

**PROPOSED REVISIONS PRESENTED BY CONSTITUTION AND CANONS
COMMITTEE TO 147TH CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST VIRGINIA
[STRIKEOUTS IN BLUE; INSERTS IN RED]**

**CONSTITUTION OF THE EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

PREAMBLE

Being led by the Holy Spirit to fulfill Christ's teachings, in order to promote righteousness, transparency, and harmony in our governance, under the supervision of the Ecclesiastical Authority, we Episcopalians of West Virginia do hereby establish this body of diocesan law: The Constitution and the Canons of the Diocese of West Virginia.

ARTICLE 1. Title, Bounds and Establishment of Constitution

This Diocese shall be known and distinguished as The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of West Virginia, also known as "The Diocese of West Virginia," (hereinafter "This Diocese"), and its bounds shall be the bounds of the entire state of West Virginia. This Constitution supersedes all previous Constitutions of The Diocese of West Virginia.

ARTICLE 2. Accession to The Episcopal Church

This Diocese and all of its Congregations and other organizations accede to and are subject to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church. The Diocese of West Virginia is a part of The Episcopal Church which is a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, a Fellowship within the One, Holy Catholic, and Apostolic Church, in communion with the See of Canterbury, upholding and propagating the historic Faith and Order as set forth in The Book of Common Prayer.

ARTICLE 3. The Ecclesiastical Authority

The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall be the Diocesan Bishop; or if there be no Diocesan Bishop, then the Bishop Coadjutor; or if there be no Bishop Coadjutor, then the Bishop Suffragan at the request of the Standing Committee; and if there are no such Bishops, then the Standing Committee.

ARTICLE 4. The Convention

Section 1. There shall be a Convention of this Diocese to be convened annually at a date, time, and place to be set by the Ecclesiastical Authority. The date shall be set in order that due notice may be given at least 120 days prior to the Convention.

Section 2. The Ecclesiastical Authority may call Special Conventions and fix the time and place at which they shall convene upon notice given at least 30 days prior to the Special Convention.

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ARTICLE 5. Members of Convention

Section 1. The Convention shall be composed of the Bishop, if there be one, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, the Bishop Suffragan, if there be one, and clergy, lay delegates and members ex officio.

Section 2. The clergy entitled to membership shall be all those Bishops, Priests and Deacons who are canonically resident within the Diocese, and who, at the time of the Convention, are legally domiciled or actively engaged in ordained ministry within the Diocese. No clergy person shall lose membership on account of age, infirmity, or of service in the armed forces of the United States as a chaplain, so long as a legal domicile is maintained in West Virginia.

Section 3. Each Parish and Mission shall be represented by lay delegates and alternates as authorized herein, subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by Canon. Each Mission and recognized affiliated college/university campus ministry shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. Each Parish of fewer than seventy-five (75) communicants in good standing shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. Parishes numbering at least seventy-five (75) but fewer than one hundred twenty-five (125) communicants in good standing shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates. Parishes numbering at least one hundred twenty-five (125) shall be entitled to three (3) delegates and three (3) alternates. ~~Each Parish of fewer than one hundred (100) communicants in good standing as listed in the prior year's parochial report shall be entitled to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. Parishes numbering at least one hundred (100) but fewer than two hundred fifty (250) shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates. Parishes numbering at least two hundred and fifty (250) but fewer than five hundred (500) shall be entitled to three (3) delegates and three (3) alternates. Parishes numbering at least five hundred (500) but fewer than a thousand (1000) shall be entitled to four (4) delegates and four (4) alternates, and Parishes numbering one thousand (1000) or more shall be entitled to five (5) delegates and five (5) alternates.~~ Numbers of each congregation's delegation shall be determined by the Diocese according to communicants in good standing reported in the Parochial Reports of the most recent three years on a rolling basis.~~year previous to the Convention.~~ Each lay delegate and alternate shall be a member of the Parish or Mission represented and chosen as prescribed by Canon and a communicant in good standing as defined in Canon I.17.3 of the canons of The Episcopal Church such term always having the same meaning in this Constitution and the Canons of this Diocese.

Section 4. No person under ecclesiastical censure or process, whether clergy or lay, shall be entitled to membership.

Section 5. Ex officio members with seat, voice, and vote, shall include Canons serving in official Diocesan roles; the President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Episcopal Youth Council of the Diocese of West Virginia; and such others as the Convention may decide.

Section 6. Ex officio members with seat and voice, but no vote, shall include clergy who are licensed to officiate, and such others as the Convention may decide and as may be established by Canon.

ARTICLE 6. Officers of Convention

Section 1. The Bishop is President of the Convention. In the absence of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, shall preside. In the absence of the Bishop and the Bishop Coadjutor, if

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there be one, the President of the Standing Committee shall preside unless the Standing Committee authorizes the Bishop Suffragan, if there be one, or an Interim bishop to preside. In the absence of a bishop as herein authorized, the President of the Standing Committee shall preside until a bishop as herein authorized is present.

Section 2. A Secretary of the Convention shall be elected from among nominees proposed by the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Secretary's duty shall be to take minutes of the proceedings, to preserve the journals and records, to prepare the post-Convention Journal of the Convention, and to perform other duties as established by the Convention or by Canon. The Secretary shall serve until a successor is elected.

ARTICLE 7. Conduct of Convention

Section 1. Quorum. Fifteen (15) members of the clergy, and lay delegates representing at least twenty (20) congregations shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. Voting. The members shall deliberate in one body and each member with voting privileges shall have a vote. A majority vote shall give validity to any measure, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution or in the Canons. When three clergy and three lay delegates from three separate congregations unite to request it, the voting shall take place by orders, that is, by the clergy order and the lay order, in which case the concurrence of a majority of each order shall be necessary to adopt any measure.

