

238th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Delaware
November 18-19, 2022



resolutions adopted

238th Annual Convention
of the Episcopal Church in Delaware

Resolutions Adopted

RESOLUTION #238-01

Date/Time	September 8, 2022, 9:00 p.m.
Title of Resolution	To give voice and vote to clergy licensed and appointed as priest or deacon in charge of congregations or exercising a ministry by diocesan appointment in the Episcopal Church in Delaware, but not canonically resident in the diocese.
Submitted by	Mark Harris
Submitted on behalf of	The Rev. Canon Mark Harris The Rev. Jeffrey Ross The Rev. Shelley McDade Anne Canan, Lay Delegate, St. Peter's, Lewes John Michael Sophos, Lay Delegate, St. Peter's, Lewes
Authorized representative to respond to questions, at convention, concerning this resolution	Mark Harris
RESOLVED	<p>Whereas there are in the Episcopal Church in Delaware clergy not canonically resident in the diocese serving in various parishes with responsibility for the pastoral and sacramental ministry with and to those congregations, or exercising ministry by diocesan appointment, and</p> <p>Whereas those clergy are under existing canons or through action by each diocesan convention given voice but not vote in conventions of the diocese, and</p> <p>Whereas these clergy, licensed in the Episcopal Church in Delaware, active in the life of this diocese, and providing spiritual and sacramental leadership as priests or deacons in charge of a parish, or in appointed ministries, are a source of wisdom and strength to the life of the diocese, and</p> <p>Whereas congregations ought to be represented at diocesan convention by both clergy and lay representatives,</p>

	<p><u>BE IT RESOLVED</u>, that this 238th convention of the Episcopal Church in Delaware amend and change Article IV, Section 2, of the constitution of the diocese as follows, such amendment to take effect immediately upon its passage at the 239th convention.</p> <p>“Article IV, Section 2</p> <p>Every bishop, priest or deacon of the Protestant Episcopal Church who is canonically resident in this diocese, <u>and every clergy person not canonically resident but licensed by the bishop and exercising an appointed ministry in the diocese</u>, shall have a seat in convention.</p> <p>Every bishop, priest or deacon of the Protestant Episcopal Church who is canonically resident in this diocese and (a) holds a cure or office in this diocese, (b) who shall have resigned a cure or office on account of age or physical incapacity, or (c) who holds neither a cure nor an office in this diocese nor has resigned a cure or office on account of age or physical incapacity but is in good standing and has reported, in writing, to the bishop each January or (d) whose ecclesiastical duty, for which the approval and the certification by the Ecclesiastical Authority are necessary, requires residence outside the jurisdiction of this diocese (including, but not limited to, a chaplain in the armed forces of the United States), shall have a vote in convention.</p> <p><u>Every clergy person not canonically resident but licensed and exercising a ministry in the diocese as clergy in charge of a congregation in union with the convention of this diocese, or in a ministry with diocesan appointment, shall have a vote in convention except when the diocesan convention is voting on the election of a bishop to serve in this diocese. “</u></p>
<p>EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION</p>	<p>This constitutional change requires two successive affirmative convention votes, the second without additional amendments. Hopefully this resolution speaks to the issues concerning voting by clergy in ministry in Delaware but not canonically resident.</p> <p>As the resolution states, there are a significant number of clergy serving in pastoral and sacramental ministries,</p>

	<p>under license and appointment from the diocese, who are not canonically resident. These clergy contribute greatly to the health of the diocese, and to the congregations where they serve. It seems right and just that they should have vote as well as voice in our deliberations in diocesan convention.</p> <p>A number of dioceses have extended the vote in convention to clergy not canonically resident. They have done so for many of the same reasons it should be considered here: several parishes rely for pastoral and sacramental ministry on clergy not canonically resident. The use of trained interim pastors not members of the diocese, clergy retired in other dioceses but now residing in or near the diocese and who cannot or ought not to change their canonical residency because of retirement needs, and the services clergy in adjacent dioceses to a ministry for a temporary period in the diocese. In such cases the congregations they serve are underrepresented in diocesan convention because these clergy cannot vote. This resolution proposes to give these clergy the vote in all cases save the election of a bishop.</p> <p>The canons of The Episcopal Church do not preclude such a change, and the dioceses that have instituted this change have not been challenged. This proposed change is deliberately limited in scope: it applies only to clergy not canonically resident who have an appointment by the diocese to a ministry in the diocese. It does not apply to non-resident clergy who do supply work in the diocese, or to assisting non-resident clergy in congregations where they may be given responsibilities under the guidance of the rector or priest in charge. It does not apply to voting for a bishop. The proposers believe that it is those who are, by canon, under the continuing authority of the bishop of this diocese who should make that decision.</p> <p>In the diocesan canons the clergy of canonical residence are named before convention, so there is no question as to who they are. The determination of additional clergy qualified to vote at convention under this canon then compares the list of clergy appointed in charge of congregations or with diocesan appointment with the list of canonical residential clergy. Those who are not residential but do have charges or appointments are the subject of this amendment and are added to the voting roles.</p>
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RESOLUTION #238-02

