

# House of Bishops

## Rules of Order



For the governance of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the  
United States of America, otherwise known as

### **The Episcopal Church**

Adopted and Revised in General Conventions 1789–2018



# RULES OF ORDER

## House of Bishops

### I. Services and Devotions

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| A. | As an indication of our humble dependence upon the Word and Spirit of God, and following the example of primitive Councils, a copy of the Holy Scriptures shall always be reverently placed in view at all meetings of this House.   | <i>Placement of Holy Scriptures</i>          |
| B. | On each day of the Session of the House, the meeting shall be opened with prayer and the reading of the Holy Scriptures.   | <i>Opening devotions</i>                     |
| C. | At the hour of noon on each day of the Session, there shall be a devotional service, including prayers for the Church in its mission, as provided for in the Book of Common Prayer.  | <i>Noonday prayers</i>                       |
| D. | The last session of the House shall be closed with the Benediction pronounced by the Bishop presiding.   | <i>Close of session</i>                      |
| E. | At every session of the House of Bishops there shall be daily worship at such time and place as the Presiding Bishop or Vice-President of the House shall appoint.   | <i>Holy Eucharist</i>                        |
| F. | Preceding the balloting for the election of a Presiding Bishop, of a Missionary Bishop, or on the proposed transfer of a Missionary Bishop from one Diocese to another, there shall be a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, with a special prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.   |  |
| G. | The opening service of the General Convention and selection of the Preacher shall be in charge of the Presiding Bishop, the Vice-President of the House of Bishops, and the Bishop of the Diocese wherein the Convention is to be held. The sermon shall be delivered by the Presiding Bishop, unless the Presiding Bishop shall elect to appoint some other Bishop as Preacher. | <i>Opening Service of General Convention</i> |

**II. First Day of Session***Call to order*

- A. The House of Bishops shall meet for business at such time and place as shall have been duly notified by the Presiding Bishop, or the Vice-President of the House, to the members of this House, and shall be called to order by the Presiding Bishop or the Vice-President, or, in their absence, by the Senior Bishop, with jurisdiction, present.

*Secretary and  
Assistant  
Secretaries*

- B. The House shall then proceed to elect a Secretary if the office is vacant; and the person elected shall serve until the end of that meeting of the Convention. At the end of each meeting of the Convention, the House shall proceed to elect a Secretary who shall continue in office until the conclusion of the triennial meeting of the Convention following that election. With the approval of the bishop presiding, the Secretary may then, or later, appoint Assistant Secretaries.

*Roll*

- C. The roll of members shall be called by the Secretary. On the second and third days the Secretary shall make a note of the late arrivals who shall inform the Secretary of their presence.

*Minutes*

- D. The minutes of the last meeting shall then be read by the Secretary and acted on by the House. Such reading may be dispensed with by a majority vote of the House.

*Presentation of  
new Bishops*

- E. Bishops appearing in the House for the first time after their Consecration shall then, or at such other time at that meeting appointed by the Presiding Bishop, be presented to the House in a manner prescribed by the Presiding Bishop.

*Memorials*

- F. At a time deemed suitable, the Presiding Bishop shall then announce, without comment, the fact and the date of the death of any members who have died since the last preceding meeting; after which the House shall be led in prayer.

*Vice-Chair*

- G. The House shall then proceed to elect a Vice-President, if

the office is then vacant, after hearing the report of the nominating committee of the House and after receiving any other nominations from the floor; and the person elected shall serve until the conclusion of the next triennial meeting of the Convention. At the conclusion of each meeting of the Convention, the House, using the same procedure, shall proceed to elect a Vice-President who shall continue in office until the conclusion of the triennial meeting of the Convention following that election. The Vice-President, in the absence of the Presiding Bishop, or at the request of the Presiding Bishop, shall be the Presiding Officer of the House. In the absence of the Vice-President, the Presiding Bishop may ask another member of the House to preside.

### III. Daily Orders

A. The regular order of business of the House shall be as follows:

*Regular order of  
business*

1. Devotions.
2. Roll call or late registrations.
3. Minutes of the previous meeting.
4. Presentation of new members.
5. Communications from the Presiding Bishop.
6. Report of the Committee on Dispatch of Business.
7. Petitions and Memorials.
8. Messages from the House of Deputies not yet disposed of.
9. Motions of Reference.
10. Reports of Legislative Committees in the order in which the Committees are named in section IV
11. Reports of Commissions.

