

**C-2: Resolved that the Constitution of the Diocese of Virginia be amended as set forth below. (FIRST READING)**

*Submitted by:* The Constitution and Canons Work Group:

Garway Bright, Christ Church, Glen Allen  
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Trevor Cox, St. James's, Richmond  
The Rev. Amanda Kotval, St. Paul's Ivy  
The Rev. Emily Krudys, Church of Our Saviour, Montpelier  
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**Background of the proposed amendments to the Constitution (C-2) and Canons (C-3).**

The Constitution and Canons Work Group was appointed by the Bishop in January 2024 to conduct a review of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and make recommendations for replacing gender-specific language and clarifying and updating the language and grammar throughout the documents, without making substantive revisions. Last year, the 230<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese voted to approve amendments to the Constitution and Canons proposed by the Work Group which accomplished those objectives. The 2024 proposed amendments to the Constitution, which require approval by two consecutive Conventions for adoption, are the subject of Resolution C-1 of this year's Convention.

In the course of its work in 2024, the Work Group identified potential substantive revisions to several provisions of the Constitution and Canons that it recommended be considered for future revision. Consequently, following last year's Convention the Bishop requested that the Work Group conduct a more comprehensive review of the Constitution and Canons and present any additional proposed amendments that the Work Group recommends for consideration and approval by the 231<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Diocese. At the Bishop's invitation, two additional members joined the Work Group.

Over the course of six months, the Work Group held numerous meetings to discuss the provisions identified last year for further consideration and to discuss other potential revisions identified by members of the group, including revisions for improved clarity and organization. As a result, the Work Group made additional revisions to the Constitution and Canons that it recommends for adoption by the Convention as C-2 and C-3.

The rationale for each article of the Constitution and section of the Canons that the Work Group proposes for further amendment is followed by a markup of the proposed changes and a side-by-side comparison of the current version and the proposed amended version. The proposed revisions to the Constitution, which are the subject of Resolution C-2, assume that the proposed amendments to the Constitution approved by the 230<sup>th</sup> Convention that are the subject of C-1 are approved at the Convention this year on second reading.

## **Amendments to the Constitution**

### **Preamble**

#### **Rationale for amendment:**

Since its adoption in 1936, the preamble has occasionally been amended to modernize its language. Our group reached the conclusion that (a) the preamble is a historical document reflecting the position of the Diocese at the time of its adoption, and (b) continually amending it causes some confusion as to whether the proposed amendments are a revision of the Constitution or a proposal to adopt a new Constitution. Our proposed amendments at this time are thus to return the preamble to its original language and add a reference to the date of its adoption, with the intention that (like the preamble to the United States Constitution) it should be treated as a historical document and not amended with the rest of the Constitution.

#### **Proposed amendment:**

**The** Constitution of the **Diocese of Virginia, formerly and otherwise known as the**  
Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia

#### **Preamble (Adopted May 13, 1936)**

*Whereas*, the civil government in the Virginia Colony from time to time established within the bounds of the Colony parishes of the Established Church of England in Virginia, which parishes continued as such until the Church was disestablished by the several acts of the General Assembly of Virginia in 1784; and

*Whereas*, the ~~Diocese of Virginia, formerly and otherwise known as~~ Protestant Episcopal Church ~~in the Diocese~~ of Virginia, was organized in May, 1785, by a union of all the parishes of the disestablished Church of England within the bounds of the Commonwealth of Virginia and took part in the organization of the union of all the Protestant Episcopal Churches of the several States and, by its own formal ratification of the plan of union, became the Diocese of Virginia of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America; and

Whereas, the original Diocese of Virginia, embracing the entire State, has since been divided into several Dioceses, one of which remains established as the Diocese of Virginia;

Now, Therefore, the Diocese of Virginia acknowledges the authority and power of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, as set forth in the Constitution and Canons adopted thereby, and, in the exercise of its own powers and authority, ~~amends~~doth amend and ~~revises~~revise the Constitution of this Diocese so that the same shall read as follows:

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text (assuming adoption of C1):**

**Constitution of the Diocese of Virginia, formerly and otherwise known as Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia**

*Whereas*, the civil government in the Virginia Colony from time to time established within the bounds of the Colony parishes of the Established Church of England in Virginia, which parishes continued as such until the Church was disestablished by the several acts of the General Assembly of Virginia in 1784; and

*Whereas*, the Diocese of Virginia, formerly and otherwise known as Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, was organized in May, 1785, by a union of all the parishes of the disestablished Church of England within the bounds of the Commonwealth of Virginia and took part in the organization of the union of all the Protestant Episcopal Churches of the several States and, by its own formal ratification of the plan of union, became the Diocese of Virginia of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America; and

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**The Constitution of the Diocese of Virginia, formerly and otherwise known as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia**

**Preamble (Adopted May 13, 1936)**

*Whereas*, the civil government in the Virginia Colony from time to time established within the bounds of the Colony parishes of the Established Church of England in Virginia, which parishes continued as such until the Church was disestablished by the several acts of the General Assembly of Virginia in 1784; and

*Whereas*, the Protestant Episcopal Church of Virginia was organized in May, 1785, by a union of all the parishes of the disestablished Church of England within the bounds of the Commonwealth of Virginia and took part in the organization of the union of all the Protestant Episcopal Churches of the several States and, by its own formal ratification of the plan of union, became the Diocese of Virginia of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America; and

*Whereas*, the original Diocese of Virginia, embracing the entire State, has since been divided into several Dioceses, one of which remains established as the Diocese of Virginia;

*Now, Therefore*, the Diocese of Virginia acknowledges the authority and power of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, as set forth in the Constitution and Canons adopted thereby, and, in the exercise of its own powers and authority, amends and revises the Constitution of this Diocese so that the same shall read as follows:

*Whereas*, the original Diocese of Virginia, embracing the entire State, has since been divided into several Dioceses, one of which remains established as the Diocese of Virginia:

*Now, Therefore*, the Diocese of Virginia acknowledges the authority and power of the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, as set forth in the Constitution and Canons adopted thereby, and, in the exercise of its own powers and authority, doth amend and revise the Constitution of this Diocese so that the same shall read as follows:

## **Articles I and II**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendments to Articles I and II are solely for organization and increased clarity and are not intended to effect substantive change. The references to the Ecclesiastical Authority relate to proposed amendments to Article IX, described below.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Article I.**

##### **Order, Government, and Discipline.**

The order, government, and discipline of the Diocese of Virginia ~~“(hereinafter “the~~ Diocese”), formerly and otherwise known as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, shall be vested in the Bishop of the Diocese (hereinafter “the Bishop”) and in the Convention of the Diocese, ~~constituted~~composed as provided in Article III hereof, which shall have power to adopt Canons and take any other action for the conduct of its affairs not in conflict with this Constitution.

