

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A166
TITLE: Amend Canon III.12.4(c) and add Canon III.12.4(d)
PROPOSER: Task Force on the Episcopacy
TOPIC: Canons

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

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 758-759.

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.

A166 Amend Canon III.12.4(c) and add Canon III.12.4(d)

Proposer	Task Force on the Episcopacy
Topic	Canons
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 116
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.12.4(c) is hereby amended to read as follows and Canon III.12.4(d) is added to read as follows:
- 2 Section 4. Residency; *Vacancy in the Episcopate*
- 3 (c) A Bishop Diocesan, whenever leaving the Diocese for six consecutive months *or more*, shall authorize in writing, under hand and seal, the Bishop Coadjutor, the Bishop Suffragan if the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese so provide, or, should there be none, the Standing Committee of the Diocese, to act as the Ecclesiastical Authority thereof during the absence. The Bishop Coadjutor, or the Bishop Suffragan if the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese so provide, or, should there be none, the Standing Committee may at any time ~~become~~ *serve* as the Ecclesiastical Authority upon the written request of the Bishop and continue to act as such until the request is revoked by the Bishop Diocesan in writing.
- 4 (d) *A vacancy in the episcopate shall be deemed to exist on the occurrence of any of the following: (i) the death, resignation, deposition or removal of the Bishop exercising jurisdiction, or (ii) the declaration by the Presiding Bishop or by resolution of the Standing Committee of the Diocese that the Bishop has been declared of unsound mind by an order of court or certified by at least two licensed medical doctors, psychologists or psychiatrists who have examined the case.*

EXPLANATION

The amendment clarifies when a vacancy in the episcopate occurs.