ARTICLE 8. Election of Bishops

Section 1. The election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, shall be by Convention either in an Annual Convention or in a Special Convention. Nomination procedures shall be as prescribed by Canon. In either case the Ecclesiastical Authority shall notify all Congregations in the Diocese at least thirty days prior to the Convention of the date and place of such convention called to elect a Bishop, and such notice shall be published and broadcast throughout the Diocese by all reasonable means, which shall include but not be limited to a notice directed to all clergy entitled to membership at Convention and to each Parish, Organized Mission, and ~~Bishop's Mission~~ Worshipping Community.

Section 2. At ~~the~~ a Convention called to elect a Bishop, two-thirds of the clergy entitled to membership and two-thirds of the individual lay delegates entitled to membership shall constitute a quorum. ~~No~~ election shall take place unless a quorum ~~of two-thirds of the clergy entitled to membership and two-thirds of the lay delegates entitled to membership~~ be present at the commencement of voting. ~~When~~ The vote for Bishop ~~takes place it~~ shall be by orders and by ballot. The President shall declare a candidate elected when, ~~and when~~ a majority of the clergy and a majority of the lay delegates have voted for the same person candidate, ~~the President shall declare such person elected.~~ After a quorum has been declared by the President at the commencement of voting, if less than a quorum is present for any subsequent rounds of voting as may be necessary, the President may declare that voting shall proceed; ~~and~~ an election will be decided when two-thirds of the voters present from each order vote for the same person candidate.

ARTICLE 9. Officers of the Diocese

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Section 1. Treasurer. The Ecclesiastical Authority, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, shall nominate at every fifth Annual Convention dated from the Convention of 2002, at least one person, but not more than three persons, suitable for Treasurer, of whom the Convention shall by ballot elect one to serve as Treasurer for five years and until a successor is elected. The Treasurer takes office at the conclusion of the Convention at which ~~he/she~~they is-are elected. If a vacancy should occur, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a successor to serve until the next regular Annual Convention, at which time an election shall be held following the procedures set forth herein to elect a Treasurer for the remainder of the term in which the vacancy occurred. It shall be the Treasurer's duty to be a financial adviser to the Diocese, and to perform such other duties as may be established by Canon. The Treasurer shall be learned in accounting and finance and shall be a baptized person, who for the three (3) months prior to the electing Annual Convention, has been a communicant in good standing of a Congregation of this Diocese and a regular contributor to its support. The Treasurer shall be a member ex officio of each Convention, with seat and voice, but without vote.

Section 2. Chancellor. The Ecclesiastical Authority, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, shall nominate at every fifth Annual Convention dated from the Convention of 2009, at least one, but not more than three persons, learned in the Law of the State and Church, either clergy or lay persons, for Chancellor, of whom Convention shall by ballot elect one to serve for five years and until a successor is elected. The Chancellor takes office at the conclusion of the Convention at which ~~he/she~~they is-are elected. If a vacancy should occur, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a successor to serve until the next regular Annual Convention, at which time an election shall be held following the procedures set forth herein to elect a Chancellor for the remainder of the term in which the vacancy occurred. If a lay person, the Chancellor shall be a baptized person, who for the three (3) months last past prior to the electing Annual Convention, has been a communicant in good standing of a Congregation of this Diocese and a regular contributor to its support. It shall be the Chancellor's duty to be legal adviser to the Ecclesiastical Authority and, to the extent not in conflict with said duties, the Standing Committee. The Chancellor shall be a member ex officio of each Convention, with seat and voice, but without vote.

ARTICLE 10. Boards, Committees, and Commissions

The Convention shall provide by Canon for the appointment or election of a Board of Trustees, a Standing Committee, a Diocesan Council, a Constitution and Canons Committee, and other such bodies which the Convention deems necessary for the administration and governance of this Diocese.

ARTICLE 11. Congregations of the Diocese

The Congregations of this Diocese are Parishes, Missions, and Worshipping Communities, ~~and Bishop's Missions~~. Their formation, organization, alteration, and dissolution are set by Canon.

ARTICLE 12. ~~Regional Organizations~~ Deaneries

~~Section 1. Deaneries.~~

The Diocese may be organized into regional groupings, called Deaneries, by the Ecclesiastical Authority. Deanery duties, responsibilities, formation, organization, bounds, and dissolution are set by Canon.

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~~Section 2. Regional Ministries.~~

~~A Regional Ministry is a formal affiliation of congregations and/or specialized missions with clergy and laity sharing mutual ministry for the purpose of spreading the Gospel. The title used to describe such affiliations may be changed from time to time as the Ecclesiastical Authority may deem appropriate.~~

ARTICLE 13. Alterations and Amendments

Any proposed alteration or amendment of this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Ecclesiastical Authority at least ninety (90) days before the meeting of the Annual Convention. Such proposals shall be referred by the Ecclesiastical Authority to the Constitutions and Canons Committee, which shall study such proposals and submit them in proper form to the Convention. From time to time the Constitutions and Canons Committee may be directed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to initiate a general review and general revision of the entire Constitution in order to render it into a more proper and usable form and such a general revision shall be considered as an amendment. All alterations and amendments being presented by the Constitution and Canons Committee shall be publicized by all reasonable means throughout the Diocese prior to the Convention. Amendments to the proposed alteration or amendment may be made from the floor of the Convention following the Parliamentary rules adopted by the Convention. The Convention shall not consider any alterations or amendments to this Constitution except those presented in accordance with the above procedure. Any alteration or amendment must be adopted by a majority of each Order present at Convention voting by Orders. It shall then lie over to the next Annual Convention, and if the same text, without substantive changes as decided by the President, is again adopted by the majority of each Order present at Convention voting by Orders, the amendment or alteration shall be then considered enacted.