#### **Article II.**

##### **Meetings of the Convention.**

The Convention shall annually hold a regular meeting, upon the date designated by the Ecclesiastical Authority (as described in Article IX) and at the place designated by the preceding regular meeting of the Convention. The Ecclesiastical Authority may, for any cause deemed by it to be sufficient, change the time, or the place, or both, for any regular meeting of the Convention. At meetings of the Convention, the Rules of Order of the

previous meeting shall be in force until they are amended or repealed by the Convention. Special meetings of the Convention may be held in accordance with the provisions of Articles VII, VIII, and IX.

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text (assuming adoption of C1):**

**Article I.**

**Order, Government, and Discipline.**

The order, government, and discipline of the Diocese of Virginia (“the Diocese”), formerly and otherwise known as Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, shall be vested in the Bishop and in the Convention of the Diocese, constituted as provided in Article III hereof, which shall have power to adopt Canons and take any other action for the conduct of its affairs not in conflict with this Constitution.

**Article II.**

**Meetings of the Convention.**

The Convention shall annually hold a regular meeting, upon the date designated by the Ecclesiastical Authority and at the place designated by the preceding regular meeting of the Convention. The Ecclesiastical Authority may, for any cause deemed by it to be sufficient, change the time, or the place, or both, for any regular meeting of the Convention. At meetings of the Convention, the Rules of Order of the previous meeting shall be in force until they are amended or repealed by the Convention. Special meetings of the Convention may be held in accordance with the provisions of Articles VII, VIII, and IX.

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Article I.**

**Order, Government, and Discipline.**

The order, government, and discipline of the Diocese of Virginia (hereinafter “the Diocese”), formerly and otherwise known as the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, shall be vested in the Bishop of the Diocese (hereinafter “the Bishop”) and in the Convention of the Diocese, composed as provided in Article III hereof, which shall have power to adopt Canons and take any other action for the conduct of its affairs not in conflict with this Constitution.

**Article II.**

**Meetings of the Convention.**

The Convention shall annually hold a regular meeting, upon the date designated by the Ecclesiastical Authority (as described in Article IX) and at the place designated by the preceding regular meeting of the Convention. The Ecclesiastical Authority may, for any cause deemed by it to be sufficient, change the time, or the place, or both, for any regular meeting of the Convention. At meetings of the Convention, the Rules of Order of the previous meeting shall be in force until they are amended or repealed by the Convention. Special meetings of the Convention may be held in accordance with the provisions of Articles VII, VIII, and IX.

## **Article III**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendments to Article III include global amendments also made throughout the rest of the Constitution to refer to Priests and Deacons specifically, as opposed to the vaguer “ministers” which as a term can also encompass nonordained ministers, where the intention is to refer to ordained clergy. Other proposed amendments to this Article are:

1. To clarify that all Missions, including a Mission of a Founding Church and a Mission of a Theological Seminary, have representation at Annual Convention. This Article is also the first instance of a global change throughout the Diocesan Canons to refer to Missions which are not a Mission of a Founding Church or a Mission of a Theological Seminary as “Diocesan Missions”, further explained in the proposed amendments to the Canons.

2. To allow Lay deputies to General Convention to have *ex officio* status at the Convention.

3. To streamline references to Canons of the General Convention for purposes of referring to adult confirmed communicants in good standing, so that language may be consistent and does not need to be repeated.

All other proposed amendments to this Article are for the sake of organization and clarity, and do not represent substantive change.

### **Proposed amendment:**

Article III.

Composition of the Convention.

Section 1.

(a) The Convention shall be composed of the Clerical order and the Lay order.

(b) ~~The Clerical order shall consist of the Bishop or Bishops and all other ministers~~Priests and Deacons canonically resident in the Diocese of Virginia. No member of the Clerical order under ecclesiastical censure shall be entitled to a seat in the Convention.

(c) The Lay order shall consist of ~~two classes, namely: (1) the Lay Delegates from the Church or Mission, and (2) the Lay members ex officio;~~  
(1) Lay Delegates from the Churches and Missions, and  
(2) Lay members ex officio.

(d) There shall be at least one Lay Delegate from each Church and ~~Mission~~Mission, to be ~~chosen~~selected by its Vestry or its Vestry Committee. ~~From every~~The number of Lay Delegates for each Church ~~and/or~~ Mission ~~having more than 450 shall be determined based on the number of~~ confirmed communicants in good standing reported to the Diocesan authorities in the last annual report, ~~beginning with 451 the Vestry or Vestry Committee shall choose an additional Lay Delegate for each three hundred confirmed communicants in good standing as set forth below:~~ as set forth below:

Communicants in Good Standing	Lay Delegates
0–450	1
451–750	2
751–1050	3
1051–1350	4
1351–1650	5
<del>Etc.</del> <u>Each additional 300 (or fraction thereof)</u>	<u>1 additional</u>

- (e) Lay members ex officio of the Convention shall be: the Lay members of the Standing Committee, the Lay members of the Executive Board, the Chancellor, the Presidents of the Regions, the President of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese, the Lay Deputies to the General Convention, one Youth Delegate (not over 21 years of age at the time of election) elected by each Regional Council on or before May 1, and five Collegiate Delegates who are Lay ~~persons~~participants (not over 25 years of age at the time of election) ~~who are participants~~ in an Episcopal higher education ministry in the Diocese, to be elected by the Standing Committee on or before May 1 ~~as Collegiate Delegates~~.
- (f) Each ~~elected Delegate and ex officio~~ member of the Convention shall have one vote.

Section 2. — The Lay Delegates shall serve for the regular meeting for which they are chosen, and, unless other delegates are chosen, for any special meeting held prior to the next regular meeting of the Convention.

Section 3. — All Lay members of the Convention shall be adult confirmed communicants in good standing ~~(as defined in the Diocese of Virginia. For purposes of this Constitution, the terms “adult”, “confirmed”, “communicant”, and “good standing” have the meaning given by Canon I.17 of the~~ General Convention ~~Canon I.17).~~

Section 4. For purposes of this Constitution, the term “Mission” means a Diocesan Mission, a Mission of a Founding Church and a Mission of a Theological Seminary as provided in the ~~Diocese of Virginia.~~ Diocesan Canons.

