

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A159
TITLE: Amend Canon III.11.3(a) (third paragraph) and III.11.4
PROPOSER: Task Force on the Episcopacy
TOPIC: Canons

Directly Related: (Attached)

2012-C015 On the Topic of the Episcopal Election Process (Rejected)
2012-D048 Amend Title III Canons
1997-A011 Amend Canon III.22.4 [Date of an Episcopal Election and General Convention]

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

1997-A012 Amend Canon III.22.6 [Consents to an Episcopal Election]

Supplemental Documents: (Linked)

(*Blue Book*) Report to General Convention, [Task Force on the Episcopacy](#), see pages 754-755.

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.

A159 Amend Canon III.11.3(a) (third paragraph) and III.11.4

Proposer	Task Force on the Episcopacy
Topic	Canons
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 109-110
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.11.3(a) (third paragraph) and Canon III.11.4 are hereby amended to read as follows:
 - 2 Sec. 3 (a) (third paragraph)
 - 3 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 *to be submitted to the Presiding Bishop within not more than sixty days*. Each Standing Committee, in not more than ~~one hundred and twenty~~ *sixty* 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 required in this Section (documents described in Sec. 3(a)(2) of this Canon), to the Presiding Bishop. If the Presiding Bishop receives sufficient statements to indicate a majority of ~~those~~ *the Bishops exercising jurisdiction* consent 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.
 - 4 Sec. 4 In case a majority of all the Standing Committees of the Dioceses do not consent to the ordination of the Bishop-elect within ~~one hundred and twenty~~ *sixty* days from the date of the notification of the election by the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop was elected, or in case a majority of all the Bishops exercising jurisdiction do not consent within ~~one hundred and twenty~~ *sixty* days from the date of notification to them by the Presiding Bishop of the election, the Presiding Bishop shall declare the election null and void and shall give notice to the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop was elected and to the Bishop-elect. The Convention of the Diocese may then proceed to a new election.
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EXPLANATION

The amendments shorten the period for obtaining consents to the ordination of a bishop-elect from 120 days to 60 days.



Resolution Number: 2012-C015
Title: On the Topic of the Episcopal Election Process
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That Canon III.11.4(a) is hereby amended to read:
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 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 a testimonial 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 the 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 documents described in Sec. 3(a) of this Canon, to the Presiding Bishop.~~ *No later than two days after the final date such responses are due, the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop is elected shall forward to the Presiding Bishop all testimonials and written notices received from the various Standing Committees, whether a majority consents or not; and if a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses consents to the ordination of the Bishop-elect, the Standing Committee shall also forward to the Presiding Bishop the other necessary documents described in Sec. 3(a) of this Canon. No later than thirty days after responses are due, the Presiding Bishop shall make public the action taken by each Bishop and Standing Committee in response to the notification of election.* If the Presiding Bishop receives sufficient statements to indicate a majority of ~~those~~ *those* Bishopseconsents and Standing Committees consent 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.



Resolution Number: 2012-D048
Title: Amend Title III Canons as follows:
Canon III.11.3 [Of the Ordination of Bishops]
Canon III.11.4(a) [Documents to Be Transmitted]
Canon III.11.9(b)-(c) [Objections to the Election Process]
Canon III.11.10(c) [Election of Missionary Bishops]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

[Resolved, that Canons III.11.3 and III.11.4 be amended to read as follows:]

Canon III.11.3

Sec. 3.

~~(a) When a Diocese desires the ordination of a Bishop-elect, if the date of the election occurs within one hundred twenty days before a meeting of the General Convention, the Standing Committee of the Diocese shall, by its President, or by some person or persons specially appointed, forward to the Secretary of the House of Deputies evidence of the election of the Bishop-elect by the Convention of the Diocese, together with evidence that the Bishop-elect has been duly ordered Deacon and Priest, evidence of acceptance of election, and a testimonial signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention, and a summary of biographical information relating to the Bishop-elect; in the following words:~~

~~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 the 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 Secretary of the Convention shall certify upon this testimonial that it has been signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention.~~

~~(b) The Standing Committee shall also forward to the Secretary of the General Convention, with the testimonial and other documents, certificates from a licensed medical doctor and licensed psychiatrist, appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the approval of 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.~~

~~(c) The Secretary of the House of Deputies shall present the testimonials to the House, and if the House consents to the ordination of the Bishop-elect, notice of its consent, certified by the President and the Secretary of the House, together with the testimonials, shall be sent to the House of Bishops.~~

~~(d) If a majority of the Bishops of this Church exercising jurisdiction consent to the ordination, the Presiding Bishop shall, without delay, notify the Standing Committee of the Diocese electing and the Bishop-elect of the consent.~~

Canon III.11.4(a)

Sec.43.

~~(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 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 a testimonial 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 the 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 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: Canons III.11.3 and 4 are excerpted from the Final Text of 2012-D045, which revised Canons in Title III.11.3-4 and III.11.9-10. See General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 725-728.



Resolution Number: 1997-A011
Title: Amend Canon III.22.4 [Date of an Episcopal Election and General Convention]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That Canon III.22.4.(a) is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4(a) If the date of the election of a Bishop occurs more than ~~three months~~ 120 days before the meeting of the General Convention, the Standing Committee of the Diocese electing 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 evidence of the Bishop-elect's having been duly ordered Deacon and Priest and the certificates as to the Bishop-elect's medical, psychological and psychiatric examination required in Sec. 3(b) of this Canon have been received and that a testimonial in the form set out in Sec. 3(a) of this Canon has been signed by a constitutional majority of the Convention. *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 120 days after the sending by the electing Diocese of the certificate of the election, shall respond by sending the Standing Committee of the Diocese electing 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 electing shall then forward the evidence of the consent, with the other necessary documents described in Sec. 3(a) and (b) of this Canon, to the Presiding Bishop, who shall immediately communicate them to every Bishop of this Church exercising jurisdiction. 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 electing and the Bishop-elect of the consent.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), pp. 571-572.