

STANDING COMMISSION ON STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

Supplemental Blue Book Report

Introduction

As with many of the Church's interim bodies, the Standing Commission had difficulty completing as much work as it had intended prior to the Blue Book filing deadline due to the many complications resulting from the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, not the least of which was the cancellation of two in-person meetings. Once members of the Commission were able to adapt better to remote meetings and again focus and dedicate time to the work of the Commission, and in light of the postponement of the 80th General Convention to 2022, the Commission decided to take up unfinished business and publish this supplemental report. The Commission met remotely a number of times following the February 2021 filing of its Blue Book report, to discuss and prioritize unfinished work. This supplemental report presents the fruits of those labors.

Specific Areas of Work

The Commission reached consensus on the need for amendments and on the text of the proposed revisions to the following canons and rules of order.

Canon I.2.1.a – The Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

Canon I.2.2 – The term of office of the Presiding Bishop

Canon I.4.3 – The terms of office of members of the Audit Committee of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society

Canon I.8.2 – The terms of office of members of the Board of Trustees of the Church Pension Fund

Canon I. 15.10.a – Congregations in Foreign Lands

Canon III.10.2 – Clergy Ordained by Bishops of Churches in Full Communion with this Church

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Canon III.10, Canon III.12.1, Canon III.12.5.b.3, and Canon III.13.1 – Reception of Anglican Communion Bishops

Canon IV.5.4– Election of Members of the Court of Review

Canon IV. 17.3, 17.4 – Disciplinary Board for Bishops

Canon IV.17.8 – Vacancies on the Court of Review for Bishops
House of Bishops Rule of Order II.B

House of Bishops Rule of Order II.G

House of Deputies Rule of Order XVI – Election of Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

Joint Rules of Order VII.17 and VII.20

In each instance, the Commission completed proposed revisions and explanations for them. The particular focus on terms of office was prompted by the realization that some terms of office currently are a set number of years for persons elected at a regular meeting of the General Conventions, and the postponement of a regular meeting of the General Convention can have unintended consequences on those terms of office.

End Note

The Commission will continue to receive proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons from Church interim bodies and members of the Houses of Deputies and Bishops, under the Commission’s mandate at Canon I.1.2.n.1, and will review them for proper constitutional and canonical form.

The Commission thanks the drafting team of Sally Johnson, Mary Kostel and Tom Little for their diligence and persistence in seeing through the research and preparation of this supplemental report.

Proposed Resolutions

A111 Amend Canon I.2.1.a on Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.2.1.a to read as follows, striking all in the current subsections .b and .c and re-lettering the succeeding subsections.

Sec. 1. a. ~~At each General Convention a Joint Nominating Committee for the election of the Presiding Bishop shall be elected. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of 20 members, as follows: Fifteen (15) of those members shall consist of five Bishops elected by the House of Bishops; five clergy persons clerical members, including at least one deacon, and five lay persons, people elected by the House of Deputies and who may but need not be members of that House; two persons, age 16-23, appointed by the President of the House of Deputies; and three persons appointed jointly by the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to ensure the cultural and geographic diversity of the Church. The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations will nominate a slate of nominees for the elected positions election to the Nominating Committee, in accordance with its the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations' canonical charge and procedures, and guided by the skill sets needed for effective service on the Nominating Committee. The nominees for the Joint Standing Committee for the Nomination of the Presiding Bishop may but need not be deputies to General Convention. The House of Deputies shall elect five Clerical and five Lay Deputy as members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, with a majority of those voting necessary for election. The President of the House of Deputies shall appoint two persons, age 16-21, as members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop. In all cases, the nominees and appointees shall have the skills sets needed for effective service on the Nominating Committee.~~

b. ~~Bishops on the Nominating Committee. At each General Convention the House of Bishops shall elect five Bishops as members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, guided by the skill sets needed for effective service on the Nominating Committee.~~

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- ~~c. The Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies shall also jointly appoint three members to the Joint Nominating Committee to ensure the cultural and geographic diversity of the Church and the skill sets needed for effective service on the Nominating Committee.~~

EXPLANATION

This amendment would correct an inconsistency in the canon that could be interpreted to require the Joint Nominating Committee members elected by the House of Deputies to be members of that House; that interpretation was not intended when the canon was revised in 2018. In addition, the amendment would combine current subsection .a, .b and .c for clarity.

A112 Amend Canon I.2.2 on Eligibility and Term of Office of the Presiding Bishop

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.2.2 to read as follows.

Sec. 2.

- ~~a. The term of office of the Presiding Bishop, when elected according to the provisions of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution, shall be nine years, beginning the first day of the month of November following the close of the Convention at which the Presiding Bishop is elected, unless attaining the age of seventy two years before the term shall have been completed; in that case the Presiding Bishop shall resign the office to the General Convention which occurs nearest to the date of attaining such age. At that Convention a successor shall be elected, and shall assume office on the first day of the month of November following the close of that Convention This subsection a. applies to elections of the Presiding Bishop that occur according to the provisions of the first paragraph of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution.~~
1. *Electing Convention. A meeting of the General Convention at which a Presiding Bishop is elected shall be called an "Electing Convention."*
 2. *Eligibility - Age. A Bishop who is expected to be 65 years of age or younger on December 31 of the year of the Electing Convention may be elected Presiding Bishop. No Bishop who*

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is expected to reach 66 years of age on or before December 31 of the year of the Electing Convention may be elected Presiding Bishop.

