

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A156  
**TITLE:** Amend Canon III.11.1  
**PROPOSER:** Task Force on the Episcopacy  
**TOPIC:** Canons

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2015-D004 Appoint a Task Force on the Episcopacy  
2003-D007 On the Topic of Episcopal Election Reform (Rejected)

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

None

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Task Force on the Episcopacy](#), see pages 751-753.

*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.*

# A156 Amend Canon III.11.1

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| Proposer         | Task Force on the Episcopacy                         |
| Topic            | Canons   |
| Endorsed by      |  |
| Sponsored by     |  |
| Page numbers     | Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 107-108 |
| 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 Canon III.11.1 is hereby amended to read as follows:
  - 2 Sec. 1(a) Discernment of vocation to be a Bishop occurs through a process of election in accordance with the rules prescribed by the Convention of the Diocese and pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of this Church.
  - 3 *(b)* With respect to the election of a *Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan or Assistant Bishop*, the Diocese or, *in in the case of a Missionary Bishop, the Missionary Diocese or House of Bishop in accordance with the decision of the Missionary Diocese pursuant to Canon III.11.9(c)(1)-(3)*, shall establish a nominating process either by Canon or by the adoption of rules and ~~procedure~~ *procedures* for the election of the Bishop ~~Suffragan~~ at a regular or special Diocesan Convention with sufficient time preceding the election of the Bishop ~~Suffragan~~. *The election will be held in accordance with this Canon III.11.*
  - 4 *(c) (i) No more than twelve months before a Diocese or Missionary Diocese requests the consents under subsection (d) to holding an election of a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, Assistant Bishop, or Missionary Bishop, the Diocese or Missionary Diocese shall complete a missional review of the Diocese to ascertain and articulate the needs, hopes, aspirations, and resources of the diocese as it participates in God's mission. The missional review shall include consultation with neighboring dioceses and should utilize extra-diocesan consultants when possible. The requirement of a missional review shall apply to elections held on or after January 1, 2019, and this sentence shall be deleted from the canons at the adjournment of the 80th General Convention without the necessity of further action of the General Convention unless the 80th General Convention determines otherwise.*
  - 5 *(ii) The results of such a missional review shall be communicated to the Presiding Bishop and Executive Council of The Episcopal Church who shall each offer an assessment of the Review.*
  - 6 *(iii) The assessments of the Presiding Bishop and Executive Council shall be communicated to each Bishop exercising jurisdiction and Standing Committee in advance of their consent to the*
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*call of the election of the Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, Assistant Bishop, or Missionary Bishop.*

- 7 *(d) Before the election of a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, Assistant Bishop, or Missionary Bishop in a Diocese or Missionary Diocese, the consent to the holding of the election from a majority of the Bishops exercising jurisdiction and a majority of the several Standing Committees must be obtained.*
  - 8 *(e) The consent of a majority of the Bishops exercising jurisdiction and the majority of Standing Committees must be obtained to the election of the person to serve as Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, Assistant Bishop, or Missionary Bishop as set forth In Canons III.11.3.*
  - 9 ~~(b)~~ *(f) In lieu of electing a Bishop, the Convention of a Diocese may request that an election be made on its behalf by the House of Bishops of the Province of which the Diocese is a part, subject to confirmation by the Provincial Synod, or it may request that an election be made on its behalf by the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church.*
  - 10 (1) If either option in Sec. ~~1(b)~~ *1(f)* is chosen, a special Joint Nominating Committee shall be appointed unless the Diocesan Convention has otherwise provided for the nominating process. The Committee shall be composed of three persons from the Diocese, appointed by its Standing Committee, and three members of the electoral body, appointed by the President of that body. The Joint Nominating Committee shall elect its own officers and shall nominate three persons whose names it shall communicate to the Presiding Officer of the electoral body. The Presiding Officer shall communicate the names of the nominees to the electoral body at least three weeks before the election when the names shall be formally placed in nomination. Opportunity shall be given for nominations from the floor or by petition, in either case with provision for adequate background checks.
  - 11 (2) If either option in Sec. ~~1(b)~~ *1(f)* is chosen, the evidence of the election shall be a certificate signed by the Presiding Officer of the electoral body and by its Secretary, with a testimonial signed by a constitutional majority of the body, in the form required in Canon III.11.3, which shall be sent to the Standing Committee of the Diocese on whose behalf the election was held. The Standing Committee shall thereupon proceed as set forth in Canon III.11.3.
  - 12 ~~(e)~~ *(g) The Secretary of the body electing a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, shall inform the Presiding Bishop promptly of the name of the person elected. It shall be the duty of the Bishop-elect to notify the Presiding Bishop of acceptance or declination of the election, at the same time as the Bishop-elect notifies the electing Diocese.*
  - 13 ~~(d)~~ *(h) No Diocese shall elect a Bishop within thirty days before a meeting of the General Convention.*
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**EXPLANATION**

