

STANDING COMMISSION ON STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

Membership

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| The Rev. Canon Sharon Alexander, <i>Chair</i> | West Tennessee, IV | 2021 |
| The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, <i>Vice-Chair</i> | Northwestern Pennsylvania, III | 2024 |
| Mr. Thomas Little, <i>Secretary</i> | Vermont, I | 2024 |
| The Rev. Dr. Adam Trambley, <i>Assistant Secretary</i> | Northwestern Pennsylvania, III | 2024 |
| The Rev. Canon Valerie Balling | New Jersey, II | 2024 |
| The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows | Indianapolis, V | 2024 |
| Canon Annette Buchanan | New Jersey, II | 2021 |
| Ms. Nancy Mahoney Cohen | El Camino Real, VIII | 2021 |
| Ms. Carmen Figueroa | Puerto Rico, IX | 2024 |
| The Rt. Rev. Wendell Gibbs | Michigan, V | 2021 |
| Mr. Michael Glass | San Joaquin, VIII | 2021 |
| Mr. Christopher Hayes | California, VIII | 2024 |
| The Rev. Richard Edward Helmer, BSG | California, VIII | 2021 |
| The Rt. Rev. William Klusmeyer | West Virginia, III | 2021 |
| Mr. Ryan Kusumoto | Hawaii, VIII | 2024 |
| The Rt. Rev. Jake Owensby | Western Louisiana, VII | 2021 |
| Mr. William Powel | Ohio, V | 2024 |
| Mr. Jamal Smith | Virgin Islands, II | 2021 |
| The Rev. Marisa Tabizon Thompson | Nebraska, VI | 2024 |
| The Most Rev. Michael Curry, <i>Ex Officio</i> | North Carolina, IV | |
| The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, <i>Ex Officio</i> | Ohio, V | |

Changes in Membership

During the triennium, the following changes in membership and advisers occurred.

At the beginning of the triennium, Mark Stevenson was the Presiding Bishop's representative to the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons (the "Commission"). In January 2019, concurrently with Mary Kostel becoming Chancellor to the President Bishop, the Presiding Bishop appointed her to replace Mr. Stevenson as his representative to the Commission.

At its organizational meeting, the Commission elected the Rev. Molly James as its Chair; the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe as its Vice-Chair; and Tom Little and the Rev. Sharon Alexander as Secretary and Assistant Secretary, respectively. When Molly James became Deputy Executive Officer of General Convention she resigned from the Commission and was assigned as the General Convention Office staff member liaison to the Commission, in March 2019. Thereupon, Sharon Alexander was elected Commission Chair and Adam Trambley Assistant Secretary.

Luz Montes was ordained a transitional deacon in June 2020, making her ineligible to serve as a lay member of the Commission. Since that time, she has served as a consultant to the Commission.

Representation at General Convention

Pursuant to Canon I.1.2(k), Commission members Adam Trambley and Thomas A. Little, as representatives of the Commission at the General Convention, are authorized to receive non-substantive amendments to this report at the General Convention.

Mandate

Canon I.1.2.n.1

1. A Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons. It shall be the duty of the Commission to:
 - i. Review such proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons as may be submitted to the Commission, placing each such proposed amendment in proper Constitutional or Canonical form, including all amendments necessary to effect the proposed change. For amendments not in proper form, the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons may direct the submitting Commission to the canonical and Rules of Order requirements for amendments to the Constitution and Canons so the submitting Commission may revise its amendment to proper form. The Commission shall express its views with respect to the substance of any such proposal only to the proponent thereof; *provided, however*, that no member of the Commission shall, by reason of membership, be deemed to be disabled from expressing, before a Legislative Committee or on the floor of the General Convention, personal views with respect to the substance of any such proposed amendment.
 - ii. Conduct a continuing comprehensive review of the Constitution and Canons with respect to their internal consistency and clarity, and on the basis of such a review, propose to the General Convention such technical amendments to the Constitution and Canons as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or desirable in order to achieve such consistency and clarity without altering the substance of any Constitutional and Canonical provisions; *provided, however*, that the Commission shall propose, for the consideration of the appropriate Legislative Committees of the General Convention, such amendments to the Constitution and Canons as in the opinion of the Commission are technically desirable but involve a substantive alteration of a Constitutional or Canonical provision.
 - iii. On the basis of such review, suggest to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society such amendments to its By-laws as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or desirable in order to conform the same to the Constitution and Canons.
 - iv. Conduct a continuing and comprehensive review and update of the authorized “Annotated Constitution and Canons for the Government of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America otherwise known as The Episcopal Church” to reflect actions of General Convention which amend the Constitution and Canons and, in the discretion of the Commission, develop other materials which are appropriate to the purpose of the

“Annotated Constitution and Canons,” and facilitate the publication of this document and related materials. The Commission may provide or support forums to promote commentary, discussion, and understanding of the Constitution and Canons.

- v. Discharge such other duties as shall from time to time be assigned by the General Convention.
- vi. Study and make recommendations concerning the structure of the General Convention and of The Episcopal Church. It shall, from time to time, review the operation of the several Committees, Commissions, and Boards to determine the necessity for their continuance and the effectiveness of their functions and to bring about a coordination of their efforts. Whenever a proposal is made for the creation of a new Committee, Commission, Board or Agency, it shall, wherever feasible, be referred to this Standing Commission for its consideration and advice.
- vii. Conduct a continuing and comprehensive review and update of the Title IV training materials, including drafting such changes as are necessitated by changes to these Constitution and Canons, or as may be deemed appropriate to maintain such training materials in a current and effective status.

Summary of Work

Meetings

The Commission met in person twice during the triennium, both times at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Maryland. In addition, the Commission met via the Zoom video conference platform eight times. The Commission also organized into subcommittees that met multiple times, and the subcommittee chairs formed an active group and met regularly. The flow and continuity of the Commission’s work were impacted by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. The lack of two in-person meetings made it harder for the Commission to complete its work and some work was not completed.

At its initial and subsequent meetings, the Commission received comments and took action as reflected in this report. For more detailed accounts of the Commission’s proceedings, readers are referred to the minutes of the Commission’s meetings, available prior to the General Convention at the Commission’s webpage on the General Convention website.

Specific Areas of Work

In light of the increased volume of topics coming to the Commission due to the 2015 General Convention’s consolidation of work and elimination of other standing commissions, we divided the Commission’s work into seven topic categories:

Bishops and Dioceses
Churchwide Structures

General Convention and Rules of Order

Formation

Ecumenical Concerns

Title IV

Other Canonical Changes

The Commission was unable to address other aspects of its Canonical mandate; it did not complete a comprehensive review of the Church's Committees, Commissions, Agencies, Boards and other Interim Bodies. Officers of the Commission did, however, engage in several discussions with a subcommittee of the Executive Council that was reviewing the Church's Boards and other Interim Bodies. The Commission will continue to explore ways to fulfill its mandate following the filing of this report and in a supplemental report will provide the fruits of those labors to the 80th General Convention.

The ongoing work of compiling the revision of the Annotated Constitution and Canons (White & Dykman) continues under the leadership of the White & Dykman Subcommittee. The additional time before the 80th General Convention should allow this group to complete additional needed sections. The Commission will also be looking into ways of making White & Dykman an online interactive tool in the future.

Under its mandate (Canon I.1.2.n.vii), the Commission has responsibility for oversight of Title IV training and education. The Title IV website continues to be maintained with the assistance of communications personnel in the Diocese of Utah. Materials are being updated and added in Spanish. As changes continue to be made to Title IV at subsequent General Conventions, and as more data is available about the use of the training materials, the Commission will continue to evaluate and modify the materials to meet the needs of those involved in disciplinary processes across the Church.

This report now turns to the major topic categories addressed by the Commission.

1. Bishops and Dioceses

The Commission's Subcommittee on Bishops and Dioceses looked at a number of areas dealing with how dioceses and their Episcopal leadership fit into the larger church. Some of these explorations were directed by General Convention resolution, while others arose in the course of our work – from our discussions or by request from other interim bodies. We found that the substantive conversations around some of these issues were better held by the Task Force to Assist the Office of Pastoral Development, although the Commission hopes to remain partners in that work going forward. We also found that the upheavals caused by the COVID-19 pandemic during this triennium frustrated our ability to bring some discussions to their conclusion.

The Merging of Dioceses

The Commission's 2018 Blue Book Report proposed Resolution 2018-A113, "Amend Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution," to give greater flexibility to dioceses when they choose to combine or reconfigure themselves. At the 2018 first reading of the Resolution, instead of approving it for second reading at the 80th General Convention (currently scheduled for 2022), the General Convention chose to refer the Resolution back out to the Commission for further study to provide more clarity and flexibility regarding the Constitution and Canons of newly formed dioceses. The Commission has studied the matter again and proposes a revised version of Resolution 2018-A113 for first reading at the 80th General Convention. We believe the revised approach of Resolution [A031](#) "Amend the Constitution and Canons Relating to Mergers of Dioceses" will allow dioceses more flexibility when planning mergers or the formation of new dioceses from Dioceses or portions of one or more Dioceses. The flexibility would be achieved, in part, by moving some of the Constitutional provisions into the Canons (Canon 1.10, specifically). If Canonical changes should become necessary, they can be made at a single meeting of the General Convention to facilitate the formation or combination of the Dioceses rather than requiring two General Conventions to approve a change to the Constitution.

Updating "The Raising Up of Episcopal Leadership - A Manual for Dioceses in Transition"

Resolution 2018-A146 urged that the document guiding Episcopal transition processes be revised and updated. We referred this matter to the Task Force to Assist the Office of Pastoral Development and offered to collaborate with them.

Consents for Elections of Bishops Suffragan

The 2018 General Convention dealt with a number of resolutions concerning the ministry of bishops. Resolution 2018-A161 removed the consent process for the election of Bishops Suffragan, with the expectation that it would be re-introduced as part of a larger canonical change proposed in Resolution 2018-A156. The 2018 General Convention passed Resolution 2018-A161, but not Resolution 2018-A156, which resulted in the consent process for the election of Bishops Suffragan being entirely removed from the canons. The Commission is proposing Resolution [A032](#) "Amend Canon III.11.9.b to Correct an Oversight in a 2018 Canonical Amendment" to reinsert the consent process.

Reception of Bishops from the Anglican Communion

The Episcopal Church has received a number of bishops from other Anglican Provinces in the recent past. Our canons do not, however, lay out a clear process for this reception. The Commission has developed a working draft of possible canonical changes, but more outreach and collaboration are needed before the Commission can complete this important work.

Standing Committee Oversees Election of Bishop Suffragan

Canon III.11.1.a is not clear regarding oversight of the election of a bishop suffragan. The Commission consulted with the Task Force to Assist the Office of Pastoral Development and is deferring to the canonical changes in its Blue Book report.

Measurements of Vitality

The Commission had a number of discussions and reviewed previous work done around questions and measurements of vitality for dioceses and congregations. We are aware that questions of vitality are part of a much larger conversation that is taking place in a variety of venues, including in the work of the House of Deputies State of the Church Committee as it looks at future possibilities for the parochial and diocesan reports. We look forward to incorporating and addressing questions of congregational and diocesan vitality as the Commission continues its ongoing work.