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12. Reports of Special Committees.
13. Miscellaneous business.
- Special order of business*      B. At any Special Meeting of the House, the Secretary shall present the Official Call for such meeting and incorporate such Call in the Minutes. The order of business at any Special Session shall be as follows:
1. Call to order.
  2. Devotions.
  3. Roll call.
  4. Presentation of new members.
  5. Communications from the Presiding Bishop.
  6. The special Business of the Meeting.
  7. Reports of Special Committees.
  8. Reading of the Minutes.
  9. Adjournment.
- Official acts of Presiding Bishop*      C. On the second day of the Session, after Devotions, the Presiding Bishop shall lay before the House a statement of official acts during the recess of the General Convention.
- Order of business on days of Joint Sessions*      D. On the days when the House of Bishops is expected to meet with the House of Deputies and others in Joint Session, the first order of business shall be the consideration of such matters as the Committee on Dispatch of Business shall report as urgently demanding attention. Then shall follow consideration of Messages from the House of Deputies not disposed of, Reports from Standing Committees, and other business for which time shall remain. If the Joint Session shall adjourn before the customary hour for adjournment of the House of Bishops, the House may resume its sitting. Any part of this rule may be suspended by a majority vote.
- Calendar of Business*      E. The Secretary shall keep a Calendar of Business, on which
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shall be placed, in the order in which they are presented, Reports of Committees, Resolutions which lie over, and other matters undisposed of, indicating the subject of each item.

- F. The secretary shall keep a Consent Calendar, which shall be published daily and distributed to the members before the convening of the House on each legislative day, and designate it as a separate calendar. Matters shall be listed on the Consent Calendar in separate groupings according to the date that they have been placed thereon. All matters to which amendments have been proposed by a Committee shall be so designated.

*Consent  
Calendar*

No debate is in order regarding any matter appearing on the Consent Calendar. However, the President shall allow a reasonable time for questions from the floor and answers to those questions.

Prior to a vote on final passage of any matter appearing on the Consent Calendar, it shall be removed from the Consent Calendar if (1) any three Bishops, or (2) the sponsor of the matter, or (3) the Committee on Dispatch of Business requests, in writing, that the Secretary remove the matter from the consent calendar. Any matter so removed may not be placed thereafter on the Consent Calendar but shall be restored to the Daily Calendar.

No amendment other than an amendment contained in a Committee report is in order regarding any matter on the Consent Calendar. Any amendments contained in Committee reports on such matters shall be deemed adopted unless the matter is objected to and removed from the Consent Calendar.

Matters appearing on the Consent Calendar shall be taken up immediately following the noon recess of the next legislative day following their placement on the Consent Calendar, or otherwise by unanimous consent or by adoption of a special order of business.

A matter may be placed on the Consent Calendar by vote of a Legislative Committee, if the Committee's vote to report the matter with a recommendation for adoption (with or without amendments), or for discharge, or for rejection was by three quarters (3/4) of the members present.

*Order of Day*

G. The Order of the Day shall be taken up at the hour appointed, unless postponed by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

*Visiting Bishops*

H. Bishops invited to honorary seats may be introduced by the Bishop presiding whenever no other business occupies the House.

#### **IV. Appointment of Committees**

*Legislative  
Committees*

A. Committees of this House shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop unless otherwise ordered. The Presiding Bishop, not later than the third day of the session, shall name the members of all the Committees to serve on an annual basis, and shall designate the Chair of each Committee. The following shall be the Committees of the House:

1. Standing Committees:
  - a. Dispatch of Business.
  - b. Certification of Minutes.
  - c. Rules of Order.
  - d. Privilege and Courtesy.
  - e. Resignation of Bishops.
  - f. Pastoral Letter.
2. Legislative Committees as needed, that may include:
  - a. Constitution and Canons.
  - b. Structure.
  - c. World Mission.