3. *Commencement of term. The term of office of the Presiding Bishop shall begin on the 91st day following the adjournment of the Electing Convention, or immediately upon the death, resignation, retirement, or disability of the Presiding Bishop.*
 4. *Length of term. If the Presiding Bishop is 62 years of age or younger on December 31 of the year of the Electing Convention, the term of office shall terminate at the end of the 90th day after the adjournment of the third successive regular meeting of the General Convention following the Electing Convention. If the Presiding Bishop is 63, 64, or 65 years of age on December 31 of the year of the Electing Convention, the term of office shall terminate at the end of the 90th day after the adjournment of the second successive regular meeting of the General Convention following the Electing Convention.*
 5. *Exception. Notwithstanding subsection 4, in the event that the regular meeting of the General Convention at which the Presiding Bishop's successor is expected to be elected is postponed beyond the date originally set in accordance with Canon I.1.14.c, and if as a result of such postponement the Presiding Bishop attains the age of 72 years before a successor can be elected and take office, then the Presiding Bishop may serve until the successor takes office, regardless of having attained the age of 72 years, but no later than 90 days after the adjournment of the next meeting of the General Convention. ~~; except that when~~*
- b.** *When a Presiding Bishop has been elected by the House of Bishops to fill a vacancy, as provided for in the second paragraph of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution, the Presiding Bishop so elected shall take office immediately.*

EXPLANATION

The postponement of the 80th General Convention resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic revealed a complication in the current canonical definition of the term of office of the Presiding Bishop. Unlike other terms of office defined in the canons to expire at the conclusion of a regular meeting of the General Convention, terms which automatically continue should a regular meeting of the General Convention be postponed, current Canon I.2.2 provides that the Presiding Bishop's term "shall be nine years" beginning November 1. Under this current provision, the term expires on October 31, no matter what and regardless of whether a new Presiding Bishop has been elected. Should some unforeseen crisis, such as a resurgent COVID-19 variant pandemic, require the postponement of the 81st meeting of the General Convention (an electing convention) from 2024 to 2025, for example, the Presiding

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Bishop's term will have expired on October 31, 2024, leaving the office vacant for a year. This proposed amendment redefines the term of office of the Presiding Bishop so that its expiration is tied to a regular meeting of the General Convention (usually triennial) and extends the expiration date of the term, through the postponed regular meeting of the General Convention - if such a meeting should be postponed.

Study of the canon also revealed a need for clarification of the age at which a Bishop is no longer eligible to be elected Presiding Bishop. Article II, Section 9 of the Constitution requires all Bishops to "resign from all jurisdiction" upon attaining the age of 72. The Presiding Bishop by virtue of the office has jurisdiction over "Congregations in foreign lands" including the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe and the Church in Micronesia (see Canon I.15.6), and must, under the Constitution, resign that jurisdiction when reaching age 72. The practice has been to elect as Presiding Bishop a Bishop who can serve the full nine-year term before reaching age 72, although the current canon does not require this. Indeed, under the current canon, a Bishop could be elected and serve only a single interval (typically three years) between regular meetings of the General Convention before being required to resign because of age. It is recommended that, given the time and expense of the Presiding Bishop election process, and the impact of a change in Presiding Bishops on many aspects of the Church's life, no Bishop should be elected who can serve fewer than two full intervals between regular meetings of the General Convention before being required to resign because of age.

A table illustrating the operation of the proposed amended canon follows.

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ELECTING CONVENTION: Age on 12/31 of year of 81st General Convention (2024)	END OF FIRST TRIENNIUM: Age on 12/31 of year of 82nd General Convention (2027)	END OF SECOND TRIENNIUM: Age on 12/31 of year of 83rd General Convention (2030)	END OF THIRD TRIENNIUM: Age on 12/31 of year of 84th General Convention (2033)
61	64	67	70
62	65	68	71
63	66	69	72 – aged out
64	67	70	
65	68	71	
66	69	72 – aged out	

There is no change to the existing provisions in this Canon that specify the commencement of term when there is a vacancy in the office of Presiding Bishop due to the death, resignation, retirement or disability of the incumbent Presiding Bishop.

A113 Amend Canon I.4.3 on Term of Office of the Audit Committee

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.4.3 to read as follows.

Sec. 3. Upon joint nomination of the Chair and the Vice-Chair, the Executive Council shall elect an Audit Committee of the Council and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. The Committee shall be composed of six members: one from the Executive Council committee with primary responsibility for financial matters; one from the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance; and the remaining four from members of the Church-at-large having experience in general business and financial practices. The members shall serve for a term of three years beginning on January 1 following the a regular meeting of the General

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Convention *at which elected* or immediately following their appointment, whichever comes later, and ~~continue continuing through December 31 following the adjournment of the next regular meeting of the General Convention~~ or until a successor is appointed, and may serve two consecutive terms, after which a full interval *between regular meetings of the General Convention* ~~triennium~~ must elapse before being eligible for reelection. Annually the Audit Committee shall elect a Chair of the Committee from among its members. The Audit Committee shall regularly review the financial statements relating to all funds under the management or control of the Council and the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and shall report thereon at least annually to the Council.

