

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

Resolution No.: 2022-D057
Title: Amend Canon III.5.2 to Delete Duplicated Language
Proposer: Canon Paul Ambos
Topic: Canons

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A282 Amend Canon III.11.3(b) [Testimonials of Standing Committees]
2015-A119 Amend Canon III.5.2(b) [Testimonials]

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.

D057 - Amend Canon III.5.2 to delete duplicated language

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Canon Paul Ambos

Endorsed by: Canon Barbara Okamoto Bach, The Rev. Gail Bennett

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 Canon III.5.2. be amended to read as follows:

<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.>**

Sec. 2. No Nominee, Postulant, or Candidate for ordination shall sign any of the certificates required by this Title.

a. Whenever the letter of support of a Vestry is required, the letter must be signed and dated by at least two-thirds of all of the members of the Vestry, at a meeting duly convened, and by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of the Parish, and attested by the Clerk of the Vestry. Should there be no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the letter shall be signed by a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the nominee and the Parish, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

b. If the congregation or other discernment community of which the nominee is a member is not a Parish, the letter of support required by Canon III.6 or Canon III.8 shall be signed and dated by the Member of the Clergy and the council of the congregation or other community of faith, and shall be attested by the secretary of the meeting at which the letter was approved. Should there be no member of the Clergy, the letter shall be signed and dated by

a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the nominee and the congregation or other community of faith, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

c. If the applicant is a member of a Religious Order or Christian Community recognized by Canon III.14, the letters of support referred to in Canon III.5 or Canon III.6 and any other requirements imposed on a congregation or Member of the Clergy may be given by the Superior or person in charge, and Chapter, or other comparable body of the Order or Community.

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

Sec. 2. No Nominee, Postulant, or Candidate for ordination shall sign any of the certificates required by this Title.

~~a. Testimonials required of the Standing Committee by this Title 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.~~

b. a. Whenever the letter of support of a Vestry is required, the letter must be signed and dated by at least two-thirds of all of the members of the Vestry, at a meeting duly convened, and by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of the Parish, and attested by the Clerk of the Vestry. Should there be no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the letter shall be signed by a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the nominee and the Parish, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

e. b. If the congregation or other discernment community of which the nominee is a member is not a Parish, the letter of support required by Canon III.6 or Canon III.8 shall be signed and dated by the Member of the Clergy and the council of the congregation or other community of faith, and shall be attested by the secretary of the meeting at which the letter was approved. Should there be no member of the Clergy, the letter shall be signed and dated by a Priest of the Diocese acquainted with the nominee and the congregation or other community of faith, the reason for the substitution being stated in the attesting clause.

~~c.~~ c. If the applicant is a member of a Religious Order or Christian Community recognized by Canon III.14, the letters of support referred to in Canon III.5 or Canon III.6 and any other requirements imposed on a congregation or Member of the Clergy may be given by the Superior or person in charge, and Chapter, or other comparable body of the Order or Community.

Explanation

Canon 5 of Title III sets forth General Provisions Respecting Ordination, and Section 2 of that Canon specifies the details consequent upon the principle that no applicant for

ordination to any order signs any certificate required by their own process. Resolution 2015-A119 amended then III.5.2.b regarding signature of "testimonials" (it has since been renumbered as subsection (a)) to add that signed counterparts can be delivered by electronic transmission or facsimile. Because Canon 5 covered all Title III ordinations, it referred to "Testimonials required of the Standing Committee by this Title".

Resolution 2018-A282 amended Canon III.11.3, regarding testimonials for Standing Committee consents to episcopal elections by copying the language from III.5.2.b and inserting it as a new III.11.3.c. But it made no corresponding deletion of the text from III.5.2.

Current proposed Resolution A039 aims to correct the reference from "this Title" to "this Canon" in III.11.3.c, which is correct. The only Standing Committee "testimonials" required in all of Title III, however, are those referenced in III.11.3. The duplicative language remaining in Canon III.5.2 should, therefore, be deleted and subsequent subsections renumbered.



Resolution Number: 2018-A282
Title: Amend Canon III.11.3(b) [Testimonials of Standing Committees]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon III.11.3(b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

(b) Evidence of the consent of each Standing Committee shall be a testimonial in the following words, signed by a majority of all the members of the Committee:

We, being a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee of _____, and having been duly convened at _____, fully sensible how important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that we know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend A.B. ought not to be ordained to that Holy Order. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this ____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord _____.
(Signed) _____

(c) Testimonials required of the Standing Committee by this Title 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.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 684.



Resolution Number: 2015-A119
Title: Amend Canon III.5.2(b) [Testimonials]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon III.5.2(b) is hereby amended to read as follows:

(b) Testimonials required of the Standing Committee by this Title 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.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 713.