2018-A282 Standing Committee Testimonials

The 79th General Convention adopted Resolution 2018-A282 to make it clear that under Canon III.11.3.b when Standing Committees convene to vote on whether to consent to the election of a bishop, their members need not all be convened together in the same physical space or room. The revision added a new subsection c, providing that a majority of all members of a Standing Committee must vote to consent, and that the consent form may be signed “in counterparts.” The new subsection c refers to all “testimonials required of the Standing Committee by this *Title*” (emphasis added). The Commission believes that the reference should properly be to this *Canon*. Accordingly, the Commission proposes Resolution [A039](#) "Use More Precise Language in Canon III.11.3.c as Amended by Resolution 2018-A282" to make this further revision to Canon III.11.3.c.

Questions Concerning Bishops and Dioceses for Future Triennia

This subcommittee looked at a number of important issues dealing with bishops and dioceses that were not able to be completed in this triennium, but which may be important to look at in the future.

The General Convention asked the Commission to look at 2018-A287, which sought to clarify options for a diocese upon the death, resignation, deposition, or removal of a bishop diocesan. While this matter remains important, and we discussed these questions, we do not have a recommendation at this time.

The church needs further clarity around the definitions of disabled and absent bishops as well as measurable criteria for when a bishop would fall into one of those categories. We have also found ambiguities in determining where a bishop is canonically resident.

The Commission identified mutual ministry reviews for bishops as an important best practice. However, we felt that the Task Force to Assist the Office of Pastoral Development was the proper place for this topic to be addressed, and they have taken up that work. Similarly, how the church as a whole discerns and recruits candidates for the episcopate is a question that needs further discussion,

and the Task Force to Assist the Office of Pastoral Development is the appropriate place for the next steps in that conversation.

The process for the re-admittance of the Diocese of Cuba to The Episcopal Church demonstrated the need for further clarification around how we admit dioceses from outside of The Episcopal Church. The Commission believes there is much to be learned from this experience, but we have not yet distilled that learning into concrete recommendations.

We examined the differences between area missions and missionary dioceses and believe there is value to studying this question further. As the church adjusts to new realities, updating these structures may benefit how we carry out our ministry and mission. We also looked specifically at questions regarding a future election for a new bishop of Navajoland and concluded that no changes to canons needed to be made at this time. We would, however, be very open to changes suggested by the people of Navajoland in the coming years to ensure the election process meets their needs.

2. Churchwide Structures

Provinces

The Commission received referrals of Resolutions A076, A077, A078, A079, and D042 from the 2018 General Convention, which were proposed in the 2018 Blue Book report filed by the Task Force to Study Provinces but which were not approved at General Convention. Each of these resolutions deals with a slightly different aspect of the life and work of Provinces and how they relate to the larger church. In reviewing the work of the past two General Conventions related to proposals to restructure the Provinces, the Commission agreed with some of the concerns raised by that Task Force. No consensus, however, developed in favor of the decisive reduction of the role of Provinces from that 2018 report (see the 2018 Blue Book report at pp. 916-931). Accordingly, the Commission decided not to propose additional resolutions dealing with Provinces this triennium. We do, however, continue to encourage dioceses to explore a variety of networks both inside and outside of the provincial structure.

Posting Lay Positions

Resolution 2018-D073 asked the Commission to consider the question of public posting of stipendiary positions for lay persons and report to the 80th General Convention recommendations that would provide equitable access to the application process for qualified applicants for stipendiary positions in our congregations and dioceses, and in institutions affiliated with The Episcopal Church. We offer the following recommendations:

- Form search committees for appropriate lay positions across the church;
- Utilize best practices for the job search process to maximize interest from lay people;
- Determine whether positions being considered for clergy can also be performed by lay professionals;

- Determine whether lay positions being considered are for Episcopalians only or can be filled by those not members but who are familiar with the church;
- Be intentional about diversity in job searching and post positions on platforms that support that goal;
- Ensure that these open positions are shared with Diocesan Transition Ministers;
- Be intentional also in sharing open positions with the Episcopal Communicators network;
- Disseminate job openings via the wider church network as well as diocesan and parochial media platforms. e.g., social media, email, newsletters, etc.;
- Disseminate open positions on external secular job sites; and
- Post lay positions in the Office of Transition Ministry database. The Episcopal Church’s website notes, “It’s the Office and Board for Transition Ministry’s vision that this database will capture and highlight the significant gifts and skills embodied by the clergy and laity of the Episcopal Church.”

Interim Body Minority Reports

The Commission discussed whether the canons should specify when and how a Standing Commission’s (or other interim body’s) Blue Book report may or should include a “minority report.” Currently, Canon I.1.2.j mentions minority reports for Standing Commissions but provides no guidance to Standing Commissions about whether and under what circumstances one or more dissenting members of a Commission should be permitted to include formal minority report in a Commission’s Blue Book report. Our Commission did not answer this question, deferring to the Standing Commissions to work this out.

Create a Churchwide Policy on Name Changes in Church Records

In 2015 the General Convention considered canonical changes to the established processes for changing names in church records. In 2018, the Convention considered Resolution 2018-A088, and referred that out to the Archives of The Episcopal Church and the Executive Council for further review and dialogue. That consultation took place, and at its October 2020 meeting the Executive Council adopted a resolution that addresses the remaining concerns. The text of that resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the Executive Council, meeting virtually October 9-12, 2020, has received and reviewed the Proposed Guidelines for Policy on Amending Church Records for Name and Gender Changes in response to 2018–A088; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council commends to the Church said reports and directs the Archives of the Episcopal Church to promulgate said Guidelines to the whole of the Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council offers its gratitude for the Archives of The Episcopal Church and our Trans Episcopal siblings in Christ, for their generous contributions and witness.

Revisions to the Standing Commission's Mandate

The Commission recommends two resolutions to make modest revisions to its mandate. Resolution [A033](#) "Amend Canon I.1.2.n.1.iii to Revise the Title of Executive Council's By-laws" would amend Canon I.1.2.n.1.iii to refer to the By-laws of the Executive Council as well as to the By-laws of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. Resolution [A034](#) "Clarify the Standing Commission's Mandate" would update the mandate to cover the breadth of current interim bodies in Canon I.1.2.n.1.vi.

Recommendation for an Additional Standing Commission

A robust discussion about the consequences of the General Convention's 2015 elimination of 12 of the then 14 standing commissions resulted in the Commission concluding that the Church needs the ongoing work of one additional standing commission to cover critical areas of formation and ministry development. In Resolution [A037](#) "Establish a New Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development", we recommend adding a Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development to Canon I.1.2.n.

The Commission is also clear that there is a need to further consolidate the work of interim bodies around issues of social justice, advocacy, and policy development. Despite the efforts at consolidation in 2015, there continues to be a proliferation of interim bodies. In the interests of focused, efficient work, particularly given the brevity of time between the 80th and 81st General Conventions, the Commission recommends that the Presiding Officers and Executive Council, in consultation with the Executive Officer of General Convention, seek to consolidate any Task Forces proposed by the 80th General Convention.

Notification of Interim Body Appointments

Currently, under Canons I.1.2.c and f, the Presiding Officers have up to 90 days after the General Convention in which to make appointments to standing commissions and 120 days after the General Convention to notify The Episcopal Church of the appointments. In order to enable the standing commissions to organize and begin work sooner, we recommend Resolution [A038](#) "Shorten Period for Notification of Interim Body Appointments" to change these deadlines to 60 and 90 days, respectively.

General Board of Examining Chaplains

The General Board of Examining Chaplains (GBEC) currently has 22 members – considerably more than other boards and commissions. As the GBEC revises the way it administers and evaluates the General Ordination Examination, it has advised the Commission that it believes the size of its membership can and should be reduced. With a smaller board membership, the GBEC proposes that nominees for the board be selected by the Presiding Bishop in consultation with the GBEC board so that there will be assurance that people familiar with the various canonical areas of testing are represented. This proposed method of choosing board members differs from the usual procedure of

nominees being proposed by the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations, but in that the GBEC's work is primarily to advise and inform bishops, this new method of nominating board members may be appropriate. The GBEC requested the Commission's assistance in proposing a canonical change for this purpose. The Commission is giving full consideration to the GBEC's proposal but has not reached a consensus on this significant change in the GBEC board structure. We hope to complete this work and present a resolution in a supplemental report to the 80th General Convention.

3. General Convention and Rules of Order

Resolution 2018-A102 tasked the Treasurer of the General Convention, the Executive Council, the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance, and this Commission to prepare a report on the budget process that will enhance transparency, foster timely participation by the wider church, clarify roles in the budget development process, and promote effective collaboration. The Commission received periodic updates from the Task Force that was created to organize and complete this work. The Task Force was successful in reaching a consensus on recommendations to make significant changes to the budget process, including the elimination of the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance in favor of having the Executive Council be responsible for the development of a proposed triennial budget and the carrying of that proposal through and beyond General Convention. The Task Force recommends a series of resolutions in its Blue Book Report to amend the pertinent canons and rules of order.

The Commission studied and is proposing Resolutions requiring diocesan conventions to transmit their convention journals electronically to the Secretary of the House of Deputies (Resolution [A040](#) "Specify Electronic Transmission of Certain Documents and Records"); addressing the organization of Episcopal Church congregations in foreign lands within neither the jurisdiction of this Church nor of the Anglican Communion (Resolution [A046](#) "Amend Canon I.15.1 Concerning Certain Episcopal Church Congregations in Foreign Lands"); and prescribing the timing of mutual ministry reviews of officers of the DFMS and Executive Council (Resolution [A047](#) "Concerning the Timing of Mutual Ministry Reviews of DFMS and Executive Council Officers").

Work on the Joint Rules of Order was deferred in favor of more pressing work of the Commission. Certain Commission members are assigned to continue work on the Joint Rules after the submission of this report and in due time the Commission expects to make recommendations for the work of the 80th General Convention and the ongoing work of the Commission. Among the issues under discussion are the accessibility of General Convention in terms of its cost and length.

4. Formation

Largely in response to a recommendation of the 2012-2015 Task Force for Reimagining The Episcopal Church (TREC), the 2015 General Convention eliminated 12 of the then 14 Standing Commissions, and in doing so combined the work of two prior Standing Commissions (Constitution and Canons, Structure of the Church) into a single Standing Commission (the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons). One consequence is that many tasks have come to this

Commission that sooner or later will require an in-depth review and reworking of Title III in support of the ministry of all. Further, a canonical update and cleanup of Title III is overdue. In the 2015-2018 triennium, this Commission found that these items were beyond the scope of what is possible given the breadth of the Commission's canonical mandate. Our 2018 Blue Book report articulated this concern, and we proposed Resolution 2018-136: Establish a Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development. General Convention declined to adopt the Resolution In favor of establishing three Task Forces: the Task Force on Clergy Formation & Continuing Education, the Task Force on Formation & Ministry of the Baptized, and the Task Force on Theological Education Networking.

Following the General Convention's action and recognizing the critical importance of formation, this Commission appointed a Formation Subcommittee to investigate how our church structures help or impede the formation of disciples for the Jesus Movement. To avoid duplicating efforts and to support fruitful sharing of effective ideas, the Formation Subcommittee reached out to the above-mentioned Task Forces to learn about their efforts. Since their timelines for organization did not align with the Commission's schedule of work, these efforts stalled. Similarly, efforts were made to coordinate with various other groups involved in formation, but those efforts have yet to bear fruit. The Subcommittee concluded that its work was made less effective by the lack of a clearly defined, stable structure with which to coordinate – i.e., a Standing Commission with appropriate mandate and jurisdiction.

