

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A158  
**TITLE:** Amend Canon III.11.3(a)(1)  
**PROPOSER:** Task Force on the Episcopacy  
**TOPIC:** Canons

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2012-A031 Amend Canon III.11.4(a) [Of the Ordination of Bishops]

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

2012-D048 Amend Title III Canons

**Supplemental Documents:** (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Task Force on the Episcopacy](#), see pages 753-754.

*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.*

# A158 Amend Canon III.11.3(a)(1)

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<b>Proposer</b>	Task Force on the Episcopacy
<b>Topic</b>	Canons
<b>Endorsed by</b>	
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 108
<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.11.3(a)(1) is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 2 Sec. 3 (a) The Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop has been elected shall by its President, or by some person or persons specially appointed, immediately send to the Presiding Bishop and to the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses a certificate of the election by the Secretary of Convention of the Diocese, bearing a statement of receipt of:
- 3 (1) evidence of the Bishop-elect's having been duly ordered Deacon and Priest, *and if a Priest, is a Priest in good standing of this Church*;

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## EXPLANATION

The amendment clarifies that one of the qualifications for being elected a bishop of a diocese under this section that if the person elected is a priest (i.e., not previously elected a bishop), then he or she must be a priest in good standing of this Church.



**Resolution Number:** 2012-A031  
**Title:** Amend Canon III.11.4(a) [Of the Ordination of Bishops]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*Resolved,* That the following section of Title III, 11.4(a) be amended to read as follows:  
**Sec. 4.**

~~(a) If the date of the election of a Bishop occurs more than one hundred and twenty days before the meeting of the General Convention,~~ The Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop has been elected shall by its President, or by some person or persons specially appointed, immediately send to the Presiding Bishop and to the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses a certificate of the election by the Secretary of Convention of the Diocese, bearing a statement ~~(that)~~ *of receipt of:*

(1) evidence of the Bishop-elect's having been duly ordered Deacon and Priest, ~~as to the Bishop-elect's medical, psychological and psychiatric examination required in Sec. 3(b) of this Canon have been received and that~~

(2) *certificates from a licensed medical doctor and licensed psychiatrist, appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the approval of authorized by the Presiding Bishop, that they have thoroughly examined the Bishop-elect as to that person's medical, psychological and psychiatric condition and have not discovered any reason why the person would not be fit to undertake the work for which the person has been chosen. Forms and procedures agreed to by the Presiding Bishop and The Church Pension Fund shall be used for this purpose; and*

(3) *evidence that a testimonial in the following form was signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention must also be delivered in the following form:*

We, whose names are hereunder written, fully sensible of 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 they Reverend A.B. ought not to be ordained to that Holy Office. We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we believe the Reverend A.B. to have been duly and lawfully elected and to be of such sufficiency in learning, of such soundness in the Faith, and of such godly character as to be able to exercise the Office of a Bishop to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church, and to be a wholesome example to the flock of Christ.

(Date) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

The Presiding Bishop, without delay, shall notify every Bishop of this Church exercising jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop's receipt of the certificates mentioned in this Section and request a statement of consent or withholding of consent. Each Standing Committee, in not more than one hundred and twenty days after the sending by the electing body of the certificate of the election, shall respond by sending the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected either the testimonial of consent in the form set out in paragraph (b) of this Section or written notice of its refusal to give consent. If a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses consents to the ordination of the Bishop-elect, the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected shall then forward

**the evidence of the consent, with the other necessary *certificates mentioned required in this Section* (documents described in Sec. 3(a) of this Canon), to the Presiding Bishop. If the Presiding Bishop receives sufficient statements to indicate a majority of those Bishops consents to the ordination, the Presiding Bishop shall, without delay, notify the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected and the Bishop-elect of the consent.**

**Citation:** General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 279-281.