- d. National and International Concerns.
  - e. Social and Urban Affairs.
  - f. Small Congregations.
  - g. Evangelism.
  - h. Prayer Book, Liturgy and Church Music.
  - i. Ministry.
  - j. Education.
  - k. Church Pension Fund.
  - l. Stewardship and Development.
  - m. Ecumenical Relations.
  - n. Resignation and Deployment of Bishops.
3. Other Committees as needed, that may include:
- a. Communications.
  - b. Miscellaneous Resolutions.
  - c. Religious Communities.
  - d. On Nominations and Elections.
  - e. Admission of New Dioceses.
- B. The Chair of each Committee shall appoint a Vice-Chair and a Secretary.
- C. The Presiding Bishop may at any time refer to any Committee of the House, for its consideration, matters which arise and which should receive consideration at the next meeting of the House.

## **V. General Rules for Meetings of This House**

- A. No Memorial, Petition, or Address shall come before this House unless presented by a Bishop who is a member of this House, or some other Bishop present.

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- Distribution of printed matter*      B. Nothing other than Reports and other documents printed for the use and by the order of the House, except the private correspondence of its members, shall be distributed in the House without having first been entrusted to the Secretary, and submitted to the approval of the Bishop presiding.
- Resolutions and motions*      C. All Resolutions shall be reduced to writing, and no motion shall be considered as before the House until seconded. In all cases where a Resolution seeks to amend a Canon or an entire Title of Canons, the form of Resolution submitted shall set out the enactment in the form prescribed by Canon V.1.4, shall include with a dash overstrike on each letter any words which are deleted by the amendment and shall underline any words which are added by the amendment; Provided that if the amendment of an entire Title is to be covered by one enactment under Canon V.1.4, the deleted text and the underlining of the next text need not be included but the proponent shall make adequate written explanation of the changes. All resolutions of Bishops shall be proposed by one Bishop and be endorsed by not less than two additional Bishops, all three being from different dioceses. Individual Bishops shall be limited to proposing not more than three resolutions.
- Limitations*
- Reports of Committees*      D. (a) Reports of Committees shall be in writing, and shall be received in due course. Reports recommending or requiring any action or expression of opinion by the House shall be accompanied by specific Resolutions.
- Committee Recommendation*      (b) Legislative Committee Reports
1. Each Legislative Committee must take final action on every Resolution and other matter referred to it for action to recommend that the House takes one of the following actions:
    - i. adopt as proposed;
    - ii. adopt as amended by the Committee; all amendments made by a Committee will
- Adopt*

apply automatically to the Resolution and the matter before the House when the Resolution is considered will be the Resolution as amended by the Committee;

- iii. adopt a substitute Resolution: *Adopt Substitute*
  - a. A substitute Resolution must be on the same subject as the Resolution referred to the Legislative Committee for action.
  - b. A substitute Resolution may only cover one Resolution referred to the Legislative Committee for action.
  - c. If the House declines to adopt a substitute, the original Resolution will be automatically referred back to the Committee for additional consideration.
  
- iv. adopt a consolidated substitute Resolution: *Adopt Consolidated Substitute*
  - a. A consolidated substitute Resolution must be on the same subject as the Resolutions referred to the Legislative Committee for action.
  - b. Its report on the final action on that Resolution must identify all the other Resolutions the substitute is intended to cover.
  - c. A vote by the Legislative Committee to recommend adoption of a consolidated substitute Resolution will be an

automatic recommendation to take no further action on all other Resolutions the consolidated substitute Resolution is intended to cover.

- d. If the House declines to adopt a consolidated substitute Resolution, the original Resolutions will be automatically referred back to the Committee for additional consideration.

v. reject;

*Referral to an  
Interim Body*

- vi. refer to a specified Standing Commission, General Convention Task Force, Executive Council or other body of the Church for study, action, or to make recommendations on the subject to the next General Convention;

*Take No Further  
Action*

- vii. take no further action because:
- a. the matter has already been dealt with by action of the House of Bishops at this meeting of General Convention;
  - b. the matter is covered by a Resolution of a prior General Convention;
  - c. for other reasons.

*If Acted on by  
the House of  
Deputies*

- viii. If the Resolution or matter has been acted on by the House of Deputies:
- a. concur with the action of the House of Deputies;
  - b. concur as proposed to be amended by the House of Bishops

Legislative Committee;

- c. concur with substitute as proposed by the House of Bishops Legislative Committee;
- d. not concur and take a different action;
- e. not concur.