EXPLANATION

Current Canon I.4.3 provides a three-year term of office for members of the Audit Committee of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, and for their election by the Executive Council. The postponement of the 80th General Convention from 2021 to 2022 exposed a problem with terms of office fixed at a certain number of years rather than by intervals between regular meetings of the General Convention. The Commission found that tying the expiration of terms of office to the adjournment of a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention – whenever it may in fact occur - would be a sounder way to structure them – and avoid questions and concerns about when a term of office expires in the event of the postponement of a regular meeting of the General Convention.

A114 Amend Canon I.8.2 on Term of Office for Board the Church Pension Fund

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.8.2 to read as follows.

Sec. 2. The General Convention at each regular meeting shall elect, on the nomination of a Joint Committee thereof, twelve ~~(12)~~ persons to serve as Trustees of The Church Pension Fund ~~for a term of six (6) years and until their successors shall have been elected and have qualified~~, and shall also fill such vacancies as may exist on the Board of Trustees. *Except for a Trustee filling a vacancy, the term of service of a Trustee shall begin at the adjournment of the regular meeting of the General Convention at which the Trustee was elected and expire upon the adjournment of the second regular meeting of the General Convention following.* Any person

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who has been elected as a Trustee by General Convention for twelve (~~12~~) or more consecutive years shall not be eligible for reelection until the next regular meeting of the General Convention following the one in which that person was not eligible for reelection to the Board of Trustees. Any vacancy which occurs at a time when the General Convention is not in session may be filled by the Board of Trustees by appointment, ad interim, of a Trustee who shall serve until the next session of the General Convention thereafter shall have elected a Trustee to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term pertaining to such vacancy.

EXPLANATION

Current Canon I.8.2 provides a six-year term of office for members of the Board of Trustees of the Church Pension Fund, and for their election by the General Convention. Successors are elected at a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention. The postponement of the 80th General Convention from 2021 to 2022 exposed a problem with terms of office fixed at a certain number of years rather than by intervals between regular meetings of the General Convention. The Commission found that tying the expiration of terms of office to the adjournment of a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention – whenever it may in fact occur - would be a sounder way to structure them – and avoid questions and concerns about when a term of office expires in the unlikely event of the postponement of a regular meeting of the General Convention or in calculating the exact date that a term defined by calendar years may cause.

A115 Amend Canon I.15.10.a to Remove Outdated Reference on Congregations outside the United States

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon I.15.10.a to read as follows.

Sec. 10. In the case a Member of the Clergy in charge of a Congregation or otherwise authorized to serve the Church in a foreign land shall be accused of any offense under the Canons of this Church:

- a. With the permission of the Presiding Bishop, the Bishop in Charge and the Council of Advice may (i) engage a Diocese of this Church to provide the needed Disciplinary

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Structures to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of this Church, or (ii) establish among the Congregations of the Convocation the needed Disciplinary Structures to fulfill the requirements of the Canons of this Church. In either case, ~~the Provincial Court of Review shall either be that of the Diocese providing the needed Disciplinary Structures or that of the Province of the Convocation;~~ and, for the purposes of implementing the provisions for Ecclesiastical Discipline (Title IV) of a member of the Clergy, the Bishop in Charge shall serve the function reserved for the Bishop Diocesan, except that the Presiding Bishop must approve any Accord, any Agreement for Discipline and the terms of any Order, and pronounce the Sentence.

EXPLANATION

In 2018, the 79th General Convention amended the Canons to eliminate Provincial Courts of Review in favor of a single Court of Review. This amendment to Canon I.15.10.a strikes an overlooked reference to the former Provincial Courts of Review.

A116 Amend Canon III.10.2 to Correct Inadvertent Omission on Clergy Ordained in Churches in Full Communion

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon III.10.2 to read as follows.

Sec. 2. Clergy Ordained by Bishop of Churches in *Full* Communion with This Church

a.

1. A Member of the Clergy, ordained by a Bishop of another Church in *full* communion with this Church, or by a Bishop consecrated for a foreign land by Bishops of this Church under Article III of the Constitution, shall, before being permitted to officiate in any Congregation of this Church, exhibit to the Member of the Clergy in charge, or, if there be no Member of the Clergy in charge, to the Vestry thereof, a certificate of recent date, signed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese that the person's letters of Holy Orders and other credentials are valid and authentic, and given by a Bishop in *full* communion with this Church, and whose authority is acknowledged by this Church; and also that the person has exhibited to the Ecclesiastical Authority

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satisfactory evidence of (i) moral and godly character and of (ii) theological qualifications.

2. Before being permitted to take charge of any Congregation, or being received into any Diocese of this Church as a Member of its Clergy, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall receive Letters Dimissory or equivalent credentials under the hand and seal of the Bishop with whose Diocese the person has been last connected, which letters or credentials shall be delivered within six months from the date thereof. Before receiving the Member of the Clergy the Bishop shall require a promise in writing to submit in all things to the Discipline of this Church, without recourse to any foreign jurisdiction, civil or ecclesiastical; and shall further require the person to subscribe and make in the Bishop's presence, and in the presence of two or more Presbyters, the declaration required in Article VIII of the Constitution. The Bishop and at least one Presbyter shall examine the person as to knowledge of the history of this Church, its worship and government. The Bishop, also being satisfied of the person's theological qualifications, may then receive the person into the Diocese as a Member of the Clergy of this Church.
3. The provisions of *this Section Sections 2 and 3* shall be applicable to all Members of the Clergy ordained in any Church in full communion with this Church as specified in Canon I.20, subject to the *terms of the covenant* of The Episcopal Church and the other Church or Churches as adopted by the General Convention and by the denominational authority or similar body for those Churches that are not members of the Anglican Communion by action of the Anglican Consultative Council.

