

*The 184th Convention of the
Diocese of Michigan*

The Report of the
Committee on
Constitution and
Canons

1 Changes to the Canons For Election of a Bishop

2
3 Proposed Change #1

4
5 Existing Canon

6
7 1.3.2.3 Nominations and Publication of Report of Nominations. After due
8 consideration if the Committee deems at least two (2) of the persons considered
9 to be qualified for the Episcopal office, it shall select not fewer than two (2) or
10 more than five (5) of such persons, each of whom has consented to be nominated,
11 as nominees for such office. The Committee shall prepare a written report to the
12 Members of Convention giving the names of the nominees, together with a brief
13 biographical sketch of each. The Secretary of Convention shall provide the report
14 to Members of Convention as soon as it is prepared. If any nominee withdraws
15 from consideration prior to the Convention, the Committee may substitute the
16 name of another person previously considered by the Committee and deemed
17 qualified and who has consented to be nominated; and such a substitution shall
18 constitute nomination of that person.

19
20 Proposed Change (Additions in bold/underlined; Deletions in strikeout)

21
22 1.3.2.3 Nominations and Publication of Report of Nominations. After due
23 consideration if the Committee **for the Nomination of a Bishop** deems at least
24 two (2) of the persons considered to be qualified for the Episcopal office, it shall
25 select not fewer than two (2) or more than five (5) of such persons, each of whom
26 has consented to be nominated, as nominees for such office. The Committee shall
27 prepare a written report to the ~~Members of Convention~~ **Standing Committee**,
28 giving the names of the nominees, together with a brief biographical sketch of
29 each. **After approval of the names, the Standing Committee shall publicize**
30 **the names of the nominees and describe and open the process for**
31 **nominations by petition**. ~~The Secretary of Convention shall provide the report to~~
32 ~~Members of Convention as soon as it is prepared.~~ If any nominee withdraws from
33 consideration prior to the Convention, the Committee **for the Nomination of a**
34 **Bishop, with the approval of the Standing Committee**, may substitute the
35 name of another person previously considered by the Committee and deemed
36 qualified and who has consented to be nominated; and such a substitution shall
37 constitute nomination of that person.

41 **Rationale**

42

43 *This change makes clear that:*

44 *1) It is the Committee for the Nomination of a Bishop that shall nominate*
45 *candidates and prepare a report;*

46 *2) This change aligns the nomination process similar to that a rector search*
47 *process, where the Search Committee is charged with coming up with the*
48 *nominees, but the governing body (the Vestry in a rector search and Standing*
49 *Committee in the case of a bishop search) must approve; and,*

50 *3) Regarding the approval of substitute nominees and publicizing the names of*
51 *the nominees, it is more practical to have this done by the Standing Committee,*
52 *which meets regularly, and to have the Standing Committee publicize the names*
53 *of the nominees at the same time as it describes and opens the petition process.*

54

55 Proposed Change #2

56

57 **Existing Canon**

58

59 1.3.2.4 Nominations by Petition. Following the report of the Committee to the
60 Members of Convention, Nominations may be made by petition, which must be
61 presented to the President of the Standing Committee at least seventy (70) days
62 before the date set for the Convention. Such nominations must be signed by at
63 least eight (8) lay delegates and/or clergy (electors) of the Convention and
64 accompanied by a letter of assent from the person so nominated.

65

66 (a) Background and other checks as performed on Committee Nominees
67 shall be ordered for each of the persons nominated by petition.

68 (b) The President of the Standing Committee shall forward to the Secretary
69 of Convention not less than thirty-five (35) days before the date set for the
70 Convention, the names of the lawful candidates nominated by petition.

71 (c) The entire list of persons nominated, whether by the Committee or by
72 petition, shall be printed and mailed by the Secretary of the Convention to
73 each of the lay delegates and clergy of the Convention not later than thirty
74 (30) days before the date set for the Convention.

75 (d) Committee shall arrange for appropriate opportunities for all persons
76 nominated, whether by the Committee or by petition, and the Members of
77 Convention to become mutually acquainted.

78

79

80 (e) At a Convention, names of all persons nominated shall be presented by
81 the Secretary of the Convention in an order determined by lot. For each
82 such nominee there shall be a nominating speech of not more than five
83 minutes, a seconding speech of not more than five minutes and there may
84 be one only further seconding speech of not more than three minutes.

85
86 **Proposed Change (Additions in bold/underlined; Deletions in strikeout)**

87
88 1.3.2.4 Nominations by Petition. Following the dissemination **of the names of**
89 **the nominees** by the Standing Committee, nominations may be made by petition,
90 which must be presented to the President of the Standing Committee at least
91 seventy (70) days before the date set for the Convention. Such nominations must
92 be signed by at least eight (8) lay delegates and/or clergy (electors) of the
93 Convention and accompanied by a letter of assent from the person so nominated.

