, then on the third and next succeeding ballots, there shall be retained only twice the number of nominees as there are unfilled positions, said nominees to be taken from those receiving the highest number of votes, until, by majority vote, a nominee is elected.

Explanation: This language conforms to Canons and clarifies how votes are determined in Convention.

RULES RESOLUTION 10: *Present Rule XIII, page 4, lines 23–25*

Resolved, that present Rule XIII be amended as follows:

~~RULE XIII.~~ XIV.

No motion shall be considered as before the Convention, unless seconded, ~~and~~ reduced to writing-, and submitted to the Secretary before the vote.

Explanation: This provides clarity to this rule.

RULES RESOLUTION 11: *Rule XIV, page 4, lines 27–32*

Resolved, that Rule XIV be amended as follows:

~~RULE XIV.~~ XV.

A question ~~being~~ having been once determined shall stand as the judgment of the Convention and shall not again be considered during the session; but, a question ~~being~~ having been decided may be reconsidered with the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present on a motion to that purpose by one (1) of the majority of the first decision.

Explanation: This provides grammatical corrections.

RULES RESOLUTION 12: *Present Rules XV and XVI, page 4, lines 34 – page 5, line 5, and present Rule XVIII, page 5, lines 12–16*

Resolved, that present Rule XV, Rule XVI, and present Rule XVIII be deleted.

~~RULE XV.~~

~~All committees shall be appointed by the President unless otherwise ordered.~~

~~RULE XVI.~~

~~The daily business of the Convention shall be called up and acted upon in the following order unless changed by vote of the Convention:~~

~~1. Communications from the President~~

- ~~—— 2. Reports of the Standing Committee of the Diocese and other Diocesan Officers~~
- ~~—— 3. Reports of standing committees of the Convention.~~
- ~~—— 4. Reports of special committees~~
- ~~—— 5. Petitions and Memorials~~
- ~~—— 6. Motions, resolutions and general business~~

RULE XVIII.

~~Clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church not entitled to seats, and candidates for Holy Orders of the Diocese shall be admitted to the sittings of the Convention, and their names entered in the Journal, or reporting themselves to the Secretary; but without the right to take part in the proceedings.~~

Explanation: These matters are provided for in Canon 3, Section 8 and the proposed amendment to Rule IV in the definition of the Convention Committee on Credentials and Privileges.

RULES RESOLUTION 13: *Present Rule XIX, page 5, lines 18–20*

Resolved, that present Rule XIX be amended as follows:

RULE XIX. XVII.

The These Rules of Order may be suspended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the ~~members~~ Delegates present.

Explanation: This provides a grammar correction and language which conforms with Canons.

RULES RESOLUTION 14: *Renumbering amended Rules*

Resolved, that the Secretary be authorized to correct the numbering of the Rules of Order to reflect the actions of the 46th Annual Convention.