EXPLANATION

The in 2018 the 79th General Convention adopted Resolution 2018-A090, clarifying that “full communion” is the term that should be applied to the relationship with The Episcopal Church of all churches set forth in Canon I.20. In the 2018 amendment, however, the word “full” was inadvertently omitted from Canon III.10.2.a.1 and is added by this amendment. In addition, the amendment to Section 2.a.3 clarifies that Canon III.10.3 (dealing with Churches in historic succession but not full communion) is not affected by the provisions of Section 2.a.3.

A117 Amend Canons III.10, III.12.1, III.12.5.b.3, and III.13.1 to Clarify Language on the Reception of Bishops

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church provide for reception of Bishops of the Anglican Communion into The Episcopal Church to serve as Assistant Bishops and as bishops with provisional charge of a diocese, and also to serve as Bishops of Dioceses that have been admitted into union with the General Convention, by amending each and every one of the following interrelated canons: Canon III.10, Canon III.12.1, Canon III.12.5.b.3, and Canon III.13.1, as follows:

Amend Canon III.10 to change the title of the Canon to read as follows:

Canon 10: Of Reception of *Bishops, Priests, and Deacons* ~~Clergy~~ from other Churches

Amend Canon III.10.1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. Prior to reception or ordination of *a priest or deacon*, the following must be provided

Amend Canon III.10 to add a new Section 5, to read as follows:

Sec. 5. *Reception into this Church of a Bishop of a Church or Province in the Anglican Communion.*

a. *A Bishop in good standing of a member church or Province of the Anglican Communion, or of a national or local church with Extra-Provincial status in the Anglican Communion, who seeks to serve in this Church as an Assistant Bishop as provided in Canon III.12.5.b.3, or as a Bishop with provisional charge of a Diocese as provided in Canon III.13.1, may be received into The Episcopal Church pursuant to the requirements set out in this Section.*

b. *A Bishop in good standing of a member church or Province of the Anglican Communion, or of a national or local church with Extra-Provincial status in the Anglican Communion, which church or Province is seeking admission into union with The Episcopal Church, may be received into The Episcopal Church pursuant to the requirements set out in this Section, provided that if the*

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Bishop's selection to serve the church or Province was by a process other than election by a Convention, Synod, or other governing body, the Bishop shall provide evidence that the Convention, Synod, or other governing body has affirmed that selection;

- c. A Bishop seeking to be received into The Episcopal Church shall provide to the Presiding Bishop the following:
1. *evidence of the Bishop's having been duly ordered Bishop in the Anglican Communion;*
 2. *evidence of the Bishop's moral and godly character;*
 3. *a background check, according to the criteria established by the Presiding Bishop;*
 4. *certificates from a licensed medical doctor and a licensed psychologist authorized by the Presiding Bishop, and, as necessary, from a psychiatrist and/or a professional specializing in evaluation for substance, chemical, and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns, also authorized by the Presiding Bishop, that they have thoroughly examined the Bishop as to that person's medical, psychological, and psychiatric condition and for substance, chemical and alcohol use and abuse and other addictive patterns and have not discovered any reason why the person would not be fit to undertake the work for which the person has been chosen as a Bishop in this Church. Forms and procedures agreed to by the Presiding Bishop shall be used for this purpose;*
 5. *evidence of the Bishop having received the training set out in Section 1.c of this Canon; and*
 6. *evidence of the Bishop having been examined by at least three Bishops of this Church as to knowledge of this Church, its worship and governance, including the follow topics:*
 - i. *Church History: the history of the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church.*
 - ii. *Doctrine: the Church's teachings as set forth in the Creeds and in An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism.*
 - iii. *Liturgics: the principles and history of Anglican worship; the contents of the Book of Common Prayer.*
 - iv. *Practical Theology:*
 1. *The office and work of a Deacon and Priest in this Church.*
 2. *The conduct of public worship.*

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3. *The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese in which the Bishop will serve.*
 4. *The use of voice in reading and speaking.*
 7. *The points of Doctrine, Discipline, Polity, and Worship in which the church or Province from the Bishop has come differ from this Church. This portion of the examinations will be conducted, in part at least, by written questions and answers, and the replies kept on file with the Office of Pastoral Development for at least three years.*

In the case of a Bishop seeking to be received into this Church under subsection .b of this Canon, evidence that the General Convention has consented to the admission of the church or Province pursuant to Article V, Section I of the Constitution.
- d.** *Upon receipt of the items set out in subsection .c of this Canon to the satisfaction of the Presiding Bishop, the Presiding Bishop, without delay, shall notify every Bishop of this Church exercising jurisdiction and every Standing Committee of this Church of the Presiding Bishop's receipt of those items, and request from each a statement of consent, or withholding of consent, to the reception of the Bishop into The Episcopal Church. Each Bishop with jurisdiction and each Standing Committee shall within 90 days of the sending of the notification respond to the Presiding Bishop or the Presiding Bishop's designee indicating their consent or their withholding of consent.*
- e.** *If a majority of the Bishops with jurisdiction and of the Standing Committees consents to the reception, the Bishop shall make the written declaration required by Article VIII of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church in the presence of the Presiding Bishop and two episcopal witnesses, at which point the Presiding Bishop shall certify that the Bishop is received into The Episcopal Church; provided that, in in the case of a Bishop seeking to be received into this Church under subsection .b of this Canon, such certification shall not issue until the Executive Council has issued the approval set out on Article V, Section 1 of the Constitution.*

Amend Canon III.12.1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. Formation.

