

# Changes to Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island

## PROPOSED

Current	Page	Proposed Change
<p>CONSTITUTION November 4, 2016 As Amended</p> <p>CANONS November 7, 2015 As Amended</p> <p>RULES OF ORDER October 23, 2010</p>	Cover	<p>CONSTITUTION Proposed Amendment November 2021 – First Reading November 2022 – Second Reading</p> <p>CANONS As Amended and Restated on November ____, 2021</p> <p>STANDING RULES OF ORDER As Amended and Restated November , 2021</p>
<p>Section 4.2. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall have the power to call a Special Convention. The call shall designate the time, place and purpose of the Special Convention and no business other than that stated in the call shall be transacted except by unanimous consent.</p>	4	<p>Section 4.2. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall have the <b>authority</b> to call a Special Convention. The call shall designate the time, place and purpose of the Special Convention and no business other than that stated in the call shall be transacted except by unanimous consent.</p>
	4	<p><b>NEW SECTION INSERTED</b> Section 4.3 The Ecclesiastical Authority shall have the authority to declare that an annual Convention or special Convention be held virtually, which means real time interactions that take place over the internet using integrated audio and visual, chat tools and application sharing.</p>
<p>Sections 4.3 through 4.8</p>		<p>Renumbered, now 4.4 – 4.9</p>
	8	<p><b>NEW</b> Amended and Restated on November ____, 2021</p>

CANONS

<p><b>2.2 Appointment.</b> Members of the regular committees of the Convention shall be appointed annually by the Ecclesiastical Authority within sixty days of the close of any Annual Convention and shall serve staggered three year terms until their successors are appointed. Any vacancies in committees shall be filled by the Ecclesiastical Authority</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>(a) Members of the regular committees of the Convention shall be appointed annually by the Ecclesiastical Authority within sixty days of the close of any Annual Convention and unless otherwise specified shall serve staggered three year terms or until their successors are appointed. Any vacancies in committees shall be filled by the Ecclesiastical Authority by Diocesan Council.</p> <p>(b) Each elected position is a three-year term, unless otherwise noted. The term of office shall continue until the close of the Diocesan Convention, or until successors are elected or appointed. No elected or appointed individual who has served two consecutive terms shall be eligible for re-election or reappointment until one year after the second term has expired. Except as provided elsewhere in these Canons, no full time employee of the Diocese may be elected or appointed to any committee, commission, or other group; provided, however, a full time employee may be elected or appointed a deputy or alternate to General Convention</p>
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<p><b>2.3 Committee on Admissions.</b> The Committee on Admissions shall consist of one Cleric and two lay persons. All applications for admission into union with the Convention shall be referred to the Committee which shall review and shall report to Convention all applications.</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Section 2.3 <b>Committee on Admissions.</b> The Committee on Admissions shall consist of one Cleric and two lay persons. All applications for admission into union with the Convention shall be referred to the Committee, which shall be appointed by the Bishop on an as needed basis, and confirmed with confirmation by the Diocesan Council. The Committee is to serve until the Committee's report is presented to Convention. which shall review. The Committee shall review any application for admission and shall report to Convention all applications.</p>
<p>2.4. <b>Committee on Canons.</b> The Committee on Canons shall consist of three Clergy and three lay persons. All proposed amendments of the Charter, the Constitution and the Canons of the Diocese and the Rules of Order of the Convention shall be referred to the Committee which shall review and shall report to Convention all proposed amendments</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>Section 2.4 <b>Committee on Canons.</b> The Committee on Canons shall consist of at least a minimum number of four people, consisting of at least one clergy, one lay person, the Canon to the Ordinary, if there is one, and the Chancellor. All proposed amendments of the Charter, the Constitution and the Canons of the Diocese and the Rules of Order of the Convention shall be referred to the Committee which shall review and shall report to Convention all proposed amendments.</p>
<p>2.5. <b>Committee on Agenda.</b> The Committee on Agenda shall consist of at least three persons. The Committee shall arrange the calendar for sessions of Convention and expedite business of the Convention.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>Section 2.5 <b>Committee on Agenda.</b> The Committee on Agenda shall consist of at least three persons who shall be appointed annually by the Bishop. In consultation with Diocesan Staff and the Canon to the Ordinary, the Committee shall arrange the agenda for sessions of Convention and expedite business of the Convention.</p>