2. Minority Report

*Minority Report*

- i. If there is a minority position on a final action on a Resolution or other matter and the minority requests to make a minority report to the House, the Chair will include the minority report in the Legislative Committee’s report on the final action on the Resolution or other matter.
- ii. A minority position consists of at least one-quarter (1/4) of the members of the Legislative Committee present and voting on the Resolution, Memorial, or other matter.

- (c) Each report shall be dated, signed by the Chair or Secretary of the Committee, and transmitted to the office of the Secretary of the House, who shall endorse thereon the date of receipt thereof. If there is a minority position in the Committee and a minority spokesperson requests a minority position report, the Chair shall include the same in the report.

*Report to be signed*

Any resolution which involves an amendment to the Constitution or Canons shall be referred to the appropriate Legislative or Special Committee for action and simultaneously to the Committee on Constitution or the Committee on Canons, as the case may be, and

*Amendments to Constitution or Canons to be in proper form*

such Committee shall make certain that the Resolution is in proper constitutional or canonical form, achieves consistency and clarity in the Constitution or Canons, and includes all amendments necessary to effect the proposed change, and shall promptly communicate its recommendations to the Legislative or Special Committee. In such case the Committee shall neither concern itself with, nor report on, the substance of the matter referred to it, but whenever requested to do so by the Presiding Officer of the House, the Committee shall in its report to the House make recommendations as to substance.

*Review by  
Program,  
Budget, and  
Finance*

- (d) Before final consideration by the House, the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance (PB&F) shall have been informed by the Committee considering any proposed action which, if adopted by General Convention, would require an appropriation of funds and PB&F shall have acknowledged receipt of such information by endorsement on the committee report or by other appropriate means. Implementation of any such resolution is subject to funding in the budget.

*Reports of  
Interim  
Committees*

- E. Reports of Committees appointed to sit during the recess, if not acted upon at once, shall, when presented, be made the Order of the Day for a time fixed. Printed Committee Reports which have been delivered to, and circulated among, the members of the House of Bishops, in advance of the making of such Reports upon the floor of the House, shall be presented by title and the Chair or Committee member presenting said Report shall be allowed five minutes for summarizing the same, which time may be extended only by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

*Messages to the  
House of  
Deputies*

- F. All Resolutions which are to be communicated to the House of Deputies, unless they contain information of action

incomplete in this House, or be temporarily withheld by order of this House at the time of their passage, shall be transmitted to the House of Deputies as soon as conveniently may be, under the direction of the Bishop presiding.

- G. Committees from the House of Deputies shall be admitted immediately. Messages from the House of Deputies shall be handed by the Secretary of this House to the Bishop Presiding, to be laid before the House as early as may be convenient. However, consideration of such Message shall be subject to a motion for the appointment of a Committee of Conference as hereinafter provided in these Rules. All such Messages communicating any legislative action on the part of the House of Deputies shall, without debate, be referred to the proper Committee, unless, without debate, the House shall decide to consider such Messages without such reference. When the consideration of such Message shall have been begun, it shall continue to be the Order of the Day until final action thereon.

*Messages from  
the House of  
Deputies*

The final action of this House upon any Message from the House of Deputies shall be by vote upon the question “Shall this House concur in the action of the House of Deputies as communicated in their Message No. \_\_\_\_\_?” Messages requiring no action by the House may be received by Title.

- H. If, during the consideration by this House of any action taken by the House of Deputies, a motion is made stating the position of this House and requesting a Committee of Conference, such motion shall have precedence and be put to a vote without debate, and if passed by a majority of the members of this House then present, a Committee of Conference shall be appointed. A Committee of Conference shall also be in order, with or without motion, (1) in cases where the House of Deputies has concurred, with amendments, in action taken by this House, or (2) in cases where this House has concurred, with amendments, in action taken by the House of Deputies. When a Committee

*Committee of  
Conference*

of Conference has been appointed, final action upon the matter under consideration shall be deferred until the Committee of Conference shall have reported to this House; Provided, such report shall be made no later than the next business day or within one hour after the convening of the last meeting of this House in Convention assembled, whichever event shall first occur. Further, the Chair of any Standing or other Committee shall have full authority, either alone or with members of the Committee, to confer with the Chair of the cognate Committee of the House of Deputies.