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Following election or *reception* and continuing for three years following ordination or *reception*, new Bishops and Bishops received into this Church shall pursue the process of formation authorized by the House of Bishops. This process of formation shall provide a mentor for each newly ordained and received Bishop.”

Amend Canon III.12.5.b.3 to read as follows:

3. ~~Bishops in good standing of member churches or Provinces of the Anglican Communion, or of national or local churches with Extra-Provincial status in the Anglican Communion, provided they are received into this Church under Canon III.10.5. Persons who are Bishops in good standing of Churches that are members of the Anglican Communion by action of the Anglican Consultative if they:~~
 - i. ~~have previously resigned their former responsibilities;~~
 - ii. ~~have received approval, by a competent authority within the Church of their ordination as a Bishop of that Church;~~
 - iii. ~~have exhibited satisfactory evidence of moral and godly character and having met theological requirements;~~
 - iv. ~~have promised in a writing submitted to the Bishop Diocesan making the appointment, and witnessed by two other Bishops of this Church, to submit in all things to the Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of this Church;~~
 - v. ~~have submitted to and satisfactorily passed thorough examinations covering the medical, psychological, psychiatric and other conditions described in Canon III.11.1, pursuant to the requirements of and procedures set forth in Canon III.11.1;~~
 - vi. ~~have undergone background screening and, if feasible, background checks as provided in Canon III.11.1;~~
 - vii. ~~have been examined by the Bishop Diocesan and at least two other Bishops of this Church as to knowledge of this Church, its worship and governance:~~
 1. ~~Church History: the history of the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church.~~
 2. ~~Doctrine: the Church’s teaching as set forth in the Creeds and in An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism.~~

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- ~~3. Liturgics: the principles and history of Anglican worship; the contents of the Book of Common Prayer.~~
- ~~4. Practical Theology:
 - ~~i. The office and work of a Deacon and Priest in this Church.~~
 - ~~ii. The conduct of public worship.~~
 - ~~iii. The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese in which the applicant is resident.~~
 - ~~iv. The use of voice in reading and speaking.~~~~
- ~~5. The points of Doctrine, Discipline, Polity, and Worship in which the Church from which the applicant has come differ from this Church. This portion of the examinations shall be conducted, in part at least, by written questions and answers, and the replies kept on file with the Office of Pastoral Development for at least three years.~~
- ~~viii. have received the following training:
 - ~~1. prevention of sexual misconduct.~~
 - ~~2. civil requirements for reporting and pastoral opportunities for responding to evidence of abuse.~~
 - ~~3. the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, particularly Title IV thereof.~~
 - ~~4. training regarding the Church's teaching on racism.~~~~
- ~~ix. have served in The Episcopal Church for a period of two years, have received the consent of a majority of the Bishops exercising jurisdiction and a majority of the Standing Committees, and been received into The Episcopal Church as a Bishop. A Bishop of another Province or jurisdiction of the Anglican Communion does not become a Bishop of this Church solely by virtue of being appointed an Assistant Bishop of a Diocese.~~

Amend Canon III.13.1 to read as follows:

Sec. 1. A Diocese without a Bishop may, by an act of its Convention, and in consultation with the Presiding Bishop, be placed under the provisional charge and authority of a Bishop of

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another Diocese, ~~or~~ of a resigned Bishop, or of a Bishop who has been received into this Church under Canon III.10.5, who shall by that act be authorized to exercise all the duties and offices of the Bishop of the Diocese until a Bishop is elected and ordained for that Diocese or until the act of the Convention is revoked.

EXPLANATION

Current Canon III.12.5.b.3 allows Bishops from other churches in the Anglican Communion to function as Assistant Bishops in this Church after a number of conditions are met. These amendments would build on that concept, moving the provision from the Assistant Bishop canon (III.12.5) to the “Reception” canon (III.10), by creating a process for receiving Anglican Communion Bishops into this Church to function not only as Assistant Bishops, but also as bishops having provisional charge of a diocese. The proposed amendments also create a process for receiving a Bishop whose diocese is seeking admission into this Church. In addition, this proposal would amend Canon III.12.1 to ensure appropriate formation in this Church of Bishops so received; and would amend Canon III.12.5 (Assistant Bishops) and Canon III.13.1 (bishops with provisional charge) to reflect these changes.

It is critical that each and every one of these five canonical changes be adopted together, as a “package.”

A118 Amend Canon IV.5.4 on the Election of Members of the Court of Review

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon IV.5.4 to read as follows.