Nevertheless, the Subcommittee reviewed the formation challenges now facing the church and concluded that those challenges fall into two related but distinct areas. First, our church has always been dedicated to forming disciples for the Jesus Movement. Given the steady demographic decline of our denomination, this mission has become especially urgent. Second, formation toward ordination is currently in a time of great flux. Dioceses still use the three-year residential model of seminary to train clergy but at a rapidly declining pace. Instead, dioceses are employing a variety of ways to form people for ordination locally. This raises questions about continuity, equality, inclusion and best practices of formational processes across the Church.

The Presiding Bishop has urged us to remember that we are the loving, liberating, and life-giving Jesus Movement. At the 79th General Convention the Presiding Bishop introduced The Way of Love as a formational framework for making disciples in this movement. The Commission discussed whether to recommend adding a staff position and Standing Commission dedicated to implementing this vision and assisting dioceses and congregations in their formational processes. However, we did not reach a broad consensus on whether this is the right time for such an effort. Instead, we urge the church to continue to discern how the greater church can develop strategies and resources to assist dioceses, congregations, seminaries, and the church at large in responding to God's call to make disciples in our shifting spiritual, social, and cultural landscape that remains grounded in the theology and polity of our church.

Finally, while the Commission is under no illusion that these measures will easily or quickly yield major improvements in achieving the church's formation goals and aspirations, we believe the need to try with these enhanced efforts is compelling.

5. Ecumenical Concerns

Through its Subcommittee on Ecumenical Concerns, the Commission followed the actions of the United Methodist Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and the proceedings of the Ecumenical Task Force established by the 2018 General Convention. We discussed the Executive Council's practice, per its By-laws, of inviting ELCA and Anglican Church of Canada representatives to attend Council meetings, with seat and voice. The Canons do not reflect the inclusion of additional ecumenical representatives at Executive Council meetings. The Subcommittee did not achieve consensus regarding a recommendation. Executive Council, however, at its January 2021 meetings, adopted amendments to its By-laws addressing this matter.

6. Title IV

There are two Title IV Resolutions in the Resolutions section of the Report ([A042](#) and [A044](#)). Other substantive Commission work on Title IV issues was underway but incomplete as this report was filed. The Commission expects to issue a supplemental report containing additional Title IV analysis and proposals.

7. Other Canonical Amendment Proposals

Throughout the course of the triennium, the Commission identified four sound proposals to amend the Canons and includes those in its Proposed Resolutions. As with its Title IV work, the Commission will continue to review suggested changes to other parts of the canons and include the results of that effort in a supplemental report.

Proposed resolutions

A031 Amend the Constitution and Canons Relating to Mergers of Dioceses

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution to read as follows:

Art.V

Sec. 4. Whenever a new Diocese is formed and erected out of an existing Diocese or out of two or more existing Dioceses or parts of them, ~~it shall be subject to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese out of which it was formed, except as local circumstances may prevent, until the same be altered in accordance with such Constitution and Canons by the Convention of the new Diocese the formation process of the newly formed Diocese, including the adoption of its Constitution and Canons, shall be as set forth in the Canons.~~

~~Whenever a Diocese is formed out of two or more existing Dioceses, it shall be subject to the Constitution and Canons of that one of the said existing Dioceses to which the greater number of Members of the Clergy shall have belonged prior to the erection of such new Diocese, except as local circumstances may prevent, until the same be altered in accordance with such Constitution and Canons by the Convention of the new Diocese.~~

And be it further

Resolved, That Canon I.10 be amended to read as follows:

Can.I.10

Sec. 1. Whenever a new Diocese is proposed to be formed within the limits of any Diocese, or by the junction of two or more Dioceses, or parts of two or more Dioceses, the Ecclesiastical Authorities and the Standing Committees of the Dioceses involved in the proposed new diocese shall submit for approval to the Conventions of each Diocese involved a joint agreement of union setting forth their agreements, including the manner of determining the Bishop Diocesan and other Bishops (if any), the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the new Diocese, and such other matters as may be necessary or proper. Upon approval by the Conventions of each of the involved Dioceses, the joint agreement of union shall be submitted for ratification by the General Convention no less than ninety days prior to the first legislative day of the next meeting of the General Convention.

Can.I.10

Sec. 2. Promptly after ratification by the General Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the new Diocese, as set forth in the joint agreement of union, shall call the ~~Primary~~ first Convention of the new Diocese, for the purpose of enabling it to organize, and shall fix the time and place of holding the same, such place being within the territorial limits of the new Diocese.

Can.I.10

Sec. 3. Whenever one Diocese is about to be divided into two Dioceses, the Convention of such Diocese shall declare which portion or portions thereof ~~are~~ is to be in the new Diocese, and shall make the same known to the General Convention before the ratification of such division.

Can.I.10

Sec. 4. Whenever a new Diocese shall have organized in ~~its first Primary~~ first Convention in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Canons in such case made and provided, and in the manner prescribed in the previous Sections of this Canon, and shall have chosen a name and acceded to the Constitution of the General Convention in accordance with Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution, and shall have laid before the Executive Council certified copies of the Constitution adopted at its ~~first Primary~~ first Convention, and the proceedings preparatory to the formation of the proposed new Diocese, such new Diocese shall thereupon be admitted into union with the General Convention.

Can.I.10

Sec. 5. In the event of the erection of an Area Mission into a Diocese of this Church, as provided in Article V, Section 1 of *the Constitution*, the Convocation of the Area Mission shall be entitled to elect Deputies to the succeeding General Convention, and also to elect a Bishop. The jurisdiction previously assigned to the Bishop in the Area Mission shall be terminated upon the admission of the new Diocese.

Can.I.10

Sec. 6. When a Diocese and one or more other Dioceses that were formed either by division therefrom or by erection into a Diocese or a Missionary Diocese formed by division therefrom, shall desire to be reunited into one Diocese, the proposed reunion must be initiated by the approval of the Conventions of the involved Dioceses of a joint agreement of union setting forth their agreements, including the manner of determining the Bishop Diocesan and other Bishops (if any), provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the new Diocese, and such other matters as may be necessary or proper. If the agreement of the Dioceses is made and the consents of their Conventions are given more than three months before the next meeting of the General Convention, the fact of the agreement and consents shall be certified by the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Secretary of the Convention of each involved Diocese to all the Bishops of the Church having jurisdiction and to the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses; and when the consents of a majority of such Bishops and of a majority of the Standing Committees to the proposed reunion shall have been received, the facts shall be similarly certified to the Secretary of the House of Deputies of the General Convention, and thereupon the reunion shall be considered complete. But if the agreement is made and the consents given within three months of the next meeting of the General Convention, the facts shall be certified instead to the Secretary of the House of Deputies, who shall lay them before the two Houses; and the reunion shall be deemed to be complete when it shall have been approved by a majority vote in the House of Bishops, and in the House of Deputies.

Can.I.10

Sec. 7. When the union of two or more Dioceses or portions of Dioceses or the reunion of the two or more Dioceses shall have been completed, the facts shall be certified to the Presiding Bishop and to the Secretary of the House of Deputies. Thereupon the Presiding Bishop shall notify the Secretary of the House of Bishops of any alteration in the status or style of the Bishop or Bishops concerned, and the Secretary of the House of Deputies shall strike the name of any Diocese that will cease to exist or is being renamed from the roll of Dioceses in union with the General Convention and, if appropriate, amend the name of the newly united Diocese on the roll of Dioceses in union with the General Convention.

EXPLANATION

These amendments allow Dioceses more flexibility when planning mergers or formation of new Dioceses from Dioceses or portions of one or more Dioceses by deferring to the Canons for the

details of the formation process. As the church gains more experience with this process, future changes to the process can be made at one General Convention to facilitate the formation or combination of the Dioceses rather than requiring two General Conventions to approve a change to the Constitution.

The Article V, Section 4 changes proposed in this Resolution build on the efforts of the Standing Commission in the prior two triennia. The intent of the changes is to build greater flexibility into the opportunities dioceses may identify for merger, unification and such. The structure of the revisions is to move more details into the canons, hence the proposed amendments to Canon I.10.

A032 Amend Canon III.11.9.b to Correct an Oversight in a 2018 Canonical Amendment

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon III.11.9.b by adding a new Section 2 and renumbering all subsequent sections, as follows:

Can.III.11

Sec. 9. Other Bishops

b. Bishops Suffragan

1. If a Diocese discerns a need for another Bishop due to the extent of diocesan work, the Diocese may elect a Bishop Suffragan in accordance with Canon III.11.1 and this Canon III.11.9.b.
2. *Before the election of a Bishop Suffragan in a Diocese, the consent of a majority of the Bishops exercising jurisdiction and of the several Standing Committees must be obtained.*
- ~~2-3.~~
- i. A Bishop Suffragan shall act as an assistant to and under the direction of the Bishop Diocesan.
- ii. Before the election of a Bishop Suffragan in a Diocese, the Bishop Diocesan shall submit a consent with a description of the role and the duties of the Bishop Suffragan to the Convention of the Diocese.
- ~~3-4.~~ 4. The tenure of office of a Bishop Suffragan shall not be determined by the tenure of office of the Bishop Diocesan.
- ~~4-5.~~ 5. No Bishop Suffragan, while acting as such, shall be Rector, but may serve as Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation.

EXPLANATION

The amendment corrects and unintended oversight of the 79th General Convention, which inadvertently deleted the requirement of consents to a Diocese's election of a Bishop Suffragan.

A033 Amend Canon I.1.2.n.1.iii to Revise the Title of Executive Council's By-laws

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.1.2.n.1.iii to read as follows:

Can.I.1

Sec. 2

n. There shall be the following Standing Commissions:

1. A Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons. It shall be the duty of the Commission to:

iii. On the basis of such review, suggest to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society *and to the Executive Council of the General Convention* such amendments to ~~its~~ *their* respective By-laws as in the opinion of the Commission are necessary or desirable in order to conform the same to the Constitution and Canons.

EXPLANATION

The Standing Commission's canonical mandate directs it to review the By-laws of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and suggest amendments where appropriate. The proposed amendment adds the Executive Council's By-laws to this provision.

A034 Clarify the Standing Commission's Mandate

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.1.2.n.1.vi to read as follows:

Can.I.1

Sec. 2

n. There shall be the following Standing Commissions:

1. A Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons. It shall be the duty of the Commission to:

vi. Study and make recommendations concerning the structure of the General Convention and of The Episcopal Church. It shall, from time to time, review the operation of the several Committees, Commissions, ~~and~~ Boards, *Agencies and other governing bodies* to determine the necessity for their continuance and the effectiveness of their functions and, *where appropriate*, to bring about a coordination of their efforts. Whenever a proposal is made for the creation of a new Committee, Commission, Board, ~~or~~ Agency or *other governing body*, it shall, wherever feasible, be referred to this Standing Commission for its consideration and advice.

EXPLANATION

The Standing commission's mandate obliges it to undertake a periodic review of certain of the church's governing bodies. This Resolution would broaden that to include all church governing bodies.

