

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A063
Title: Amend Canons I.2.2 : Term of Office of the Presiding Bishop
Proposer: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic: Canons, Presiding Bishop

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-A112 Refer a Resolution to Amend Canon I.2.2 [Of the Presiding Bishop] (Referred)
2006-D010 Amend Canon I.2.2 [Of the Presiding Bishop]
2000-A117 Amend Canon I.2.2 [Commencement of Presiding Bishop's Term of Office]
1985-A152 Amend Canon I.2.2 [Retirement age of the Presiding Bishop]

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 2022, 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](#).

A063 - Amend Canons I.2.2 : Term of Office of the Presiding Bishop

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

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

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention amend Canon I.2.2 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.

a. The term of office of the Presiding Bishop, when elected under the first paragraph of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution, will begin on the 91st day after the adjournment of the Convention at which the Presiding Bishop is elected and will end on the 91st day after the adjournment of the third successive regular meeting of the General Convention. But if the Presiding Bishop attains the age of seventy-two years before completing that term, the Presiding Bishop must resign the office to the regular meeting of the General Convention which occurs nearest before the date of attaining such age, with the resignation taking effect when a successor assumes office. At that Convention a successor will be elected, and will assume office on the 91st day after the adjournment of that General Convention. If 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 that postponement the Presiding Bishop attains the age of 72 years before a successor can be elected and assume office, then the Presiding

Bishop may serve until the successor assumes 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.

b. When the House of Bishops elects a Presiding Bishop under the second paragraph of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution to fill a vacancy, the Presiding Bishop so elected will take office immediately.

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

a. The term of office of the Presiding Bishop, when elected according to the provisions of *under the first paragraph of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution, will begin on the 91st day after the adjournment* ~~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 and will end on the 91st day after the adjournment of the third successive regular meeting of the General Convention. But if the Presiding Bishop attains~~ *unless attaining the age of seventy-two years before completing that term, the term shall have been completed; in that case the Presiding Bishop shall* ~~must~~ *resign the office to the regular meeting of the General Convention which occurs nearest to before the date of attaining such age, with the resignation taking effect when a successor assumes office. At that Convention a successor shall* ~~will~~ *be elected, and shall* ~~will~~ *assume office on the first day of the month of November following the close of that 91st day after the adjournment of that General Convention or immediately upon the death, retirement, or disability of the Presiding Bishop; except that when. If 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 that postponement the Presiding Bishop attains the age of 72 years before a successor can be elected and assume office, then the Presiding Bishop may serve until the successor assumes 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.*

b. ~~When a Presiding Bishop has been elected by the House of Bishops~~ *elects a Presiding Bishop to fill a vacancy, as provided for in* ~~under the second paragraph of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution to fill a vacancy,~~ the Presiding Bishop so elected ~~shall~~ *will* take office immediately.

Explanation

The Standing Commission considered issues of electing a Presiding Bishop who may not be able to serve a nine-year term before reaching the mandatory retirement age and the added wrinkle of a delayed General Convention resulting in a Presiding Bishop reaching mandatory retirement age.



Resolution Number: 2022-A112
Title: Refer a Resolution to Amend Canon I.2.2 [Of the Presiding Bishop]
Legislative Action Taken: Referred
Final Text:

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

Canon I.2

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 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.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 753-754.



Resolution Number: 2006-D010
Title: Amend Canon I.2.2 [Of the Presiding Bishop]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention amend the first sentence of Canon I.2.2 to read as follows:

Sec. 2 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~~*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 or immediately upon the death, retirement, or disability of the Presiding Bishop; except that 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.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 209-210.



Resolution Number: 2000-A117
Title: Amend Canon I.2.2 [Commencement of Presiding Bishop's Term of Office]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon I.2.2 be amended to read as hereinafter set forth, with the provision that the term of office of the Presiding Bishop serving on the effective date of this amendment shall terminate not later than the date the successor assumes office:

Sec. 2. 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 calendar year *month of November* following the close of the Convention at which the Presiding Bishop is elected, unless attaining the age of seventy 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 ~~three months thereafter~~ *on the first day of the month of November following the close of that Convention* or immediately upon the death, retirement, or disability of the Presiding Bishop; except that 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.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 632.



Resolution Number: 1985-A152
Title: Amend Canon I.2.2 [Retirement age of the Presiding Bishop]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the first sentence of Title I, Canon 2, Section 2, be amended so that as amended, the first sentence shall read as follows:

Sec. 2. The term of office of the Presiding Bishop, when elected according to the provisions of Article I., Section 3, of the Constitution shall be twelve years, beginning ~~three months~~ *the first day of the calendar year following the election after the close of the convention at which he is elected, unless he shall attain the age of ~~sixty-five~~ seventy years before his term shall have been completed; in that case, he shall resign his office to the General Convention which occurs nearest to the date of his attaining such age; these provisions if enacted to be effective as of the date of its passage.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 428.