*Daily reports*

- I. Two Bishops may be appointed by the Bishop Presiding to act with the Secretary in preparing daily reports of the action of this House, and furnishing them, at their discretion, to the public press.

*Guests with seat and voice*

- J. The Committee on Privilege and Courtesy may recommend the courtesy of seat and voice to (1) any Bishop of a Church in the Anglican Communion who has been nominated by a Bishop of this House whose jurisdiction has entered into a formal companion diocese relationship approved by the Executive Council of this Church or (2) any Bishop who is a guest of the Presiding Bishop upon the nomination of the Presiding Bishop. The Committee on Privilege and Courtesy must receive nominations for the courtesy of seat and voice thirty days prior to the stated or called meeting of the House at which such courtesy is to be granted. The nominations for the courtesy of seat and voice shall be circulated in writing to the members of the House before the nominations shall be presented to the House. Bishops granted the courtesy of seat and voice shall be assigned a seat and shall have such seat and voice only for meeting of the House at which such courtesy was granted. Bishops granted courtesy of seat and voice shall at all times be entitled to be present except when the House is in Executive Session. At such a call, the Secretary shall ask the guests to leave the House.

*Advisory Committee*

- K. There shall be a Council of Advice, composed of Bishops



who are the Presidents or Vice-Presidents of each Province, which will act as advisory council to the Presiding Bishop between meetings of the House of Bishops. The Committee shall elect its own officers.

- L. The Committee on the Bishop's Pastoral shall be composed of persons eminently qualified for the task, and empowered to enlist additional assistance, with the consent of the Presiding Bishop, as may seem wise. The Committee shall make a Report at each Session of the House. *Committee on Pastoral*
- M. **Elections of Bishops and Membership in the House** *Ballot*
1. When it is proposed to give consent to the consecration or confirmation of a Bishop-elect, or of a Bishop adjutor-elect, or of a Bishop-elect Suffragan, it shall be competent for any six voting members of the House to call for a vote by ballot.
  2. The Secretary shall prepare a ballot for each election listing alphabetically the names of all persons nominated. On each ballot, each voting member shall vote for the number of nominees to be or remaining to be elected, and any ballot with votes less than or in excess thereof shall be void. The nominees receiving the largest number of votes shall be deemed elected, provided that votes equal to or in excess of a majority of the ballots cast on any ballot shall be required for election.
  3. Any Bishop of a Church in the Anglican Communion who is in exile from a Diocese, or is without membership in a House of Bishops because the Diocese is temporarily in an extra-provincial status, and who is resident in any jurisdiction in this Church, or any other Bishop of a Church in the Anglican Communion who has resigned his or her position in that Church, who has made his or her primary residence in any jurisdiction in this Church may be admitted to this House as a collegial *Collegial Members*

member. Such membership may be extended to such a Bishop by a two- thirds vote of those present and voting on each Bishop, taken by secret ballot if requested by at least six members of the House, considered by the members of the House present at any regularly called meeting, and shall continue until such time as the collegial member removes from the jurisdiction of this Church, or until such time as it is withdrawn by a like vote. Such collegial member shall be assigned a seat, and have a voice, in this House. No vote shall be accorded such collegial member, in keeping with the Constitution of this Church.

*Nominations for  
Collegial  
Membership*

The Committee on Privilege and Courtesy must receive, one month in advance of any meeting of this House, nominations for collegial membership in this House, said nomination to be made only by the Bishop in whose jurisdiction the proposed collegial member resides. The nominations for collegial membership shall be circulated in writing to the members of the House before the nominations shall be presented to the House.

*Honorary  
Members*

Any Bishop of an extra-provincial Diocese which originated in the Church or any Bishop of this Church who removed from the jurisdiction of this Church to the jurisdiction of a Church in the Anglican Communion may be continued in relationship to this House as an honorary member. Thirty days prior to each stated or called meeting of the House such honorary members shall give written notice of their intention to be present to the Presiding Bishop. Seat and voice shall then be accorded such honorary members, upon the nomination to the House by the Bishop presiding. No vote shall be accorded the honorary member.

Bishops admitted to honorary and collegial seats in the House shall at all times be entitled to be present

except when the House is in Executive Session. At such a call, the Secretary shall ask the guests to leave the House.