#### Text side-by-side:

**Current text (assuming adoption of C1):**

#### **Article III. Composition of the Convention. Section 1**

- (a) The Convention shall be composed of the Clerical order and the Lay order.
- (b) The Clerical order shall consist of the Bishop or Bishops and all other ministers canonically resident in the

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

#### **Article III. Composition of the Convention. Section 1.**

- (a) The Convention shall be composed of the Clerical order and the Lay order.
- (b) The Clerical order shall consist of the Bishop or Bishops and all other Priests and Deacons canonically

Diocese of Virginia. No member of the Clerical order under ecclesiastical censure shall be entitled to a seat in the Convention.

- (c) The Lay order shall consist of two classes, namely: (1) the Lay Delegates from the Church or Mission, and (2) the Lay members *ex officio*.
- (d) There shall be at least one Lay Delegate from each Church and Mission, to be chosen by its Vestry or its Vestry Committee. From every Church and Mission having more than 450 confirmed communicants in good standing reported to the Diocesan authorities in the last annual report, beginning with 451 the Vestry or Vestry Committee shall choose an additional Lay Delegate for each three hundred confirmed communicants in good standing as set forth below:.

Communicants in Good Standing	Lay Delegates
0–450	1
451–750	2
751–1050	3
1051–1350	4
1351–1650	5
Etc.	

- (e) Lay members *ex officio* of the Convention shall be: the Lay members of the Standing Committee, the Lay members of the Executive Board, the Chancellor, the Presidents of the Regions, the President of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese, one Youth Delegate (not over 21 years of age at the time of election) elected by each Regional Council on or before May 1, and five Lay persons (not over 25 years of age at the time of election) who are participants in an Episcopal higher education ministry in the Diocese, to be elected by the Standing Committee

resident in the Diocese of Virginia. No member of the Clerical order under ecclesiastical censure shall be entitled to a seat in the Convention.

- (c) The Lay order shall consist of:
  - (1) Lay Delegates from the Churches and Missions, and
  - (2) Lay members *ex officio*.
- (d) There shall be at least one Lay Delegate from each Church and Mission, to be elected by its Vestry or its Vestry Committee. The number of Lay Delegates for each Church or Mission shall be determined based on the number of confirmed communicants in good standing reported to the Diocesan authorities in the last annual report as set forth below:

Communicants in Good Standing	Lay Delegates
0–450	1
451–750	2
751–1050	3
1051–1350	4
1351–1650	5
Each additional 300 (or fraction thereof)	1 additional

- (e) Lay members *ex officio* of the Convention shall be: the Lay members of the Standing Committee, the Lay members of the Executive Board, the Chancellor, the Presidents of the Regions, the President of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese, the Lay Deputies to the General Convention, one Youth Delegate (not over 21 years of age at the time of election) elected by each Regional Council on or before May 1, and five Collegiate Delegates who are Lay participants (not over 25 years of age at the time of election) in an Episcopal higher education ministry in

- on or before May 1 as Collegiate Delegates.
- (f) Each elected Delegate and *ex officio* member shall have one vote.

Section 2. The Lay Delegates shall serve for the regular meeting for which they are chosen, and, unless other delegates are chosen, for any special meeting held prior to the next regular meeting of the Convention.

Section 3. All Lay members of the Convention shall be adult confirmed communicants in good standing (as defined in General Convention Canon I.17) in the Diocese of Virginia.

- the Diocese, to be elected by the Standing Committee on or before May 1.
- (f) Each member of the Convention shall have one vote.

Section 2. The Lay Delegates shall serve for the regular meeting for which they are chosen, and, unless other delegates are chosen, for any special meeting held prior to the next regular meeting of the Convention.

Section 3. All Lay members of the Convention shall be adult confirmed communicants in good standing in the Diocese of Virginia. For purposes of this Constitution, the terms “adult”, “confirmed”, “communicant”, and “good standing” have the meaning given by Canon I.17 of the General Convention.

Section 4. For purposes of this Constitution, the term “Mission” means a Diocesan Mission, a Mission of a Founding Church and a Mission of a Theological Seminary as provided in the Diocesan Canons.

## **[Article IV (no proposed change)]**

### **Article V**

#### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendments to Article V are solely for organization and increased clarity and are not intended to effect substantive change.

#### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Article V. Methods of Voting in the Convention.**

~~In all matters~~ Section 1. Except as otherwise provided in this Article and in Article VII, in any matter that ~~may come~~ comes before any meeting of the Convention, the Clerical

order and Lay order shall deliberate in one body and a majority of those voting shall be necessary for a decision, ~~except where the vote is by orders, in which case there must be a concurrence of majorities in each order; but, before a vote is taken upon any matter, five members may, by request, require the vote to be taken by orders. In a vote by orders each Clerical member and each Lay member shall be entitled to one vote.~~

Section 2. Before a vote is taken upon any matter, five members of the Convention may, by request, require the vote to be taken by orders.

Section 3. In the case of a vote by orders, a concurrence of majorities in both orders shall be necessary for a decision.

#### **Text side-by-side:**

##### **Current text (assuming adoption of C1):**

##### **Article V.**

##### **Methods of Voting in the Convention.**

In all matters that may come before any meeting of the Convention the Clerical order and Lay order shall deliberate in one body and a majority of those voting shall be necessary for a decision, except where the vote is by orders, in which case there must be a concurrence of majorities in each order; but, before a vote is taken upon any matter, five members may, by request, require the vote to be taken by orders. In a vote by orders each Clerical member and each Lay member shall be entitled to one vote.

##### **Text as proposed to be amended:**

##### **Article V.**

##### **Methods of Voting in the Convention.**

Section 1. Except as otherwise provided in this Article and in Article VII, in any matter that comes before any meeting of the Convention, the Clerical order and Lay order shall deliberate in one body and a majority of those voting shall be necessary for a decision.

Section 2. Before a vote is taken upon any matter, five members of the Convention may, by request, require the vote to be taken by orders.

Section 3. In the case of a vote by orders, a concurrence of majorities in both orders shall be necessary for a decision.

#### **Article VI**

##### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendments to Article VI are purely clerical to divide the provision into sections for ease of reference.

**Proposed amendment:**

**Article VI.**

**The Bishops, Officers, and Committees of the Diocese.**

Section 1. In addition to the Bishop of the Diocese, there may be a Bishop Coadjutor, Bishops Suffragan, Assistant Bishops, or any combination thereof, upon the conditions and pursuant to the authority contained in the Canons of the General Convention.

