

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018  
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A094  
**TITLE:** Amend Canon III.4.1(b) for Clarity regarding Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces  
**PROPOSER:** Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons  
**TOPIC:** Canons

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-B011 Amend Constitution Article II.7 [Bishop Suffragan for Chaplains--First Reading]  
2003-A111 Revise Title III Canons  
1988-A007 Amend Constitution Article II.7 [Suffragan Bishop for Armed Forces--Second Reading]

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

None

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons](#), see pages 391-392.

*In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1976 through 2015, 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 at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.*

# A094 Amend Canon III.4.1(b) for Clarity regarding Bishop Suffragan of the Armed Forces

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<b>Proposer</b>	Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
<b>Topic</b>	Canons
<b>Endorsed by</b>	
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 68
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	/
<b>Current Status</b>	Resolution Filed
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

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## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That Canon III.4.1(b) is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 2 (b) The Presiding Bishop or the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces *of the United States, Veterans' Administration Medical Centers, and Federal Correctional Institutions* may authorize a member of the Armed Forces to exercise one (1) or more of these ministries in the Armed Forces in accordance with the provisions of this Canon. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education and deployment of such persons shall be established by the Bishop granting the license.

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## EXPLANATION

In 1988, General Convention amended Article II.7 of the Constitution on having a Suffragan Bishop under the direction of the Presiding Bishop to be in charge of Chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States to also include Chaplains of the U.S. Veterans Administration Medical Centers and Federal Correctional Institutions. Prior to the amendment there was no title for this Bishop Suffragan in the Constitution. The Constitution does not give a title to that position. This amendment is to clarify the name of the Bishop Suffragan serving in this position and that this position oversees these Federal Ministries only in the United States.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-B011  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article II.7 [Bishop Suffragan for Chaplains--First Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Article II.7 of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:*  
**Sec. 7. ~~It shall be lawful for t~~The House of Bishops ~~to~~may elect a Suffragan Bishop Suffragan who, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, shall be in charge of the work of ~~those persons of this Church who serve as chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States, Veterans' Administration Medical Centers, and Federal Correctional Institutions who are ordained Ministers of this Church and such other agencies as may be specified by the Presiding Bishop.~~ The Suffragan Bishop Suffragan so elected shall be *ordained and consecrated* and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. ~~The Suffragan Bishop shall be eligible for election as Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop of a Diocese.~~**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 441.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-A111  
**Title:** Revise Title III Canons  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Substituted  
**Final Text:**

[Resolved, That Canon III.4 is amended to read as follows.]

**CANON 4: Of Licensed Ministries**

**Sec. 1**

- (a) A confirmed communicant in good standing or, in extraordinary circumstances, subject to guidelines established by the Bishop, a communicant in good standing, may be licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve as Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor or Catechist. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons and the duration of licenses shall be established by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry.
- (b) The Presiding Bishop or the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces may authorize a member of the Armed Forces to exercise one or more of these ministries in the Armed Forces in accordance with the provisions of this Canon. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons shall be established by the Bishop granting the license.

**Sec. 2**

- (a) The Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith may request the Ecclesiastical Authority with jurisdiction to license persons within that congregation or other community of faith to exercise such ministries. The license shall be issued for a period of time to be determined under Canon III.4.1(a) and may be renewed. The license may be revoked by the Ecclesiastical Authority upon request of or upon notice to the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.
- (b) In renewing the license, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall consider the performance of the ministry by the person licensed, continuing education in the licensed area, and the endorsement of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith in which the person is serving.
- (c) A person licensed in any Diocese under the provisions of this Canon may serve in another congregation or other community of faith in the same or another Diocese only at the invitation of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight, and with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority in whose jurisdiction the service will occur.

**Sec. 3. A Pastoral Leader is a lay person authorized to exercise pastoral or administrative responsibility in a congregation under special circumstances, as defined by the Bishop.**

**Sec. 4. A Worship Leader is a lay person who regularly leads public worship under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.**

**Sec. 5. A Preacher is a lay person authorized to preach. Persons so authorized shall only preach in congregations under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.**

**Sec. 6. A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other**

**community of faith.**

**Sec. 7. A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor shall should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.**

**Sec. 8. A Catechist is a lay person authorized to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, and shall function under the direction of the Priest-in-Charge Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.**

**Citation:** Canon III.4 is excerpted from the Final Text of the revision to Canons Title III. See General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), pp. 641-667.



**Resolution Number:** 1988-A007  
**Title:** Amend Constitution Article II.7 [Suffragan Bishop for Armed Forces--Second Reading]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That Article II, Section 7 of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:*

**Sec. 7. It shall be lawful for the House of Bishops to elect a Suffragan Bishop who, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, shall be in charge of the work of those Chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States, *Veterans' Administration Medical Centers, and Federal Correction Institutions* who are ordained Ministers of this Church. The Suffragan Bishop so elected shall be consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention. He shall be eligible for election as Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop of a Diocese.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 612.