

**All resolutions are not the same.** *The Rules of Order of Annual Convention* note that the two basic types are debatable resolutions and courtesy resolution.

- **Debatable** resolutions are by far the more common type.
- **Courtesy** resolutions are not intended for debate but rather to express the unanimous voice of convention.

**Debatable resolutions** are due 60 days prior to convention.

**Late resolutions** (often referred to as floor resolutions) are any debatable resolutions received after the 60-day deadline. These may only be introduced at convention if a supermajority (two-thirds) agrees to receive them.

**Who may submit a resolution?** Any member of the clergy or a delegate who is either (a) entitled to vote at convention or (b) speaks on behalf of a diocesan congregation or of the St. Andrew's School Chapel Organization.



## DISCOVERING & REDISCOVERING CHRIST

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. — John 15:5*

## Resolution #241-01

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 Jakabsin Bruce Varna
Authorized representative to respond to questions, at convention, concerning this resolution	Michael Wood
RESOLVED	<p>That the following amendments be made to Article IX:</p> <p><b>ARTICLE IX. Diocesan Council, Inc.</b></p> <p><b>Section 1.</b> There shall be a Diocesan Council <del>of the diocese</del> consisting of the bishop of the diocese, or during a vacancy in the Episcopate the president of the Standing Committee, and <del>at least 13</del> <b>12</b> other members elected as follows:</p> <p><del>(a)</del> Of the <b>12</b> members, <del>six</del> <b>four</b> shall be clergy canonically resident in the diocese, and <del>12</del> <b>eight</b> shall be lay communicants in good standing <b>and</b> 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.</p>

	<p>(b) Five members shall be lay communicants in good standing elected by the annual convention, of whom one shall be a member of a congregation from each of the following geographic areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. One shall be elected from East Sussex County to be designated as Area I.</li><li>2. One shall be elected from South and West Sussex County, Kent County, and New Castle County South of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal to be designated as Area II.</li><li>3. One shall be elected from the area in New Castle County North of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, and West of Route 52 excluding Wilmington to be designated as Area III.</li><li>4. One shall be elected from the city of Wilmington to be designated as Area IV.</li><li>5. One shall be elected from Christ Church Christiana Hundred and Brandywine Hundred to be designated as Area V.</li></ol> <p>Congregations</p> <p><b>Area I (East Sussex County)</b> All Saints' Church &amp; St. George's Chapel Church of St. John the Baptist St. Martha's St. Martin's in the Field St. Peter's, Lewes</p> <p><b>Area II (Kent County, New Castle County South of the C &amp; D Canal, South and West Sussex)</b> All Saints, Delmar Christ Church, Dover Christ Church, Milford St. Andrew's School Chapel Saint Anne's St. Luke's St. Mark's</p>
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St. Mary's  
St. Paul's, Camden

~~(c) (b)~~ In addition to the 18 ~~12~~ elected members of the Council, the duly elected chairperson of the diocesan Episcopal Church Women shall be a member of the Council ex officio with voice and vote.

**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 2-3.** Any interim vacancy in the membership of Diocesan Council of members elected pursuant to Section ~~1b-a~~ 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.;  
~~provided, however, that the member so elected shall be a member of a congregation from the area in which the vacancy so occurred.~~

**Section 34.** ~~No~~ **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 4.5.** 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 56.** 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.

<p>EXPLANATION OF RESOLUTION</p>	<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>
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## Resolution #241-02

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 Jakabsin 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> <del>The nominating committee shall consist of one clerical or one lay communicant member from each area of the diocese as defined in Article IX of the Constitution. They shall be appointed by the bishop and Diocesan Council. No more than a bare majority of the members of the nominating committee shall be of the same order. No member of the Diocesan Council or the Standing Committee shall serve as a member of the nominating committee</del> <b>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.</b></p>

	<p><b>Section 4.</b> Any lay communicant or canonically resident member of the clergy may submit <b>a nomination of an eligible person</b> to the nominating committee <del>in writing,</del> using a form created by the committee, at least 30 days prior to the annual convention. <del>the name of a possible nominee, together with a statement of not more than 50 words as to the qualifications of the person whose name is being submitted.</del> <b>The nomination form shall also require information about the qualifications of any prospective nominee.</b> Nominations for elective offices shall not be permitted to be made “from the floor” at the annual convention</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	<p>The Rev. Jeffrey Ross, Rector of St. Peter's Church, Lewes</p> <p>John Michael Sophos, delegate from St. Peter's Church, Lewes</p> <p>Anne Canan, delegate from St. Peter's Church, Lewes</p> <p>The Rev. Patty Downing, Retired clergy</p> <p>The Rev. Shelley McDade, Rector of the Parish of All Saints &amp; St. George's</p> <p>The Rev. Ted Olson, St. Mark's, Millsboro</p> <p>The Rev. Jack Anderson, Rector, St. Philip's, Laurel</p> <p>The Rev. Canon Dr. Mark Harris, Retired Clergy</p> <p>The Rev. Deacon Chris Miller-Marcin</p>
Authorized representative to respond to questions, at convention, concerning this resolution	The Rev. Jeffrey Ross
RESOLVED	<p>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</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u>, 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> <p><u>RESOLVED</u>, The Diocese of Delaware commits itself to 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 RESOLVED THAT</u>, this Convention encourages the Bishop, Diocesan Council, and Constitution &amp; Canons to examine our practices of polity and develop and implement appropriate models of support for all congregations, including new expressions of shared clergy leadership; resourcing for lay-led worship, formation, and pastoral care; and structures to celebrate the contributions of all communities, regardless of size, to the diocesan mission.</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; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."</p>