Section 2. In addition to the Bishop or Bishops, the officers of the Diocese shall consist of a Secretary, Treasurer, Chancellor, and Registrar.

Section 3. For the conduct of the affairs of the Diocese, there shall be a Standing Committee and an Executive Board, together with such other officers, committees, departments, and boards as the Convention may deem desirable.

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text (assuming adoption of C1):**

**Article VI.**

**The Bishops, Officers, and Committees of the Diocese.**

In addition to the Bishop of the Diocese, there may be a Bishop Coadjutor, Bishops Suffragan, Assistant Bishops, or any combination thereof, upon the conditions and pursuant to the authority contained in the Canons of the General Convention.

In addition to the Bishop or Bishops, the officers of the Diocese shall consist of a Secretary, Treasurer, Chancellor, and Registrar.

For the conduct of the affairs of the Diocese, there shall be a Standing Committee and an Executive Board, together with such other officers, committees, departments, and boards as the Convention may deem desirable.

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Article VI.**

**The Bishops, Officers, and Committees of the Diocese.**

Section 1. In addition to the Bishop of the Diocese, there may be a Bishop Coadjutor, Bishops Suffragan, Assistant Bishops, or any combination thereof, upon the conditions and pursuant to the authority contained in the Canons of the General Convention.

Section 2. In addition to the Bishop or Bishops, the officers of the Diocese shall consist of a Secretary, Treasurer, Chancellor, and Registrar.

Section 3. For the conduct of the affairs of the Diocese, there shall be a Standing Committee and an Executive Board, together with such other officers, committees, departments, and boards as the Convention may deem desirable.

## **Article VII**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment to this article would require a majority of the members of both orders present for the election of a Bishop, rather than a majority of votes cast. The intention is to minimize the possibility of a Bishop being elected with less than majority support, as would be possible if those present chose to abstain from a vote.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Article VII. Election of a Bishop.**

The election of a Bishop shall be made at a regular meeting of the Convention or at a special meeting of the Convention called for that purpose. The vote shall be by ballot and by orders, and a concurrent majority of the ~~votes cast by~~members of each order present shall be necessary for the election of a Bishop.

### **Text side-by-side:**

#### **Current text (assuming adoption of C1):**

##### **Article VII. Election of a Bishop.**

The election of a Bishop shall be made at a regular meeting of the Convention or at a special meeting of the Convention called for that purpose. The vote shall be by ballot and by orders, and a concurrent majority of the votes cast by each order shall be necessary for the election of a Bishop.

#### **Text as proposed to be amended:**

##### **Article VII. Election of a Bishop.**

The election of a Bishop shall be made at a regular meeting of the Convention or at a special meeting of the Convention called for that purpose. The vote shall be by ballot and by orders, and a concurrent majority of the members of each order present shall be necessary for the election of a Bishop.

## **Article VIII**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendments to Article VIII are solely for organization and increased clarity and are not intended to effect substantive change.

**Proposed amendment:**

**Article VIII.**

**The Bishop as President of the Convention.**

Section 1. The Bishop shall preside at all meetings of the Convention and exercise all the ordinary duties of a presiding officer. The Bishop may call a special meeting of the Convention at whatever time and place the Bishop may think necessary; and whenever requested by the Standing Committee, it shall be the Bishop's duty to call a special meeting to be held at the time and place selected by the Standing Committee.

Section 2. The Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one, shall preside at any meeting of the Convention from which the Bishop is absent or whenever the Bishop may request the Bishop Coadjutor to preside.

Section 3. The ~~ranking~~ active Bishop Suffragan ~~Bishop~~, if there is one, shall preside at any meeting of the Convention if ~~such Suffragan Bishop is~~ requested to do so by the Bishop or, in the absence of the Bishop, by the Bishop Coadjutor, or if declared or serving as the Ecclesiastical Authority pursuant to Article IX of this Constitution. If there is more than one active Bishop Suffragan, the preceding sentence shall apply first to the longest-serving active Bishop Suffragan.

Section 4. A retired Bishop or an Assistant Bishop of this Diocese may preside at any meeting of the Convention at the request of the presiding officer.

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text (assuming adoption of C1):**

**Article VIII.**

**The Bishop as President of the Convention.**

Section 1. The Bishop shall preside at all meetings of the Convention and exercise all the ordinary duties of a presiding officer. The Bishop may call a special meeting of the Convention at whatever time and place the Bishop may think necessary; and whenever requested by the Standing Committee, it shall be the Bishop's duty to call a special meeting to be held at the time and place selected by the Standing Committee.

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Article VIII.**

**The Bishop as President of the Convention.**

Section 1. The Bishop shall preside at all meetings of the Convention and exercise all the ordinary duties of a presiding officer. The Bishop may call a special meeting of the Convention at whatever time and place the Bishop may think necessary; and whenever requested by the Standing Committee, it shall be the Bishop's duty to call a special meeting to be held at the time and place selected by the Standing Committee.

Section 2. The Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one, shall preside at any meeting of the Convention from which the Bishop is absent or whenever the Bishop may request the Bishop Coadjutor to preside.

Section 3. The ranking active Suffragan Bishop, if there is one, shall preside at any meeting of the Convention if such Suffragan Bishop is requested to do so by the Bishop or, in the absence of the Bishop, by the Bishop Coadjutor, or if declared or serving as the Ecclesiastical Authority pursuant to Article IX of this Constitution.

Section 4. A retired Bishop or an Assistant Bishop of this Diocese may preside at any meeting of the Convention at the request of the presiding officer.

Section 2. The Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one, shall preside at any meeting of the Convention from which the Bishop is absent or whenever the Bishop may request the Bishop Coadjutor to preside.

Section 3. The active Bishop Suffragan, if there is one, shall preside at any meeting of the Convention if requested to do so by the Bishop or, in the absence of the Bishop, by the Bishop Coadjutor, or if declared or serving as the Ecclesiastical Authority pursuant to Article IX of this Constitution. If there is more than one active Bishop Suffragan, the preceding sentence shall apply first to the longest-serving active Bishop Suffragan.

Section 4. A retired Bishop or an Assistant Bishop of this Diocese may preside at any meeting of the Convention at the request of the presiding officer.

## **Article IX**

(current Article IX moved to Article X for organization purposes)

This is a proposed new article to consolidate, clarify, and simplify the rules for when someone other than the Bishop is the Ecclesiastical Authority. The intention is not to effect substantive change but to more clearly state the current rules to avoid confusion and uncertainty. The stated rules are drawn from the current Articles IX and XV.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Article IX.**

**Vacancy in the Office Ecclesiastical Authority of the Bishop Diocese**

Section 1. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese is the Bishop.

