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: **ARTICLE IX. Diocesan Council, Inc.** **Section 1.** 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	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. 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. This constitutional change requires two successive Convention votes, the second without additional amendments.