

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-A009  
**TITLE:** Study the Process of Nominations and Election of the Presiding Bishop  
**PROPOSER:** House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development  
**COMMITTEE:** Structure

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-A112 Study Committee and Commission Mandates, Constitution Preamble, and Presiding Bishop Election Process  
2006-D013 Refer a Resolution on Amending Constitution Article I.3 [Election of Presiding Bishop--First Reading] (Referred)  
1985-A132 Adopt Procedures for the Nomination of a Presiding Bishop

**Indirectly Related:**

1997-B003 Amend Canon I.2.1 [Election of the Presiding Bishop]  
1997-D060 Election of Joint Nominating Committee for Election of the Presiding Bishop  
1985-A151 Substitute Canon I.2.1 [Nomination and Election of the Presiding Bishop]

*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-A112  
**Title:** Study Committee and Commission Mandates, Constitution Preamble, and Presiding Bishop Election Process  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That all Commissions and Committees reevaluate their mandate and placement within the church structure, and to communicate their findings and suggestions to the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church one year before the 76th General Convention; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to review and correct the Defined Terms for CCAB's as presented in their report to the 75th General Convention in response to feedback received pursuant to this resolution and propose structural changes to the CCAB system where changes would appear to be useful; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to review, study, and recommend to the 76th General Convention resolutions concerning any proposed changes to the Preamble of the Constitution with reference to the 'official' name of this Church, with particular consideration of being inclusive of our overseas dioceses and parishes; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the 75th General Convention charge the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to review, study, and recommend to the 76th General Convention resolutions concerning changes to the process by which the Presiding Bishop would be nominated and elected.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 192-193.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-D013  
**Title:** Refer a Resolution on Amending Constitution Article I.3 [Election of Presiding Bishop--First Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Referred  
**Text of Resolution:**

*Resolved*, That the first paragraph of the Article 1, Section 3, of the Constitution be amended to read:  
Sec. 3. At the General Convention next before the expiration of the term of office of the Presiding Bishop, it shall elect the Presiding Bishop of the Church. ~~The House of Bishops shall choose one of the Bishops of this Church to be the Presiding Bishop of the Church by a vote of a majority of all Bishops, excluding retired Bishops not present, except that whenever two-thirds of the House of Bishops are present a majority vote shall suffice, such choice to be subject to confirmation by the House of Deputies.~~ *The Presiding Bishop shall be chosen from among the Bishops of this Church at a Joint Session of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies by concurrent vote of (a) a majority of all Bishops, excluding retired Bishops not present, except that whenever two-thirds of the House of Bishops are present a majority vote shall suffice, (b) a majority vote of all of the Clerical Deputies present, and (c) a majority vote of all of the Lay Deputies present.* The term and tenure of office and duties and particulars of the election not inconsistent with the preceding provisions shall be prescribed by the Canons of the General Convention.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 452-453.



**Resolution Number:** 1985-A132  
**Title:** Adopt Procedures for the Nomination of a Presiding Bishop  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred As Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the following procedures be adopted in the nomination of persons for the office of Presiding Bishop, pursuant to Title I, Canon 2, Sec. 1(d):*

1. That the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies set a special order of business for a joint session at 2:00 p.m. on September 9, 1985, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Joint Nominating Committee for Election of a Presiding Bishop. The names of persons nominated by the Joint Nominating Committee shall then be deemed to have been placed in nomination and the biographical sketches printed on pages 72 through 79 of *The Blue Book* shall be deemed to be the equivalent of nominating speeches and no member of either House at the Joint Session shall be recognized to speak further on behalf of such nomination.
2. That the Secretary of the General Convention prepare a form for nomination for Presiding Bishop which shall contain blanks for the inclusion of:
  - (a) Name of nominee;
  - (b) Diocese;
  - (c) Space for a biographical sketch of the nominee not longer than 150 words;
  - (d) Certification that the nominee consents to being placed in nomination;
  - (e) Signature of nominator, order and diocese.
3. Additional nominations may be made from the floor by name and diocese only, accompanied by a written nomination form to be submitted to the Secretary of the General Convention at the time of nomination.
4. The Secretary of the General Convention shall publish the biographical sketches as filed in nominations from the floor, of all such nominees, arranged in alphabetical order, to be distributed to the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies not later than 5:00 p.m. on September 9, 1985. Publication by the Secretary of General Convention shall be deemed to be the equivalent of nominating speeches and no member of the House of Bishops or the House of Deputies shall be recognized to speak further on behalf of such nomination.
5. Discussion of the report of the Joint Nominating Committee shall be limited to its consideration of the Office of Presiding Bishop, in the light of the requirements of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, defining his responsibilities, the profile developed for the office of Presiding Bishop in the light of its historical development and present position, the qualifications, background experience, education and unique gifts required of the bishop selected to fill the office of Presiding Bishop, as charged by Resolution A-140 of the 1982 General Convention (*Journal*, pp. C-72-73).

6. **That the House of Bishops set a special order of business at 8:00 a.m. on September 10, 1985, for the purpose of electing a Presiding Bishop, and remain in session until it shall elect a Presiding Bishop or find itself unable to elect from among the persons nominated.**
7. **If the House of Bishops elects a Presiding Bishop, that the House of Deputies set a special order of business immediately upon notice of the election to vote to confirm or not to confirm such choice of Presiding Bishop.**
8. **If the House of Bishops finds itself unable to elect a Presiding Bishop from among the nominees, the joint session shall be resumed immediately, at which time additional nominations may be received.**
9. **Upon confirmation of a House of Bishops choice of Presiding Bishop by the House of Deputies, that the House of Deputies set a special order of business, to which the members of Triennial shall be invited, to receive the Presiding Bishop and acknowledge his election.**
10. **That the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies each adopt their own procedures for election and confirmation, respectively.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 100.

TOPIC/TITLE: Presiding Bishop: Study the Process of Nominations and Election of the Presiding Bishop

PROPOSER: House of Bishops Committee on Pastoral Development

C&C PAGE:

BB PAGE: 50

1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention authorize the  
 2 College for Bishops, in consultation with the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of  
 3 Deputies, to study the process of nomination and election of the Presiding Bishop, together with  
 4 comparable processes in other provinces of the Anglican Communion and our full communion  
 5 partners, i.e. the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and report their finding to the 77th  
 6 General Convention together with recommended changes in our canons and rules of orders as  
 7 may be deemed appropriate.  
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EXPLANATION:  
 The process for the nomination and election of our Presiding Bishop and Primate has become lengthy and expensive. The present length of the process is unnecessarily burdensome on nominees, potential nominees and their dioceses. In a time when resources for mission are stretched, the multiple millions of dollars\* required by our current process may not be the best use of our mission resources.\*2006 Totals