

**Resolutions Adopted  
by the 241<sup>st</sup> Convention  
of the Episcopal Church in Delaware**

**RESOLUTION #241-01 (As Amended by Convention)**

Date/Time	September 4, 2025, 09:49 a.m.
Title of Resolution	Amend Article IX of the Diocesan Constitution to Improve the Effectiveness of Diocesan Council
Submitted by	Michael Wood
Submitted on behalf of	Task Force on Governance, Structure and Mission:  Michael Wood (Chair) The Rev. Jack Anderson Thomas Crowley Anne Foster Katheryn Jakabcin Bruce Varna
Authorized representative to respond to questions, at convention, concerning this resolution	Michael Wood
RESOLVED	That the following amendments be made to Article IX:  <b>ARTICLE IX. Diocesan Council, Inc.</b>  <b>Section 1.</b> There shall be a Diocesan Council consisting of the bishop of the diocese, or during a vacancy in the Episcopate the president of the Standing Committee, and 12 other members elected as follows:  Of the 12 members, four shall be clergy canonically resident in the diocese, and eight shall be lay

communicants in good standing and canonically resident in the diocese. At the first two annual conventions after this amendment becomes effective, there shall be elected one clergy and three lay members. At the third annual convention after this amendment becomes effective, there shall be elected two clergy and two lay members. This election process will be repeated for the following years in a three year cycle.

**Section 2.** The Council is responsible for taking charge of the unification, development and prosecution of the missionary work, Church extension, religious education and Christian social service of the diocese and such other matters as may be committed to it by convention.

**Section 3.** Any interim vacancy in the membership of Diocesan Council of members elected pursuant to Section 1 of this Constitution shall be filled by the remaining members of the Diocesan Council for the balance of the term of the one whose membership has terminated.

**Section 4.** A member of Diocesan Council shall be eligible for re-election for one three-year term. No member of Diocesan Council shall be eligible for re-election after serving two terms until at least one year shall have elapsed after the expiration of a second full term of three years.

**Section 5.** No person shall be a member of Diocesan Council who is a member of the Standing Committee, except as provided for by Section 1 of this article.

**Section 6.** The bishop of the diocese shall be the president of Diocesan Council, and the bishop or the bishop's designee shall preside at its meetings; provided, that at the request of the bishop the Diocesan Council shall elect from its members a chairperson as the presiding officer. The Diocesan Council may elect a vice president from its members to preside in the absence of the bishop or the bishop's designee and to serve as president during a

	vacancy in the Episcopate or so long as such person's membership in Diocesan Council continues.
EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION	<p>This resolution, along with the companion resolution for amendments to Canon 20, is the result of a year-long study by the Bishop's Task Force for Governance, Structure, and Mission (GSM). The task of GSM was to study and find ways to make the Diocese of Delaware more responsive to the needs of the Diocese, its goals of mission and service, and ways to more efficiently meet these goals that reflect the state of affairs in the Diocese today.</p> <p>GSM found that the current size of Diocesan Council is too large and the current selection format of selecting members from the five geographic areas does not reflect shifts in the population of the Diocese. GSM found the present Council structure too large to be efficient, not set up so members can stay on Council to use and share their knowledge, and Council is not truly representative of the Diocese, and not Based on these findings, and the concurrence of the present Council, GSM is proposing these changes to Article IX, Diocesan Council inc.</p> <p>This constitutional change requires two successive Convention votes, the second without additional amendments.</p>

## RESOLUTION #241-02 (As Amended by Convention)

Date/Time	September 4, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Title of Resolution	Amend Canon 20 of the Diocesan Canons to Streamline the Nomination Process and Conform to the Amendment to Article IX
Submitted by	Michael Wood
Submitted on behalf of	Task Force on Governance, Structure and Mission:  Michael Wood (Chair) The Rev. Jack Anderson Thomas Crowley Anne Foster Katheryn Jakabcin Bruce Varna
Authorized representative to respond to questions, at convention, concerning this resolution	Michael Wood Thomas Crowley
RESOLVED	<p>That the following amendments be made to Canon 20:</p> <p><b>Canon 20 (Nominations and Elections at the Diocesan Convention)</b></p> <p>...</p> <p><b>Section 3.</b> The nominating committee members shall be appointed by the Bishop and Diocesan Council. No more than a simple majority of the members of the Nominating Committee shall be of the same order.</p> <p><b>Section 4.</b> Any lay communicant or canonically resident member of the clergy may submit a nomination of an eligible person to the nominating committee using a form created by the committee, at least 30 days prior to the</p>