A035 Allow Lay Persons Who Become Ordained and Priests Who Become Bishops to Serve Out Their Terms on Standing Commissions

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.1.2.a to read as follows:

Can.I.1

Sec. 2

a. The General Convention by Canon may establish Standing Commissions to study and draft policy proposals on major subjects considered to be of continuing concern to the mission of the Church. The Canon shall specify the duties of each Standing Commission. Standing Commissions shall be composed of five Bishops, five Priests and/or Deacons of this Church and ten Lay Persons, who shall be confirmed adult communicants of this Church in good standing. The Priests, Deacons, and Lay Persons are not required to be Deputies to General Convention. *Notwithstanding Canons V.4.1.b and V.4.2.b, a Lay member of a Standing Commission who is ordained Presbyter or Deacon, or a Presbyter or Deacon who is consecrated a Bishop before the next General Convention, shall not thereby become ineligible to continue to serve on the Standing Commission through the next succeeding General Convention.*

EXPLANATION

This Resolution would avoid the resignation of a member of a church interim body that is now required in many cases when the member becomes ordained or is consecrated a bishop. The Standing Commission believes this change will enhance the continuity and productivity of interim bodies.

A036 Conform Joint Rule of Order VII.18 to Canon I.2.1.d

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Joint Rule of Order VII.18 to read as follows:

JR.VII

18. The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations shall be composed of three Bishops, three Presbyters, and six Lay Persons. Members who are Presbyters or Lay Persons shall have served as deputies to the most recent General Convention and will continue to serve as members of the Joint Standing Committee ~~through~~ *until* the next succeeding General Convention.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution proposes to clarify that a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations serves until the end of the next succeeding General Convention.

A037 Establish a New Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.1.2.n by adding a new subsection 4 thereto, to read as follows:

4. A Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development. The Commission shall coordinate and encourage the development of all orders of ministry, encouraging and engaging all the baptized in the work of building up the church and developing best practices to ensure all churches benefit from the diversity of leadership gifts God has given us.

It shall be the duty of the Commission to:

- i. Recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention for the affirmation, development, and exercise of ministry by all baptized persons (lay persons, bishops, priests and deacons).*
- ii. Support Diocesan Commissions on Ministry in their support of the ministry of all the baptized, as set forth in Title III Canons 1 & 2.*
- iii. Encourage the recognition of daily life ministries by Diocesan Commissions on Ministry, congregations, and dioceses, so that those ministries are celebrated as expressions of the ministry of all the baptized, worthy of equal respect with ordained vocations.*
- iv. In collaboration with the churchwide office overseeing formation, develop and recommend to the General Convention comprehensive and coordinated policies for people across all ages and stages of life for lifelong formation as seekers and followers of Jesus.*
- v. Recommend strategies to General Convention for the development and support of networks of individuals, diocesan committees and commissions, agencies and institutions engaged in recruitment, gifts of discernment, education and training for ministry, leadership development, hiring, and appointments.*
- vi. Study the needs and trends of discernment and vocational opportunities for ordained leaders and lay professionals within the Church and the appropriate formation required to live into those opportunities.*
- vii. Collaborate with those developing lay pathways grid and the Association of Episcopal Deacons to raise awareness of the competencies promulgated by those groups as guidelines for formation for those orders of ministry.*

viii. Recommend policies and strategies to the General Convention to ensure the fair hiring and compensation of lay and ordained employees in all ministry settings, with special attention to parity across those lines which have historically divided us, including but not limited to race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, order of ministry, disabilities, or age, except as otherwise provided by these Canons.

EXPLANATION

As explained in the report to the 80th General Convention of the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons (otherwise known as their blue book report), during this triennium it has become clear that there is significant work needed in this area. Many of the tasks that have come to the Commission have exceeded its mandate. Restoring a single Standing Commission to focus on ministry and formation would allow much more significant work in support of the ministry and formation of all the baptized. This resolution is supported by the Task Force on Clergy Formation & Ministry of the Baptized and the Task Force on Theological Education Networking.

A038 Shorten Period for Notification of Interim Body Appointments

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.1.2 .c and f to read as follows:

Can.I.1

Sec. 2

c. The Presiding Bishop shall appoint the Episcopal members and the President of the House of Deputies shall appoint the Lay and other Clerical members of each Commission as soon as practicable after the adjournment of the General Convention, but not later than ~~90~~ 60 days after adjournment. Episcopal members appointed after the adjournment of any General Convention at which a Presiding Bishop is elected shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop-elect. Vacancies shall be filled in similar manner; provided however, that vacancies occurring within one year after the next regular General Convention shall not be filled unless requested by the Commission.

f. The Executive Officer of the General Convention shall, not later than ~~420~~ 90 days following the meeting of the General Convention, notify the members of the General Convention of the Commission appointments and appointed to each Commission of their appointment and of their duty to present reports to the next Convention and shall schedule an organizational meeting for each Commission. One year prior to the opening day of the Convention, the Executive Officer of the General Convention shall remind the Chairs and Secretaries of all Commissions of this duty.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution proposes to advance by 30 days the appointments (and notifications thereof) to Standing Commissions, to enable the Commissions to start work sooner.

A039 Use More Precise Language in Canon III.11.3.c as Amended by Resolution 2018-A282

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church amend Canon III.11.3.c to read as follows:

Can.III.11

Sec. 3

c. Testimonials required of the Standing Committee by this ~~Title~~ Canon must be signed by a majority of the whole Committee, at a meeting duly convened, except that testimonials may be executed in counterparts, any of which may be delivered by facsimile or other electronic transmission, each of which shall be deemed an original.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution proposes to use the more precise “Canon” in lieu of “Title.”

A040 Specify Electronic Transmission of Certain Documents and Records

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church amend Canon I.1.1.e to read as follows:

I.1.1.

e. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the House of Deputies, whenever any alteration of the Book of Common Prayer or of the Constitution is proposed, or any other subject submitted to the consideration of the several Diocesan Conventions, to give notice thereof to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Church in every Diocese, as well as to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese, and written evidence that the foregoing requirement has been complied with shall be presented by the Secretary to the General Convention at its next session. All such notices shall be sent by *electronic means* ~~certified or registered mail~~, with the Secretary's certificates to be returned. The Secretary shall notify all diocesan Secretaries that it is their duty to make known such proposed alterations of the Book of Common Prayer, and of the Constitution, and such other subjects, to the Conventions of their respective Dioceses at their next meeting, and to certify to the Secretary of the House of Deputies that such action has been taken.

And be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church amend Canon I.6.5.a to read as follows:

I.6

Sec. 5

a. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Convention of every jurisdiction to forward to the Secretary of the House of Deputies *by electronic means*, immediately upon publication, ~~two copies of the Journals~~ *one (1) copy of the Journal* of the Convention of the jurisdiction, together with episcopal charges, statements, and such other records in ~~paper or~~ *electronic* format as may show the state of the Church in that jurisdiction, and ~~two copies~~ *one (1) copy* to the Archives of the Church in ~~electronic or~~ *electronic* format as prescribed by the Archivist of the Church.

EXPLANATION

Electronic transmission of these notices and of diocesan convention journals will save paper and money.

A041 Amend Certain Joint Rules of Order to Permit Meeting by Electronic Means

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Joint Rules of Order II.10.b, II.10.c and III.11 to read as follows:

II.10.

b. Organization. The Joint Standing Committee shall elect its Chair from its membership, and such other officers as needed.

The Joint Standing Committee shall be organized in Sections, which shall conform to the major subdivisions of the Budget, as well as Sections on Funding and Presentation, the size and composition of the several Sections to be determined by the Joint Standing Committee.

The Chairs of each Section shall be elected by the Joint Standing Committee; the several Sections shall elect their own Secretaries from among their own membership.

The Joint Standing Committee may refer to a Section any of the duties imposed upon it by this rule; provided, however, that final action on Budget shall be taken only by the full Committee, either in meeting assembled or by *electronic means* ~~a vote by mail~~.

c. During the interim between regular Meetings of the General Convention, the Joint Standing Committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the officers of the General Convention and to the Executive Council, holding such meetings as may be deemed necessary for the purpose.

Meetings of the Joint Standing Committee shall be called by the Chair, or upon the request of any five members thereof.

In respect of the Budget for The Episcopal Church, the Joint Standing Committee shall have the power to consider, and either by a vote by *electronic means* ~~mail~~, or in meeting assembled, to make such adjustments therein, or additions thereto, as it shall deem to be necessary or expedient, and which, in its judgment, available funds and anticipated income will warrant; and it shall likewise have the power to adjust the annual askings of Dioceses within the limit established by the General Convention.

III.11.

11. Each proposal for legislative consideration, however addressed to the General Convention or to either House thereof, received prior to a date in advance of the Convention agreed upon by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies, shall be referred by *electronic means* ~~mail~~ to the proper Standing Committee or Special Committee of the appropriate House, the Presiding Bishop making the referrals to the Committees of the House of Bishops and the President of the House of Deputies making the referrals to the Committees of that House.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution proposes authorizing meetings and votes by electronic means, and sending materials electronically, for convenience and cost savings.

A042 Permitting Sending Required Notices and Other Papers by Electronic Means

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church amend Canon IV.19.20 to read as follows:

Sec. 20. Notices or other papers to be served according to procedures of this Title shall be deemed to have been duly served if a copy is delivered to the person to be served, is left with an adult resident of the abode of the person to be served, ~~or is mailed by certified mail to the person's usual place of abode, or is sent by electronic means with receipt confirmed in writing.~~ Notice by publication shall be made in a newspaper of general circulation in the jurisdiction of the person's usual place of abode. Acceptance of service renders unnecessary any further process.

EXPLANATION

This Resolution authorizes sending certain Title notices and documents electronically.

A043 Striking Outdated Reference to Provincial Court of Review

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church amend Canon I.15.10.a to read as follows

I.15

Sec. 10. In the case a Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation or otherwise authorized to serve the Church in a foreign land shall be accused of any offense under the Canons of this Church:

- a. With the permission of the Presiding Bishop, the Bishop in Charge and the Council of Advice may (i) engage a Diocese of this Church to provide the needed Disciplinary Structures to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of this Church, or (ii) establish among the Congregations of the Convocation the needed Disciplinary Structures to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of this Church. In either case, the ~~Provincial~~ Court of Review shall either be that of the Diocese providing the needed Disciplinary Structures or that of the Province of the Convocation; and, for the purposes of implementing the provisions for Ecclesiastical Discipline (Title IV) of a member of the Clergy, the Bishop in Charge shall serve the function reserved for the Bishop Diocesan, except that the Presiding Bishop must approve any Accord, any Agreement for Discipline and the terms of any Order, and pronounce the Sentence.

EXPLANATION

This proposed amendment strikes what is now an outdated reference to the Provincial Court of Review. The reference is in Canon I.15.10, which deals with discipline of Episcopal clergy serving in a congregation in a foreign land. Canon I.15.10 provides for some flexibility in disciplinary structures when the regular structures may not be appropriate or workable. The Commission believes that the reference to the "Provincial Court of Review" should be changed to simply "Court of Review."

The Commission notes that there are two references to "Provincial Court of Review" in Canon IV.20.3.i but, since those provisions are transitional (from the former Title IV to the current Title IV), those references seem appropriate.