Section 2. Upon the death of the Bishop or other vacancy in the Office of the Bishop not provided for in Sections 3 and 4 of this Article:

(a) The Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese is the Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one.

(b) If there is no Bishop Coadjutor, then the ranking longest-serving active Bishop Suffragan Bishop shall be in charge of this Diocese and shall be is temporarily the

Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese until ~~such time as~~ a new Bishop ~~shall be~~ chosen and consecrated; ~~or, if the Standing Committee declares the~~.

Section 3. Except as provided in Section 4 of this Article, upon the temporary disability or absence of the Bishop and there is no Bishop Coadjutor able and present, then the ranking active Suffragan Bishop shall be in charge of this Diocese, as declared by the Standing Committee or the Bishop or according to the provisions of the Canons of the General Convention, until such time as the Standing Committee shall declare declares the ability and presence of the Bishop;

(a) The Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese is the Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one.

(b) If there is no Bishop Coadjutor, the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese is the longest-serving active Bishop Suffragan.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of Canon III.12.4 of the General Convention:

(a) If none of the individuals serving as Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or active Bishop Suffragan can perform the administrative duties of the Bishop, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese until one of the aforementioned individuals is able or present.

(b) In any other case when the Bishop may so authorize, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese for as long as the Bishop so authorizes.

## Text side-by-side:

### Current text (assuming adoption of C1):

#### Article IX.

##### Vacancy in the Office of the Bishop.

Section 1. Upon the death of the Bishop and if there is no Bishop Coadjutor, then the ranking active Suffragan Bishop shall be in charge of this Diocese and shall be temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority until such time as a new Bishop shall be chosen and consecrated; or, if the Standing Committee declares the disability or absence of the Bishop and there is no Bishop Coadjutor able and present, then the ranking active Suffragan Bishop shall be in charge of this Diocese until such time as the Standing Committee shall declare the ability and presence of the Bishop.

Section 2. In case of a vacancy, or

### Text as proposed to be amended:

#### Article IX.

##### Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese

Section 1. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese is the Bishop.

Section 2. Upon the death of the Bishop or other vacancy in the Office of the Bishop not provided for in Sections 3 and 4 of this Article:

(a) The Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese is the Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one.

(b) If there is no Bishop Coadjutor, the longest-serving active Bishop Suffragan is temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese until a new Bishop is chosen and consecrated.

anticipated vacancy, in the Office of the Bishop, a special meeting of the Convention shall be called by the Ecclesiastical Authority. That special Convention, immediately upon assembling, if there is no Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, Suffragan Bishop, or Assistant Bishop present, shall elect by ballot a President from among the order of Presbyters present, who shall remain in office until the election and consecration of the Bishop. The President so elected shall perform all the duties and possess all the privileges of a presiding officer. The President shall not have the power to call a special meeting of the Convention except when requested to do so by the Standing Committee, in which case the special meeting shall be at the time and place requested.

Section 3. Except as provided in Section 4 of this Article, upon the temporary disability or absence of the Bishop, as declared by the Standing Committee or the Bishop or according to the provisions of the Canons of the General Convention, until such time as the Standing Committee declares the ability and presence of the Bishop:

(a) The Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese is the Bishop Coadjutor, if there is one.

(b) If there is no Bishop Coadjutor, the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese is the longest-serving active Bishop Suffragan.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of Canon III.12.4 of the General Convention:

(a) If none of the individuals serving as Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or active Bishop Suffragan can perform the administrative duties of the Bishop, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese until one of the aforementioned individuals is able or present.

(b) In any other case when the Bishop may so authorize, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of this Diocese for as long as the Bishop so authorizes.

## **Article X**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

The proposed amendment to this Article (formerly left empty) is a restatement and reorganization for clarity of the rules currently in Article IX.

## Proposed amendment:

### Article X.

#### Section 2~~Section 2~~ Vacancy in the Office of the Bishop.

Section 1. In case of a vacancy, or anticipated vacancy, in the Office of the Bishop, a special meeting of the Convention shall be called by the Ecclesiastical Authority. ~~That special Convention, immediately upon assembling, if there is no Bishop, determined~~ under Article IX.

#### Section 2.

(a) ~~The Bishop, or the~~ Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan ~~Bishop~~, or Assistant Bishop if the Bishop is not present, shall ~~elect by ballot a President from among the order~~ preside over the special meeting of Presbytersthe Convention.

(b) ~~If none of such individuals is present, who shall remain in office until the election and consecration~~ members of the Bishop. The special meeting of the Convention shall elect a President by ballot.

(c) Such President ~~so elected:~~

(1) shall be a canonically-resident Priest of this Diocese.

(2) except as provided in subsection (d), shall perform all the duties and possess all the privileges of a presiding officer, and

(3) shall remain in office until the election and consecration of a new Bishop.

(d) The President shall not have the power to call a special meeting of the Convention except when requested to do so by the Standing Committee, in which case the special meeting shall be at the time and place requested.

## Text side-by-side:

### Current text of Articles XI and X (assuming adoption of C1):

#### Article IX.

##### **Vacancy in the Office of the Bishop.**

Section 1. Upon the death of the Bishop and if there is no Bishop Coadjutor, then the ranking active Suffragan Bishop shall be in charge of this Diocese and shall be temporarily the Ecclesiastical Authority until such time as a new Bishop shall be chosen and consecrated; or, if the Standing Committee declares the disability or absence of the Bishop and there is no Bishop Coadjutor able and present, then the ranking active Suffragan Bishop shall be in charge of this Diocese

### Text as proposed to be amended:

#### Article X.

##### **Vacancy in the Office of the Bishop.**

Section 1. In case of a vacancy, or anticipated vacancy, in the Office of the Bishop, a special meeting of the Convention shall be called by the Ecclesiastical Authority determined under Article IX.

#### Section 2.

(a) The Bishop, or the Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, or Assistant Bishop if the Bishop is not present, shall preside over the special meeting of the

until such time as the Standing Committee shall declare the ability and presence of the Bishop.

Section 2. In case of a vacancy, or anticipated vacancy, in the Office of the Bishop, a special meeting of the Convention shall be called by the Ecclesiastical Authority. That special Convention, immediately upon assembling, if there is no Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, Suffragan Bishop, or Assistant Bishop present, shall elect by ballot a President from among the order of Presbyters present, who shall remain in office until the election and consecration of the Bishop. The President so elected shall perform all the duties and possess all the privileges of a presiding officer. The President shall not have the power to call a special meeting of the Convention except when requested to do so by the Standing Committee, in which case the special meeting shall be at the time and place requested.

