

## **C-4 Amendment to Canon 4, Deputies to the General Convention**

October 21, 2024

**Amend Canon 4, by the insertion of the following language at the end of that Canon, as a new Section 3, to read as follows:**

- (a) Within 90 days of the Diocesan Convention electing them, General Convention Deputies must meet (which may be done virtually) to elect a Deputation Chair and Vice-Chair, one of whom must be a Clergy Deputy and one of whom must be a Lay Deputy.
- (b) To the extent reasonably practical, the Deputation Chair and Vice-Chair will, among other duties, help assure that:
  - i. Deputies and Alternates are trained in the most current procedures of the House of Deputies, including Committee procedures;
  - ii. Deputies and Alternates are provided information needed to vote knowledgeably in General Convention elections for members of church-wide bodies;
  - iii. The Diocese is fully represented when General Convention votes on measures and elections before it;
  - iv. Alternate Deputies are engaged in the work of General Convention;
  - v. Specific concerns and resolutions offered by Diocesan Convention for consideration by General Convention are addressed;
  - vi. The Diocese, especially the Diocesan Convention, receives timely and informative post-General Convention report
  - vii. A written report summarizing important practices and helpful hints about the work and procedures of the General Convention and the deputation is given to the Secretary of the Diocese promptly after the General Convention to be shared with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of successive General Convention deputations.

**Rationale:** The work of the General Convention changed drastically as a result of the Covid Pandemic, so that in 2022 and again in 2024, almost all of the committee work was done in virtual meetings before Convention. In 2024, that committee work started almost six months before the 81st General Convention met in person in Louisville. This shift to substantial pre-Convention business conducted virtually will continue before the next General Convention, scheduled for Phoenix in summer 2027.

Our past diocesan custom has been to designate as Deputation Chair the lay or clergy deputy who received the most votes in the election of Deputies. The rules and practices of the General Convention make the Deputation Chair responsible for a number of tasks in addition to the formal role in votes by order. The Deputation Chair is expected to be fully knowledgeable about how the General Convention functions. Given this shift in the work of General Convention, this customary method of appointing Deputation Chairs does not serve our Diocese well, especially when a person who has never attended a General

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Convention before is designated as the Deputation Chair. That situation has arisen several times in the past decade and is now a significant concern given the shift to substantial pre-Convention virtual work.

This amendment provides that the Deputies will choose a Deputation Chair and Vice-Chair among themselves, one a Lay Deputy and one a Clergy Deputy. It is expected that this election will be based on Deputies' understanding of the work of General Convention and of their colleagues' abilities to do various aspects of this work.

This amendment also provides a short outline of the expected role of the Chair and Vice-Chair in helping the Deputation to participate effectively and report back appropriately to our Diocese.

### **CERTIFICATION**

I certify that adoption of this canonical amendment will not violate the Constitution and Canons of General Convention and will not violate the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese. Adoption of this amendment is not expected to have any budgetary impact.

Respectfully submitted,

Russ Randle, Lay Delegate, St. Mary's, Arlington

Cynthia Bartol, Lay Delegate, Christ Church, Alexandria

The Rev. Amanda Kotval, St. Paul's, Ivy

The Rev. Kathleen Murray, Beckford Parish

The Rev. Sven vanBaars, Abingdon Church, White Marsh

The Rev. Daniel Velez-Rivera, St. Gabriel's, Leesburg

J.P. Causey, Jr., Chancellor

Margaret (Mickie) Jones, Lay Delegate, St. Mark's, Richmond

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