

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A113
TITLE: Amend Article V.4 of the Constitution
PROPOSER: Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
TOPIC: Constitution

Directly Related: (Attached)

2012-A101 On the Topic of Re-aligning Dioceses (Rejected)
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)

2015-C031 Request Study of the Number and Size of Dioceses
1991-A029 Amend Constitution Article V.4 [Constitution and Canons of New Dioceses--Second Reading]

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons](#), see pages 424-425.

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.

A113 Amend Article V.4 of the Constitution

Proposer	Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
Topic	Constitution
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 6
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 2 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 Constitution and Canons by the Convention of the new Diocese.
- 3 Whenever a Diocese is formed out of two (2) 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 new Diocese, except as local circumstances may prevent, until the same be altered in accordance with such Constitution and Canons by the Convention of the new Diocese.~~ *the Constitution and Canons of the newly formed Diocese shall become effective upon the effective date of the union.*

EXPLANATION

The amendment expresses more clearly the process contemplated by the amendments to the Canons in which the uniting dioceses approve the Constitution and Canons prior to the unification being presented to the General Convention. The current wording of Section 4 does not prohibit dioceses from approving their governance documents ahead of time, so the amendment clarifies the process.



Resolution Number: 2012-A101
Title: On the Topic of Re-aligning Dioceses
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of the Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 77th General Convention request that the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church convene a consultation on the effectiveness of dioceses, with a focus on the potential for re-aligning dioceses to maximize their effective witness and ministry; and be it further

Resolved, that the Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider including in the 2013–2015 budget \$25,000 to fund such consultation.



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.~~