

## RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS TO AMEND THE NOMINATION PROCESS

Be it resolved, that the 232nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island amend Standing Rule of Order 15 to read:

**15. Nominations.** The Committee on Elections shall receive nominations to any elective office to be filled by Convention in one of the following ways:

- (a) by written or electronic nomination provided to the chair to the Committee at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date on which Convention is scheduled to meet, signed or electronically endorsed by the nominee and accompanied by a brief biographical description. A lay person seeking nomination must be a communicant in good standing of a congregation in the Diocese and submit a signed or electronic endorsement from the priest-in-charge of the congregation, or senior warden in the absence of a priest-in-charge; or
- (b) the Committee shall make a nomination for each elective office for which no other nomination shall have been made; or
- (c) from the floor of Convention, provided each such nomination from the floor is seconded by not less than eight (8) members of Convention.

At least ninety (90) days before each annual session of Convention, the Secretary of Convention shall transmit to every member of Convention a list of the offices to be filled by election at the coming session, together with directions concerning the manner in which nominations to said offices may be made. The Committee shall prepare ballots which list the names of persons duly nominated in advance of the meeting. Ballots shall include information as to the method of voting; and, in voting, only such ballots shall be used. The Committee shall deliver to the Secretary of Convention, the names of nominees, together with a brief biographical description of each candidate, in sufficient time to distribute to every member of Convention at least ten (10) days before the date of Convention.

### Explanation

The process outlined in Standing Rule of Order 15 stating that every nominee must have three signatures from Convention delegates is cumbersome and not required by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. The requirement of lay nominees to have the endorsement of the priest-in-charge of their congregation continues an existing practice from the current nomination forms. The changes to this standing rule reflect the present reality that electronic distribution of material and balloting are a common practice. The Committee on Elections believes these changes will make the nomination process less cumbersome for the people of this Diocese.

The following is a black lined copy of this amendment.

**15. Nominations.** The Committee on Elections shall receive nominations to any elective office to be filled by Convention in one of the following ways:

- (a) by written or electronic nomination provided to the chair of the Committee at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date on which Convention is scheduled to meet, signed or electronically endorsed by ~~not less than three (3) members of Convention~~ the nominee and accompanied by a brief biographical description. A lay person seeking a nomination must be a communicant in good standing of a congregation in the Diocese and submit a signed or electronic endorsement from the priest-in-charge of the congregation, or senior warden in the absence of a priest-in-charge; or

- **(b)** the Committee shall make a nomination for each elective office for which no other nomination shall have been made; or
- **(c)** from the floor of Convention, provided each such nomination from the floor is seconded by not less than eight (8) members of Convention.

At least ninety (90) days before each annual session of Convention, the Secretary of Convention shall transmit to every member of Convention a list of the offices to be filled by election at the coming session, together with directions concerning the manner in which nominations to said offices may be made. The Committee shall prepare ballots ~~in which shall be printed, in order determined by lot, which list~~ the names of persons duly nominated in advance of the meeting. ~~In addition, the ballots shall contain, under each office, as many blank spaces as there are places to be filled, in which voters may write names of those nominated from the floor.~~ Ballots shall ~~have printed on them~~ include information as to the method of voting; and, in voting, only such ballots shall be used. The Committee shall deliver to the Secretary of Convention ~~specimen copies of this ballot,~~ the names of nominees, together with a brief biographical description of each candidate, in sufficient time to distribute them to every member of Convention at least ten (10) days before the date of Convention.