

Members of the Court of Review

Term of office: 3 or 6 years (see note below in “Other information”)

Number to be elected: Three (3) bishops and one (1) alternate elected by the House of Bishops

Six (6) clergy with no fewer than two (2) priests and two (2) deacons, six (6) lay persons, and one (1) clergy alternate and one (1) lay alternate elected by the House of Deputies

Position description:

The Court of Review is the court of the Church to hear appeals from Diocesan Hearing Panels in matters of clergy discipline under Canon IV.15 and determine issues of venue under Canon IV.19.5.c. The Court of Review also writes reports concerning objections to the election of a Bishop under Canon III.11.8.

The Court of Review was created in accordance with Resolution A110 (Amendments to Title IV), passed at the 79th General Convention and amended by the 80th General Convention, to replace a previous structure of multiple Provincial Courts of Review. The Court of Review shall select a president from among its members. The President shall be a Priest, Deacon, or lay person. Whenever a Title IV matter is referred to the Court of Review, the President shall appoint a panel consisting of one bishop, two clergy, and two lay persons. 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.

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 is completed.

Qualities & competencies nominees should have:

Members of the Court of Review should be well-versed in the Canons; understand the goals and processes of Title III and Title IV; embrace a process that includes reconciliation as well as justice; and be able to articulate that goal in a way which does not deny or diminish the hurt of those who are feeling wronged. Compassion, dedication to finding solutions/resolutions that uphold the Canons in a manner that serves the overarching goal of reconciliation, and clarity about acceptable/unacceptable behavior are all essential qualities for Board members. Analytical thinking and the ability to balance the letter and spirit of the law are equally essential. It is vital that nominees have computer literacy and Internet access. Candidates need the ability to keep information confidential and understand that it can be shared only within the guidelines of the Title III or IV processes, as applicable.

Duties of this office:

Number of meetings: one face to face organizational meeting/training, while most other work can be completed over Zoom. All other work depends on cases referred to the court.

Meeting expenses: Paid

Travel expenses: Paid

Other information:

Because this is the first Court of Review election since the canonical revisions passed at GC80, the entire Court is up for election. The amended canons provide for staggered elections so that half of the positions on the Court are up for election at each General Convention. For the upcoming 81st General Convention, to setup the staggered election system, the first six Court positions elected will serve full six-year terms and the next six Court positions elected will serve for three years.

Summary of time expectations:

Dependent on matters referred to the Court. Initial training in the triennium would be 2 days (plus travel). If a member is assigned to be part of a panel to hear a matter, the record, or part of it, of the Hearing Panel proceedings, must be reviewed and briefs (legal arguments) prepared by the parties reviewed and studied. Attendance at oral argument on the matter is required. Time will also be spent in deliberations with members of the panel, and preparation of the Court's written decision.