#### **Article X.**

Reserved for future use.

#### **Articles XI, XII, XIII, and XV**

##### **Rationale for amendments:**

The proposed amendment to Article XI is a minor clerical edit. The proposed amendments to Article XII are solely for organization and increased clarity and are not intended to effect substantive change. The proposed amendments to Articles XIII and XV are either purely clerical, or conforming changes with respect to other proposed amendments described above. One provision from Article XV has been moved to Article IX as noted above. There are no proposed amendments to Article XIV.

##### **Proposed amendments:**

#### **Article XI.**

**The Secretary of the Diocese.**

Convention.

(b) If none of such individuals is present, the members of the special meeting of the Convention shall elect a President by ballot.

(c) Such President:

(1) shall be a canonically-resident Priest of this Diocese,

(2) except as provided in subsection (d), shall perform all the duties and possess all the privileges of a presiding officer, and

(3) shall remain in office until the election and consecration of a new Bishop.

(d) The President shall not have the power to call a special meeting of the Convention except when requested to do so by the Standing Committee, in which case the special meeting shall be at the time and place requested.

A Secretary of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. The Secretary shall, upon qualification, continue in the office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority. If the Secretary is a Priest, the Secretary shall hold no other Clerical preferment. The Secretary shall also serve as Secretary of the Convention, take minutes of its proceedings, attest to the public acts of the body, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Canon.

## **Article XII.**

### **The Treasurer of the Diocese.**

#### Section 1.

(a) A Treasurer of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee ~~or by the Standing Committee if it is at the time the Ecclesiastical Authority.~~ The Treasurer shall, upon qualification, remain in office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority or until removed as hereinafter provided.

(b) In case of misconduct by the Treasurer, or of the Treasurer's incapacity, refusal, or failure to discharge the duties of the office, the Bishop or the Standing Committee shall remove the Treasurer and a new appointment shall be made in the manner provided above.

#### Section 2. The Treasurer shall: ~~4~~

(a) receive and keep safely all money and other property entrusted to the custody of the office; ~~2~~

(b) disburse and dispose of the same as may be provided by Canon; and ~~3~~

(c) report annually to the Convention an account showing all money and other property received, and the manner in which the money and property has been disbursed or disposed of.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall give bond in an amount to be fixed by the Standing Committee, with corporate surety approved by the Standing Committee, which bond shall be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of the office.

Section 4. At the close of each fiscal year, accounts of the Treasurer shall be audited by a certified public accountant selected by the Standing Committee. ~~In case of misconduct by the Treasurer, or of the Treasurer's incapacity, refusal, or failure to discharge the duties of the office, the Standing Committee shall remove the Treasurer and a new appointment shall be made in the manner provided above.~~

## **Article XIII.**

### **The Chancellor of the Diocese.**

Section 1. A Chancellor of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Chancellor shall, upon qualification, continue in the office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Chancellor shall be a confirmed communicant in

good standing ~~(as defined in General Convention Canon I.17),~~ in the Diocese of Virginia and a member of the Virginia State Bar. The Chancellor shall be the legal advisor to the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Convention of the Diocese, and the Executive Board of the Diocese.

## Section 2.

(a) The Ecclesiastical Authority may, in consultation with the Chancellor, also appoint one or more Vice Chancellors, who shall continue in office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority. Vice Chancellors shall be confirmed communicants in good standing ~~(as defined in General Convention Canon I.17),~~ in the Diocese of Virginia and members of the Virginia State Bar. Vice Chancellors shall serve at the direction of the Chancellor and shall assist the Chancellor in the performance of the Chancellor's duties.

(b) Vice Chancellors shall have seat and voice at meetings of the Convention but shall not have a vote unless the Chancellor does not attend the meeting of the Convention and certifies to the Secretary of the Diocese that a Vice Chancellor will attend the meeting of the Convention in the place and stead of the Chancellor, in which case the certified Vice Chancellor shall have a vote.

**[Article XIV. omitted; no change]**

## Article XV.

### The Standing Committee of the Diocese.

Section 1. The Standing Committee shall consist of twelve members of the Diocese, six of the Clerical order and six of the Lay order, each of whom shall be a confirmed communicant in good standing ~~as defined in General Convention Canon I.17 and 18 years of age or over.~~

Section 2. At each regular meeting the Convention shall elect two members of each order ~~to the Standing Committee~~ for a term of three years. Each member of the Committee shall hold office for the term for which the member was elected and until a successor is elected or appointed. No member may serve consecutive full terms.

~~In case of a vacancy in the Episcopal office, or in case neither the Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, nor Bishop Suffragan is capable of performing the administrative duties of the Bishop, or in any case when the Bishop shall authorize it to act, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority.~~

~~The Standing Committee at~~ Section 3. At every regular meeting of the Convention ~~the Standing Committee~~ shall submit a report of its proceedings. When required by the Convention it shall also lay before the Convention any document which may have come into its possession. It shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Canon.

Section 4. In ~~case~~ the event of a vacancy in the Standing Committee, the Executive Board shall fill the vacancy from the same order. The appointee shall serve until the next

regular meeting of the Convention, at which meeting the Convention shall fill the vacancy.

**Text side-by-side:**

**Current text (assuming adoption of C1):**

**Article XI.**

**The Secretary of the Diocese.**

A Secretary of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. The Secretary shall, upon qualification, continue in office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority. If the Secretary is a Priest, the Secretary shall hold no other Clerical preferment. The Secretary shall also serve as Secretary of the Convention, take minutes of its proceedings, attest to the public acts of the body, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Canon.

**Article XII.**

**The Treasurer of the Diocese.**

A Treasurer of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee or by the Standing Committee if it is at the time the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Treasurer shall, upon qualification, remain in office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority or until removed as hereinafter provided. The Treasurer shall: 1) receive and keep safely all money and other property entrusted to the custody of the office; 2) disburse and dispose of the same as may be provided by Canon; and 3) report annually to the Convention an account showing all money and other property received, and the manner in which the money and property has been

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Article XI.**

**The Secretary of the Diocese.**

A Secretary of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. The Secretary shall, upon qualification, continue in the office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority. If the Secretary is a Priest, the Secretary shall hold no other Clerical preferment. The Secretary shall also serve as Secretary of the Convention, take minutes of its proceedings, attest to the public acts of the body, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Canon.

