

The Rules of Order for Annual Convention govern most of the legislative process at Annual Convention. The Rules of Order are reviewed annually and, if deemed necessary, amendments to the Rules of Order are proposed. This year, several amendments are proposed. These proposed revisions to several of the provisions of the Rules as shown on the attached clean and marked versions of the Rules. The primary substantive revisions are:

1. The previous Rules were not specific about the requirements for the form of proposed resolutions. In particular, there was not clarity on the use of “Whereas clauses” in resolutions which are not courtesy resolutions. This has previously led to some extended debates about the contents of “Whereas clauses.” Proposed Section 5C proposes guidance on the form of proposed resolutions (excluding courtesy resolutions), including a prohibition on “Whereas clauses,” while still permitting a rationale or explanation. The rationale or explanation can be informative, but is not part of the resolution, is not debatable and is not voted on. Additional resolution form requirements include a statement that the resolution does not conflict with the Constitution or Canons, that the resolution not include a link to a website (the content of websites can change) and a statement of the financial impact of the proposed resolution.
2. The previous Rules did not provide for deadlines for nominations of persons for Deputies to General Convention and the Provincial Synod and the Standing Committee. As a result of changes related to COVID, Convention now has deadlines for filing resolutions, amendments to Constitution and Canons and budget, filing legislative committee reports, etc., all of which are designed to give delegates ample time to consider and digest what they will be voting on at Convention. Although the Secretary’s office has stated deadlines for nominations, I felt it is appropriate to include deadlines for nominations in the Rules of Order to give delegates adequate time to consider who they will vote for. See Section 8.