

5 September 2025

Report from the diocesan Constitution and Canons committee:

To recap from our May report:

*We have revised two items that were tabled in 2023. The first is Article 1 of the constitution, which is the statement of identity for the diocese. Rather than rewrite the description, we have stayed with the original, only deleting the reference to the See of Canterbury.

*We have revised the proposal to amend Canon 1, which apportions delegates to the diocesan convention. In 2023, we had proposed moving from a membership basis to an average Sunday attendance basis. This idea was well received in principle, but ended up drastically altering the number of delegates. We revised the formula to come out with about the same number of delegates overall. With the new formula, 40 congregations keep the same number of delegates, while 9 congregations will see an increase in delegates and 5 will see a decrease.

*We have also proposed a revision to Canon 10.4. Since the Executive Council has not been meeting on the months specified by the canon (January, March, May, September, November), we removed references to specific months, instead saying that the Executive Council shall meet at least three times a year, with the bishop scheduling those meetings. Canon 10.6 about the proposed budget is reworded to reflect the change. Instead of “September meeting,” it would be “pre-convention meeting.”

Updates since May:

*It has come to our attention that the apportionment scheme in Canon 1 is also mentioned in Article 2 of the Constitution. Since the constitutional change takes two conventions, that would be proposed first, with a canonical change to match on the second reading.

* There is an inconsistency in the canons related to how the Commission on Ministry is populated, so we need to harmonize them. Canon 44.6 says that the Bishop *appoints* members, while Canon 13.1 says that the Bishop *nominates* new CoM members to be elected by the Convention (or to the Standing Committee for vacancies between conventions). We propose amending Canon 44.6 to read that the Bishop *nominates*.

*in recent months, we have turned our attention to putting a list of defined terms in Canon 44 (e.g., “in good standing”), using and standardizing the terms employed throughout the canons.

*As a part of this work on defining terms, we recommend for clarity adding the following to the basic qualifications for lay leaders in the diocese: "...and who are in conformity with the moral and theological teachings of the Church as codified in the Constitution and Canons and set forth in the Book of Common Prayer, and uphold the historic faith of the Church." This would be added to the following: Canon 9.1 (Standing Committee), Canon 10 (Executive Council), Canon 13.1 (Commission on Ministry), Canon 17.2 (Board of Trustees), Canon 25.1 (Vestries and Wardens), Canon 35.4 (Lay Deanery Representatives), Canon 38-III.1a and .2a and .13c.

*Our agenda for next year will be dealing with conforming our diocesan canons on clergy discipline with the Title IV revisions in the ACNA.

Respectfully submitted,
(The Rev'd) Timothy Matkin, *Chair*