

Summary of Changes to the Canons

June 7, 2015

Item #	Name of change	Old canon reference	New canon reference	Description of change
1.	Members of the Diocesan Convention: Minimum delegate age	Canon 1	Title I Canon 1 Section 1.1.4	Changes age of delegate. Must be 18 <i>on or before</i> the first day of convention; allows for the election of a “youth” delegate with voting. The requirement that said delegate must be 18 on or before start of convention is to comply with Texas law stipulating that one must be 18 to have the legal capacity to contract.
2.	Members of the Diocesan Convention: Convention Lay Delegate formula based on ASA	Canon 1	Title I Canon 1 Section 1.1.6	The proposed formula drops the Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing (“member”) standard and adopts the ASA standard instead, to emphasize those who actively participate in the life of the community, plus the few shut-ins who regularly receive Eucharist but are physically unable to attend Sunday worship regularly. The formula also drops the sliding disincentive as church membership increases (to meet the needs of larger congregations) balanced with granting a minimum of one delegate to each Parish or Mission, for the first 25 and 50 persons, regardless of size (to meet the needs of the smallest congregations). This formula also recognizes and encourages the filling of pews and the development of active LEV ministries in all the congregations. It also encourages the formal recordation in the Register of attendance on Sunday services and Saturday night services and those who, for health reasons, must participate “off campus” but still as an integral part of the spiritual community through the LEV ministry. It also emphasizes the need to declare as mission stations those groups that have few numbers, so not to give disproportionate representation to a handful of people who do not constitute an active church and instead to encourage their

				combination with other active churches. No cap on delegates; based strictly on ASA.
3.	Members of the Diocesan Convention: Mission station representative	New	Title I Canon 1 Section 1.3	Adds a new category of convention member: nonvoting members from a mission station. Affirms the voice of the mission stations and that they are part of the ministry and governance of the Diocese.
4.	Members of the Diocesan Convention: Lay diocesan officials as convention members	New	Title I Canon 1 Section 2.1	Adds a new category of convention member: certain lay diocesan officials that are elected by convention (President of Standing Committee, President of Corporation, Chair of the Deputation to General Convention). These folks will have seat and voice, but no vote. Adding these lay officials increases the “participation” factor in our governance and tends to equalize the lay officials (who have not been elected as delegates from their Parish or Mission) with all the active clergy officials who may hold the same office but already get a vote per their clergy status.
5.	Attendance at Convention: only voting members required	Canon 2	Title I Canon 1 Section 4	Only voting members of the Convention are required to attend. Non-voting members, e.g., youth representatives, mission station representatives, alternate delegates, ex-officio church officials without vote, should attend but are not required to attend meetings of the Convention. Added language suggesting that parishes should cover the expenses of their delegates and the diocese should cover the expenses of the diocesan officials.
6.	Meetings of Diocesan Convention: Parish and Mission reports	Canon 2	Title I Canon 2 Section 2.4	Among reports submitted to convention, adds a requirement that each parish or mission should submit a report to include a short summary of what each church has done, plans to do, etc. for the journal and for history. Added language to clarify the content and due dates for materials. Added items to be permanently stored with the Journals.

7.	Standing Rules of Procedure	Canon 2	Title I Canon 2 Section 5	Added clarification of Rules of Procedure.
8.	Meetings of Diocesan Convention: Credentials Committee	Canon 2	Title I Canon 2 Section 8.1.1	Adds the responsibilities for the Credentials Committee.
9.	Meetings of Diocesan Convention: Nominations Committee	Canons 2 and 45	Title I Canon 2 Section 8.2	Makes changes to composition of Nominations committee; adds language to specify that the Bishop and Executive Council shall set the specific schedule for the Committee's work and deadlines regarding any applicable annual or special meeting of the Diocesan Convention. Eliminates the Nominating Ballot throughout the canons.
10.	Meetings of Diocesan Convention: Resolutions Committee	Canon 2	Title I Canons 2 Section 8.3	Adds the responsibilities for the Resolutions Committee.
11.	Quorum	Canon 3	Title I Canon 3	This provision maintains the current simple 1/3 quorum formula for all clergy but adopts a more complex two-step calculation for lay delegates. For laity, the Credentials Committee would now have to count as present (1) 1/3 of the total number of lay delegates elected by the congregations (who potentially could attend convention) and (2) whether those lay delegates are from 1/3 of the (17) active congregations represented. We are told that the Credentials Committee has already been doing this at conventions, though that is not what the canons or constitution currently require.
12.	Presiding Officer	Const. Art. 7	Title I Canon 4	No changes.

