Working Group to Review Canons and Implement Changes

Related to Revised Article X of the Constitution

Zoom Meeting

July 8, 2025, 2:30 p.m. EDT

 **Minutes**

 (Approved September 9, 2025)

Members Present: Cynthia Black, Joan Geiszler-Ludlum, Jennifer Reddall, Scott Madison, Christopher Hayes, Jeffrey Lee, Thomas Little, Ruth Meyers, Neil Raman, Wayne Smith

Members Not Present: J. Neil Alexander

Others Present: Airié Stuart, liaison of Church Publishing Incorporated

Chair Christopher Hayes convened the Working Group at 2:31 p.m. Scott Madison led opening prayers.

The Chair walked through the published Agenda, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. No changes to the Agenda were proposed.

Scott Madison, not having been able to attend the prior meetings, introduced himself to the members and shared his interest in the Group’s work.

The members discussed the draft Minutes of the June meeting. The members approved the draft with minor edits. Tom advised that he will complete his editing of the May meeting Minutes in time for review and approval at the August 12 meeting.

The subcommittees then reported on their work since the May meetings.

Communications Subcommittee. Earlier in the day, Cynthia Black posted a revised draft of the public statement of the Working Group’s purpose and its progress to date. The members discussed this and suggested some edits which were adopted by unanimous consent. A copy is attached to these Minutes. Cynthia will send it to the Episcopal News Service for distribution, and also to the presiding officers, and the Standing commissions on Liturgy and Music and Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons.

The discussion turned to how and when to do additional outreach to key stakeholders, including the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. A place on the House of Bishops’ March 2026 meeting agenda will be requested. Other stakeholder outreach will be done prior to and after that.

Copyrights Subcommittee. No developments were reported from this subcommittee; it will have a report at the August 12 meeting.

Article X and Canon II.4 Subcommittee.

Article X. On behalf of the subcommittee Ruth Meyers posted a revised Article X draft earlier in the day and walked through it. The new draft is redlined against the current Article X (and not against the proposed changes to Article X approved at first reading in 2024). Section 1 involves a reordering of the provisions and takes a descriptive approach not a prescriptive one. Section 2 is a reordering and tries to clarify and simplify the text; it replaces “retired bishop” with “resigned bishop” as the former is not a canonical term or status. The members discussed the pros and cons of using “shall” versus “must.” The new draft strikes the current section 3 and moves its provisions into section 2 with the clarification that trial use may be concurrent with a first reading. New section 3 adds a cross reference to section 2(c) and replaces “the Table of Lessons and all Tables and Rubrics relating to the Psalms” with “the Lectionaries” – the proper term. Section 4 uses initial capitals for Special Forms of Worship.

The members discussed the draft as tweaked during the discussion and, without objection the draft was approved for further review.

Canon II.4. A new draft was posted earlier in the day. The proposed changes are so extensive that a clean version is posted, not a redlined version. The members walked through and discussed the new draft, suggesting some edits along the way. The resulting draft will be further studied.

Canon II.3 and SCLM Subcommittee. Jennifer Reddall reported that the subcommittee has not met since the June meeting and will meet prior to the August 12 meeting.

Strategic Planning and Blue Book Report. The members sketched out the elements of the Blue Book report table of contents:

* Introduction, including why the Working Group was established
* The historical context of this work
* Copyright Issues
* Article X
* Canon II.3
* Canon II.4

The explanations for the proposed changes to the Constitution and Canons should be thorough.

Tom Little left the meeting and Neil Raman took over taking notes for the Minutes.

A target date for developing a working draft of the report was discussed and will be discussed further at the August 12 meeting.

The members discussed possibly meeting in October in Baltimore. We are moving at a good pace, and we might not necessarily need to meet in person. SCLM and SCSGCC are both meeting in October already. We could have one or two members of this body go to the meetings of the SCLM and SCSGCC or we could have someone attend by Zoom. The committee decided to not meet in person in October, and instead to meet by Zoom on the second Tuesday of October

Airié Stuart left the meeting.

Cynthia Black asked us to return to the Press Release. Consensus was reached to change the last paragraph to conclude with “In the months ahead, the Working Group will continue its work by examining the history of Article X changes, and potential clarifying amendments to Article X and its implementing canons” to make the closing read better. The changes were adopted without objection.

