MEMBERSHIP
Ms. Pauline H. G. Getz, Chair
San Diego, VIII
Ms Sally Johnson
Minnesota, VI
The Rev. Mark Lattime
Rochester, IV
The Rev. Brian Prior
Spokane, VIII
Ms. Rebecca Snow
Alaska, VIII

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TASK GROUP AT GENERAL CONVENTION: Rebecca Snow and Sally Johnson are authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report.

SUMMARY OF WORK
The President of the House of Deputies appointed the Task Group to review the Rules of Order of the House of Deputies and identify potential revisions to correct errors and inconsistencies, improve the processes of the House of Deputies and conform the Rules to actual practice and usage. The Group met by telephone conference call on six occasions.

The Task Group reviewed and discussed each Rule of Order to consider whether it would be advisable to propose a modification.

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION

RESOLUTION A010 AMENDING RULE 2 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER
Resolved,
That Rule of Order 2 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

2. The daily sessions of the House shall be opened with prayer, and prayer for Missions shall be had daily at noonmidi day. Any deputy may request the President to call for prayer at other times and the President may initiate such prayer as deemed appropriate.

EXPLANATION
Requiring the business of the House to stop for prayer precisely at noon often interrupts the business of the House. The amendment is intended to provide flexibility and to conform our invitation to prayer to our practice.

RESOLUTION A011 AMENDING RULE 6 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER
Resolved, That Rule of Order 6 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

6. The Secretary shall keep a Calendar of Business, on which shall be placed, in the order of their presentation, the subjects being briefly indicated, Orders of the Day, reports of Committees, Resolutions which lie over, and other matters undisposed of. The Secretary shall also keep a Consent Calendar, which shall be published daily and distributed to the members before the convening of the House on each legislative day, and designate it as a separate calendar. Matters shall be listed on the Consent Calendar in separate groupings, according to the date that they have been placed thereon. All matters to which amendments have been proposed by a Committee shall be so designated. No debate is in order regarding any matter appearing on the Consent Calendar. However, the President shall allow a reasonable time for questions from the floor and answers to those questions. No amendment other than an amendment contained in a Committee report is in order regarding any matter on the Consent Calendar. Any amendments contained in Committee reports on such matters shall be deemed adopted unless the matter is objected to and removed from the Consent Calendar. Immediately prior to a vote on the first matter on the Consent Calendar the President shall call to the attention of the members the fact that the next vote will be on the first matter pending on the Consent Calendar. Matters appearing on the Consent Calendar shall be taken up immediately following the noon recess of the next legislative day following their placement on the Consent Calendar, or otherwise by unanimous consent or by adoption of a special order of business. A matter may be placed on the Consent Calendar by report of a Legislative
Committee, if the Committee vote to report the matter with a recommendation for adoption, with or without amendments, or for discharge, or referral to a Joint or Standing Commission—an Interim Body or Executive Council, or for rejection, was by three fourths of the members present and if the Committee recommends placement of the matter on the Consent Calendar. Prior to a vote on final passage of any matter appearing on the Consent Calendar, it shall be removed from the Consent Calendar if (1) any three Lay or Clerical deputations, or (2) the sponsor of the matter, or (3) the Committee on Dispatch of Business files with the Secretary written objections to the presence of the matter on the Consent Calendar. Any matter so removed may not be placed thereafter on the Consent Calendar but shall be restored to the Daily Calendar. Any matter removed from the Consent Calendar, to which amendments have been proposed by a Committee, shall stand on the Daily Calendar in its original, unamended form, as reported by the Legislative Committee, and amendments shall be treated as if the matter had never been on the Consent Calendar.

EXPLANATION
To clarify and correct process.

RESOLUTION A012 AMENDING RULE 12(D) OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

Resolved, That Rule of Order 12(d) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

(d) No hearing by a Committee shall be held upon any matter before it unless notice of the time and place of hearing and the matter to be heard is posted no later than at least four hours before the matter is scheduled to be heard. Each day the Chair or the Secretary of each Committee shall deliver to the Secretary of the House (at the office of the Secretary of the House) a written notice signed by the Chair or by the Secretary. Such notice shall state the time (both date and hour) and the place of the proposed hearing and shall identify by number (and Blue Book page reference, if available) the proposition or propositions to be considered at the next session of the Committee. The Secretary of the House shall post a copy of each notice received on a bulletin board at or near the chamber and easily accessible to the members of the House and to the public and in such other places or manners as may enhance the giving of actual notice of the hearing. If the notice contains a request that the notice be read to the House prior to adjournment, the Secretary of the House shall do so.