A044 Amend Canon IV.14.4 Provisions for Notices of Accords

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon IV.14.4 by striking it in its entirety and replacing it as follows:

~~Sec. 4. A copy of the Accord shall be sent to the Complainant, the Complainant's Advisor, the Respondent, the Respondent's Advisor, the Respondent's counsel, if any, the Church Attorney, the president of the Disciplinary Board, and the Bishop Diocesan by the Conciliator or the president of the Conference Panel (whichever the matter was before when the Accord was reached) on the date on which the Accord is signed. If the Accord was reached between the Bishop Diocesan and Respondent under Canon IV.9, the Bishop Diocesan shall send a copy of the Accord to the president~~

~~of the panel to which the matter is assigned and the persons listed in this Section on the date the Accord becomes effective and irrevocable.~~

Sec. 4. *In the case of any Accord that has become effective:*

a. A copy of the Accord shall be sent to the Complainant, the Complainant's Advisor, the Complainant's counsel, if any, the Respondent, the Respondent's Advisor, the Respondent's counsel, if any, the Church Attorney, the president of the Disciplinary Board, and the Bishop Diocesan by the Conciliator or the president of the Conference Panel (whichever the matter was before when the Accord was reached), the Presiding Bishop, the President of the House of Deputies and the Secretary of the General Convention on the date on which the Accord is signed.

b. If the Accord was reached between the Bishop Diocesan and Respondent under Canon IV.9, the Bishop Diocesan shall send a copy of the Accord to the president of the panel to which the matter is assigned and the persons listed in subsection a. of this section, on the date the Accord becomes effective and irrevocable.

c. In the case of any Accord pertaining to a Bishop, the Presiding Bishop shall provide a full and complete copy of the Accord to (i) in the case of a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Suffragan serving under Article II.5, or Bishop serving under Canon III.13, to the Standing Committee of that Diocese, (ii) in the case of a Bishop Suffragan, Bishop Coadjutor, or Assistant Bishop, to the Bishop Diocesan and the Standing Committee of that Diocese.

EXPLANATION

The proposed amendment to Canon IV.14.4 clarifies the timing and recipients of notices of Accords and Orders. A version of this amendment was proposed by the Standing Commission in Resolution 2018-A132; that version also addressed certain other matters. (See the Commission's 2018 Blue Book report at pp. 446-449.) The General Convention did not adopt 2018-A132, instead referring it back to the Standing Commission. The Commission continues to study the other aspects of Resolution 2018-A132 and may have a further proposal for canonical changes in its supplemental report.

A045 Amend Canon I.19.2.b to Update a Word

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.19.2.b to read as follows:

b. Every judgment rendered under this Section shall be in writing and shall be made a matter of permanent record in the ~~Archives~~ records of the Diocese.

EXPLANATION

Many dioceses do not maintain formal archives, hence this proposal to strike "Archives" and replace it with "records."

A046 Amend Canon I.15.1 Concerning Certain Episcopal Church Congregations in Foreign Lands

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.15.1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. It shall be lawful, under the conditions hereinafter stated, to organize a Congregation in any foreign land and not within the jurisdiction of any Missionary Bishop of this Church nor within any Diocese, Province, or Regional Church of the Anglican Communion *by action of the Anglican Consultative Council.*

EXPLANATION

This Resolution proposes to require approval of the Anglican Consultative Council prior to organizing a congregation under the circumstances described in Canon I.15.1, consistent with the polities of The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion.

A047 Concerning the Timing of Mutual Ministry Reviews of DFMS and Executive Council Officers

Resolved, the House of ____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.4.2.j to read as follows:

j. The Officers of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and the Officers of the Executive Council, and a committee of six members of Executive Council who are not officers, shall engage in a mutual ministry review every ~~eighteen~~ 24 months, facilitated by a consultant selected by the Chair and the Vice-Chair. *The mutual ministry review shall commence mid-triennium.*

EXPLANATION

In 2019, Executive Council members heard a report on the 2018 Mutual Ministry Review. The recommendation from the consultant and others, who participated in the review, is that 18 months is too short a period between reviews to be cost effective or to allow enough time between reviews to gain new information. In addition, some Executive Council members in their first triennium experienced a disconnect upon hearing a report about the previous triennium.

STANDING COMMISSION ON STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

Supplemental Blue Book Report

Introduction

As with many of the Church's interim bodies, the Standing Commission had difficulty completing as much work as it had intended prior to the Blue Book filing deadline due to the many complications resulting from the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, not the least of which was the cancellation of two in-person meetings. Once members of the Commission were able to adapt better to remote meetings and again focus and dedicate time to the work of the Commission, and in light of the postponement of the 80th General Convention to 2022, the Commission decided to take up unfinished business and publish this supplemental report. The Commission met remotely a number of times following the February 2021 filing of its Blue Book report, to discuss and prioritize unfinished work. This supplemental report presents the fruits of those labors.

Specific Areas of Work

The Commission reached consensus on the need for amendments and on the text of the proposed revisions to the following canons and rules of order.

Canon I.2.1.a – The Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

Canon I.2.2 – The term of office of the Presiding Bishop

Canon I.4.3 – The terms of office of members of the Audit Committee of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Canon I.8.2 – The terms of office of members of the Board of Trustees of the Church Pension Fund

Canon I. 15.10.a – Congregations in Foreign Lands

Canon III.10.2 – Clergy Ordained by Bishops of Churches in Full Communion with this Church

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Canon III.10, Canon III.12.1, Canon III.12.5.b.3, and Canon III.13.1 – Reception of Anglican Communion Bishops

Canon IV.5.4– Election of Members of the Court of Review

Canon IV. 17.3, 17.4 – Disciplinary Board for Bishops

Canon IV.17.8 – Vacancies on the Court of Review for Bishops
House of Bishops Rule of Order II.B

House of Bishops Rule of Order II.G

House of Deputies Rule of Order XVI – Election of Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

Joint Rules of Order VII.17 and VII.20

In each instance, the Commission completed proposed revisions and explanations for them. The particular focus on terms of office was prompted by the realization that some terms of office currently are a set number of years for persons elected at a regular meeting of the General Conventions, and the postponement of a regular meeting of the General Convention can have unintended consequences on those terms of office.

End Note

The Commission will continue to receive proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons from Church interim bodies and members of the Houses of Deputies and Bishops, under the Commission’s mandate at Canon I.1.2.n.1, and will review them for proper constitutional and canonical form.

The Commission thanks the drafting team of Sally Johnson, Mary Kostel and Tom Little for their diligence and persistence in seeing through the research and preparation of this supplemental report.

Proposed Resolutions

A111 Amend Canon I.2.1.a on Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.2.1.a to read as follows, striking all in the current subsections .b and .c and re-lettering the succeeding subsections.

Sec. 1. a. At each General Convention a Joint Nominating Committee for the election of the Presiding Bishop shall be elected. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of 20 members, as follows: ~~Fifteen (15) of those members shall consist of~~ five Bishops elected by the House of Bishops; five clergy persons ~~clerical members~~, including at least one deacon, and five lay persons, ~~people~~ elected by the House of Deputies and who may but need not be members of that House; two persons, age 16-23, appointed by the President of the House of Deputies; and three persons appointed jointly by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to ensure the cultural and geographic diversity of the Church. The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations will nominate a slate of nominees for the elected positions ~~election to the Nominating Committee~~, in accordance with its ~~the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations'~~ canonical charge and procedures, ~~and guided by the skill sets needed for effective service on the Nominating Committee.~~ The nominees for the Joint Standing Committee for the Nomination of the Presiding Bishop may but need not be deputies to General Convention. The House of Deputies shall elect five Clerical and five Lay Deputy as members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, with a majority of those voting necessary for election. The President of the House of Deputies shall appoint two persons, age 16-21, as members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop. ~~In all cases, the nominees and appointees shall have the skills sets needed for effective service on the Nominating Committee.~~

b. ~~Bishops on the Nominating Committee. At each General Convention the House of Bishops shall elect five Bishops as members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, guided by the skill sets needed for effective service on the Nominating Committee.~~

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- ~~c. The Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies shall also jointly appoint three members to the Joint Nominating Committee to ensure the cultural and geographic diversity of the Church and the skill sets needed for effective service on the Nominating Committee.~~

EXPLANATION

This amendment would correct an inconsistency in the canon that could be interpreted to require the Joint Nominating Committee members elected by the House of Deputies to be members of that House; that interpretation was not intended when the canon was revised in 2018. In addition, the amendment would combine current subsection .a, .b and .c for clarity.

A112 Amend Canon I.2.2 on Eligibility and Term of Office of the Presiding Bishop

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.2.2 to read as follows.

Sec. 2.

- ~~a. The term of office of the Presiding Bishop, when elected according to the provisions of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution, shall be nine years, beginning the first day of the month of November following the close of the Convention at which the Presiding Bishop is elected, unless attaining the age of seventy two years before the term shall have been completed; in that case the Presiding Bishop shall resign the office to the General Convention which occurs nearest to the date of attaining such age. At that Convention a successor shall be elected, and shall assume office on the first day of the month of November following the close of that Convention. This subsection a. applies to elections of the Presiding Bishop that occur according to the provisions of the first paragraph of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution.~~
1. *Electing Convention.* A meeting of the General Convention at which a Presiding Bishop is elected shall be called an “Electing Convention.”
 2. *Eligibility - Age.* A Bishop who is expected to be 65 years of age or younger on December 31 of the year of the Electing Convention may be elected Presiding Bishop. No Bishop who

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is expected to reach 66 years of age on or before December 31 of the year of the Electing Convention may be elected Presiding Bishop.

3. *Commencement of term. The term of office of the Presiding Bishop shall begin on the 91st day following the adjournment of the Electing Convention, or immediately upon the death, resignation, retirement, or disability of the Presiding Bishop.*
 4. *Length of term. If the Presiding Bishop is 62 years of age or younger on December 31 of the year of the Electing Convention, the term of office shall terminate at the end of the 90th day after the adjournment of the third successive regular meeting of the General Convention following the Electing Convention. If the Presiding Bishop is 63, 64, or 65 years of age on December 31 of the year of the Electing Convention, the term of office shall terminate at the end of the 90th day after the adjournment of the second successive regular meeting of the General Convention following the Electing Convention.*
 5. *Exception. Notwithstanding subsection 4, in the event that the regular meeting of the General Convention at which the Presiding Bishop's successor is expected to be elected is postponed beyond the date originally set in accordance with Canon I.1.14.c, and if as a result of such postponement the Presiding Bishop attains the age of 72 years before a successor can be elected and take office, then the Presiding Bishop may serve until the successor takes office, regardless of having attained the age of 72 years, but no later than 90 days after the adjournment of the next meeting of the General Convention. ~~; except that when~~*
- b.** *When a Presiding Bishop has been elected by the House of Bishops to fill a vacancy, as provided for in the second paragraph of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution, the Presiding Bishop so elected shall take office immediately.*

EXPLANATION

The postponement of the 80th General Convention resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic revealed a complication in the current canonical definition of the term of office of the Presiding Bishop. Unlike other terms of office defined in the canons to expire at the conclusion of a regular meeting of the General Convention, terms which automatically continue should a regular meeting of the General Convention be postponed, current Canon I.2.2 provides that the Presiding Bishop's term "shall be nine years" beginning November 1. Under this current provision, the term expires on October 31, no matter what and regardless of whether a new Presiding Bishop has been elected. Should some unforeseen crisis, such as a resurgent COVID-19 variant pandemic, require the postponement of the 81st meeting of the General Convention (an electing convention) from 2024 to 2025, for example, the Presiding

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Bishop's term will have expired on October 31, 2024, leaving the office vacant for a year. This proposed amendment redefines the term of office of the Presiding Bishop so that its expiration is tied to a regular meeting of the General Convention (usually triennial) and extends the expiration date of the term, through the postponed regular meeting of the General Convention - if such a meeting should be postponed.