Sec. 4. There shall be a court to be known as the Court of Review, with jurisdiction to receive and determine appeals from Hearing Panels of Dioceses as provided in Canon IV.15 and to determine venue issues as provided in Canon IV.19.5.

a. The Court of Review shall consist of: (i) Three ~~(3)~~ Bishops; six ~~(6)~~ Members of the Clergy, which ~~and will~~ must include not fewer than two ~~(2)~~ Priests and not fewer than two ~~(2)~~ Deacons; and six ~~(6)~~ lay persons; and (ii) one ~~(1)~~ Bishop, one ~~(1)~~ Priest or Deacon, and one ~~(1)~~ lay person to serve as alternates as hereinafter provided. ~~No more than two (2) Priests~~

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~~or Deacons, whether a member or alternate, shall be canonically resident in the same Diocese as any other Priest or Deacon, and each lay person, whether a member or alternate, shall reside in a different Diocese than any other lay person. The Priests, Deacons and lay persons shall be or have been members of the Disciplinary Boards of their respective Dioceses.~~

- b.** *The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations will nominate a slate of Clergy and lay persons for election to the Court of Review, in accordance with the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations' canonical charge and procedures, and guided by the skill sets needed for effective service on the Court of Review. The Joint Standing Committee on Nomination may, but need not, nominate more persons than there are vacancies. The Clergy and lay nominees for the Court of Review may but need not be Deputies to General Convention. The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations will create a description of the skills, gifts and experience requisite for service on the Court of Review, after consultation with the Court, including the value of cultural and geographic diversity on the Court and the value of including historically underrepresented voices in the governance of the Church.*
- b c.** *The Bishops members and Bishop alternate members on the Court of Review shall be nominated by the Presiding Bishop after consultation with the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations, and then elected by the House of Bishops at a regular meeting of the General Convention. One of the Bishops on the Court of Review shall be chosen from Provinces I, II or III; one of the Bishops shall be chosen from Provinces IV, V or VI; and one of the Bishops shall be chosen from Provinces VII, VIII or IX.*
- d.** *The Clergy and lay members and alternates on the Court of Review shall be elected by the House of Deputies at a regular meeting of the General Convention. ~~for a three year term, such that one third of clergy members and one third of lay members shall come from Province I, II, or III; one third shall come from Province IV, V, or VI; and one third shall come from Province VII, VIII, IX.~~*
- i. Except for a member filling a vacancy, the term of office of a member of the Court of Review shall begin at the adjournment of the regular meeting of the General Convention at which the member was elected and expire upon the adjournment of the second regular meeting of the General Convention following.*
 - ii. Members of the Court of Review shall serve staggered terms of office such that the terms of one-half of the members expire at each regular meeting of the General Convention.*

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The Joint Standing Committee on Nominations shall make its nominations in a manner that supports this staggering of terms.

- iii. Any member who has served 12 or more consecutive years shall not be eligible for reelection to the Court of Review until the next regular meeting of the General Convention following the one at which the member was not eligible for reelection to the Court of Review. A person's service as an alternate shall not count against these term limitations.*
- e.** The Court of Review shall select a president from among its members. The President shall be a Priest, Deacon or lay person.
- f.** The persons appointed to the Court of Review shall continue to serve until their respective successors have been elected, except in case of death, resignation or declination to serve. Members of the Court of Review who are currently appointed to a panel shall continue to serve on that panel until its work has been completed.
- d g.** Whenever a matter is referred to the Court of Review, the President shall appoint a panel for that case consisting of one Bishop, two Members of the Clergy and two lay persons. No *Bishop or Clergy member of the Court of Review* may serve in any matter originating from the Diocese in which such *Bishop or Clergy member is canonically resident* ~~serves on the Disciplinary Board~~ or is then currently licensed to serve, and no lay member may serve in a matter originating from the Diocese of the *lay member's primary residence or a Diocese in which the lay member is then currently active*. In such event, the President shall appoint another member of the Court from the same Order to serve; if no other member is available to serve, the President shall appoint an ~~the~~ alternate of the same Order to ~~shall~~ serve.
- e h.** If any member of the Court of Review is excused pursuant to the provisions of Canon IV.5.3.c, or, upon objection made by either party to the appeal, is deemed by the other members of the Court of Review to be disqualified, an alternate shall serve.
- f i.** In the event of any Court of Review member's death, resignation or declination to serve, or disability rendering the member unable to act, ~~or is ineligible to serve under Canons IV.5.4.d or .e,~~ and in the further event ~~that there~~ no other member of the Court is ~~no~~ alternate available to serve, the President of the Court of Review shall declare a vacancy on

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the Court of Review. Notices of resignation or declination to serve shall be communicated in writing to the President of the Court of Review.

g j. Vacancies on the Court of Review shall be filled by ~~appointment by~~ the President of the House of Deputies for lay and Clergy members and by the Presiding Bishop for Bishop members ~~Court of Review of persons qualified as provided in Canon IV.5.4.a.~~

h k. The Court of Review shall appoint a clerk who may be a member of the Court, who shall be custodian of all records and files of the Court of Review and who shall provide administrative services as needed for the functioning of the Court.

i l. The rules of procedure for appeals to the Court of Review are as provided in Canon IV.15, but the Court of Review may adopt, alter or rescind supplemental rules of procedure not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of the Church.

