

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

**RESOLUTION NO.:** 2018-D083

**TITLE:** Amend Canon III.10.2

**PROPOSER:** Canon Paul Ambos

**TOPIC:** Canons

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**Directly Related:** (Attached)

2006-A082 Amend Canons in Title III [Ministry]

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

2003-A141 Admit the Diocese of Puerto Rico to the Episcopal Church

2003-A142 Admit the Diocese of Venezuela to the Episcopal Church

1994-A024 Amend Canon III.22-29 [Of the Ordination and Consecration of Bishops]

*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.*

# D083 Amend Canon III.10.2

Proposer	Canon Paul Ambos
Endorsed by	Duncan, Canon Noreen; Snow, Ms. D. Rebecca
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. 102
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
Current Status	Pre-Filed Resolution
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

## RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1    *Resolved*, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church amend Canon III.10.2 by adding a new subsection (d) to read as follows:
- 2    *(d) Bishops of Anglican Communion Dioceses Admitted into Union with the General Convention*
  - 3       *(1) Upon the admission of a Diocese of the Anglican Communion into union with the General Convention, any existing Bishops of the Diocese may be received into The Episcopal Church pursuant to the provisions of this subsection. The Standing Committee of the Diocese shall by its President, or by some other person or persons specially appointed, immediately send to the Presiding Bishop and to the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses a certificate as to each such Bishop by the Secretary of Convention of the Diocese bearing a certificate of receipt of:*
    - 4           *(i) evidence of the Bishop's having been duly ordered Deacon, Priest, and Bishop, and of the election or appointment to office of Bishop Diocesan or other episcopal office;*
    - 5           *(ii) evidence of moral and godly character and of having met theological requirements of the Diocese;*
    - 6           *(iii) the written declaration required by Article VIII of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church; and*
    - 7           *(iv) certificates from a licensed medical doctor, and licensed psychologist and substance abuse professional, authorized by the Presiding Bishop, that they have thoroughly examined the Bishop as to that person's medical, psychological and psychiatric condition and for substance, chemical and alcohol use and abuse 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.*
  - 8       *(2) The Presiding Bishop, without delay, shall notify every Bishop of this Church*

*exercising jurisdiction of the Presiding Bishop's receipt of the certificate described in Canon III.10(d)(1) and request a statement of consent or withholding of consent. Each Standing Committee, within sixty days after the sending of such certificate, shall respond by sending the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which reception of the Bishop is requested either the testimonial of consent in the form set out in Canon III.10(d)(3) or written notice of its refusal to give consent. If a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses consents to the reception of the Bishop, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of the Bishop seeking reception shall then forward the evidence of the consents to the Presiding Bishop. If the Presiding Bishop receives sufficient statements to indicate that a majority of those Bishops and a majority of the Standing Committees consent to the reception, the Presiding Bishop shall, without delay, notify the Standing Committee of the Diocese for the Bishop seeking reception and such Bishop of the consent, and*

9           (3) *Evidence of the consent of each Standing Committee shall be a testimonial in the following words, signed by a majority of all the members of the Committee:*

10          *We, being a majority of all the members of the Standing Committee of \_\_\_\_\_, and having been duly convened at \_\_\_\_\_, fully sensible 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 Right Reverend A.B. ought not to be received into The Episcopal Church. In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hands this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ in the year of our Lord \_\_\_\_\_.*

11          *(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_*

12          (4) *In case a majority of all the Standing Committees of the Dioceses do not consent to the reception of the Bishop within sixty days from the date of the notification by the Standing Committee of the Diocese for which the Bishop seeks reception, or in case a majority of all the Bishops exercising jurisdiction do not consent within sixty days from the date of notification to them by the Presiding Bishop, the Presiding Bishop shall give notice to the Standing Committee of the Diocese for the Bishop seeking reception and such Bishop. The Convention of the Diocese may then proceed to a new election.*

13          (5) *Following reception and continuing for three years following reception, newly received Bishops shall pursue the process of formation authorized by the House of Bishops. This process of formation shall provide a mentor for each newly received Bishop.*

14          (6) *The provisions of Canon III.10.2(a) & (c) shall not apply to Bishops.*

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#### **EXPLANATION**

As recognized by the Report to this General Convention by the Standing Commission on Structure,

Governance, Constitution & Canons (Blue Book p. 458), Canon II.10 does not currently address "a process of reception for bishops into The Episcopal Church". This proposal supplies a process for receiving bishops in the limited case of a Diocese of the Anglican Communion becoming received into union with the General Convention as a Diocese of The Episcopal Church. Having such a process was prompted by the request of the Extra-Provincial Anglican Communion Diocese of La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba to be reunited with The Episcopal Church. If the Diocese of Cuba becomes a TEC Diocese, the question arises as to how to deal with its existing Bishop, or the Bishop or Bishops of any future Anglican Communion Diocese that may enter The Episcopal Church.