Unfinished Business. Ruth explained some changes she has made to her draft on the history of Article X. She intends to add a section that deals with the related changes to Canon II.4. It is there for the Working Group’s review in a Teams folder.

The Bucket List was addressed in the discussion of Canon II.4 and it will be removed from the unfinished business list.

Christopher Hayes will report back on mentions of the Book of Common Prayer and Article X elsewhere in the Constitution and Canons

The Subcommittee addressing Canon 3 discussed plans to meet before the next committee meeting.

Christopher will discuss getting future meeting invitations from the GC office sent earlier and will commit to getting the Agenda out earlier

Next Meeting: August 11 at 2:30 p.m. EDT.

Jeff Lee closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Little, Secretary

**Next meeting: August 12, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time**

**Working Group to Review Canons and Implement Changes Related to Revised Article X of the Constitution**

**July 8, 2025, at 2:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time
Via Zoom**

*Check your email for a Zoom link issued by the General Convention Office*

**Organizational Items**

Opening prayer

Attendance confirmation

Adoption of the agenda

Introductions for any members who were absent from the meetings of May 5–7 or June 10

Review and approval of the minutes for the meeting of June 10, 2025

Review and approval of the revised minutes for the meeting of May 5–7, 2025

**Report from the Communications Subcommittee (Cynthia Black)**

Report may include status of the following:

* Finalization and dissemination of the draft public statement
* Update on communication with the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) at its June 12, 2025 meeting

Future work to discuss:

* Strategy for broader stakeholder outreach and messaging, including development of both detailed and accessible presentations for General Convention audiences.

**Report from the Copyrights Subcommittee (Christopher Hayes, Airié Stuart)**

Report may include status of the following:

* Update on consultation with CPG’s copyright counsel
* Report on any further historical research (White & Dykman, Archives)
* Any contribution by Joan Geiszler-Ludlum or Ruth Meyers based on past research in White & Dykman or Archives?

**Report from the Article X and Canon II.4 Subcommittee**

Report may include status of the following:

* Review of June 9 Canon II.4 draft
* Review of Joan Geiszler-Ludlum’s draft of Article X
* Outreach to proposers of “memorialization” (Canon II.4.3)
* Updates on capitalization and translation issues (Canon II.4.2), including the practicality of completing a Haitian Kreyol translation before action by the General Convention on any liturgy

**Report from the Canon II.3 and SCLM Subcommittee**

Report may include status of the following:

* Review of revised Canon II.3 draft, possibly including:
* Pagination and digital access (Canon II.3.2)
* Typographical corrections and SCLM’s role (Canon II.3.3)
* Distribution and publication responsibilities (Canon II.3.4)
* Clarification of “in trust for the use thereof” (Canon II.3.4)
* Trial use timing and clarity (Canon II.3.6)
* Reappointment eligibility for the Custodian (Canon II.3.7)
* Consideration of a trial use purpose statement
* Discussion of “must precede” requirement and General Convention discretion
* Discussion or reaction to articles posted by Ruth Meyers on June 4:
* “The Problem and Method of Prayerbook Revision,” by the Standing Liturgical Commission (1961)
* The Annotated Constitution and Canons (a/k/a “White & Dykman”) on Canon II.3

**Strategic Planning and Blue Book Report**

* Table of Contents for Blue Book report (Tom Little)
* Timeline and deliverables for legislative drafting
* Coordination with SCLM and SCSGCC, to include:
* Clarifying SCLM’s role in approving typographical corrections (Canon II.3.3)
* Assigning responsibility for publication and distribution (Canon II.3.4)
* Reviewing mentions of Article X across other canons, which may fall under SCSGCC’s purview
* Possible need for October 1–3 in-person meeting at the Maritime Conference Center (Maryland), including goals and expected deliverables

**Unfinished business**

* Status of Ruth Meyers’ draft on the history of Title X changes
* Review of “bucket list” of liturgical authorizations
* Review of mentions of Article X in other canons (possible assistance from Sally Johnson)
* Consideration of whether to amend or replace Resolution 2024-A224 (may require coordination with SCLM and SCSGCC)
* Planning for outreach to House of Bishops and House of Deputies

**New business (if any)**

**Closing Items**

* Next steps
* Confirm next meeting: August 12, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. EDT by Zoom
* Closing prayer