Date/Time	September 17, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Title of Resolution	A resolution to amend Article VI, Section 1, of the constitution of the Episcopal Church in Delaware to make the president of the Standing Committee the president pro tempore of convention in the absence of the bishop.
Submitted by	Thomas Crowley
Submitted on behalf of	Committee on Constitution and Canons
Authorized representative to respond to questions, at convention, concerning this resolution	Kathryn Jakabcin
RESOLVED	<p><u>BE IT RESOLVED</u> that the 238th convention of the Episcopal Church in Delaware amend Article VI, Section 1, of the constitution of the diocese as follows, such amendment to take effect immediately upon its final approval:</p> <p>Article VI, Section 1 The bishop of the diocese shall be president of each convention and shall preside at all sessions thereof. At the request of the bishop, or in case of the bishop's absence or of a vacancy in the episcopate, the <u>president of the Standing Committee shall be the president pro tempore of convention. If both shall be absent, the convention shall elect a president pro tempore.</u> The election of a president pro tempore may be by orders if called for pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 of this article.</p>
EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION	This is to make clear in the constitution of the diocese what has been past practice. This was also thoroughly discussed at the 237th convention. It is also consistent with Canon 2, Section 1 of the canons of the diocese setting out the roles of the president of the Standing Committee in the absence or incapacity of the bishop.

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RESOLUTION #238-03

Date/Time	September 17, 2022, 3:00 p.m.
Title of Resolution	A resolution to amend Canon 20, Sections 4 and 6, of the canons of the Episcopal Church in Delaware on nominations and elections at the diocesan convention to specify that nominations for election must be made in the manner set forth otherwise in Canon 20 and that nominations sometimes known as "from the floor" or "open nominations" are prohibited.
Submitted by	Thomas Crowley
Submitted on behalf of	Committee on Constitution and Canons
Authorized representative to respond to questions, at convention, concerning this resolution	Kathryn Jakabcin
RESOLVED	<p>BE IT RESOLVED, at this 238th convention of the Episcopal Church in Delaware, that Sections 4 and 6, respectively, of Canon 20 of the canons of the Episcopal Church in Delaware be amended as follows:</p> <p>Sec. 4. Any lay communicant or canonically resident member of the clergy may submit to the nominating committee in writing, at least thirty days prior to the annual convention, the name of a possible nominee, together with a statement of not more than fifty words as to the qualifications of the person whose name is being submitted. Nothing in the foregoing shall prevent other nominations for elective offices from being made at the Annual Convention. <u>Nominations for elective offices shall not be permitted to be made "from the floor" at the Annual Convention, or otherwise than as set out herein.</u></p> <p>***</p> <p>Sec. 6. All nominations shall be printed in alphabetical order on the ballot. , together with sufficient blank space below the printed names to provide for names to be written thereon of other nominations which may be made at the Annual Convention.</p>

	<p>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this amendment shall take effect in accord with Canon 24 on amendments, i.e.:</p> <p>“To alter, or add to, the Canons of this Diocese, it shall be necessary that every proposition be considered by the Convention at a stated meeting and reported upon by the proper committee, and such alteration or addition must be approved during the same Convention by a majority vote. It shall then be published in the Diocesan Journal and held over for consideration until the next Annual Convention when it may be adopted by a majority vote; provided, however, that such alteration or addition may be finally adopted by the Convention in which it is first proposed if two-thirds of the members present, constituting not less than a majority of all delegates in each order entitled to a vote, shall concur therein.”</p>
EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION	<p>This makes it clear that nominations to elective offices need be made through submission to and the process of the nominating committee, allowing sufficient time for proper consideration by those authorized to vote and specifically disallowing nominations “from the floor” or otherwise.</p> <p>This resolution, if approved, would be effective in accord with Canon 24 on amendments:</p> <p>“To alter, or add to, the Canons of this Diocese, it shall be necessary that every proposition be considered by the Convention at a stated meeting and reported upon by the proper committee, and such alteration or addition must be approved during the same Convention by a majority vote. It shall then be published in the Diocesan Journal and held over for consideration until the next Annual Convention when it may be adopted by a majority vote; provided, however, that such alteration or addition may be finally adopted by the Convention in which it is first proposed if two-thirds of the members present, constituting not less than a majority of all delegates in each order entitled to a vote, shall concur therein.”</p>