Study of the canon also revealed a need for clarification of the age at which a Bishop is no longer eligible to be elected Presiding Bishop. Article II, Section 9 of the Constitution requires all Bishops to "resign from all jurisdiction" upon attaining the age of 72. The Presiding Bishop by virtue of the office has jurisdiction over "Congregations in foreign lands" including the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe and the Church in Micronesia (see Canon I.15.6), and must, under the Constitution, resign that jurisdiction when reaching age 72. The practice has been to elect as Presiding Bishop a Bishop who can serve the full nine-year term before reaching age 72, although the current canon does not require this. Indeed, under the current canon, a Bishop could be elected and serve only a single interval (typically three years) between regular meetings of the General Convention before being required to resign because of age. It is recommended that, given the time and expense of the Presiding Bishop election process, and the impact of a change in Presiding Bishops on many aspects of the Church's life, no Bishop should be elected who can serve fewer than two full intervals between regular meetings of the General Convention before being required to resign because of age.

A table illustrating the operation of the proposed amended canon follows.

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| ELECTING CONVENTION: Age on 12/31 of year of 81st General Convention (2024) | END OF FIRST TRIENNium: Age on 12/31 of year of 82nd General Convention (2027) | END OF SECOND TRIENNium: Age on 12/31 of year of 83rd General Convention (2030) | END OF THIRD TRIENNium: Age on 12/31 of year of 84th General Convention (2033) |
|---|--|---|--|
| 61 | 64 | 67 | 70 |
| 62 | 65 | 68 | 71 |
| 63 | 66 | 69 | 72 – aged out |
| 64 | 67 | 70 | |
| 65 | 68 | 71 | |
| 66 | 69 | 72 – aged out | |

There is no change to the existing provisions in this Canon that specify the commencement of term when there is a vacancy in the office of Presiding Bishop due to the death, resignation, retirement or disability of the incumbent Presiding Bishop.

A113 Amend Canon I.4.3 on Term of Office of the Audit Committee

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.4.3 to read as follows.

Sec. 3. Upon joint nomination of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the Executive Council shall elect an Audit Committee of the Council and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. The Committee shall be composed of six members: one from the Executive Council committee with primary responsibility for financial matters; one from the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance; and the remaining four from members of the Church-at-large having experience in general business and financial practices. The members shall serve for a term of three years beginning on January 1 following the a regular meeting of the General

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Convention *at which elected* or immediately following their appointment, whichever comes later, and ~~continue continuing through December 31 following the adjournment of the next regular meeting of the General Convention~~ or until a successor is appointed, and may serve two consecutive terms, after which a full interval *between regular meetings of the General Convention triennium* must elapse before being eligible for reelection. Annually the Audit Committee shall elect a Chair of the Committee from among its members. The Audit Committee shall regularly review the financial statements relating to all funds under the management or control of the Council and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and shall report thereon at least annually to the Council.

EXPLANATION

Current Canon I.4.3 provides a three-year term of office for members of the Audit Committee of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and for their election by the Executive Council. The postponement of the 80th General Convention from 2021 to 2022 exposed a problem with terms of office fixed at a certain number of years rather than by intervals between regular meetings of the General Convention. The Commission found that tying the expiration of terms of office to the adjournment of a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention – whenever it may in fact occur - would be a sounder way to structure them – and avoid questions and concerns about when a term of office expires in the event of the postponement of a regular meeting of the General Convention.

A114 Amend Canon I.8.2 on Term of Office for Board the Church Pension Fund

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.8.2 to read as follows.

Sec. 2. The General Convention at each regular meeting shall elect, on the nomination of a Joint Committee thereof, twelve ~~(12)~~ persons to serve as Trustees of The Church Pension Fund ~~for a term of six (6) years and until their successors shall have been elected and have qualified~~, and shall also fill such vacancies as may exist on the Board of Trustees. *Except for a Trustee filling a vacancy, the term of service of a Trustee shall begin at the adjournment of the regular meeting of the General Convention at which the Trustee was elected and expire upon the adjournment of the second regular meeting of the General Convention following.* Any person

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who has been elected as a Trustee by General Convention for twelve (~~12~~) or more consecutive years shall not be eligible for reelection until the next regular *meeting of the General Convention* following the one in which that person was not eligible for reelection to the Board of Trustees. Any vacancy which occurs at a time when the General Convention is not in session may be filled by the Board of Trustees by appointment, ad interim, of a Trustee who shall serve until the next session of the General Convention thereafter shall have elected a Trustee to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term pertaining to such vacancy.

EXPLANATION

Current Canon I.8.2 provides a six-year term of office for members of the Board of Trustees of the Church Pension Fund, and for their election by the General Convention. Successors are elected at a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention. The postponement of the 80th General Convention from 2021 to 2022 exposed a problem with terms of office fixed at a certain number of years rather than by intervals between regular meetings of the General Convention. The Commission found that tying the expiration of terms of office to the adjournment of a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention – whenever it may in fact occur - would be a sounder way to structure them – and avoid questions and concerns about when a term of office expires in the unlikely event of the postponement of a regular meeting of the General Convention or in calculating the exact date that a term defined by calendar years may cause.

A115 Amend Canon I.15.10.a to Remove Outdated Reference on Congregations outside the United States

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.15.10.a to read as follows.

Sec. 10. In the case a Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation or otherwise authorized to serve the Church in a foreign land shall be accused of any offense under the Canons of this Church:

- a. With the permission of the Presiding Bishop, the Bishop in Charge and the Council of Advice may (i) engage a Diocese of this Church to provide the needed Disciplinary

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Structures to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of this Church, or (ii) establish among the Congregations of the Convocation the needed Disciplinary Structures to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of this Church. In either case, ~~the Provincial Court of Review shall either be that of the Diocese providing the needed Disciplinary Structures or that of the Province of the Convocation; and,~~ for the purposes of implementing the provisions for Ecclesiastical Discipline (Title IV) of a member of the Clergy, the Bishop in Charge shall serve the function reserved for the Bishop Diocesan, except that the Presiding Bishop must approve any Accord, any Agreement for Discipline and the terms of any Order, and pronounce the Sentence.

EXPLANATION

In 2018, the 79th General Convention amended the Canons to eliminate Provincial Courts of Review in favor of a single Court of Review. This amendment to Canon I.15.10.a strikes an overlooked reference to the former Provincial Courts of Review.

A116 Amend Canon III.10.2 to Correct Inadvertent Omission on Clergy Ordained in Churches in Full Communion

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon III.10.2 to read as follows.

Sec. 2. Clergy Ordained by Bishop of Churches in *Full* Communion with This Church

a.

1. A Member of the Clergy, ordained by a Bishop of another Church in *full* communion with this Church, or by a Bishop consecrated for a foreign land by Bishops of this Church under Article III of the Constitution, shall, before being permitted to officiate in any Congregation of this Church, exhibit to the Member of the Clergy in charge, or, if there be no Member of the Clergy in charge, to the Vestry thereof, a certificate of recent date, signed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese that the person's letters of Holy Orders and other credentials are valid and authentic, and given by a Bishop in *full* communion with this Church, and whose authority is acknowledged by this Church; and also that the person has exhibited to the Ecclesiastical Authority

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satisfactory evidence of (i) moral and godly character and of (ii) theological qualifications.

2. Before being permitted to take charge of any Congregation, or being received into any Diocese of this Church as a Member of its Clergy, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall receive Letters Dimissory or equivalent credentials under the hand and seal of the Bishop with whose Diocese the person has been last connected, which letters or credentials shall be delivered within six months from the date thereof. Before receiving the Member of the Clergy the Bishop shall require a promise in writing to submit in all things to the Discipline of this Church, without recourse to any foreign jurisdiction, civil or ecclesiastical; and shall further require the person to subscribe and make in the Bishop's presence, and in the presence of two or more Presbyters, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution. The Bishop and at least one Presbyter shall examine the person as to knowledge of the history of this Church, its worship and government. The Bishop, also being satisfied of the person's theological qualifications, may then receive the person into the Diocese as a Member of the Clergy of this Church.
3. The provisions of *this Section* ~~Sections 2 and 3~~ shall be applicable to all Members of the Clergy ordained in any Church in full communion with this Church as specified in Canon I.20, subject to the *terms of the* covenant of The Episcopal Church and the other Church or Churches as adopted by the General Convention and by the denominational authority or similar body for those Churches that are not members of the Anglican Communion by action of the Anglican Consultative Council.

EXPLANATION

The in 2018 the 79th General Convention adopted Resolution 2018-A090, clarifying that “full communion” is the term that should be applied to the relationship with The Episcopal Church of all churches set forth in Canon I.20. In the 2018 amendment, however, the word “full” was inadvertently omitted from Canon III.10.2.a.1 and is added by this amendment. In addition, the amendment to Section 2.a.3 clarifies that Canon III.10.3 (dealing with Churches in historic succession but not full communion) is not affected by the provisions of Section 2.a.3.

A117 Amend Canons III.10, III.12.1, III.12.5.b.3, and III.13.1 to Clarify Language on the Reception of Bishops

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church provide for reception of Bishops of the Anglican Communion into The Episcopal Church to serve as Assistant Bishops and as bishops with provisional charge of a diocese, and also to serve as Bishops of Dioceses that have been admitted into union with the General Convention, by amending each and every one of the following interrelated canons: Canon III.10, Canon III.12.1, Canon III.12.5.b.3, and Canon III.13.1, as follows:

Amend Canon III.10 to change the title of the Canon to read as follows:

Canon 10: Of Reception of *Bishops, Priests, and Deacons* ~~Clergy~~ from other Churches

Amend Canon III.10.1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. Prior to reception or ordination of *a priest or deacon*, the following must be provided

Amend Canon III.10 to add a new Section 5, to read as follows:

Sec. 5. *Reception into this Church of a Bishop of a Church or Province in the Anglican Communion.*

- a. A Bishop in good standing of a member church or Province of the Anglican Communion, or of a national or local church with Extra-Provincial status in the Anglican Communion, who seeks to serve in this Church as an Assistant Bishop as provided in Canon III.12.5.b.3, or as a Bishop with provisional charge of a Diocese as provided in Canon III.13.1, may be received into The Episcopal Church pursuant to the requirements set out in this Section.*
- b. A Bishop in good standing of a member church or Province of the Anglican Communion, or of a national or local church with Extra-Provincial status in the Anglican Communion, which church or Province is seeking admission into union with The Episcopal Church, may be received into The Episcopal Church pursuant to the requirements set out in this Section, provided that if the*

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Bishop's selection to serve the church or Province was by a process other than election by a Convention, Synod, or other governing body, the Bishop shall provide evidence that the Convention, Synod, or other governing body has affirmed that selection;

c. A Bishop seeking to be received into The Episcopal Church shall provide to the Presiding Bishop the following:

1. evidence of the Bishop's having been duly ordered Bishop in the Anglican Communion;
2. evidence of the Bishop's moral and godly character;
3. a background check, according to the criteria established by the Presiding Bishop;
4. certificates from a licensed medical doctor and a licensed psychologist authorized by the Presiding Bishop, and, as necessary, from a psychiatrist and/or a professional specializing in evaluation for substance, chemical, and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns, also authorized by the Presiding Bishop, that they have thoroughly examined the Bishop as to that person's medical, psychological, and psychiatric condition and for substance, chemical and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns and have not discovered any reason why the person would not be fit to undertake the work for which the person has been chosen as a Bishop in this Church. Forms and procedures agreed to by the Presiding Bishop shall be used for this purpose;
5. evidence of the Bishop having received the training set out in Section 1.c of this Canon;
and
6. evidence of the Bishop having been examined by at least three Bishops of this Church as to knowledge of this Church, its worship and governance, including the follow topics:
 - i. Church History: the history of the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church.
 - ii. Doctrine: the Church's teachings as set forth in the Creeds and in An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism.
 - iii. Liturgics: the principles and history of Anglican worship; the contents of the Book of Common Prayer.
 - iv. Practical Theology:
 1. The office and work of a Deacon and Priest in this Church.
 2. The conduct of public worship.