4. Any Bishop of this Church who resigns a position for reasons other than those specified in Article I.2 of the Constitution, but whose resignation is not for reasons related to the Bishop's moral character, may, on motion and by a majority vote, be accorded non-voting membership in the House. Until further contrary action by the House, any such non-voting member shall have the right to seat and voice at all meetings, the right to serve on committees, and all other rights of membership except that of voting on any matter. *Nonvoting membership*

#### **N. Debate and Decorum**

*Debate and Decorum*

1. Members in discussion shall address the Chair, and shall confine themselves to the Question in debate. No member shall speak more than twice in the same debate without leave of the House. At the conclusion of any speech, the Bishop presiding, alone, or any member of the House, may call for a vote, without debate, on a proposal for a recess of conference to define and clarify the issues of the debate and the way in which the House is working. If the proposal of a member is supported by at least four other members, it is to be put to a vote. If passed by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, members of the House will form small groups for a ten-minute conference, at the end of which debate will resume with any speakers who had already been recognized at the time of the motion for conference.
2. Officers of the House of Bishops, when addressing the House in debate, shall in all cases do so from the floor of the House.
3. When a division is called for, every voting member present shall be counted. When, in such procedure,

*Division*

the vote of the Bishop presiding produces a tie, the motion shall be considered as lost.

*Precedence of motions*

4. On any question before the House the ayes and nays may be required by any six voting members, and shall in such cases be entered on the Journal.
5. When a Question is under consideration, the following motions shall have precedence in the order listed: to lay upon the table, to postpone to a time certain, to commit or to refer, to substitute another motion dealing with the same Question, to amend, or to postpone indefinitely; Provided, that, in consideration of a message from the House of Deputies, the provisions of Rules V. G and H shall apply, and a motion made thereunder for a Committee of Conference shall have precedence; and Provided, further, that a proposal for a Recess of Conference shall always be in order, under the conditions set forth in Rule V.N.1.

*Committee of the Whole*

6. On motion duly put and carried, the House may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, at which no records shall be made of its action. On separate motion duly put and carried, those present at such sessions may be limited to members of the House.

*Executive Session*

7. On motion duly put and carried, the House may go into Executive Session, at which only members of the House shall be present. The Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business shall act as clerk and make a record of all motions adopted.

*Questions of order*

8. All questions of order shall be decided by the Chair without debate, but appeal may be taken from such decision. The decision of the Chair shall stand unless overruled by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. On such appeal, no member shall speak more than once without express leave of the House.

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9. Amendments shall be considered in the order in which they are moved. When a proposed amendment is under consideration, a motion to amend the same may be made. No after-amendment to such second amendment shall be in order, but a substitute for the whole matter may be received. No proposition on a subject differing from the one under consideration shall be received under color of a substitute. *Amendments*
10. A Question being once determined shall stand as the judgment of the House, and shall not be again drawn into debate during the same session of the House, except with the consent of a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. A motion to reconsider can be made only on the day the vote was taken, or on the next succeeding legislative day, and must be made and seconded by those who voted with the majority. *Reconsideration*
11. (a) Except by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, no new business shall be introduced for the consideration of the House after the second day of the Session. All matters originating in this House requiring concurrent action by both houses shall be considered before the last legislative day except for Resolutions of Privilege and Courtesy. *Time limit on new business*
- (b) No resolution proposing amendments to the Constitution or Canons of this Church may be presented in the House of Bishops for an initial vote on the last legislative day of General Convention; Provided, however, that any such resolution previously considered and voted upon by this House may be considered on the last legislative day in order to consider changes to the resolution approved by the House of Deputies.
12. Except by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, no member of the House may introduce a *Circulate Resolutions in advance*
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Resolution at a special meeting unless the Resolution has been circulated thirty days in advance to the members. This rule shall not be construed in any way to prevent a Committee of the House from introducing Resolutions at special meetings.

*Rules of Order*

**O. Rules of Order**

1. These rules shall be in force in subsequent Sessions of this House unless otherwise ordered.

*Amendment of Rules*

2. Additions and amendments to, or suspension or repeal of these rules shall require a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.

*Robert's Rules apply*

3. Except when in conflict with the Constitution or Canons, or any Rule herein contained, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the interpretation of these rules, and the parliamentary procedures to be followed in this House.