<p><b>2.6. Committee on Resolutions.</b> The Committee on Resolutions shall consist of three Clergy and three lay persons. All resolutions recommending action by Convention other than resolutions accompanying reports presented to Convention shall be referred to the Committee which shall review and shall report to Convention all resolutions.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p><b>Section 2.6 Committee on Resolutions.</b> The Committee on Resolutions shall consist of at least two Clergy and at least two lay persons appointed by the Bishop and confirmed with confirmation by Diocesan Council within sixty (60) days of the close of Convention. All resolutions recommending action by Convention other than resolutions accompanying reports presented to Convention shall be referred to the Committee which shall review and shall report to Convention all resolutions.</p>
<p><b>2.7. Committee on Elections.</b> The Committee on Elections shall consist of three Clergy and three lay persons. The Committee shall present nominations and conduct elections for all elective offices except the offices of Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor and Bishop Suffragan. The Committee shall appoint tellers to receive and count the votes. The tellers may all be lay persons but need not be members of Convention. Nominations to any elective office shall be made only with the consent of the nominee.</p>	<p>19</p>	<p><b>Section 2.7 Committee on Elections.</b> The Committee on Elections shall consist of at least two Clergy and two lay persons who have been selected in consultation with the Diocesan Staff as identified by the Bishop, appointed by the Bishop and confirmed by Diocesan Council. The Committee shall present nominations and conduct elections for all elective offices except the offices of Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor and Bishop Suffragan. Any lay person nominated to office shall have been approved by the priest serving their congregation; provided, however, the nomination of a lay person from the Convention floor shall not require such prior approval. At Convention the Committee shall appoint tellers to receive and count the votes. The tellers may all be lay persons and need not be members of Convention. Nominations to any elective office shall be made only with the consent of the nominee.</p>

	21	<p><b>NEW SECTION INSERTED</b> Section 5.3  <b>Chief Financial Officer.</b></p> <p>(a) The Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”) shall oversee the Treasurer and shall be responsible for all aspects of the Diocese’s financial management and business affairs to include planning, implementation, managing and facilitation of all the financial activities of the Diocese, including, without limitation, business and strategic planning, budgeting, forecasting and negotiations.</p> <p>(b) The CFO is an officer of the Diocese.</p> <p>(c) The CFO is not required to be a communicant of The Episcopal Church</p>
<p>5.3. Treasurer.</p> <p>(a) At each Annual Convention a treasurer shall be elected, who shall be a communicant in good standing of The Episcopal Church registered in a congregation of the Diocese. The term of office shall continue until the close of the next Annual Convention or until a successor is elected. When not a member of the Convention, the Treasurer shall, ex officio, be entitled to a seat and a voice in the Convention, but not to a vote.</p> <p>(b) The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Diocese. The Treasurer shall give to the Diocese a bond in an amount and by a surety satisfactory to the Diocesan Council to secure the faithful discharge of the duties of treasurer.</p> <p>(c) The Treasurer shall present at each Annual Convention an audited financial report of the operations of the Diocese for the preceding fiscal year and of its financial condition as at</p>	21	<p>Section 5.4 <b>Treasurer.</b></p> <p>(a) At each Annual Convention a Treasurer shall be elected, who shall be a communicant in good standing of The Episcopal Church and a lay member registered in a congregation of the Diocese, preferably an active or retired C.P.A. The term of office shall continue until the close of the next Annual Convention or until a successor is elected. When not a member of the Convention, the Treasurer shall, ex officio, be entitled to a seat and a voice in the Convention, but not to a vote.</p> <p>(b) The Treasurer shall oversee the financial affairs of the Diocese and shall develop and oversee policies and procedures for ensuring the Diocese’s ongoing solvency and financial accounting policies.</p> <p>(c) The Treasurer shall give to the Diocese a bond, in an amount and by a surety satisfactory to the Diocesan</p>