The amendments provide that a missional review be completed, and the consents of a majority of the bishops exercising jurisdiction and the Standing Committees of the dioceses be obtained, before a diocese or missionary diocese is authorized to proceed with the election of a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, Assistant Bishop, or Missionary Bishop. The Canons currently provide that, prior to holding an election for a Bishop Coadjutor or a Bishop Suffragan, a diocese must receive the consent of the bishops and Standing Committees; this amendment extends that requirement to other episcopal elections. The pilot Board for Episcopal Transitions proposed in Section IV.C.3 of this report would aid dioceses engaging in a missional review to obtain the services of missional review consultants.



**Resolution Number:** 2015-D004  
**Title:** Appoint a Task Force on the Episcopacy  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved, That a Task Force on the Episcopacy be appointed by the Presiding Officers composed of three bishops, three presbyters or deacons, and six lay persons; and be it further Resolved, That at least one member of the Task Force will have been a finalist in an Episcopal search who did not receive enough votes for election in the last three years; at least one member of the Task Force will have served as a Transition Consultant in an Episcopal search over the past three years; and at least two members of the Task Force will have served on an Episcopal Search and/or Transition Committee in an Episcopal search process over the past three years; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force will study the election, appointment, roles, and responsibilities of the Episcopate, including the use of Bishops Diocesan, Bishops Coadjutor, Bishops Suffragan, Provisional Bishops, Missionary Bishops, and Assistant Bishops in this Church; looking specifically at the particular gifts, life experience, and expertise required for episcopal office; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force will pay particular attention to the recent trend away from a diverse House of Bishops, and seek ways to encourage diversity in the Episcopate; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force will propose to the 79th General Convention a new process for discernment, nomination, formation, search, election, and transition of bishops in The Episcopal Church including, but not limited to: the roles and responsibilities of the Office of Pastoral Development; the selection of, roles and responsibilities of Transition Consultants; how adjoining dioceses may aid and inform the discernment of a diocese in transition; and any required Constitutional and Canonical changes necessary; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the Task Force will work with the Office of Pastoral Development to develop best practices and educational materials to be published electronically and made publicly available, and may use some of its budget to retain consultants who will help with this task; and be it further*

*Resolved, That the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$150,000 for the implementation of this resolution.*

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 457-458.



**Resolution Number:** 2003-D007  
**Title:** On the Topic of Episcopal Election Reform  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Rejected [Died with Adjournment]  
**Text of the Resolution:**

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That ~~an appropriate existing committee, commission, agency or board (CCAB)~~ the *Standing Commission on Ministry Development* be charged with the task of *gathering data and reviewing all aspects of nominating, electing, and consecrating a bishop, and present a report to the 75th General Convention recommending ways for these processes to model ministry for this present time millennium with the bishop seen less as prince and more as servant*; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the *Standing Commission on Ministry Development* ~~group~~ identify some of the ~~conflicting and impossible~~ expectations of nominees and of the one elected, and offer guidance regarding ways dioceses can be as clear and reasonable as possible in nominating, electing, *and consecrating, and holding those elected accountable*; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the ~~group~~ imagine and identify ways local and diocesan communities can identify clergy who potentially have the gifts for episcopal ministry and assist them in discerning whether or not they are being called to it; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the report include data on the costs of all episcopal elections over the two most recent triennia, ~~reported within the context of the diocesan budgets to encourage good stewardship~~; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the report provide examples of ways that some have used these processes to ~~model servanthood~~ *facilitate understanding of the ministry of all the baptized, model simplicity, and celebrate diversity.*