

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-A032
Title: Amend Canon III.11.9.b to Correct an Oversight in a 2018 Canonical Amendment
Proposer: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic: Bishops, Canons

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A156 On the Topic of Amending Canon III.11.1 [Discernment and Election Rules] (Rejected)
2018-A161 Amend Canon III.11.9(b) [Bishops Suffragan]

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

None

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.

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

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 02 - Constitution & Canons

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

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. The tenure of office of a Bishop Suffragan shall not be determined by the tenure of office of the Bishop Diocesan.

~~4.~~ 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 an unintended oversight of the 79th General Convention, which inadvertently deleted the requirement of consents to a Diocese's election of a Bishop Suffragan.



Resolution Number: 2018-A156
Title: On the Topic of Amending Canon III.11.1 [Discernment and Election Rules]
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That Canon III.11.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1(a) Discernment of vocation to be a Bishop occurs through a process of election in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Convention of the Diocese and pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of this Church.

(b) With respect to the election of a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan or Assistant Bishop, the Diocese or, in the case of a Missionary Bishop, the Missionary Diocese or House of Bishop in accordance with the decision of the Missionary Diocese pursuant to Canon III.11.9(c)(1)-(3), shall establish a nominating process either by Canon or by the adoption of rules and ~~procedure~~ procedures for the election of the Bishop Suffragan at a regular or special Diocesan Convention with sufficient time preceding the election of the Bishop-Suffragan. The election will be held in accordance with this Canon III.11.

(c)(i) No more than twelve months before a Diocese or Missionary Diocese requests the consents under subsection (d) to holding an election of a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, Assistant Bishop, or Missionary Bishop, the Diocese or Missionary Diocese shall complete a missional review of the Diocese to ascertain and articulate the needs, hopes, aspirations, and resources of the diocese as it participates in God's mission. The missional review shall include consultation with neighboring dioceses and should utilize extra-diocesan consultants when possible. The requirement of a missional review shall apply to elections held on or after January 1, 2019, and this sentence shall be deleted from the canons at the adjournment of the 80th General Convention without the necessity of further action of the General Convention unless the 80th General Convention determines otherwise.

(ii) The results of such a missional review shall be communicated to the Presiding Bishop and Executive Council of The Episcopal Church who shall each offer an assessment of the Review.

(iii) The assessments of the Presiding Bishop and Executive Council shall be communicated to each Bishop exercising jurisdiction and Standing Committee in advance of their consent to the call of the election of the Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, Assistant Bishop, or Missionary Bishop.

(d) Before the election of a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, Assistant Bishop, or Missionary Bishop in a Diocese or Missionary Diocese, the consent to the holding of the election from a majority of the Bishops exercising jurisdiction and a majority of the several Standing Committees must be obtained.

(e) The consent of a majority of the Bishops exercising jurisdiction and the majority of Standing Committees must be obtained to the election of the person to serve as Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, Assistant Bishop, or Missionary Bishop as set forth In Canons III.11.3.

~~(b)~~ (f) In lieu of electing a Bishop, the Convention of a Diocese may request that an election be made on its behalf by the House of Bishops of the Province of which the Diocese is a part, subject to confirmation by the Provincial Synod, or it may request that an election be made on its behalf by the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church.

(1) If either option in Sec. ~~1(b)~~ 1(f) is chosen, a special Joint Nominating Committee shall be appointed unless the Diocesan Convention has otherwise provided for the nominating process. The Committee shall be composed of three persons from the Diocese, appointed by its Standing Committee, and three members of the electoral body, appointed by the President of that body. The Joint Nominating Committee shall elect its own officers and shall nominate three persons whose names it shall communicate to the Presiding Officer of the electoral body. The Presiding Officer shall communicate the names of the nominees to the electoral body at least three weeks before the election when the names shall be formally placed in nomination. Opportunity shall be given for nominations from the floor or by petition, in either case with provision for adequate background checks.

(2) If either option in Sec. ~~1(b)~~ 1(f) is chosen, the evidence of the election shall be a certificate signed by the Presiding Officer of the electoral body and by its Secretary, with a testimonial signed by a constitutional majority of the body, in the form required in Canon III.11.3, which shall be sent to the Standing Committee of the Diocese on whose behalf the election was held. The Standing Committee shall thereupon proceed as set forth in Canon III.11.3.

~~(c)~~ (g) The Secretary of the body electing a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, shall inform the Presiding Bishop promptly of the name of the person elected. It shall be the duty of the Bishop-elect to notify the Presiding Bishop of acceptance or declination of the election, at the same time as the Bishop-elect notifies the electing Diocese.

~~(d)~~ (h) No Diocese shall elect a Bishop within thirty days before a meeting of the General Convention.



Resolution Number: 2018-A161
Title: Amend Canon III.11.9(b) [Bishops Suffragan]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon III.11.9(b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

(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.**~~

~~(3)~~(2)

(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.

~~**(4)**~~(3) **The tenure of office of a Bishop Suffragan shall not be determined by the tenure of office of the Bishop Diocesan.**

~~**(5)**~~(4) **No Bishop Suffragan, while acting as such, shall be Rector, but may serve as Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation.**

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 1057.