<p>the close of such year. The fiscal year of the Diocese shall be the calendar year.</p> <p>(d) A controller, one or more assistant treasurers and other financial officers may be appointed by the Bishop, upon recommendation of the Treasurer, and with the concurrence of the Commission on Finance.</p> <p>(e) Any vacancy in the office of treasurer shall be filled by the Diocesan Council after consideration of the recommendations of the Commission on Finance.</p>		<p>Council, to secure the faithful discharge of the duties of Treasurer.</p> <p>(d) The Treasurer shall present at each Annual Convention an audited financial report of the operations of the Diocese for the preceding fiscal year and of its financial condition as at the close of such year. The fiscal year of the Diocese shall be the calendar year.</p> <p>(e) A controller, one or more assistant Treasurers and other financial officers may be appointed by the Bishop, upon recommendation of the Treasurer, and with the concurrence of the Commission on Finance.</p> <p>(f) Any vacancy in the office of Treasurer shall be filled by the Diocesan Council after consideration of the recommendations of the Commission on Finance.</p>
<p>6.2. <b>Membership.</b> The Diocesan Council shall be composed of the Bishop; the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one; the Bishop or Bishops Suffragan, if there be any; and the following:</p> <p>(a) Nine individuals elected by the Convention, of whom five shall be clergy and four shall be lay persons, to serve staggered three- year terms;</p> <p>(b) One individual from each Deanery, appointed by the Bishop with the advice of each Deanery, to serve staggered three-year terms. The schedule of terms for appointees shall be set by the Diocesan Council whenever it changes the number of Deaneries; however, no decrease in the number of Deaneries has the effect of shortening the term of any</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>Section 6.2 <b>Membership.</b> The Diocesan Council shall be composed of the Bishop; the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one; the Bishop or Bishops Suffragan, if there be any; and the following:</p> <p>(a) <b>No fewer than six and no more than eight individuals, elected by Convention, and consisting of an equal number of lay and clergy persons,</b> to serve staggered three- year terms; and</p> <p>(b) <b>In addition,</b> one individual from each Deanery <b>shall be</b> appointed by the Bishop with the advice of each Deanery, to serve staggered three-year terms. The schedule of terms for appointees shall be set by the Diocesan Council whenever it changes the number of Deaneries; however, no decrease in the</p>

<p>appointed member of Diocesan Council.</p> <p>(c) The Treasurer and one member of the Commission on Finance to serve ex-officio; and</p> <p>(d) The Chancellor and the President of the Standing Committee to serve ex-officio, but without a vote.</p>		<p>number of Deaneries has the effect of shortening the term of any appointed member of Diocesan Council, and</p> <p>(c) <b>The Treasurer</b> and one member of the Commission on Finance to serve ex-officio; and</p> <p>(d) The Chancellor and the President of the Standing Committee to serve ex-officio, but without a vote.</p>
<p><b>6.6 Authority and Duties</b></p> <p>(c) To make adjustments in the current budget of the Diocese upon recommendation of the Commission on Finance and the Committee on Program and Budget, consistent with programs and policies approved and adopted by the Diocesan Convention.</p>		<p>(c) To make adjustments in the current budget of the Diocese upon recommendation of the Commission on Finance, consistent with programs and policies approved and adopted by the Diocesan Convention.</p>
<p><b>6.8. Committee on Program and Budget.</b></p>	<p>22</p>	<p>Section removed</p>
<p><b>6.9. Committee on Compensation and Benefits.</b></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>Now Section 6.8</p>
<p><b>6.10 Committee on the Diocesan Audit.</b></p> <p>The Diocesan Council shall organize and supervise the Committee on the Diocesan Audit. The Committee shall be composed of at least three individuals nominated by the Bishop and confirmed by Diocesan Council. All such members of the Committee shall be designated not later than February 1 of each year. The Committee on the Diocesan Audit shall ensure that all accounts of the Diocese are audited by a professional firm recommended by the Committee and approved by Diocesan Council as to terms, including cost. The Committee shall provide for a proper audit of all accounts of the Diocesan Investment Trust and shall report the findings to each Annual Convention.</p>	<p>23</p>	<p><b>Section 6.9 Committee on Diocesan Audit.</b> The Diocesan Council shall organize and supervise the Committee on the Diocesan Audit. The Committee shall be composed of at least three individuals nominated by the Bishop and confirmed by Diocesan Council. All such members of the Committee shall be designated not later than February 1 of each year. The Committee on the Diocesan Audit shall ensure that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all accounts of the Diocese are audited by a professional firm recommended by the Committee and approved by Diocesan Council as to terms, including cost, and</li> <li>• provide for a proper audit of all accounts of the Diocesan Investment</li> </ul>