13.	Voting: Plurality	Const. Art. 8	Title I Canon 5 Section 3.2	Drops candidates receiving less than 10% of vote, should additional ballots be required to elect. Allows for a plurality instead of majority vote in non-episcopal and deputy elections, if the convention gives unanimous consent after three (3) ballots without an election The Deputies and First Alternates would still need a majority but other Alternates could be elected by a plurality. Episcopal elections still require 2/3 supermajority.
14.	Voting: Election of Deputies and Alternates to General Convention	Standing Rules of Procedure	Title I Canon 5 Section 4	The requirement for votes by orders in this election has already been eliminated. This provision further eliminates the nominating ballot and simplifies the process of electing deputies and alternates.
15.	Other Election Matters	Article IX	Title I Canon 2 Section 5	Expanded language from 2014 Constitution.
16.	Bishop Nominating Committee	Canon 40	Title II Canon 1 Section 2.1	Reduces the size of the Bishop Nominating committee to nine (9) members; eliminates the members previously selected by deaneries; only Standing Committee and Executive Council appoint members, at least one of whom must be a priest.
17.	Diocesan Secretary	Canon 4	Title II Canon 2	Changes the minutes approval process; establishes the deadline for journal due date to six months after Convention
18.	Diocesan Treasurer	Canon 5	Title II Canon 3	Removes requirement for treasurer to ask for assistant.
19.	Diocesan Chancellor	Canon 6	Title II Canon 4	Adds Convention and Executive Council to list of entities for which chancellor is legal advisor. Removes requirement for chancellor to ask for assistant.
20.	Diocesan Registrar	Canon 7	Title II Canon 5	No changes.
21.	Diocesan Historiographer	Canon 8	Title II Canon 6	No changes.

22.	Deputies to General Convention	Const. Art. 12; Canon 11	Title II Canon 7	Moved from Constitution.
23.	Members of Standing Committee	Const. Art. 10; Canon 9	Title II Canon 8	Moves provisions from Constitution and combines with former canon language.
24.	Executive Council	Const. Art. 11; Canon 10	Title III Canon 1	Language changes for clarification of Executive Council functions. Nine (9) members to be elected at large at convention; expands the number of <i>ex officio</i> members to include one deputy from the deputation to General Convention; clarifies authority and duties of Executive Council; adopts and publishes bylaws; simplifies committee structure- to be detailed in bylaws; clarifies financial responsibilities of Finance Committee; includes language to define membership and qualifications for the Finance Committee; adds a “Diocesan Convention Planning Committee”; sets a date of April 1 requiring the Executive Council to inform the Finance Committee of the priority of diocesan programs for funding and other directives to guide the Finance Committee in the preparation of the draft budget(s).
25.	Trustees to University of the South	Canon 12	Title III Canon 2	Adds qualifications for trustees.
26.	Commission on Ministry	Canon 13	Title III Canon 3	No change.
27.	Commission on Church Architecture and Applied Arts	Canon 14	Title III Canon 4	Adds emphasis on advisory role; oversight role on diocesan-owned property.
28.	Commission on Episcopal Schools	Canons 15 and 37	Title III Canon 5	Corrects errors in recent amendment regarding members; clarifies that heads of schools are <i>ex officio</i> members with seat and voice but no vote.
29.	Corporation; Title to Real Property	Const. Art. 14; Canons 17,18	Title III Canon 6	Postpone consideration of substantive changes until after diocesan litigation is completed.
30.	Diocesan Revolving Loan Fund	Canon 19	Title III Canon 7	Clarified status as a revolving “loan” fund; also allows Executive Council and Convention to designate funds for this purpose; adds Corporation and Finance Committee to the loan approval