- 94
95 (a) Background and other checks as performed on the Committee
96 Nominees shall be ordered for each of the persons nominated by
97 petition.
- 98 (b) ~~The President of the~~ **The** Standing Committee shall ~~forward to the~~
99 ~~Secretary of Convention~~ **publicize**, not less than thirty-five (35) days
100 before the date set for the Convention, the names of the lawful
101 candidates nominated by petition.
- 102 (c) The entire list of persons nominated, whether by the Committee **for the**
103 **Nomination of a Bishop** or by petition, shall be printed and mailed by
104 the Secretary of Convention to each of the lay delegates and clergy of
105 the Convention not later than thirty (30) days before the date set for the
106 Convention.
- 107 (d) **The Standing** Committee shall ~~arrange for~~ **ensure that there are**
108 appropriate opportunities for all persons nominated, whether by ~~the~~
109 Committee or by petition, and the Members of Convention to become
110 mutually acquainted.
- 111 (e) ~~At a Convention, names of all persons nominated shall be presented by~~
112 ~~the Secretary of the Convention in an order determined by lot. For each~~
113 ~~such nominee there shall be a nominating speech of not more than five~~
114 ~~minutes, a seconding speech of not more than five minutes and there~~
115 ~~may be one only further seconding speech of not more than three~~
116 ~~minutes.~~

119 **Rationale**

120

121 *Regarding the change in subparagraph (b), it is in keeping with the proposed*
122 *change to 1.3.2.3. to make the Standing Committee responsible for publicizing*
123 *the list of candidates nominated by petition.*

124

125 *The change in subparagraph (c) is to clarify that the Committee for the*
126 *Nomination of a Bishop is being referenced (not the Standing Committee).*

127

128 *The change in subparagraph (d) is to ensure that the nominees (whether*
129 *nominated by the Committee for the Nomination of a Bishop or nominated by*
130 *petition) and Members of Convention have a chance to become mutually*
131 *acquainted. It is the responsibility of the Standing Committee that this mutual*
132 *acquaintance process takes place. In practice, the logistics for this process – as*
133 *in the case in many other dioceses – has been delegated to the Transitions*
134 *Committee. The Transitions Committee is created by the Standing Committee*
135 *and charged with overseeing numerous planning and logistical issues in this time*
136 *of episcopal transition. One of the tasks of this committee is planning multiple*
137 *“walkabouts” throughout the diocese to all nominees and Members of*
138 *Convention to get acquainted.*

139

140 *Subparagraph (e) is deleted. Having nominating and seconding speeches was*
141 *appropriate when nominations from the floor were allowed; however, with no*
142 *nominations from the floor, and with Members of the Convention having ample*
143 *opportunity to meet the nominees during mutual acquaintance process (e.g.*
144 *walkabouts held in multiple locations in the diocese), these speeches are no*
145 *longer needed or appropriate. Further, they would create an uneven playing*
146 *field among nominees present at the Electing Convention and those not present.*

147

148

149 Proposed Change #3

150

151 **Existing Canon**

152

153

154 1.3.2.5 Introduction of Nominees. The Committee shall coordinate and arrange
155 public receptions or meetings for persons nominated by the Committee prior to
156 the Convention so that the nominees and Members of Convention may become
157 mutually acquainted.

158

159 **Proposed Change (Additions in bold/underlined; Deletions in strikeout)**

160

161 ~~1.3.2.5 Introduction of Nominees. The Committee shall coordinate and arrange~~
162 ~~public receptions or meetings for persons nominated by the Committee prior to~~
163 ~~the Convention so that the nominees and Members of Convention may become~~
164 ~~mutually acquainted.~~

165

166 **Rationale**

167

168 *This is redundant with 1.3.2.4(d), and there it is recommended that it be deleted.*

169

170

171 Proposed Change #4

172

173 **Existing Canon**

174

175 1.3.2.6 Action on Report at Convention. The report of the Committee shall be
176 considered at a Convention held not less than sixty (60) or more than ninety (90)
177 days following issuance of the report, on a date set by the Ecclesiastical
178 Authority. Following the seating of Members of Convention and establishment of
179 the rules of the Convention, the Committee's Report shall be presented and
180 constitute a nomination of each of the nominees. For each of the persons
181 nominated, there shall be one seconding speech of not more than five minutes
182 and there may be one further seconding speech of not more than three minutes.