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3. *The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese in which the Bishop will serve.*
 4. *The use of voice in reading and speaking.*
 7. *The points of Doctrine, Discipline, Polity, and Worship in which the church or Province from the Bishop has come differ from this Church. This portion of the examinations will be conducted, in part at least, by written questions and answers, and the replies kept on file with the Office of Pastoral Development for at least three years.*

In the case of a Bishop seeking to be received into this Church under subsection .b of this Canon, evidence that the General Convention has consented to the admission of the church or Province pursuant to Article V, Section I of the Constitution.
- d.** *Upon receipt of the items set out in subsection .c of this Canon to the satisfaction of the Presiding Bishop, the Presiding Bishop, without delay, shall notify every Bishop of this Church exercising jurisdiction and every Standing Committee of this Church of the Presiding Bishop's receipt of those items, and request from each a statement of consent, or withholding of consent, to the reception of the Bishop into The Episcopal Church. Each Bishop with jurisdiction and each Standing Committee shall within 90 days of the sending of the notification respond to the Presiding Bishop or the Presiding Bishop's designee indicating their consent or their withholding of consent.*
- e.** *If a majority of the Bishops with jurisdiction and of the Standing Committees consents to the reception, the Bishop shall make the written declaration required by Article VIII of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church in the presence of the Presiding Bishop and two episcopal witnesses, at which point the Presiding Bishop shall certify that the Bishop is received into The Episcopal Church; provided that, in the case of a Bishop seeking to be received into this Church under subsection .b of this Canon, such certification shall not issue until the Executive Council has issued the approval set out on Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution.*

Amend Canon III.12.1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. Formation.

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Following election or *reception* and continuing for three years following ordination or *reception*, new Bishops *and Bishops received into this Church* shall pursue the process of formation authorized by the House of Bishops. This process of formation shall provide a mentor for each newly ordained *and received* Bishop.”

Amend Canon III.12.5.b.3 to read as follows:

3. *Bishops in good standing of member churches or Provinces of the Anglican Communion, or of national or local churches with Extra-Provincial status in the Anglican Communion, provided they are received into this Church under Canon III.10.5. ~~Persons who are Bishops in good standing of Churches that are members of the Anglican Communion by action of the Anglican Consultative if they:~~*
 - ~~i. have previously resigned their former responsibilities;~~
 - ~~ii. have received approval, by a competent authority within the Church of their ordination as a Bishop of that Church;~~
 - ~~iii. have exhibited satisfactory evidence of moral and godly character and having met theological requirements;~~
 - ~~iv. have promised in a writing submitted to the Bishop Diocesan making the appointment, and witnessed by two other Bishops of this Church, to submit in all things to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of this Church;~~
 - ~~v. have submitted to and satisfactorily passed thorough examinations covering the medical, psychological, psychiatric and other conditions described in Canon III.11.1, pursuant to the requirements of and procedures set forth in Canon III.11.1;~~
 - ~~vi. have undergone background screening and, if feasible, background checks as provided in Canon III.11.1;~~
 - ~~vii. have been examined by the Bishop Diocesan and at least two other Bishops of this Church as to knowledge of this Church, its worship and governance:~~
 - ~~1. Church History: the history of the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church.~~
 - ~~2. Doctrine: the Church’s teaching as set forth in the Creeds and in An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism.~~

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- ~~3. Liturgics: the principles and history of Anglican worship; the contents of the Book of Common Prayer.~~
- ~~4. Practical Theology:~~
 - ~~i. The office and work of a Deacon and Priest in this Church.~~
 - ~~ii. The conduct of public worship.~~
 - ~~iii. The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese in which the applicant is resident.~~
 - ~~iv. The use of voice in reading and speaking.~~
- ~~5. The points of Doctrine, Discipline, Polity, and Worship in which the Church from which the applicant has come differ from this Church. This portion of the examinations shall be conducted, in part at least, by written questions and answers, and the replies kept on file with the Office of Pastoral Development for at least three years.~~
- ~~viii. have received the following training:~~
 - ~~1. prevention of sexual misconduct.~~
 - ~~2. civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.~~
 - ~~3. the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.~~
 - ~~4. training regarding the Church's teaching on racism.~~
- ~~ix. have served in The Episcopal Church for a period of two years, have received the consent of a majority of the Bishops exercising jurisdiction and a majority of the Standing Committees, and been received into The Episcopal Church as a Bishop. A Bishop of another Province or jurisdiction of the Anglican Communion does not become a Bishop of this Church solely by virtue of being appointed an Assistant Bishop of a Diocese.~~

Amend Canon III.13.1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. A Diocese without a Bishop may, by an act of its Convention, and in consultation with the Presiding Bishop, be placed under the provisional charge and authority of a Bishop of

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another Diocese, ~~or~~ of a resigned Bishop, *or of a Bishop who has been received into this Church under Canon III.10.5*, who shall by that act be authorized to exercise all the duties and offices of the Bishop of the Diocese until a Bishop is elected and ordained for that Diocese or until the act of the Convention is revoked.

EXPLANATION

Current Canon III.12.5.b.3 allows Bishops from other churches in the Anglican Communion to function as Assistant Bishops in this Church after a number of conditions are met. These amendments would build on that concept, moving the provision from the Assistant Bishop canon (III.12.5) to the “Reception” canon (III.10), by creating a process for receiving Anglican Communion Bishops into this Church to function not only as Assistant Bishops, but also as bishops having provisional charge of a diocese. The proposed amendments also create a process for receiving a Bishop whose diocese is seeking admission into this Church. In addition, this proposal would amend Canon III.12.1 to ensure appropriate formation in this Church of Bishops so received; and would amend Canon III.12.5 (Assistant Bishops) and Canon III.13.1 (bishops with provisional charge) to reflect these changes.

It is critical that each and every one of these five canonical changes be adopted together, as a “package.”

A118 Amend Canon IV.5.4 on the Election of Members of the Court of Review

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon IV.5.4 to read as follows.

Sec. 4. There shall be a court to be known as the Court of Review, with jurisdiction to receive and determine appeals from Hearing Panels of Dioceses as provided in Canon IV.15 and to determine venue issues as provided in Canon IV.19.5.

- a.** The Court of Review shall consist of: (i) Three ~~(3)~~ Bishops; six ~~(6)~~ Members of the Clergy, which ~~and will~~ must include not fewer than two ~~(2)~~ Priests and not fewer than two ~~(2)~~ Deacons; and six ~~(6)~~ lay persons; and (ii) one ~~(1)~~ Bishop, one ~~(1)~~ Priest or Deacon, and one ~~(1)~~ lay person to serve as alternates as hereinafter provided. ~~No more than two (2) Priests~~

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~~or Deacons, whether a member or alternate, shall be canonically resident in the same Diocese as any other Priest or Deacon, and each lay person, whether a member or alternate, shall reside in a different Diocese than any other lay person. The Priests, Deacons and lay persons shall be or have been members of the Disciplinary Boards of their respective Dioceses.~~

- b.** *The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations will nominate a slate of Clergy and lay persons for election to the Court of Review, in accordance with the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations' canonical charge and procedures, and guided by the skill sets needed for effective service on the Court of Review. The Joint Standing Committee on Nomination may, but need not, nominate more persons than there are vacancies. The Clergy and lay nominees for the Court of Review may but need not be Deputies to General Convention. The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations will create a description of the skills, gifts and experience requisite for service on the Court of Review, after consultation with the Court, including the value of cultural and geographic diversity on the Court and the value of including historically underrepresented voices in the governance of the Church.*
- b c.** *The Bishops members and Bishop alternate members on the Court of Review shall be nominated by the Presiding Bishop after consultation with the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations, and then elected by the House of Bishops at a regular meeting of the General Convention. One of the Bishops on the Court of Review shall be chosen from Provinces I, II or III; one of the Bishops shall be chosen from Provinces IV, V or VI; and one of the Bishops shall be chosen from Provinces VII, VIII or IX.*
- d.** *The Clergy and lay members and alternates on the Court of Review shall be elected by the House of Deputies at a regular meeting of the General Convention. ~~for a three year term, such that one third of clergy members and one third of lay members shall come from Province I, II, or III; one third shall come from Province IV, V, or VI; and one third shall come from Province VII, VIII, IX.~~*

 - i. Except for a member filling a vacancy, the term of office of a member of the Court of Review shall begin at the adjournment of the regular meeting of the General Convention at which the member was elected and expire upon the adjournment of the second regular meeting of the General Convention following.*
 - ii. Members of the Court of Review shall serve staggered terms of office such that the terms of one-half of the members expire at each regular meeting of the General Convention.*

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The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations shall make its nominations in a manner that supports this staggering of terms.

- iii. Any member who has served 12 or more consecutive years shall not be eligible for reelection to the Court of Review until the next regular meeting of the General Convention following the one at which the member was not eligible for reelection to the Court of Review. A person's service as an alternate shall not count against these term limitations.*
- e.** The Court of Review shall select a president from among its members. The President shall be a Priest, Deacon or lay person.
- f.** The persons appointed to the Court of Review shall continue to serve until their respective successors have been elected, except in case of death, resignation or declination to serve. Members of the Court of Review who are currently appointed to a panel shall continue to serve on that panel until its work has been completed.
- d g.** Whenever a matter is referred to the Court of Review, the President shall appoint a panel for that case consisting of one Bishop, two Members of the Clergy and two lay persons. No Bishop or Clergy member of the Court of Review may serve in any matter originating from the Diocese in which such Bishop or Clergy member is canonically resident ~~serves on the Disciplinary Board~~ or is then currently licensed to serve, and no lay member may serve in a matter originating from the Diocese of the lay member's primary residence or a Diocese in which the lay member is then currently active. In such event, the President shall appoint another member of the Court from the same Order to serve; if no other member is available to serve, the President shall appoint an ~~the~~ alternate of the same Order to ~~shall~~ serve.
- e h.** If any member of the Court of Review is excused pursuant to the provisions of Canon IV.5.3.c, or, upon objection made by either party to the appeal, is deemed by the other members of the Court of Review to be disqualified, an alternate shall serve.
- f i.** In the event of any Court of Review member's death, resignation or declination to serve, or disability rendering the member unable to act, ~~or is ineligible to serve under Canons IV.5.4.d or .e,~~ and in the further event ~~that there~~ no other member of the Court is ~~no~~ alternate available to serve, the President of the Court of Review shall declare a vacancy on

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the Court of Review. Notices of resignation or declination to serve shall be communicated in writing to the President of the Court of Review.

g j. Vacancies on the Court of Review shall be filled by ~~appointment by the President of the House of Deputies for lay and Clergy members and by the Presiding Bishop for Bishop members~~ Court of Review of persons qualified as provided in Canon IV.5.4.a.

h k. The Court of Review shall appoint a clerk who may be a member of the Court, who shall be custodian of all records and files of the Court of Review and who shall provide administrative services as needed for the functioning of the Court.

i l. The rules of procedure for appeals to the Court of Review are as provided in Canon IV.15, but the Court of Review may adopt, alter or rescind supplemental rules of procedure not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of the Church.