EXPLANATION

In 2018 the 79th General Convention adopted this Canon to create one churchwide Court of Review to hear appeals in disciplinary matters involving Priests and Deacons to replace the previous nine Provincial Courts of Review. The past three years' experience with this new Court has demonstrated the need to revise the qualifications of members and more clearly specify the terms of office and eligibility for reelection.

The current requirement that Clergy and Lay members have served on their diocesan Disciplinary Boards does not, in fact, guarantee any knowledge, training, or familiarity with the disciplinary process as most diocesan Disciplinary Boards never meet and are never trained.

In the Canon, no mechanism was provided for nomination of members of the Court. It is proposed here and in parallel proposals for amendments to the Joint Rules of Order on the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations that the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations prepare the slate of Clergy and Lay nominees based on criteria the Committee would develop which would include "... the value of cultural and geographic diversity" in

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place of an actual geographic requirement. Similar requirements of representation by Provinces have been eliminated from the Canons except that Provinces still elect half of the members of the Executive Council.

The terms of office are changed from three years to two intervals between regular meetings of the General Convention, generally, six years, with the specification that no one may serve more than 12 consecutive years without at least one interval between regular meetings of the General Convention, generally a three-year hiatus. This provides for the opportunity for more institutional memory among members.

A119 Amend Canon IV.17.3 and .4 on the Term of Office for the Disciplinary Board for Bishops

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon IV.17.3 and .4 to read as follows.

Sec. 3.

- a.** The Disciplinary Board for Bishops is hereby established as a court of the Church to have original jurisdiction over matters of discipline of Bishops, to hear Bishops' appeals from imposition of restriction on ministry or placement on Administrative Leave and to determine venue issues as provided in Canon IV.19.5.
- b.** The Disciplinary Board for Bishops shall consist of ten ~~(10)~~ Bishops elected by the House of Bishops at a regularly ~~scheduled session~~ *meeting of the General Convention*, and four ~~(4)~~ Priests or Deacons and four ~~(4)~~ lay persons elected by the House of Deputies *at a regular meeting of the General Convention*. All lay persons elected or appointed to serve shall be confirmed adult communicants in good standing.
- c.** Members of the Board shall serve staggered terms of ~~six (6) years~~, with the terms of one half of the Bishops and one half of the lay persons, Priests and Deacons collectively *expiring upon the adjournment of every regular meeting of the General Convention* ~~three years~~.
- d.** Unless elected or appointed to fill the remainder of an unexpired term, each member shall serve from the first day of January following the adjournment of the General Convention at

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which the member was elected, until the last day of December *following the adjournment of the second regular meeting of the General Convention* following election and until the member's successor is elected and qualifies; ~~however, there shall be no change in the composition of any Hearing Panel while a matter is pending unresolved before the Hearing Panel.~~

- e. A vacancy among the member Bishops shall be *filled* ~~appointed~~ by the Presiding Bishop with the advice and consent of the Bishop members of Executive Council. A vacancy among the ~~other lay or Priest or Deacon~~ members shall be filled by the President of the House of Deputies with the advice and consent of the lay, Priest and Deacon members of Executive Council.
- f. *Notwithstanding any expiration of a member's term of office, there shall be no change in the composition of any Hearing Panel while a matter is pending before the Panel; and a member of the Board sitting on such a Panel and whose term of office otherwise would expire shall nevertheless continue in office until the matter is resolved and solely for that purpose.*

Sec. 4. Within sixty days following each General Convention, the Board shall convene to elect a president for the following ~~triennium~~ *interval between regular meetings of the General Convention*. The president shall be a Bishop. If there is no president, the Bishop who is senior by consecration shall perform the duties of the president.

EXPLANATION

Currently, Canon IV.17.3 and .4 provides a six-year term of office for members of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops, and for their election at the General Convention. Successors are elected at the meeting of the General Convention occurring six years later. The postponement of the 80th General Convention from 2021 to 2022 exposed a problem with terms of office fixed at a certain number of years. The Commission found that tying the expiration of terms of office to the adjournment of a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention – whenever it may in fact occur - would be a sounder way to structure them – and avoid questions and concerns about when a term of office expires in the event of the postponement of a regular meeting of the General Convention.

A120 Amend Canon IV.17.8 on Vacancies on the Court of Review for Bishops

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Canon IV.17.8 to read as follows:

Sec. 8. The Court of Review for Bishops is hereby established as a court of the Church to have jurisdiction to hear appeals from Hearing Panels of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops.

a. The Court of Review for Bishops shall consist of nine members, all of whom shall be Bishops. Three Bishops shall be elected by the House of Bishops at any regularly scheduled meeting of the House of Bishops, to serve until the adjournment of the third succeeding regular meeting of General Convention and until their successors are elected and qualify; however, there shall be no change in the composition of the Court with respect to a particular Respondent following any hearing in the matter and while it is pending unresolved before the Court.

b. *Vacancies on the Court of Review for Bishops shall be filled by the Presiding Bishop.*

b c. From among their number, the members of the Court of Review for Bishops shall elect a president.

€ d. The reasonable and necessary expenses of the Court of Review for Bishops, including fees, costs, disbursements and expenses of the members, clerks, reporters and Church Attorneys shall be charged upon the General Convention and paid by the Treasurer of the General Convention upon Order of the president of the Court of Review. The Court of Review for Bishops shall have the authority to contract for and bind the General Convention to payment of these expenses.