All Dioceses of the Anglican Communion are already in full communion with TEC, which means that we recognize each others' orders. Consequently, receiving clergy from such Dioceses should be a simpler process than it would be with churches not in full communion.

The General Convention in 2003 admitted Dioceses of Puerto Rico and of Venezuela. Each was then an Extra-Provincial Diocese of the Anglican Communion, although Puerto Rico had previously been a TEC Missionary District. The 2003 Convention admitted Puerto Rico effective upon approval by both Houses of the admitting resolution; Venezuela's admission was by resolution effective only after certification to Executive Council of completion of certain requirements. In both cases, the existing Bishops were deemed admitted as Bishops of The Episcopal Church along with their Dioceses' admissions.

In 2003, along with the House of Bishops, the House of Deputies had the power to consent to episcopal elections; today that power of consent has been transferred to the Standing Committees of TEC Dioceses. Consequently, it is appropriate that an approval of reception of a fellow Bishop of the Anglican Communion include a process for soliciting the consent of such Standing Committees.

When an existing Anglican Communion Bishop's Diocese is brought into The Episcopal Church, it should not be necessary to require him or her to undergo a further election process. Such Bishops have already been duly elected or appointed under the provisions of their Dioceses.

The present proposal incorporates the procedures of existing Canon III.11, modifying them to provide for consent to reception rather than consent to ordination. It also incorporates the provisions of Canon III.12.1 for a formation process for such Bishops in their new home in The Episcopal Church.



**Resolution Number:** 2006-A082  
**Title:** Amend Canons in Title III [Ministry]  
**Legislative Action Taken:** Concurred as Amended  
**Final Text:**

*[Resolved, that Canon III.10.2 be amended to read as follows:]*

**CANON 10: Of Reception of Clergy from other Churches**

**Sec. 2. Clergy Ordained by Bishops of Churches in Communion with This Church**

**(a)**

**(1) A Member of the Clergy, ordained by a Bishop of another Church in communion with this Church, or by a Bishop consecrated for a foreign land by Bishops of this Church under Article III of the Constitution, shall, before being permitted to officiate in any Congregation of this Church, exhibit to the Member of the Clergy in charge, or, if there be no Member of the Clergy in charge, to the Vestry thereof, a certificate of recent date, signed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese that the person's letters of Holy Orders and other credentials are valid and authentic, and given by a Bishop in communion with this Church, and whose authority is acknowledged by this Church; and also that the person has exhibited to the Ecclesiastical Authority satisfactory evidence of (i) moral and godly character and of (ii) theological qualifications.**

**(2) Before being permitted to take charge of any Congregation, or being received into any Diocese of this Church as a Member of its Clergy, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall receive Letters Dimissory or equivalent credentials under the hand and seal of the Bishop with whose Diocese the person has been last connected, which letters or credentials shall be delivered within six months from the date thereof. Before receiving the Member of the Clergy the Bishop shall require a promise in writing to submit in all things to the Discipline of this Church, without recourse to any foreign jurisdiction, civil or ecclesiastical; and shall further require the person to subscribe and make in the Bishop's presence, and in the presence of two or more Presbyters, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution. The Bishop and at least one Presbyter shall examine the person as to knowledge of the history of this Church, its worship and government. The Bishop also being satisfied of the person's theological qualifications, may then receive the person into the Diocese as a Member of the Clergy of this Church.**

**(3) The provisions of this Section shall be fully applicable to all Members of the Clergy identified in of churches in the historic Episcopal succession and with whom it has entered into covenant agreements including:**

- (i) those duly constituted Dioceses, Provinces, and regional Churches in communion with the See of Canterbury,
  - (ii) the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht,
  - (iii) the Philippine Independent Church, and
  - (iv) the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar
  - (v) the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
- (b) A Member of the Clergy who is a Deacon shall not be ordered Priest until having resided within the jurisdiction of this Church at least one year and all the requirements for ordination to the Priesthood as required by Canon III.8 have been satisfied.
- (c) Following reception each clergy person shall be assigned a mentor Priest by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry. The mentor and clergy person shall meet regularly to provide the clergy person an opportunity for guidance, information, and a sustained dialogue about ministry in The Episcopal Church.

**Citation:** Canon III.10.2 is excerpted from the Final Text of 2006-A082, which revised Canons in Title III. General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church*, Columbus, 2006 (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 583-630.