

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2009
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2009-A056
TITLE: Amend Canon III.11.4(a)
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons
COMMITTEE: Canons

Directly Related: (attached)

2006-A082 Amend Canons in Title III.[Ministry]

Indirectly Related:

None

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions of General Convention for the period 1976 through 2006, selecting "direct" resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. Committee members who are interested in obtaining copies of "indirectly related" resolutions, legislative history before 1976, or who require other research assistance should contact the Archives at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.



Resolution Number: 2006-A082
Title: Amend Canons in Title III [Ministry]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

[*Resolved*, That Canon III.11.4 (a) is amended to read as follows.]:

CANON 11

Of the Ordination of Bishops

Sec. 4.

(a) If the date of the election of a Bishop occurs more than one hundred and twenty days before the meeting of the General Convention, The Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop has been elected shall by its President, or by some person or persons specially appointed, immediately send to the Presiding Bishop and to the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses a certificate of the election by the Secretary of Convention of the Diocese, bearing a statement that evidence of the Bishop-elect's having been duly ordered Deacon and Priest as to the Bishop-elect's medical, psychological and psychiatric examination required in Sec. 3(b) of this Canon have been received and that a testimonial signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention must also be delivered in the following form:

We, whose names are hereunder written, fully sensible of how important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that we know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend A.B. ought not to be ordained to that Holy Office. We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we believe the Reverend A.B. to have been duly and lawfully elected and to be of such sufficiency in learning, of such soundness in the Faith, and of such godly character as to be able to exercise the Office of a Bishop to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church, and to be a wholesome example to the flock of Christ.

(Date) _____ (Signed) _____

The Presiding Bishop, without delay, shall notify every Bishop of this Church exercising jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop's receipt of the certificates mentioned in this Section and request a statement of consent or withholding of consent. Each Standing Committee, in not more than one hundred and twenty days after the sending by the electing body of the certificate of the election, shall respond by sending the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected either the testimonial of consent in the form set out in paragraph (b) of this Section or written notice of its refusal to give consent. If a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses consents to the ordination of the Bishop-elect, the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected shall then forward the evidence of the consent, with the other necessary documents described in Sec. 3(a) of this Canon, to the Presiding Bishop. If the Presiding Bishop receives sufficient statements to indicate a majority of those Bishops consents to the ordination, the

Presiding Bishop shall, without delay, notify the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected and the Bishop-elect of the consent.

Citation: Canon III.11.4 (a) is excerpted from the Final Text of the revision to Title III [Ministry]. See General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 583-630.

TOPIC/TITLE: Canons: Amend Canon III.11.4(a)
 PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons
 C&C PAGE: 100
 BB PAGE: 117

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon III.11.4 (a) is hereby amended to
 2 read as follows:

3 (a) If the date of the election of a Bishop occurs more than one hundred and twenty days
 4 before the meeting of the General Convention, The Standing Committee of the diocese for
 5 which the Bishop has been elected shall by its President, or by some person or persons
 6 specially appointed, immediately send to the Presiding Bishop and to the Standing
 7 Committees of the several dioceses a certificate of the election by the Secretary of
 8 Convention of the diocese, bearing a statement that evidence of the Bishop-elect's having
 9 been duly ordered Deacon and Priest, *and a certificate* as to the Bishop-elect's medical,
 10 psychological and psychiatric examination required in Sec. 3(b) of this Canon have been
 11 received and that a testimonial signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention must
 12 also be delivered in the following form:

13 We, whose names are hereunder written, fully sensible of how
 14 important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop
 15 should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it
 16 is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without
 17 partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that we
 18 know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend A.B.
 19 ought not to be ordained to that Holy Office. We do, moreover,
 20 jointly and severally declare that we believe the Reverend A.B.
 21 to have been duly and lawfully elected and to be of such
 22 sufficiency in learning, of such soundness in the Faith, and of
 23 such godly character as to be able to exercise the Office of a
 24 Bishop to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church, and
 25 to be a wholesome example to the flock of Christ.

26 (Date) _____ (Signed) _____
 27

28 The Presiding Bishop, without delay, shall notify every Bishop of this Church exercising
 29 jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop's receipt of the certificates mentioned in this Section and
 30 request a statement of consent or withholding of consent. Each Standing Committee, in not more
 31 than one hundred and twenty days after the sending by the electing body of the certificate of the
 32 election, shall respond by sending the Standing Committee of the diocese for which the Bishop is
 33 elected either the testimonial of consent in the form set out in paragraph (b) of this Section or
 34 written notice of its refusal to give consent. If a majority of the Standing Committees of all the
 35 dioceses consents to the ordination of the Bishop-elect, the Standing Committee of the diocese for
 36 which the Bishop is elected shall then forward the evidence of the consent, with the other
 37 necessary documents described in Sec. 3(a) of this Canon, to the Presiding Bishop. If the
 38 Presiding Bishop receives sufficient statements to indicate a majority of those Bishops consents

1 to the ordination, the Presiding Bishop shall, without delay, notify the Standing Committee of the
2 diocese for which the Bishop is elected and the Bishop-elect of the consent.

3
4
5
6

EXPLANATION:

During review of other proposed amendments to the procedures for the Ordination of Bishops, SCCC noted that the reference to a certificate evidencing the bishop-elect's medical, psychological and psychiatric examination was missing from the provision. Research found that the Title III rewrite contained in A082, adopted by the 75th General Convention, did not include the reference to such a certificate but that it was intended by inference from the rest of the provision.