				process; not to be used for grants or for loans for operating purposes
31.	Diocesan Institutions	Canon 20	Title III Canon 8	No changes.
32.	C&C Committee	Canon 42	Title III Canon 9	Adds requirement to adopt style policies to reflect a consistent format for the Constitution and Canons.
33.	Disciplinary Board	Canon 38	Title III Canon 10	No changes.
34.	Deaneries	Canon 35	Title III Canon 11	Removes the governance responsibility; beefs up mission and ministry responsibilities; members of a specific Deanery are (1) all clergy canonically and actually resident in the Diocese and who worship in a congregation in the Deanery and (2) all communicants in good standing and registered in a congregation in the Deanery.
35.	Fund for the Endowment of the Episcopate	Const. Art. 16	Title III Canon 12	Moved from the Constitution. Postpone consideration of substantive changes until after diocesan litigation is completed. Better describes what the funds shall be used for.
36.	Assessments of Parishes and Missions for Mutual Support of the Diocese	Const. Art. 15; Canon 16	Title IV Canon 1	Wording on arrearages made more pastoral. Clarifies reductions process.
37.	Parishes	Canon 22	Title IV Canon 2	Requires Article of Conformity; changes from 50 to 75 the number of signatures on petition for new parish. To retain Parish status must have ASA of at least 100, have a full time priest (40 hours), have an established location, and be fully self-supporting. Failure to maintain standards for two (2) years may subject to change in status.
38.	Missions	Canon 21	Title IV Canon 3	Reduces from 50 to 30 the number of required signatures on application for new mission; clarifies when Mission is in union with Convention.

				To retain Mission status, must maintain ASA of 30, have services of clergy for at least 20 hours per week, and an established location.
39.	Mission Stations	Canon 21	Title IV Canon 4	Makes stand-alone canon. Maintenance as provided in Diocesan budget; Bishop may appoint a warden; Bishop certifies to convention if Mission Station will continue to next fiscal year. Mission Station has no obligation to pay assessment; has non-voting representative at Convention.
40.	Rector or Priest in Charge	Canon 23	Title IV Canon 5	Deletes use of term "Vicar."
41.	Assistant Clergy	Canon 24	Title IV Canon 6	Changes use of term "Curate" to Assistant Clergy.
42.	Wardens and Vestry of Parishes	Canon 25	Title IV Canon 7	Limits vestry to lay members only.
43.	Parish or Mission Meetings	Canon 26	Title IV Canon 8	No change.
44.	Annual Parochial Reports	Canon 27	Title IV Canon 9	No change.
45.	Parish Registers	Canon 28	Title IV Canon 10	Moves definition of communicant to Title V, Canon 5
46.	Use of Dedicated and Consecrated Churches	Canon 30	Title IV Canon 11	No change.
47.	Controversy Between Rector and Vestry	Canon 32	Title IV Canon 12	No change.
48.	Vacant Parishes	Canon 33	Title IV Canon 13	No change.
49.	Changes in Status	Canon 34	Title IV Canon 14	Bishop, with consent of Standing Committee, may dissolve a Mission Station at any time; clarifies shifts among parish, mission, and mission station status so that Convention has final

				vote for changes for Parishes and Missions. Maintains standards for change, e.g. “conditions render it advisable.” Adds failure to file parochial report as grounds for suspension. Treats consistently the missions and parishes that are already “in union” with the Convention or want to be “in union” with the Convention, by requiring action by the Convention, not the Bishop alone.
50.	Business Methods	Canon 29 Gen. Canon I.7	Title V Canon 1	Expressly applies same standards to diocese, congregations and all adjunct diocesan and parochial institutions (including schools, foundations, etc.) Finance Committee gets a copy of the diocesan audit report. Clarifies record keeping.
51.	Corporations	Canon 31	Title V Canon 2	Postpone consideration of substantive changes until diocesan litigation is completed.
52.	The Church Pension Fund	Canon 36	Title V Canon 3	Finance Committee of the Executive Council shall receive pension assessment reports and advise the Bishop and Executive Council, as requested.
53.	Church Offices	Canon 41; Gen. Canon I.17.8	Title V Canon 4	Requires oath; defines general qualifications for all church offices; adds provisions regarding moral character and communication skills; adds training and electronic communications requirements; adds indemnity from Diocese; adds clarification of volunteer status.
54.	Definitions	New	Title V Canon 5	Adds various ecclesiastical definitions useful for understanding canons and constitution.
55.	Notices	New	Title V Canon 6	Defines how to give notices when required by canons.
56.	Changes to Canons	Const. Art. 18	Title V Canon 7	Moved from Constitution.