		<p>Trust and shall report the findings to each Annual Convention.  References to Risk Management deleted.</p>
	23	<p><b>NEW SECTION ADDED</b> Section 6.10  <b>Committee on Insurance &amp; Risk Management Committees.</b> The Diocesan Council shall establish oversight over one or more Insurance &amp; Risk Management Committee(s). The Committees shall be responsible for the annual review of property and liability insurance for the Diocese, and such other matters as may be assigned from time to time.</p>
<p>7.1. <b>Commission on Finance.</b>  (a) The Diocesan Council shall supervise a Commission on Finance. The Commission shall be composed of the Bishop, the Treasurer and the following:  (i) Three individuals elected by the Convention, of whom one shall be a cleric and two shall be lay persons, to serve staggered three year terms; and  (ii) Three individuals appointed by the Bishop with the consent of Diocesan Council, of whom one shall be a cleric and two shall be lay persons, to serve staggered three year terms.</p> <p>All members of the Commission shall be clergy canonically resident in the Diocese or adult communicants of The Episcopal Church in good standing and registered in a congregation of the Diocese. The term of office shall continue until the close of the Annual Convention or until successors are elected and qualified. No elected or appointed individual who has served two consecutive terms shall be eligible for re-election or reappointed until one year after the second term has expired.</p> <p>(b) The duties of the Commission on Finance shall be:</p>	23	<p>Section 7.1 <b>Commission on Finance.</b>  (a) The Diocesan Council shall supervise a Commission on Finance. The Commission shall be composed of the Bishop, the Treasurer and the following:  (i) Up to nine individuals elected by Diocesan Council and approved by the Bishop, at least two of whom shall be clergy and two of whom shall be lay persons, and the number of clergy shall not exceed the number of lay persons. The clergy shall be canonically resident in the Diocese and the lay persons shall be adult communicants of The Episcopal Church in good standing and registered in a congregation of the Diocese.  (b) The Commission, in accordance with procedures approved by Diocesan Council, shall consult with such representatives of commissions, deaneries, committees, organizations, agencies and programs receiving or requesting funding from the Diocese as the Commission may deem appropriate and necessary and shall prepare and propose a budget for the Diocese. The</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To maintain general supervision of the financial affairs of the Diocese;</li> <li>(ii) To assist the Committee on Program and Budget in the performance of its duties, by providing financial and statistical information for use in preparation of proposed budgets, to review such proposed budgets for financial integrity and to report its recommendations to Diocesan Council;</li> <li>(iii) To require compliance by custodians of trust and endowment funds and of securities held by or for any parish, mission or organization of the Diocese with standard business practices prescribed by the Canons of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese;</li> <li>(iv) To act as adviser on financial matters to the Bishop and, upon request, to individual parishes within the Diocese;</li> <li>(v) To require that adequate insurance be maintained on all property owned by the Diocese and each parish;</li> <li>(vi) To require adequate bonding of all persons handling funds of the Diocese and of any organization under its jurisdiction; and</li> <li>(vii) To perform such other duties relating to the business affairs of the Diocese as may be referred to it.</li> </ul>		<p>proposed budget, as recommended by the Diocesan Council, shall be made available to all members of the Diocesan Convention at least seven days prior to the date of Convention.</p> <p>(c) The duties of the Commission on Finance shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) To maintain general supervision of the financial affairs of the Diocese;</li> <li>(ii) To require compliance by custodians of trust and endowment funds and of securities held by or for any parish, mission or organization of the Diocese with standard business practices prescribed by the Canons of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese;</li> <li>(iii) To act as adviser on financial matters to the Bishop and, upon request, to individual parishes within the Diocese;</li> <li>(iv) To require adequate bonding of all persons handling funds of the Diocese and of any organization under its jurisdiction; and</li> <li>(v) To perform such other duties relating to the business affairs of the Diocese as may be referred to it.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7.2. Commission on Congregational Development.</b></p> <p>(a) The Diocesan Council shall supervise a Commission on Congregational Development. The Commission on Congregational Development shall be composed of the Bishop or a person designated by the Bishop, and six clergy and six lay members. Three clergy and three lay members shall be elected by Convention and three clergy and three lay members shall be nominated by the Bishop and confirmed by Convention. The members of the Commission shall serve staggered three year terms. The Bishop shall</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>Section 7.2 <b>Commission on Congregational Development.</b></p> <p>(a) The Diocesan Council shall supervise a Commission on Congregational Development. The Commission on Congregational Development shall be composed of the Bishop or a person designated by the Bishop, and four clergy and four lay members. Two clergy and two lay members shall be elected by Convention and two clergy and two lay members shall be nominated by the Bishop and confirmed by Convention. The members of the Commission shall serve staggered three year terms. The</p>