EXPLANATION

In 2018 the 79th General Convention adopted this Canon to create one churchwide Court of Review to hear appeals in disciplinary matters involving Priests and Deacons to replace the previous nine Provincial Courts of Review. The past three years' experience with this new Court has demonstrated the need to revise the qualifications of members and more clearly specify the terms of office and eligibility for reelection.

The current requirement that Clergy and Lay members have served on their diocesan Disciplinary Boards does not, in fact, guarantee any knowledge, training, or familiarity with the disciplinary process as most diocesan Disciplinary Boards never meet and are never trained.

In the Canon, no mechanism was provided for nomination of members of the Court. It is proposed here and in parallel proposals for amendments to the Joint Rules of Order on the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations that the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations prepare the slate of Clergy and Lay nominees based on criteria the Committee would develop which would include "... the value of cultural and geographic diversity" in

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place of an actual geographic requirement. Similar requirements of representation by Provinces have been eliminated from the Canons except that Provinces still elect half of the members of the Executive Council.

The terms of office are changed from three years to two intervals between regular meetings of the General Convention, generally, six years, with the specification that no one may serve more than 12 consecutive years without at least one interval between regular meetings of the General Convention, generally a three-year hiatus. This provides for the opportunity for more institutional memory among members.

A119 Amend Canon IV.17.3 and .4 on the Term of Office for the Disciplinary Board for Bishops

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon IV.17.3 and .4 to read as follows.

Sec. 3.

- a.** The Disciplinary Board for Bishops is hereby established as a court of the Church to have original jurisdiction over matters of discipline of Bishops, to hear Bishops' appeals from imposition of restriction on ministry or placement on Administrative Leave and to determine venue issues as provided in Canon IV.19.5.
- b.** The Disciplinary Board for Bishops shall consist of ten ~~(10)~~ Bishops elected by the House of Bishops at a regularly scheduled session meeting of the General Convention, and four ~~(4)~~ Priests or Deacons and four ~~(4)~~ lay persons elected by the House of Deputies at a regular meeting of the General Convention. All lay persons elected or appointed to serve shall be confirmed adult communicants in good standing.
- c.** Members of the Board shall serve staggered terms of six ~~(6)~~ years, with the terms of one half of the Bishops and one half of the lay persons, Priests and Deacons collectively expiring upon the adjournment of every regular meeting of the General Convention ~~three years~~.
- d.** Unless elected or appointed to fill the remainder of an unexpired term, each member shall serve from the first day of January following the adjournment of the General Convention at

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which the member was elected, until the last day of December *following the adjournment of the second regular meeting of the General Convention* following election and until the member's successor is elected and qualifies; ~~however, there shall be no change in the composition of any Hearing Panel while a matter is pending unresolved before the Hearing Panel.~~

- e. A vacancy among the member Bishops shall be ~~filled~~ *appointed* by the Presiding Bishop with the advice and consent of the Bishop members of Executive Council. A vacancy among the ~~other lay or Priest or Deacon~~ members shall be filled by the President of the House of Deputies with the advice and consent of the lay, Priest and Deacon members of Executive Council.
- f. *Notwithstanding any expiration of a member's term of office, there shall be no change in the composition of any Hearing Panel while a matter is pending before the Panel; and a member of the Board sitting on such a Panel and whose term of office otherwise would expire shall nevertheless continue in office until the matter is resolved and solely for that purpose.*

Sec. 4. Within sixty days following each General Convention, the Board shall convene to elect a president for the following ~~triennium~~ *interval between regular meetings of the General Convention*. The president shall be a Bishop. If there is no president, the Bishop who is senior by consecration shall perform the duties of the president.

EXPLANATION

Currently, Canon IV.17.3 and .4 provides a six-year term of office for members of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops, and for their election at the General Convention. Successors are elected at the meeting of the General Convention occurring six years later. The postponement of the 80th General Convention from 2021 to 2022 exposed a problem with terms of office fixed at a certain number of years. The Commission found that tying the expiration of terms of office to the adjournment of a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention – whenever it may in fact occur - would be a sounder way to structure them – and avoid questions and concerns about when a term of office expires in the event of the postponement of a regular meeting of the General Convention.

A120 Amend Canon IV.17.8 on Vacancies on the Court of Review for Bishops

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon IV.17.8 to read as follows:

Sec. 8. The Court of Review for Bishops is hereby established as a court of the Church to have jurisdiction to hear appeals from Hearing Panels of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops.

a. The Court of Review for Bishops shall consist of nine members, all of whom shall be Bishops. Three Bishops shall be elected by the House of Bishops at any regularly scheduled meeting of the House of Bishops, to serve until the adjournment of the third succeeding regular meeting of General Convention and until their successors are elected and qualify; however, there shall be no change in the composition of the Court with respect to a particular Respondent following any hearing in the matter and while it is pending unresolved before the Court.

b. *Vacancies on the Court of Review for Bishops shall be filled by the Presiding Bishop.*

b c. From among their number, the members of the Court of Review for Bishops shall elect a president.

€ d. The reasonable and necessary expenses of the Court of Review for Bishops, including fees, costs, disbursements and expenses of the members, clerks, reporters and Church Attorneys shall be charged upon the General Convention and paid by the Treasurer of the General Convention upon Order of the president of the Court of Review. The Court of Review for Bishops shall have the authority to contract for and bind the General Convention to payment of these expenses.

EXPLANATION

The Standing Commission noticed that the current canon makes no provision for filling a vacancy on the Court. This amendment would authorize the Presiding Bishop to fill such a vacancy, which is similar to the proposed amended provision for vacancies on the churchwide Court of Review (pursuant to which the Presiding Bishop would fill vacancies in Bishop seats and the President of the House of Deputies would fill vacancies in the Clergy and lay seats).

A121 Amend House of Bishops Rule of Order II.B on the Term of Office for the Secretary

Resolved, That the House of Bishops amend its Rule of Order II.B to read as follows.

- B. The House shall then proceed to elect a Secretary if the office is vacant; and the person elected shall serve until the end of that meeting of the Convention. At the end of each meeting of the Convention, the House shall proceed to elect a Secretary who shall continue in office until the conclusion of the *next regular* ~~triennial~~ meeting of the Convention following that election. With the approval of the bishop presiding, the Secretary may then, or later, appoint Assistant Secretaries.

EXPLANATION

Current House of Bishops Rule of Order II.B provides a triennial (three-year) term of office for the Secretary of the House of Bishops. The postponement of the 80th General Convention from 2021 to 2022 exposed a problem with terms of office fixed at a certain number of years. The Commission found that tying the expiration of terms of office to the adjournment of a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention – whenever it may in fact occur – would be a sounder way to structure them – and avoid questions and concerns about officials serving beyond their expected terms of office.

A122 Amend House of Bishops Rule of Order II.G on the Term of Office for the Vice President

Resolved, That the House of Bishops amend its Rule of Order II.G to read as follows.

- G. The House shall then proceed to elect a Vice-President, if the office is then vacant, after hearing the report of the nominating committee of the House and after receiving any other nominations from the floor; and the person elected shall serve until the conclusion of the next *regular* ~~triennial~~ meeting of the Convention. At the conclusion of each meeting of the Convention, the House, using the same procedure, shall proceed to elect a Vice-President who shall continue in office until the conclusion of the *next regular* ~~triennial~~ meeting of the Convention following that election. The Vice-President, in the absence of the Presiding Bishop, or at the request of the Presiding Bishop, shall be the Presiding Officer of the

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House. In the absence of the Vice- President, the Presiding Bishop may ask another member of the House to preside.

EXPLANATION

Current House of Bishops Rule of Order II.B provides a triennial (three-year) term of office for the Vice-President of the House of Bishops. The postponement of the 80th General Convention from 2021 to 2022 exposed a problem with terms of office fixed at a certain number of years. The Commission found that tying the expiration of terms of office to the adjournment of a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention – whenever it may in fact occur - would be a sounder way to structure them – and avoid questions and concerns about officials serving beyond their expected terms of office.

A123 Amend House of Deputies Rule of Order XVI on Requiring a Deacon on the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

Resolved, That the House of Deputies adopt a new Rule of Order as Rule of Order XVI, as follows, and that the subsequent Rules of Order of that House be renumbered accordingly:

XVI: Election of Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

- A. In an election for the Clergy and Lay members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop under Canon I.2.1.a, the House shall first elect one Deacon member of the Committee.*
- B. If more than one Deacon receives a majority of those voting, the Deacon receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.*
- C. After one Deacon has been elected, the House shall proceed to elect the remaining four Clergy members of the Committee.*
- D. The ballot for that election shall include the names of all Priests nominated and all of the Deacons nominated other than the one Deacon elected pursuant to B above.*
- E. Subsequent ballots will follow Rule XV.C.*

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EXPLANATION

During the election of the members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop in June 2021, it became clear that the method for ensuring that at least one Deacon member was to be chosen, as required by Canon I.2.1.a, had not been specified when the Canon was amended in 2018. As the General Convention Office and President of the House of Deputies considered various ways of ensuring the inclusion of at least one Deacon member (including, as an example, that if only Priests were elected, the last Priest elected would be dropped in favor of the Deacon with the highest number of votes), the Standing Commission concluded that it would be better for the Rules to specify exactly how the election of the Deacon would be done rather than leaving it to the judgment of the leadership of the House of Deputies.

A124 Amend Joint Rules of Orders VII.17 and .20 on Nominees for the Court of Review

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Joint Rules of Order 17 and 20 to read as follows:

VII: Joint Standing Committee on Nominations

17. There shall be a Joint Standing Committee on Nominations, which shall submit nominations for the election of:

- a. Trustees of The Church Pension Fund, serving as the Joint Committee referred to in Canon I.8.2.
- b. Members of the Executive Council under Canon I.4.1.d.
- c. The Secretary of the House of Deputies and the Treasurer of the General Convention under Canons I.1.1.j and I.1.7.a.
- d. Trustees of the General Theological Seminary.
- e. General Board of Examining Chaplains.
- f. Disciplinary Board for Bishops.
- g. *Court of Review.*

20. Except for the Secretary of the General Convention, ~~and~~ the Treasurer of the General Convention, *and the Court of Review*, the said Committee is instructed to nominate a number,

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equal to at least twice the number of vacancies, which shall be broadly representative of the constituency of this Church; to prepare biographical sketches of all nominees; and to include such nominations and sketches in the Blue Book, or otherwise to circulate them among Bishops and Deputies well in advance of the meeting of the next succeeding General Convention; this procedure, however, not to preclude further nominations from the floor in the appropriate House of the General Convention.

EXPLANATION

In its proposal to amend Canon IV.5.4 on the Court of Review, the Standing Commission proposes that the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations be charged with developing a slate of Clergy and Lay nominees and of consulting with the Presiding Bishop on Bishop nominees. Currently, no person or body is charged with nominating candidates for this important work.

For most positions the Committee is charged with nominating at least twice the number of persons as there are open positions. However, the number of people who possess the skills and experience needed for the Court of Review is small and it is the recommendation of the Standing Commission that the Committee have the discretion to nominate fewer than twice the number of open positions.