EXPLANATION
It is incumbent on the House leadership to take reasonable steps to provide notice to as many deputies and interested parties as possible. There may be methods other than, and in addition to, posting on the bulletin board that will accomplish this goal.

RESOLUTION A013 AMENDING RULES 12(G) AND 17 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

Resolved, That Rule of Order 12(g) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

(g) Except as provided herein, every Committee meeting shall be open to the public. However, the Chair may convene the Committee in conference, during which time the public may remain but may not participate in the Committee deliberations. Upon a two-thirds majority vote of Committee members present, a Committee may go into executive session if the matter to be considered in executive session has first been scheduled for hearing and heard in open session, and interested persons have been given an opportunity to be heard. No legislative matter may be amended or otherwise voted on in executive session;

And be it further

Resolved, that Rule of Order 17 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

17. The provisions of Rules 12 and 13 shall not apply to Committees having procedural matters only, including, but not limited to, the Committee on Elections, Committee on Certification of Minutes, Committee on Dispatch of Business; Provided, however the meetings of such Committees shall be open to Bishops, Deputies, and Visitors, except that, on a two-thirds majority vote of Committee members present, the Committee may go into executive session to discuss, but not vote on, an appropriate matter.
EXPLANATION
The goal of the process is to ensure transparency and not permit actions to be taken in any kind of closed session. Where proceedings are purely procedural, such as Certification of Minutes or Dispatch of Business, the further goal is to facilitate getting their work done without undue distraction.

RESOLUTION A014 AMENDING RULE 14 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER
Resolved, That Rule of Order 14 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

Any Resolution which involves an amendment to the Constitution or Canons, shall be referred by the President to the appropriate Legislative or Special Committee for action. The assigned Committee shall consult with a designated member of the Committee on the Constitution or Committee on Canons during the drafting process. When the Legislative or Special Committee deems the resolution perfected, it shall refer it to and simultaneously to the Committee on the Constitution or the Committee on Canons, as the case may be, and such Committee shall make certain that the Resolution is in proper constitutional or canonical form, achieves consistency and clarity in the Constitution or Canons, and includes all amendments necessary to effect the proposed change, and shall promptly communicate its recommendations to the Legislative or Special Committee. In such case the Committee shall neither concern itself with, nor report on, the substance of the matter referred to it, but whenever requested to do so by the Presiding Officer of the House, the Committee shall in its reports to the House make recommendations as to substance. The Committee on the Constitution and the Committee on Canons, when acting on a matter first heard in another Committee, shall not be required to give the notice required by Rule 12(d). No such resolution shall be placed on the Calendar until such Committee shall have approved it in proper constitutional or canonical form.

EXPLANATION
In practice, the process is sequential and not simultaneous.

RESOLUTION A015 AMENDING RULE 19(A) OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES
Resolved, That Rule of Order 19(a) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

19 (a) No Report of a Standing Commission, or Committee, Board, Task Force or a Joint Committee containing Resolutions that has been printed and distributed to the members of this House at least three weeks before the meeting of the Convention, shall be read at length to the House, but the Chair or a member of that Committee or Commission may make an oral summary.

EXPLANATION
Revisions to render the Rule more accurate.

RESOLUTION A016 AMENDING RULE 20 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES
Resolved, That Rule of Order 20 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

20 (a) Every Report of a Commission or Joint Committee shall be referred to the appropriate Legislative Committee of this House, if there be one; but, if not, to a Special Committee of this House. The House may at any time refer any Report or Resolution to the Committee on the Constitution to draft a constitutional amendment or to the Committee on Canons to draft a canon or amendment to the Canons which will carry into effect, if enacted, the Report or Resolution so referred.