EXPLANATION

The Standing Commission noticed that the current canon makes no provision for filling a vacancy on the Court. This amendment would authorize the Presiding Bishop to fill such a vacancy, which is similar to the proposed amended provision for vacancies on the churchwide Court of Review (pursuant to which the Presiding Bishop would fill vacancies in Bishop seats and the President of the House of Deputies would fill vacancies in the Clergy and lay seats).

A121 Amend House of Bishops Rule of Order II.B on the Term of Office for the Secretary

Resolved, That the House of Bishops amend its Rule of Order II.B to read as follows.

- 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 *next regular* ~~triennial~~ meeting of the Convention following that election. With the approval of the bishop presiding, the Secretary may then, or later, appoint Assistant Secretaries.

EXPLANATION

Current House of Bishops Rule of Order II.B provides a triennial (three-year) term of office for the Secretary of the House of Bishops. The postponement of the 80th General Convention from 2021 to 2022 exposed a problem with terms of office fixed at a certain number of years. The Commission found that tying the expiration of terms of office to the adjournment of a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention – whenever it may in fact occur – would be a sounder way to structure them – and avoid questions and concerns about officials serving beyond their expected terms of office.

A122 Amend House of Bishops Rule of Order II.G on the Term of Office for the Vice President

Resolved, That the House of Bishops amend its Rule of Order II.G to read as follows.

- 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 *regular* ~~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 *next regular* ~~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

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House. In the absence of the Vice- President, the Presiding Bishop may ask another member of the House to preside.

EXPLANATION

Current House of Bishops Rule of Order II.B provides a triennial (three-year) term of office for the Vice-President of the House of Bishops. The postponement of the 80th General Convention from 2021 to 2022 exposed a problem with terms of office fixed at a certain number of years. The Commission found that tying the expiration of terms of office to the adjournment of a subsequent regular meeting of the General Convention – whenever it may in fact occur - would be a sounder way to structure them – and avoid questions and concerns about officials serving beyond their expected terms of office.

A123 Amend House of Deputies Rule of Order XVI on Requiring a Deacon on the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

Resolved, That the House of Deputies adopt a new Rule of Order as Rule of Order XVI, as follows, and that the subsequent Rules of Order of that House be renumbered accordingly:

XVI: Election of Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop

- A. In an election for the Clergy and Lay members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop under Canon I.2.1.a, the House shall first elect one Deacon member of the Committee.*
- B. If more than one Deacon receives a majority of those voting, the Deacon receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected.*
- C. After one Deacon has been elected, the House shall proceed to elect the remaining four Clergy members of the Committee.*
- D. The ballot for that election shall include the names of all Priests nominated and all of the Deacons nominated other than the one Deacon elected pursuant to B above.*
- E. Subsequent ballots will follow Rule XV.C.*

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EXPLANATION

During the election of the members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop in June 2021, it became clear that the method for ensuring that at least one Deacon member was to be chosen, as required by Canon I.2.1.a, had not been specified when the Canon was amended in 2018. As the General Convention Office and President of the House of Deputies considered various ways of ensuring the inclusion of at least one Deacon member (including, as an example, that if only Priests were elected, the last Priest elected would be dropped in favor of the Deacon with the highest number of votes), the Standing Commission concluded that it would be better for the Rules to specify exactly how the election of the Deacon would be done rather than leaving it to the judgment of the leadership of the House of Deputies.

A124 Amend Joint Rules of Orders VII.17 and .20 on Nominees for the Court of Review

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 80th General Convention amend Joint Rules of Order 17 and 20 to read as follows:

VII: Joint Standing Committee on Nominations

17. There shall be a Joint Standing Committee on Nominations, which shall submit nominations for the election of:

- a. Trustees of The Church Pension Fund, serving as the Joint Committee referred to in Canon I.8.2.
- b. Members of the Executive Council under Canon I.4.1.d.
- c. The Secretary of the House of Deputies and the Treasurer of the General Convention under Canons I.1.1.j and I.1.7.a.
- d. Trustees of the General Theological Seminary.
- e. General Board of Examining Chaplains.
- f. Disciplinary Board for Bishops.
- g. *Court of Review*.

20. Except for the Secretary of the General Convention, ~~and~~ the Treasurer of the General Convention, *and the Court of Review*, the said Committee is instructed to nominate a number,

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equal to at least twice the number of vacancies, which shall be broadly representative of the constituency of this Church; to prepare biographical sketches of all nominees; and to include such nominations and sketches in the Blue Book, or otherwise to circulate them among Bishops and Deputies well in advance of the meeting of the next succeeding General Convention; this procedure, however, not to preclude further nominations from the floor in the appropriate House of the General Convention.

EXPLANATION

In its proposal to amend Canon IV.5.4 on the Court of Review, the Standing Commission proposes that the Joint Standing Committee on Nominations be charged with developing a slate of Clergy and Lay nominees and of consulting with the Presiding Bishop on Bishop nominees. Currently, no person or body is charged with nominating candidates for this important work.

For most positions the Committee is charged with nominating at least twice the number of persons as there are open positions. However, the number of people who possess the skills and experience needed for the Court of Review is small and it is the recommendation of the Standing Commission that the Committee have the discretion to nominate fewer than twice the number of open positions.