

THE REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
CONSTITUTION &
CANONS

*The 186th
Convention of the
Diocese of Michigan
October 23/24, 2020*

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND CANONS OF
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN**

This document serves as notice of the proposed amendments to be considered by the clergy and lay delegates to the 186th Convention of the Diocese of Michigan

**Proposed Changes to the Constitution
Second Reading**

1 **Changes to the Constitution regarding Special Elections and Members of Conventions**

2

3 Proposed Change 1#

4 **Existing Article**

5

ARTICLE IV

6

Conventions

7

8 **Annual Convention.** There shall be a Convention of this Diocese in each year (the “Annual
9 Convention”), held at such time and place within this Diocese as shall have been
10 determined by the preceding Annual Convention. If the preceding Annual Convention has
11 not made such a determination, or if the Ecclesiastical Authority, acting with the advice and
12 consent of the Diocesan Council, determines that there is sufficient cause to change the time
13 or place determined by the preceding Annual Convention, the Annual Convention shall be
14 held at the time and place determined by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

15

16 **Special Convention.**

17 (a) The Ecclesiastical Authority may call a special Convention at such place within this
18 Diocese and time, and for such purpose, as is provided in written notice given as provided
19 by Canon not less than 30 days prior to such Convention. The business of a special
20 Convention shall be limited to those matters set forth in the notice of that Convention.

21

22 (b) A special Convention shall be called by the Ecclesiastical Authority if the call for a
23 special Convention is made by written petition to the Ecclesiastical Authority, with a copy
24 to the Standing Committee, to convene a special Convention signed by (i) not less than
25 fifteen (15) members of the clergy canonically and actually resident in this Diocese of not

26 less than ten (10) different parishes or missions, and (ii) vestries or Bishop's committees of
27 not less than ten (10) different parishes or missions, respectively, unless the Standing
28 Committee determines by majority vote that the subject of the petition is not canonically
29 permitted to come before Convention. In the case of a call for special Convention by
30 petition, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall convene a special Convention of the Diocese not
31 less than thirty (30) nor more than ninety (90) days after presentation of such petition, and
32 the business at such special Convention shall be limited to the matters set forth in the
33 petition.

34

35 **Proposed (additions in bold/underline)**

36

37 **Annual Convention.** There shall be a Convention of this Diocese in each year (the “Annual
38 Convention”), held at such time and place within this Diocese as shall have been
39 determined by the preceding Annual Convention. If the preceding Annual Convention has
40 not made such a determination, or if the Ecclesiastical Authority, acting with the advice and
41 consent of the Diocesan Council, determines that there is sufficient cause to change the time
42 or place determined by the preceding Annual Convention, the Annual Convention shall be
43 held at the time and place determined by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

44

45 **Special Convention.**

46 (a) The Ecclesiastical Authority may call a special Convention at such place within this
47 Diocese and time, and for such purpose, as is provided in written notice given as provided
48 by Canon not less than 30 days prior to such Convention. The business of a special
49 Convention shall be limited to those matters set forth in the notice of that Convention.

50

51 (b) A special Convention shall be called by the Ecclesiastical Authority if the call for a
52 special Convention is made by written petition to the Ecclesiastical Authority, with a copy
53 to the Standing Committee, to convene a special Convention signed by (i) not less than
54 fifteen (15) members of the clergy canonically and actually resident in this Diocese of not
55 less than ten (10) different **congregations** ~~parishes or missions~~, and (ii) **the governing**
56 **bodies** ~~vestries or Bishop's committees~~ of not less than ten (10) different
57 **congregations** ~~parishes or missions~~, respectively, unless the Standing Committee
58 determines by majority vote that the subject of the petition is not canonically permitted to
59 come before Convention. In the case of a call for special Convention by petition, the
60 Ecclesiastical Authority shall convene a special Convention of the Diocese not less than
61 thirty (30) nor more than ninety (90) days after presentation of such petition, and the
62 business at such special Convention shall be limited to the matters set forth in the petition.

63 **Rationale:** The change in lines 55 to 57 are to make the language of Constitution consistent with
64 the canons in referencing “congregations” rather than “parishes and missions.”

1 Article IV Proposed Change 2#

2 **Existing Article**

3 **Members of Convention.**

4 (a) The members (“Members”) of Convention with voice and vote shall be (i) the Bishop, (ii)
5 all other bishops, and other members of the clergy canonically and actually resident within
6 the Diocese and members of the clergy canonically serving a cure within this Diocese, and
7 (iii) three lay delegates from each congregation, whether parish or mission, in union with
8 Convention. The Canons shall provide for method of admitting parishes and missions into
9 union with Convention of this Diocese and for election of lay delegates. The lay delegates
10 serving as Members at the most recently adjourned Annual Convention shall serve as
11 delegates to any special Convention convened prior to an Annual Convention unless
12 replaced by action of the vestry or Bishop’s committee of a parish or mission, respectively,
13 which the lay delegates serve.

14

15 **Proposed (additions in bold/underline)**

16

17 **Members of Convention.**

18 (a) The members (“Members”) of Convention with voice and vote shall be (i) the Bishop, (ii)
19 all other bishops, and other members of the clergy canonically and actually resident within
20 the Diocese ~~and members of the clergy canonically serving a cure within this Diocese,~~ **(iii)**
21 **any cleric of a church with whom The Episcopal Church is in Full Communion and who is**
22 **serving a call in a congregation of this Diocese,** and ~~(iv)ii~~ three lay delegates from each
23 congregation, ~~whether parish or mission,~~ in union with Convention. The Canons shall
24 provide for method of admitting **congregations** ~~parishes and missions~~ into union with
25 Convention of this Diocese and for election of lay delegates. The lay delegates serving as
26 Members at the most recently adjourned Annual Convention shall serve as delegates to any
27 special Convention convened prior to an Annual Convention unless replaced by action of
28 the **governing body of the congregation** ~~vestry or Bishop’s committee of a parish or~~
29 ~~mission, respectively,~~ which the lay delegates serve.

30

31

32 **Rationale:** *This change is to:*

- 33 a) *(rows 20 – 22) clarify members of convention and allow clerics of churches with whom*
34 *the Episcopal Church is in Full Communion and is serving in one of our diocese (e.g.*
35 *our Lutherans sisters and brothers who are currently clergy serving congregations in*
36 *our diocese), and*
- 37 b) *(rows 23-29) align the language regarding references to congregations for consistency*
38 *with the canons.*