## VI. The Presiding Bishop

*Election*

A. On the day following the Joint Session to which the Joint Nominating Committee has reported pursuant to Canon I.2.1(f), the House of Bishops shall meet in executive session in a church to discuss the nominees presented at the Joint Session, and to elect a Presiding Bishop from among those nominees.

*Awaiting confirmation from Deputies*

B. All members of the House of Bishops present shall remain within the confines of the church where the election has been held, until word has been received of the action of the House of Deputies.

## VII. Missionary Bishops

*Vacant episcopate*

A. When a vacancy occurs or is about to occur in the Missionary Episcopate, it shall be the duty of the Presiding Bishop to investigate the situation existing in the Diocese, to consult with those persons in the field and at home best

fitted to advise as to the conditions in the Diocese, and to submit to the members of the House such information as the Presiding Bishop may secure.

- B. Before any vacancy in the Missionary Episcopate is to be considered or filled at any Meeting of the House, notice to this effect shall be given in the call of such Meeting. The ballot for the election to any such vacancy shall not, without unanimous consent, be taken at a Special Meeting until at least the first day, nor at a Meeting of the General Convention until at least the second day, after nominations have been made to the House. In the event of the occurrence of a vacancy in a Missionary Diocese, or the resignation of a Missionary Bishop, between the issuance of the call for a Special Meeting of the House of Bishops and the meeting thereof, the House, by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, shall be competent to fill such vacancy, or to act upon such resignation.

*Notice of  
election in call  
for Meeting*

- C. Further proceedings for the election of a Missionary Bishop shall be as follows:

1. In the case of each vacancy to be filled, a special Joint Nominating Committee shall be appointed. The Committee shall be composed of three persons from the jurisdiction concerned, chosen by its Council of Advice or in some other manner as ordered by the Presiding Bishop, and three members of this House appointed by the Presiding Bishop. The Joint Nominating Committee shall elect its own officers and shall nominate three persons for the vacancy. Three weeks before the Meeting of the House these names shall be sent in confidence to each Bishop.
2. The Presiding Bishop may, in the exercise of discretion, make nominations for such vacancies.
3. At the Meeting of the House, the names of the persons proposed by the Joint Nominating Committee shall be formally placed in nomination, and opportunity shall also be given for nominations from the floor.

*Joint  
Nominating  
Committee*

*Presiding  
Bishop may  
nominate  
Nominations  
from floor.*

*Information  
about nominees*

4. The Joint Nominating Committees and the Bishops making nominations, and other having knowledge of the persons nominated, shall give to appropriate committees full information regarding the nominees, and any such committees, having secured further information as may be possible, shall report to the House in Executive Session such further information concerning the intellectual, moral, and physical qualifications of the persons nominated, with dates of birth, graduation, and specific statements as to theological attainment, proficiency in languages, and any specialty in sacred duties to which such persons may have devoted themselves. Questions may be asked and other information given by the Bishops.

*Executive  
Session*

5. All nominations for vacant Missionary Dioceses shall be made in Executive Session. The names of the nominees shall be made known to the public only after the election.

*Declination*

6. In the case of a declination, another election can be held from the same names without further formality than renomination; but if new names are introduced, the order prescribed above shall be repeated.

*Transfer to  
another Diocese*

7. In the case of the proposed transfer of a Bishop in charge of a Missionary Diocese to another Diocese, action shall be as in the case of the election of Missionary Bishops.

*Confidentiality*

8. All proceedings in Executive Session shall be held strictly confidential. In the case of elections held in Executive Session the names of those elected shall not be made known until they are ordered to be sent to the Standing Committees.