**Article XII.**

**The Treasurer of the Diocese.**

**Section 1.**

(a) A Treasurer of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. The Treasurer shall, upon qualification, remain in office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority or until removed as hereinafter provided.

(b) In case of misconduct by the Treasurer, or of the Treasurer's incapacity, refusal, or failure to discharge the duties of the office, the Bishop or the Standing Committee shall remove the Treasurer and a new appointment shall be made in the manner provided above.

**Section 2. The Treasurer shall:**

disbursed or disposed of. The Treasurer shall give bond in an amount to be fixed by the Standing Committee, with corporate surety approved by the Standing Committee, which bond shall be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of the office. At the close of each fiscal year, accounts of the Treasurer shall be audited by a certified public accountant selected by the Standing Committee. In case of misconduct by the Treasurer, or of the Treasurer's incapacity, refusal, or failure to discharge the duties of the office, the Standing Committee shall remove the Treasurer and a new appointment shall be made in the manner provided above.

(a) receive and keep safely all money and other property entrusted to the custody of the office;

(b) disburse and dispose of the same as may be provided by Canon; and

(c) report annually to the Convention an account showing all money and other property received, and the manner in which the money and property has been disbursed or disposed of.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall give bond in an amount to be fixed by the Standing Committee, with corporate surety approved by the Standing Committee, which bond shall be conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of the office.

Section 4. At the close of each fiscal year, accounts of the Treasurer shall be audited by a certified public accountant selected by the Standing Committee.

### **Article XIII.**

#### **The Chancellor of the Diocese.**

Section 1. A Chancellor of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Chancellor shall, upon qualification, continue in office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Chancellor shall be a confirmed communicant in good standing (as defined in General Convention Canon I.17), in the Diocese of Virginia and a member of the Virginia State Bar. The Chancellor shall be the legal advisor to the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Convention of the Diocese, and the Executive Board of the Diocese.

Section 2. The Ecclesiastical Authority may, in consultation with the Chancellor, also appoint one or more Vice Chancellors, who shall continue in office

### **Article XIII.**

#### **The Chancellor of the Diocese.**

Section 1. A Chancellor of the Diocese shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Chancellor shall, upon qualification, continue in the office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority. The Chancellor shall be a confirmed communicant in good standing in the Diocese of Virginia and a member of the Virginia State Bar. The Chancellor shall be the legal advisor to the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Convention of the Diocese, and the Executive Board of the Diocese.

Section 2.

(a) The Ecclesiastical Authority may, in consultation with the Chancellor, also appoint one or more Vice Chancellors,

at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority. Vice Chancellors shall be confirmed communicants in good standing (as defined in General Convention Canon I.17), in the Diocese of Virginia and members of the Virginia State Bar. Vice Chancellors shall serve at the direction of the Chancellor and shall assist the Chancellor in the performance of the Chancellor's duties. Vice Chancellors shall have seat and voice at meetings of the Convention but shall not have a vote unless the Chancellor does not attend the meeting of the Convention and certifies to the Secretary of the Diocese that a Vice Chancellor will attend the meeting of the Convention in the place and stead of the Chancellor, in which case the certified Vice Chancellor shall have a vote.

#### **Article XIV. omitted**

#### **Article XV. The Standing Committee of the Diocese.**

The Standing Committee shall consist of twelve members of the Diocese, six of the Clerical order and six of the Lay order, each of whom shall be a confirmed communicant in good standing as defined in General Convention Canon I.17 and 18 years of age or over.

At each regular meeting the Convention shall elect two members of each order for a term of three years. Each member of the Committee shall hold office for the term for which the member was elected and until a successor is elected or appointed. No member may serve consecutive full terms.

In case of a vacancy in the Episcopal

who shall continue in office at the pleasure of the Ecclesiastical Authority. Vice Chancellors shall be confirmed communicants in good standing in the Diocese of Virginia and members of the Virginia State Bar. Vice Chancellors shall serve at the direction of the Chancellor and shall assist the Chancellor in the performance of the Chancellor's duties.

(b) Vice Chancellors shall have seat and voice at meetings of the Convention but shall not have a vote unless the Chancellor does not attend the meeting of the Convention and certifies to the Secretary of the Diocese that a Vice Chancellor will attend the meeting of the Convention in the place and stead of the Chancellor, in which case the certified Vice Chancellor shall have a vote.

#### **Article XIV. omitted**

#### **Article XV. The Standing Committee of the Diocese.**

Section 1. The Standing Committee shall consist of twelve members of the Diocese, six of the Clerical order and six of the Lay order, each of whom shall be a confirmed communicant in good standing.

Section 2. At each regular meeting the Convention shall elect two members of each order to the Standing Committee for a term of three years. Each member of the Committee shall hold office for the term for which the member was elected and until a successor is elected or appointed. No member may serve consecutive full terms.

Section 3. At every regular meeting of the Convention the Standing Committee

office, or in case neither the Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, nor Bishop Suffragan is capable of performing the administrative duties of the Bishop, or in any case when the Bishop shall authorize it to act, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority.

The Standing Committee at every regular meeting of the Convention shall submit a report of its proceedings. When required by the Convention it shall also lay before the Convention any document which may have come into its possession. It shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Canon.

In case of a vacancy in the Standing Committee, the Executive Board shall fill the vacancy from the same order. The appointee shall serve until the next regular meeting of the Convention, at which meeting the Convention shall fill the vacancy.

shall submit a report of its proceedings. When required by the Convention it shall also lay before the Convention any document which may have come into its possession. It shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by Canon.

Section 4. In the event of a vacancy in the Standing Committee, the Executive Board shall fill the vacancy from the same order. The appointee shall serve until the next regular meeting of the Convention, at which meeting the Convention shall fill the vacancy.

## **Article XVI**

### **Rationale for amendment:**

In the current Constitution, this Article reads as though there were an entity called The Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia, which there is not. The history of this Article dates back prior to the current form and function of the Diocesan Missionary Society (DMS), an entity managed by trustees which is not identical to the activities of the Executive Board and is not constituted of a membership of the members of the Diocese. The proposed amendment is intended to preserve the intention of earlier amendments to refer to the Canons of the General Convention, without making inaccurate statements about the DMS.

### **Proposed amendment:**

#### **Article XVI.**

#### **The Missionary Society.**

All baptized members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia shall, ~~as before, constitute a missionary society known as the~~ be members of The

Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of VirginiaUnited States of America pursuant to Canon I.3 of the General Convention.