EXPLANATION
Revision to delete the prefatory (a), which is superfluous since there is no (b).

RESOLUTION A017 AMENDING RULES 27(C)(1) AND 27(H)(1) OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES
Resolved, That Rule of Order 27(c)(1) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

27. The following motions have no order of priority, but are subject to the following rules:
...c) To Recall from Committee

(1) Mover must [may] be recognized.

And be it further

Resolved, That Rule of Order 27(h)(1) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

(h) Objection to Consideration

(1) If objection made before debate is begun Objection must be made before debate is begun. The...

EXPLANATION
These revisions are intended to provide more clarity and consistency in the procedures.

RESOLUTION A018 AMENDING RULES 34 AND 36 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

Resolved, That Rule of Order 34 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

34. When any member is about to speak or to deliver any matter to the House, he the member shall, with due respect, address himself to the President, state his name and his Diocese, and confine himself any remarks strictly to the point of debate; and be it further

Resolved, that Rule of Order 36 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

36. When the House is about to rise, every member shall keep his seat remain seated until the President leaves the Chair. Before putting to a vote a motion to adjourn, the President may make any communication to the House, or may cause any notice to be read by the Secretary.

EXPLANATION
To render the Rules gender-neutral.

RESOLUTION A019 AMENDING RULE 40(a) OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

Resolved, That Rule of Order 40(a) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

40 (a) Unless excused by the House, every member who shall be in the House when any Question is put must vote on a division.

EXPLANATION
To clarify the mandate to require voting

RESOLUTION A020 AMENDING RULE 41 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

Resolved, That Rule of Order 41 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

41. The vote upon any Question (except in the case of elections), shall be taken by Dioceses and Orders whenever required by the Constitution or by Canon, or whenever required by all of the Clerical or Lay representation from three or more Dioceses, before the voting begins. Whenever a vote shall be taken by Dioceses and Orders (except in the case of elections), the vote of each Order in each Diocese shall be stated by one member in each Order as "Aye" or "No" or "Divided". If desired by the entire Deputation from any Diocese that the Deputation be polled, the vote of the individual Deputies representing that Diocese shall be stated and recorded, or if by ballot or electronic means shall be recorded. Such record shall be made, also, in respect of the individual members of every Deputation, if so ordered, without debate, by a majority of the House. In lieu of a roll call, a vote by Dioceses and Orders may be taken by such electronic or mechanical means as may be provided, or by written ballots of each Order, each such ballot to be signed by the Chairman, or, in the Chairman’s absence, by another member of the Deputation in the Order for which the ballot is cast; and, if the vote of a Deputation be divided, it may indicate the individual names of the Deputies and their votes on the Question. The results of all votes by Orders, whether by voice vote, by ballot, or by electronic means, shall be posted.
Task Group on the Rules of Order of the House of Deputies

EXPLANATION
These revisions render the provision gender-neutral and clarify the consistency in calling for and implementing votes by orders.

RESOLUTION A021 AMENDING RULE 45 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES
Resdovled, That Rule of Order 45 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
45. Messages from the House of Bishops shall be handed by the Secretary of this House to the President, to be laid before the House as early as may be convenient. All such Messages communicating any legislative action on the part of the House of Bishops shall be referred, without debate, to the proper committee, unless, without debate, the House shall decide to consider such Message without such reference. The report of the Committee upon any Message so referred shall be entitled to consideration as of the date and priority of the original receipt of such Message. The question of its immediate consideration, to be decided by two-thirds vote of the members present, shall be submitted to the House as soon as the report is presented.

EXPLANATION
The noted phrase was dropped in an earlier draft of the Canons (between 1991 and 1994.)

RESOLUTION A022 AMENDING RULE 46 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES
Resolved, That Rule of Order 46 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
46. When, either without reference or after reference and report, the consideration of such Message shall have begun, it shall continue to be the Order of the Day until final action thereon, and shall not be subject to any motion to postpone or to lay on the table. However, consideration of such Message shall be subject to a motion for the appointment of a Committee of Conference, as hereinafter provided in this Rule 48.

EXPLANATION
To delete “this” in light of the fact that this is Rule 46 and not 48.