designate one member to Chair the Commission.		Bishop shall designate one member to Chair the Commission.
<p><b>7.3 Commission on Ministry.</b> The Commission on Ministry shall be composed of six clergy, at least four of whom shall be presbyters, and six lay members nominated by the Bishop and confirmed by Convention for three year terms.</p> <p>(b) Procedures. Under the guidance and oversight of the Bishop, the Commission shall have primary responsibility for the selection, examination, interviewing and evaluation of all applicants for holy orders, as prescribed by the Canons of The Episcopal Church. The Commission may act through committees in the conduct of any or all such duties.</p>		<p>Section 7.3 <b>Commission on Ministry.</b> The Commission on Ministry shall be composed of five clergy, at least three of whom shall be presbyters, and five lay members nominated by the Bishop and confirmed by Convention for three year terms.</p> <p>(b) Procedures. Under the guidance and oversight of the Bishop, the Commission shall have primary responsibility for advising and assisting the Bishop in the selection, examination, interviewing and evaluation of all applicants for holy orders, as prescribed by the Canons of The Episcopal Church. The Commission may act through committees in the conduct of any or all such duties.</p>
<b>7.5. Commission on Church Architecture.</b>	25	Removed
	41	Insert Amended and Restated on November , 2021
Standing Rules of Order		
<p><b>14. Request for Appropriations.</b> All resolutions requesting an appropriation shall be filed with the Commission on Finance and the Committee on Program and Budget at such time as the Commission on Finance and the Committee on Program and Budget determine.</p>	43	<p><b>13. Request for Appropriations.</b> All resolutions requesting an appropriation shall be filed with the Commission on Finance at such time as the Commission on Finance determines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbering error.</li> <li>• Reference to Committee on Program and Budget removed</li> </ul>
		<p><b>NEW SECTION ADDED Virtual Convention</b></p> <p><b>19. Virtual Convention.</b> The Ecclesiastical Authority shall have the power authority to declare that an annual Convention or special</p>

		Convention be held virtually, which means real time interactions that take place over the internet using integrated audio and visual, chat tools and application sharing.
		<b>ADDED</b> Amended and Restated on November , 2021