~~The direction and activities of the Society shall be identical with those of the Executive Board and shall be directed solely by it.~~

#### Text side-by-side:

##### Current text (assuming adoption of C1):

###### Article XVI.

###### The Missionary Society.

All baptized members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this Diocese shall, as before, constitute a missionary society known as the Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia.

The direction and activities of the Society shall be identical with those of the Executive Board and shall be directed solely by it.

##### Text as proposed to be amended:

###### Article XVI.

###### The Missionary Society.

All baptized members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Virginia shall be members of The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America pursuant to Canon I.3 of the General Convention.

#### Article XVII

##### Rationale for amendment:

The proposed amendment to Article XVII is to conform the heading to the language used in the text of the Article.

##### Proposed amendment:

###### Article XVII.

~~Parishes~~Congregations to be Bound by this Constitution.

Every ~~Congregation~~congregation within the Diocese of Virginia, however called, shall be bound by this Constitution and the Diocesan Canons.

#### Text side-by-side:

**Current text (assuming adoption of C1):**

**Article XVII.**

**Parishes to be Bound by this Constitution.**

Every Congregation within the Diocese of Virginia, however called, shall be bound by this Constitution and the Diocesan Canons.

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Article XVII.**

**Congregations to be Bound by this Constitution.**

Every congregation within the Diocese of Virginia, however called, shall be bound by this Constitution and the Diocesan Canons.

**[Article XVIII: reserved for future use (no change)]**

**Article XIX**

**Rationale for amendment:**

Sections 1 and 2 of this Article are amended for purposes of clarity and to provide more guidance regarding the requirements to be considered by the Convention for an amendment to the Constitution.

Section 3 is added to mirror a provision in Canon 30 (Amendments to the Canons).

Sections 4 and 5 are added. In the current Constitution and Canons, Canon 30 allows for the Constitution and Canons to be corrected after General Convention to accord any numbering or similar changes which have been made to the Canons of the General Convention. No similar authority exists for corrections to be made due to amendments adopted at the Diocesan Convention. Under the rules for amending the Constitution under current Article XIX, any amendment requires votes at two sessions to be adopted, which is cumbersome for a purely clerical correction.

The proposed addition of Sections 4 and 5 to this Article is to (a) mirror proposed amendments to Canon 30 to grant the same authority to make corrections necessitated by amendments adopted at General Convention and Diocesan Convention, and (b) divide the rules appropriately by jurisdiction, so that the rule in this Article applies only to changes to the Constitution, and Canon 30 would be revised to apply only to changes to the Canons.

**Proposed amendment:**

**Article XIX.**

**Amendments to the Constitution.**

| This

Section 1. The Constitution of the Diocese may be amended only in the following manner: At any regular meeting of the by the Convention a proposed amendment shall be referred to the appropriate committee, and a report thereon shall be presented by that committee and the. No proposed amendment shall be considered by the Convention. If approved by unless (a) the proposed amendment was submitted to the Secretary of the Diocese at least seven days before the Convention, convenes, and (b) the proposed amendment shall be again considered was referred to and reported upon by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

Section 2. No amendment to the Constitution shall be adopted during the same Convention. If a majority of the Convention votes to approve the proposed amendment, the proposed amendment shall lie over for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Convention and, if again approved, If approved by a majority at the next regular meeting of the Convention, the amendment shall be adopted. Unless otherwise provided for by the Convention, all amendments shall become effective immediately upon its adoption unless otherwise provided therein upon the adjournment of the meeting of the Convention at which final action was taken.

Section 3. Whenever the Constitution is amended, enacted, or repealed in different respects by two or more independent enactments at the same Convention, including the enactment of an entire Article, the separate enactments shall be considered as one enactment containing all of the amendments or enactments, whether or not repealed, to the extent that the changes made in separate amendments or enactments are not in conflict with each other. The Chancellor and the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons shall make the determination whether or not there is a conflict and certify the text of the single enactment to the Secretary of the Convention.

Section 4. At the conclusion of each regular meeting of the Convention, the Chancellor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, and the Secretary shall be empowered to correct numbering references in the Constitution to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. Any corrections shall be reported to the Secretary of the Diocese.

Section 5. At the conclusion of each regular meeting of General Convention, the Chancellor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, and the Secretary shall be empowered to correct numbering references in the Constitution to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention. Any corrections shall be reported to the Secretary of the Diocese.

#### **Text side-by-side:**

**Current text (assuming adoption of C1):**

**Article XIX.**

**Text as proposed to be amended:**

**Article XIX.**

**Amendments to the Constitution.**

This Constitution may be amended only in the following manner: At any regular meeting of the Convention a proposed amendment shall be referred to the appropriate committee, and a report thereon shall be presented by that committee and the proposed amendment shall be considered by the Convention. If approved by the Convention, the proposed amendment shall be again considered at the next regular meeting of the Convention and, if again approved, shall become effective immediately upon its adoption unless otherwise provided therein.

**Amendments to the Constitution.**

Section 1. The Constitution of the Diocese may be amended by the Convention. No proposed amendment shall be considered by the Convention unless (a) the proposed amendment was submitted to the Secretary of the Diocese at least seven days before the Convention convenes, and (b) the proposed amendment was referred to and reported upon by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

Section 2. No amendment to the Constitution shall be adopted during the same Convention. If a majority of the Convention votes to approve the proposed amendment, the proposed amendment shall lie over for consideration at the next regular meeting of the Convention. If approved by a majority at the next regular meeting of the Convention, the amendment shall be adopted. Unless otherwise provided for by the Convention, all amendments shall become effective upon the adjournment of the meeting of the Convention at which final action was taken.

Section 3. Whenever the Constitution is amended, enacted, or repealed in different respects by two or more independent enactments at the same Convention, including the enactment of an entire Article, the separate enactments shall be considered as one enactment containing all of the amendments or enactments, whether or not repealed, to the extent that the changes made in separate amendments or enactments are not in conflict with each other. The Chancellor and the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons shall make the determination whether or not there is a conflict and certify the text of the single enactment to the Secretary

of the Convention.

Section 4. At the conclusion of each regular meeting of the Convention, the Chancellor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, and the Secretary shall be empowered to correct numbering references in the Constitution to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. Any corrections shall be reported to the Secretary of the Diocese.

Section 5. At the conclusion of each regular meeting of General Convention, the Chancellor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, and the Secretary shall be empowered to correct numbering references in the Constitution to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention. Any corrections shall be reported to the Secretary of the Diocese.

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