

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A171
TITLE: Amend Canon III.13
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 763-764.

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.

A171 Amend Canon III.13

Proposer	Task Force on the Episcopacy
Topic	Canons
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 125
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.13 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 2 CANON 13: Of Dioceses without Bishops
- 3 Sec. 1(a). *Upon the death, resignation, deposition, or removal of a Bishop Diocesan, a Bishop Suffragan or Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese may serve as the Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore in accordance with Article II of the Constitution and the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. If a Bishop Suffragan or Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese is not serving as its Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore, a A-Diocese without a Bishop Diocesan may, by an act of its Convention, and in consultation with the Presiding Bishop, be placed under the provisional charge and authority of a Bishop of this Church of another Diocese or of a resigned Bishop of this Church, who shall by that act be authorized to serve as Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore and to exercise jurisdiction and carry out all the duties and offices of the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese until a Bishop Diocesan is elected and ordained for that Diocese or until the act of the Convention is revoked.*
- 4 ~~Sec. 3.~~ (b) A Diocese, while under the ~~provisional~~ charge of a Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore, shall not invite any other Bishop to visit and exercise episcopal acts or authority without the consent of the Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore ~~in charge~~.
- 5 Sec. 2. Any Bishop may, on the invitation of the Convention or of the Standing Committee of any Diocese where there is no Bishop, visit and exercise episcopal offices, *but shall not exercise jurisdiction*, in that Diocese or any part of it *as a Bishop Provisional for the Diocese*. This invitation ~~may~~ *shall* include a letter of agreement, shall be for a stated period and may be revoked at any time. *A Diocese may have more than one Bishop Provisional serving the Diocese, and in such case the respective duties and responsibilities of the Bishops Provisional shall be set forth in their letters of agreement.*

EXPLANATION

The amendment to Section 1 allows a diocese to have its Bishop Suffragan, Bishop Coadjutor or another Bishop serve as Bishop Diocesan Pro Tempore and exercise jurisdiction if the Bishop Diocesan dies or resigns. Some dioceses have had the Suffragan or other Bishop act in this capacity

and this amendment provides a Canonical process for these options. Current Section 3 is moved to become Section 1(b), as amended. The amendment to Section 2 provides for a Bishop Provisional to serve for a stated period of time pursuant to a letter of agreement without exercising jurisdiction. Dioceses, especially ones covering a large geographic area, have the option to call more than one Bishop Provisional to ensure that the entire diocese is properly covered or to have one Bishop Provisional cover certain duties with another covers other duties.