

## General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

**Resolution No.:** 2022-A152  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article 5.1 [Admission of New Dioceses--Second Reading]  
**Proposer:** Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons  
**Topic:** Constitution--Second Reading, New Dioceses

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### Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A176 Amend Constitution Article 5.1 [Admission of New Dioceses--Second Reading]  
2015-D003 Amend Constitution Article V.1 [New Dioceses--First Reading]  
2012-A102 On the Topic of Amending Constitution Article V on Dioceses (Rejected)

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

1982-A010 Amend Constitution Article V.1 [Admission of New Dioceses--Second Reading]

*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.*

# A152 - Amend Constitution Article 5.1 [Admission of New Dioceses--Second Reading]

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**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

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## Resolution Text

*Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring,

**<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (\*\*\*\*\*) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

That Article V, Section 1 is amended as follows:

Sec. 1 A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the General Convention and under such conditions as the General Convention shall prescribe by General Canon or Canons, (1) by the division of an existing Diocese; (2) by the junction of two or more Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses; or (3) by the erection into a Diocese of an unorganized area evangelized as provided in Article VI. The proceedings shall originate in a Convocation of the Clergy and Laity of the unorganized area called by the Bishop for that purpose; or, with the approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority, in the Convention of the Diocese to be divided; or (when it is proposed to form a new Diocese by the junction of two or more existing Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses) by mutual agreement of the Conventions of the Dioceses concerned, with the approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese. After consent of the General Convention, when a certified copy of the duly adopted Constitution of the new Diocese, including an unqualified accession to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, shall have been filed with the Secretary of the General Convention and approved by the Executive Council of this Church, such new Diocese shall thereupon be in union with the General Convention.

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**<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>**

That Article V, Section 1 is amended as follows:

Sec. 1 A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the General Convention and under such conditions as the General Convention shall prescribe by General Canon or Canons, (1) by the division of an existing Diocese; (2) by the junction of two or more Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses; or (3) by the erection into a Diocese of an unorganized area evangelized as provided in Article VI. The proceedings shall originate in a Convocation of the Clergy and Laity of the unorganized area called by the Bishop for that purpose; or, with the approval of the ~~Bishop~~ *Ecclesiastical Authority*, in the Convention of the Diocese to be divided; or (when it is proposed to form a new Diocese by the junction of two or more existing Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses) by mutual agreement of the Conventions of the Dioceses concerned, with the approval of the ~~Bishop~~ *Ecclesiastical Authority* of each Diocese. ~~In case the Episcopate of a Diocese be vacant, no proceedings toward its division shall be taken until the vacancy is filled.~~ After consent of the General Convention, when a certified copy of the duly adopted Constitution of the new Diocese, including an unqualified accession to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, shall have been filed with the Secretary of the General Convention and approved by the Executive Council of this Church, such new Diocese shall thereupon be in union with the General Convention.

**Explanation**

The resolution amends Constitution Article V.1 to make it possible for dioceses to merge when one or both dioceses do not have a sitting bishop.





**Resolution Number:** 2018-A176  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article 5.1 [Admission of New  
Dioceses--Second Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Article V, Section 1 is amended as follows:*

**Sec. 1** A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the General Convention and under such conditions as the General Convention shall prescribe by General Canon or Canons, (1) by the division of an existing Diocese; (2) by the junction of two or more Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses; or (3) by the erection into a Diocese of an unorganized area evangelized as provided in Article VI. The proceedings shall originate in a Convocation of the Clergy and Laity of the unorganized area called by the Bishop for that purpose; or, with the approval of the ~~Bishop~~ *Ecclesiastical Authority*, in the Convention of the Diocese to be divided; or (when it is proposed to form a new Diocese by the junction of two or more existing Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses) by mutual agreement of the Conventions of the Dioceses concerned, with the approval of the ~~Bishop~~ *Ecclesiastical Authority* of each Diocese. ~~In case the Episcopate of a Diocese be vacant, no proceedings toward its division shall be taken until the vacancy is filled.~~ After consent of the General Convention, when a certified copy of the duly adopted Constitution of the new Diocese, including an unqualified accession to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, shall have been filed with the Secretary of the General Convention and approved by the Executive Council of this Church, such new Diocese shall thereupon be in union with the General Convention.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 672.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-D003  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article V.1 [New Dioceses--First Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Article V, Section 1 is amended to read as follows:*

A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the General Convention and under such conditions as the General Convention shall prescribe by General Canon or Canons, (1) by the division of an existing Diocese; (2) by the junction of two or more Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses; or (3) by the erection into a Diocese of an unorganized area evangelized as provided in Article VI. The proceedings shall originate in a Convocation of the Clergy and Laity of the unorganized area called by the ~~Bishop~~*Ecclesiastical Authority* for that purpose; or, with the approval of the ~~Bishop~~*Ecclesiastical Authority*, in the Convention of the Diocese to be divided; or (when it is proposed to form a new Diocese by the junction of two or more existing Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses) by mutual agreement of the Conventions of the Dioceses concerned, with the approval of the ~~Bishop~~*Ecclesiastical Authority* of each Diocese. ~~In case the Episcopate of a Diocese be vacant, no proceedings toward its division shall be taken until the vacancy is filled.~~ After consent of the General Convention, when a certified copy of the duly adopted Constitution of the new Diocese, including an unqualified accession to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, shall have been filed with the Secretary of the General Convention and approved by the Executive Council of this Church, such new Diocese shall thereupon be in union with the General Convention.

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 356-357.



**Resolution Number:** 2012-A102  
**Title:** On the Topic of Amending Constitution Article V on Dioceses  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected  
**Text of Resolution:**

**[Resolved, that Canon V.4. be amended to read as follows:]**

Sec. 4. Whenever a new Diocese is formed and erected out of an existing Diocese, 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~~ *the convention of the new diocese adopts its own* Constitution and Canons ~~by the Convention of the new Diocese.~~ 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~~ *the new* Diocese, except as local circumstances may prevent, until the ~~same be altered in accordance with such~~ *convention of the new Diocese adopts its own* Constitution and Canons ~~adopted by the Convention of the new Diocese.~~