	<p>annual convention. The nomination form shall also require information about the qualifications of any prospective nominee. Nominations for elective offices shall not be permitted to be made “from the floor” at the annual convention, except for elections that are unfilled by the nominating process.</p> <p>...</p> <p><b>[Sections 1, 2 and 5-8 remain unchanged]</b></p>
EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION	<p>This resolution, along with the companion resolution for amendments to Article IX, is the result of a year-long study by the Bishop’s Task Force for Governance, Structure, and Mission (GSM). The task of GSM was to study and find ways to make the Diocese of Delaware more responsive to the needs of the Diocese, its goals of mission and service, and ways to more efficiently meet these goals that reflect the state of affairs in the Diocese today.</p> <p>The amendments to Section 3 are in keeping with the amendments to Article IX of the Diocesan Constitution. The amendments to Section 4 are the result of the GSM Task Force finding that the nomination process in the Diocese needs to be more easily available to all members of the Diocese. This is particularly true given the difficulty in finding individuals to stand for election, and to get a broader representation of the Diocese on Diocesan committees.</p>

**RESOLUTION #241-03**

Date/Time	September 22, 2025, 10:36 PM
Title of Resolution	Recognizing changing realities and Supporting All Congregations in the Diocese of Delaware
Submitted by	The Rev. Jeffrey Ross
Submitted on behalf of	The Rev. Jeffrey Ross, Rector of St. Peter's Church, Lewes John Michael Sophos, delegate from St. Peter's Church, Lewes Anne Canan, delegate from St. Peter's Church, Lewes The Rev. Patty Downing, Retired clergy The Rev. Shelley McDade, Rector of the Parish of All Saints & St. George's The Rev. Ted Olson, St. Mark's, Millsboro The Rev. Jack Anderson, Rector, St. Philip's, Laurel The Rev. Canon Dr. Mark Harris, Retired Clergy The Rev. Deacon Chris Miller-Marcin
Authorized representative to respond to questions, at convention, concerning this resolution	The Rev. Jeffrey Ross
RESOLVED	<b>RESOLVED:</b> that the 241st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware affirms the faithfulness and belovedness of all congregations within the Diocese, regardless of size, clergy presence, or leadership capacity; AND  <u>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:</u> that this Convention acknowledges the diverse realities of congregational life and that all congregations are considered vital parts of the Body of Christ and of the common life of the Diocese of Delaware; even in these changing times, AND

	<p><u>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:</u> that the Diocese of Delaware commits itself to the ongoing discernment and compassionate collaboration, trusting in the Holy Spirit to guide and sustain all congregations as we seek to live out the Gospel in every corner of this diocese in these evolving realities, AND</p> <p><u>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:</u> that this Convention directs the Bishop and Diocesan Council to appoint a convener to engage the diocese's congregations' and schools' lay and clergy leadership in a listening and discernment process in order to examine our practices of polity and to develop models of support for all communities, which shall include new expressions of shared clergy leadership, resourcing for lay-led worship, formation, and pastoral care, as well as structures to celebrate the contributions of all communities to the diocesan mission, AND</p> <p><u>BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:</u> that the convener provides regular updates published in the NET and a report presented to the 242nd Convention.</p>
EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION	<p>Over 200+ years of the life of this diocese, we have adapted and changed to meet the challenge of doing ministry and supporting our common life together. Our current polity does not address the significant differences and context of our sundry ministries. The purpose of this resolution is to actively engage in a conversation about the divergent types of congregations in our diocese and to discern how the Holy Spirit is inviting us into new possibilities. The days of at least one priest for every congregation seems to be ending. How can we, as partners in ministry, draw closer together in mutually supportive relationships? How can we reframe and change our polity/governance to meet our current challenges and advance the Gospel? It has been said that "insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome." Can we hear the words to the prophet Isaiah and step forward in faith? (Isaiah 43:18-19) "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing;</p>

	now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
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