

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2009-B029  
**TITLE:** Consent to Episcopal Elections  
**PROPOSER:** The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.  
**COMMITTEE:** Ministry

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**Directly Related:** (attached)

2006-A018 Amend Constitution Article II.2 [Election of Bishops--Second Reading]  
2006-A085 On the Topic of Amending Constitution Article II.2 [Ordination of Bishops -- First Reading] (Rejected)  
2003-B023 Refer a Resolution to Amend Article II.2 [Consent to Elections] (Referred)

**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-A018  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article II.2 [Election of Bishops--Second Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That the second sentence of Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:*

**Section 2. No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop until the attainment of thirty years of age; nor without the consent of a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses, and the consent of a majority of the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction. But if the election shall have taken place within ~~three months next~~ *one hundred twenty days* before the meeting of General Convention, the consent of the House of Deputies shall be required in place of that of a majority of the Standing Committees. No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop by fewer than three Bishops.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 690.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A085  
**Title:** On the Topic of Amending Constitution Article II.2 [Ordination of Bishops -- First Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That Article II.2 of the Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop until the attainment of thirty years of age; nor without the consent of a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses, and the consent of a majority of the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction. ~~But if the election shall have taken place within three months next before the meeting of the General Convention, the consent of the House of Deputies shall be required in place of that of a majority of the Standing Committees.~~ No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop by fewer than three Bishops.

And be it further

*Resolved*, That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next meeting, and be adopted by the General Convention at its next succeeding regular meeting.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-B023  
**Title:** Refer a Resolution to Amend Article II.2 [Consent to Elections]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Referred  
**Final Text:**

***Resolved, That the 74th General Convention amend the Constitution of the General Convention, Article II, Section 2, 1st sentence, so as to read:***

***No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop until the attainment of thirty years of age; nor without the consent of a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses *within the Province where the election has occurred*, and the consent of a majority of the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction *in said Province*. But if the election shall have taken place within three months next before the meeting of the General Convention, the consent of the House of Deputies shall be required in place of that of a majority of the Standing Committees. No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop by fewer than three Bishops.***

And be it further

***Resolved, That Title III, Canon 22, Sections 4(a) and (b) be amended so as to correspond to the change in the Constitution.***

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 671.

TOPIC/TITLE: Constitution: Consent to Episcopal Elections

PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth Jr.

C&C PAGE: 3

BB PAGE:

1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 76th General Convention amend  
2 Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church as follows:

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**Sec. 2.** No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop until the attainment of thirty years of age; nor without the consent of a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses, and the consent of a majority of the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction. ~~But if the election shall have taken place within one hundred twenty days before the meeting of General Convention, the consent of the House of Deputies shall be required in place of that of a majority of the Standing Committees.~~ No one shall be ordained and consecrated Bishop by fewer than three Bishops.

EXPLANATION:

The provision for consents to be sought through the House of Deputies for episcopal elections having taken place within one hundred twenty days of General Convention was reasonable and expedient in an era when communications were not as facile as today. In our time, Standing Committees are engaged in the consent process on an ongoing basis and develop consistent discernment practices whereby they respond to the dozen or so requests for consent they receive annually. General Convention deputies, because they answer such requests at only one time every three years, because their legislative committee responsibilities and other hearing commitments conflict with consent hearings during the General Convention, and because of the competing demands of legislation on their attention, do not have the luxury of a familiar process as do their colleagues on Standing Committees. As we continue to have higher numbers of episcopal elections each year, it would be good stewardship of leadership resources and would help the consent process to have it consistently carried out by those who exercise this responsibility on a regular basis. As well, it has been very beneficial in some recent episcopal elections to allow Standing Committees and their bishop colleagues to explore together the attendant issues when considering consent requests, something that is difficult to accomplish during the triennial conventions of The Episcopal Church.

*Endorser(s):*The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel III, The Rt. Rev. George E. Councill

*Review Status:*Not Yet Reviewed for Constitutional Form