183

184 **Proposed Change (Additions in bold/underlined; Deletions in strikeout)**

185

186 ~~1.3.2.5 Action on Report~~ **Nominees at Convention.** ~~The report of the Committee~~
187 **entire list of persons nominated, whether by the Committee or by petition,**
188 shall be considered at a Convention held not less than sixty (60) or more than
189 ninety (90) days following issuance of the report, **the publication of the names**
190 **of nominees by the Standing Committee,** on a date set by the Ecclesiastical
191 Authority. Following the seating of Members of Convention and establishment of
192 the rules of the Convention, ~~the Committee's Report~~ **the entire list of persons**
193 **nominated, whether by the Committee or by petition,** shall be presented and
194 constitute a nomination of each of the nominees. ~~For each of the persons~~
195 ~~nominated, there shall be one seconding speech of not more than five minutes~~
196 ~~and there may be one further seconding speech of not more than three minutes.~~

197

198

199 **Rationale**

200

201 *This change is intended to make clear that the timing of the convention is derived*
202 *based on the Standing Committee’s publication of the nominees and to avoid*
203 *confusion with the “report” issued by the Committee for the Nomination of a*
204 *Bishop, and referenced in 1.3.2.3.*

205

206 Proposed Change #5

207

208 **Existing Canon**

209

210 1.3.2.7 Election. Election of the Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan
211 shall be made in the following manner: The clergy and layperson Members of
212 Convention shall vote separately, by orders. If two-thirds of all clergy Members
213 are present and two-thirds of all recognized congregations admitted to voting
214 status are represented by a layperson Member who is present, a majority of votes
215 of each order on the same ballot shall be necessary to elect. If such presence and
216 representation described in the preceding sentence does not exist, as long as a
217 quorum remains constituted, then two-thirds of the votes of each order present on
218 the same ballot shall be necessary to elect. If no one is elected after twelve
219 ballots, the next order of business of the Convention shall be to vote on a motion
220 to adjourn sine die; and, if adopted, the Convention shall be adjourned. In this
221 event, the Committee shall reopen the nomination process, and the procedures
222 required under these Canons shall be followed.

223

224 At least 45 days prior to the election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop
225 Suffragan, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint an Elections Commission.
226 The Elections Commission shall be responsible for the process for election and
227 the tabulation and reporting of the results of elections. The Elections Commission
228 shall consist of three members of the clergy and two laypersons. The
229 parliamentarian will serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the committee.
230 After the ballots have been counted and the election completed, the Elections
231 Commission shall prepare a written certificate to be signed by a majority of the
232 Commission, indicating the number of ballots cast, the number disqualified, and
233 the results of the election. The name of the person elected shall be announced by
234 the Secretary of the Convention, and entered in the minutes of the Convention

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238

239 **Proposed Change (Additions in bold/underlined; Deletions in strikeout)**
240

241 1.3.2.6 Election. Election of the Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan
242 shall be made in the following manner: The clergy and layperson Members of
243 Convention shall vote separately, by orders. **A majority of votes of each order**
244 **on the same ballot shall be necessary to elect.** ~~If two-thirds of all clergy~~
245 ~~Members are present and two-thirds of all recognized congregations admitted to~~
246 ~~voting status are represented by a layperson Member who is present, a majority~~
247 ~~of votes of each order on the same ballot shall be necessary to elect. If such~~
248 ~~presence and representation described in the preceding sentence does not exist, as~~
249 ~~long as a quorum remains constituted, then two-thirds of the votes of each order~~
250 ~~present on the same ballot shall be necessary to elect. If no one is elected after~~
251 ~~twelve ballots, the next order of business of the Convention shall be to vote on a~~
252 ~~motion to adjourn sine die; and, if adopted, the Convention shall be adjourned. In~~
253 ~~this event, the Committee shall reopen the nomination process, and the~~
254 ~~procedures required under these Canons shall be followed.~~

255
256 At least 45 days prior to the election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop
257 Suffragan, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint an Elections Commission.
258 The Elections Commission shall be responsible for the process for election and
259 the tabulation and reporting of the results of elections. The Elections Commission
260 shall consist of three members of the clergy and two laypersons. The
261 parliamentarian will serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the committee.
262 After the ballots have been counted and the election completed, the Elections
263 Commission shall prepare a written certificate to be signed by a majority of the
264 Commission, indicating the number of ballots cast, the number disqualified, and
265 the results of the election. The name of the person elected shall be announced by
266 the Secretary of the Convention, and entered in the minutes of the Convention

267
268 **Rationale**
269

270 *This change is strongly recommended by the Standing Committee and the*
271 *Committee on Constitution and Canons due to the demographics of our diocese.*
272 *A significant portion of our voting-eligible clergy is retired. It is reasonable that*
273 *based on and health and travel factors, a two-thirds threshold required for a*
274 *majority vote by order may not be met. This would then require as a diocese we*
275 *meet the exceedingly high threshold of a nominee obtaining two-thirds of the*
276 *votes of both orders to be elected. Such a high threshold would place an undue*
277 *burden on the election process.*
278