RESOLUTION A023 AMENDING RULE 55 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES
Resolved, That Rule of Order 55 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
55. When considering the election of a Bishop, the approval of the Candidate's testimonials, or consent to the Candidate's Bishop Elect's consecration, and when acting upon the election of the Presiding Bishop, the House shall sit as soon as practicable after the receipt of official notification from the House of Bishops of such elections.

EXPLANATION
Revisions for clarity and accuracy.

RESOLUTION A024 AMENDING RULE 58 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES
Resolved, That the Rule of Order 58 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
58. Unless a member have leave from the President or be unable to attend, no member shall be absent himself from the service of the House.

EXPLANATION
To correct a typographical error.

RESOLUTION A025 AMENDING RULES 60(A) AND 60(B) OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES
Resolved, That Rule of Order 60(a) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
60 (a) No one shall be admitted to the floor except members and officers of this House, and except that two Ordained Persons, and two Lay Persons who are duly authorized representatives of The Episcopal
Church in Liberia, and like representatives of The Episcopal Church in Navajoland, shall have seat and voice in a designated section on the floor of the House. In addition, up to 18 youth (not more than two youth from each Province) who are duly authorized representatives known as the Official Youth Presence, shall have seat and voice in a designated section on the floor of the House.

And be it further

Resolved, That Rule of Order 60(b) of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

(b) Alternate Deputies and former members of the House; the Presidents of the Association of Episcopal Colleges and Deans of Church seminaries; the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer and elected Members of the Executive Council may be seated in a section reserved for Special Guests, except during Executive Sessions.

EXPLANATION
To more clearly describe which “church colleges” and to delete language that is no longer used in the church.

RESOLUTION A026 AMENDING RULE 60 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

Resolved, That Rule of Order 60 of the House of Deputies be amended by adding a new subsection (a), to read as follows, with subsequent subsections to be re-lettered:

(a) Each deputation shall elect a Chair, and notify the Secretary of the House of the results of that election, no later than the day on which the House organizes itself.

EXPLANATION
There has previously been no provision for the designation of a Chair, although there is reference to duties of the Chair in other Rules. In addition, it is important that the Secretary know the identity of the Chair of the deputations to facilitate proper communication.

RESOLUTION A027 AMENDING RULE 64 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

Resolved, That Rule of Order 64 of the House of Deputies is hereby amended to read as follows:

64. The President may invite a distinguished visitor to speak for not more than five minutes, or may extend the privileges of the floor to a representative of a Church agency, although not a Deputy, to speak for not more than five minutes to a report of that agency.

EXPLANATION
In light of the press of business at General Convention, it is proposed to limit the time for guest speakers to five minutes.

RESOLUTION A028 AMENDING RULE 66 OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES RULES OF ORDER

Resolved, That Rule of Order 66 of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

66. Except when otherwise ordered by majority vote of the House, no books, pamphlets or other printed matter shall be distributed in the House, or be placed on the seats or desks of the Deputies, without the express permission of the President; but this prohibition shall not apply to reports of Committees or to any papers or other documents presented to and accepted by the House or printed by its authority.

EXPLANATION
To correct a typographical error.

RESOLUTION A029 AMENDING STANDING ORDER I OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

Resolved, That Standing Order I of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:
I. Prior to the meeting of each General Convention, the Secretary of the House of Deputies shall determine, by lot, the seats to be occupied by the Deputation from each Diocese, except that the Deputations of members serving on the platform shall be seated in the front of the House, near the platform.

EXPLANATION
In order to facilitate communication and participation by platform members with their respective deputations, the deputations of those individuals serving on the platform who are also deputies have been seated in the front of the hall near the platform. This is especially helpful, for example, when there is a vote by orders requiring the signatures of deputies.

RESOLUTION A030 AMENDING STANDING ORDER IV OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES
Resolved, That Standing Order IV of the House of Deputies be amended to read as follows:

IV. At all times when the House is in session, the National and Church flags and such other flags as the President shall deem appropriate shall be flown on the platform.

EXPLANATION
The Episcopal Church encompasses more than just the United States. This modification would give the President the discretion to recognize the wider church.