

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-A180  
**TITLE:** Amend Article V, Section 1 - Admission of a diocese First reading  
**PROPOSER:** Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons  
**TOPIC:** Constitution

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

None

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

None

*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.*

# A180 Amend Article V, Section 1 - Admission of a diocese First reading

<b>Proposer</b>	Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons
<b>Endorsed by</b>	
<b>Sponsored by</b>	
<b>Page numbers</b>	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 5
<b>HiA / Leg. Cttee</b>	HD / 04 - Governance and Structure
<b>Current Status</b>	Pre-Filed Resolution
<b>Version</b>	Original (as filed)
<b>Review Status</b>	Not yet reviewed

## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That Article V, Section 1, of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church, be amended to read as follows:
- 2 Sec. 1. A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the General Convention and under such conditions as the General Convention shall prescribe by General Canon or Canons, (1) by the division of an existing Diocese; (2) by the junction of two or more Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses; (3) by the erection into a Diocese of an unorganized area evangelized as provided in Article VI; or (4) *by the admission of an extra-provincial Diocese or part thereof of the Anglican Communion or of a Diocese or Dioceses or part of one or more Dioceses of an existing Province of the Anglican Communion.* The proceedings shall originate in a Convocation of the Clergy and Laity of the unorganized area called by the Bishop for that purpose; or, with the approval of the Bishop, in the Convention of the Diocese to be divided; or (when it is proposed to form a new Diocese by the junction of two or more existing Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses) by mutual agreement of the Conventions of the Dioceses concerned, with the approval of the Bishop of each Diocese; or (in the case of the admission of a Diocese of the Anglican Communion) in the Convention of such Diocese, provided that any authorization that may be required by the Anglican Communion be obtained prior to admission. In case the Episcopate of a Diocese be vacant, no proceedings toward its division shall be taken until the vacancy is filled. After consent of the General Convention, when a certified copy of the duly adopted Constitution of the new Diocese, including an unqualified accession to the Constitution and Canons of this Church, shall have been filed with the Secretary of the General Convention and approved by the Executive Council of this Church, such new Diocese shall thereupon be in union with the General Convention.

## EXPLANATION

The Constitution does not clearly allow for the creation of a diocese by admission of an extra-provincial Diocese of the Anglican Communion such as The Episcopal Church of Cuba (Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba) or of a diocese of another Province of the Anglican Communion or even another Church (Province) of the Communion. While some have argued that admission of such a diocese or dioceses is within the authority of General Convention even in the absence of a Constitutional or

canonical provision on the subject, since the Constitution does deal with how new dioceses are created, it would be in the interests of good order and predictability to have such explicit authority.