279 *This change also eliminates the mandate that next order of business of the*
280 *Convention shall be to vote on a motion to adjourn sine die if no one is elected*
281 *after twelve ballots. This change is recommended so as to not limit the*
282 *Convention's options.*

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285

286 Changes to the Canons Regarding the Secretary of Convention

287
288

289 Proposed Change #1

290
291 Existing Canon
292

293 1.1.5.1 Secretary of Convention. The duties of the Secretary of Convention shall
294 be as prescribed by these Canons, and shall include the giving of notices of
295 Convention in a timely manner, recording of the minutes of Convention and
296 publishing of a Journal of Convention; reporting and attesting to the acts of
297 Convention, receiving the credentials of lay delegates and preparing a roll of lay
298 delegates, providing to General Convention and to each congregation annually a
299 copy of the Journal of every meeting of Convention, giving notice to General
300 Convention of the election of Deputies to General Convention, providing notices
301 received from the Secretary of the House of Deputies of the General Convention
302 for submittal to Diocesan Conventions; and preserving the records of Convention
303 and the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and such other duties as are
304 provided for in these Canons or by action of Convention. The Secretary of
305 Convention, and all Assistant Secretaries, shall serve a maximum of five (5)
306 consecutive one-year terms. Expenses incurred by the Secretary in performing
307 official duties shall be paid as a diocesan expense.

308 Proposed Change (Additions in bold/underlined; Deletions in strikeout)

309
310 1.1.5.1 Secretary of Convention. The duties of the Secretary of Convention shall
311 be as prescribed by these Canons, and shall include the giving of notices of
312 Convention in a timely manner, recording of the minutes of Convention and
313 publishing of a Journal of Convention; reporting and attesting to the acts of
314 Convention, receiving the credentials of lay delegates and preparing a roll of lay

315 delegates, providing to General Convention and to each congregation annually a
316 copy of the Journal of every meeting of Convention, giving notice to General
317 Convention of the election of Deputies to General Convention, providing notices
318 received from the Secretary of the House of Deputies of the General Convention
319 for submittal to Diocesan Conventions; and preserving the records of Convention
320 and the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and such other duties as are
321 provided for in these Canons or by action of Convention. ~~The Secretary of~~
322 ~~Convention, and all Assistant Secretaries, shall serve a maximum of five (5)~~
323 ~~consecutive one-year terms.~~ Expenses incurred by the Secretary in performing
324 official duties shall be paid as a diocesan expense.

325 **Rationale**

326
327 *This change eliminates the limit on terms. This change will bring the canons in*
328 *conformity with the Constitution of the Diocese of Michigan, which does not*
329 *place a limit on the terms for the Officers of Convention.*
330

331
332 **Changes to the Canons Regarding the Treasurer of the Diocese**

333
334
335 Proposed Change #1

336
337 **Existing Canon**

338
339 2.3.2.3 Treasurer. At the first meeting of Diocesan Council following
340 adjournment of the Annual Convention, the Diocesan Council shall elect a
341 layperson to serve as Treasurer of the Diocese until the earlier of the next
342 organizational meeting of Diocesan Council or the election of a successor. No
343 Treasurer may serve for more than five consecutive one-year terms. The
344 Treasurer shall present a monthly financial report prepared by diocesan staff in
345 consultation with the Treasurer to the Diocesan Council. The Treasurer, assisted
346 by diocesan staff, shall present a written report of the financial affairs of the
347 Diocese annually to Convention. The Treasurer shall serve as Treasurer of the
348 Annual Convention and shall serve ex officio as a member of the Trustees.

349
350

351 **Proposed Change (Additions in bold/underlined; Deletions in strikeout)**

352

353 2.3.2.3 Treasurer. At the first meeting of Diocesan Council following
354 adjournment of the Annual Convention, the Diocesan Council shall elect a
355 layperson to serve as Treasurer of the Diocese until the earlier of the next
356 organizational meeting of Diocesan Council or the election of a successor. ~~No~~
357 ~~Treasurer may serve for more than five consecutive one-year terms.~~ The
358 Treasurer shall present a monthly financial report prepared by diocesan staff in
359 consultation with the Treasurer to the Diocesan Council. The Treasurer, assisted
360 by diocesan staff, shall present a written report of the financial affairs of the
361 Diocese annually to Convention. The Treasurer shall serve as Treasurer of the
362 Annual Convention and shall serve ex officio as a member of the Trustees.

363 **Rationale**

364

365 *This change eliminates the term limit on the Treasurer position, making it*
366 *consistent with the removal of term limits on the Secretary of Convention (which*
367 *is referenced above and needed to bring the canons into conformity with the*
368 *Constitution of the Diocese of Michigan).*

369

370 *****

The Committee on Constitution and Canons recommends that all of these
proposed changes be adopted.