## VIII. Standing Orders

- A. Whereas, by provisions of Canon III.11.5, and Canon III.11.9(c)(3)(iii), the Presiding Bishop is empowered to take order for the ordination and consecration of Diocesan and Missionary Bishops, either in the Presiding Bishop's own person or by commission issued to three Bishops; It is hereby ordered, that, in all cases where the Presiding Bishop takes order for the ordination of a Bishop in a Diocese or Missionary Diocese, the place for the same shall be designated with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority in whose Diocese or Jurisdiction such proposed place is; the Bishop-elect shall have the right to designate the preacher and the two Bishops by whom the Bishop-elect is to be presented; and, in the absence of the Presiding Bishop, the Senior Bishop with jurisdiction by consecration who is present shall preside, unless some other Bishop shall have been designated by the Presiding Bishop.
- Ordination and consecration of Bishops*
- B. Seniority among the Bishops is according to the date of the consecration of each Bishop.
- C. The House of Bishops shall assemble on every morning during the period of the General Convention, except the Lord's Day, for business, unless adjournment beyond that morning has been ordered by the vote of the House.
- Daily sessions at General Convention*
- D. Two or more of the Bishops shall be appointed at each General Convention to take charge, together with the Secretary of the House of Bishops, of the Journal of its proceedings, and to see that the whole, or such parts of it as the House may direct, be entered in its proper place in the Journal of the General Convention.
- Committee on Journal*
- E. The Secretary of the House of Bishops shall keep a permanent record of the members and officers of the House from the beginning, and shall record therein the names of the Bishops who are or have been members of this House, the date and place of their consecration, the
- Official Register*

names of their consecrators, together with the date of the termination, by death, resignation, or otherwise, of the membership of such Bishops as have ceased to have seats in this House, all of which facts shall be recorded only upon official notification, for which it shall be the duty of the Secretary to call upon such persons as may be competent to furnish the same. The said record shall be the official Register of this House, and the roll of the House communicate the same to the House, as its official roll, as soon as the Presiding Officer shall have taken the chair. Such roll shall be subject to change only by vote of the House.

- Resigned Bishop* F. In making up the list of the Bishops who have retained their constituted rights to seats in this House, the Secretary is instructed to leave the name of any Bishop resigned in the place which the Bishop occupies in the order of consecration, with the addition of the word "Bishop," which shall be considered as the sufficient title of such resigned Bishop.
- Chair of Dispatch* G. At every meeting of the House of Bishops a seat for the Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business shall be assigned near the front of the House.
- Former Presiding Bishops* H. At every meeting of the House of Bishops seats on the platform shall be assigned to such Bishops present as have formerly held the office of Presiding Bishop, and at every service of the General Convention such Bishops have formerly held the office of Presiding Bishop shall be assigned places immediately in front of the Chaplain of the Presiding Bishop.
- Definitions* I. Whenever the House shall make a determination under Article I.2 of the Constitution that a resigned Bishop shall or shall not retain a seat and vote in the House, the following understanding of the intent of the pertinent terms of that provision of the Constitution shall apply:
1. "advanced age" shall mean at least 62 years of age;
  2. "bodily infirmity" shall mean either a condition for

which one is eligible for disability retirement benefits from the Church Pension Fund or Social Security Administration, or a physical or mental impairment that a physician or psychiatrist (approved by the Presiding Bishop) certifies would likely result in eligibility for such disability retirement benefits should the Bishop continue in active episcopal ministry;

3. “office created by the General Convention” shall mean a ministry funded by the General Convention Budget and approved by the Presiding Bishop; and
4. “mission strategy” shall mean a strategy that would allow the election of an indigenous member of the clergy of a non-domestic diocese as Bishop, or that would allow a diocese to implement a new mission strategy as determined by the Presiding Bishop, or that would allow a transition in episcopal leadership after a Diocesan Bishop or Bishop Suffragan has served 10 or more years in either or both of those offices.

## IX. Standing Resolutions

- A. Resolved, That the Standing Committee on the Resignation of Bishops be requested to prepare a Resolution taking note of the service of each Bishop whose resignation is being accepted, such Resolution to be presented to the House of Bishops along with the recommendation on the resignation. Where a resignation is accepted between Meetings of the House, such Resolution shall be presented at the next Meeting.
- B. Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop be requested to appoint, on each occasion, a Committee of three or more Bishops to prepare, on behalf of the House of Bishops, and send to the family of each Bishop who dies, a Memorial Message, such Committee to represent the House of Bishops at the funeral, where it is practical for them to attend.

*Resolutions for  
resigning  
Bishops*

*Memorial  
messages*

*Conveners of  
Commissions*

- C. Resolved, That, within six months after the appointment of any Committee or Commission, the Secretary of the House of Bishops shall communicate with the Bishop Convener of each Commission and Committee, and inquire whether the Commission or Committee has convened and organized, keeping a record of the replies received.