

Revise Canons to Amend Canon 8, Deputation to Provincial Meetings

SPONSOR: Canons Committee, Diocese of Vermont

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RESOLVED, That the 191st Convention of the Diocese of Vermont amend Canon 8 of the Diocese of Vermont to read as presented below, the new text underlined and the deleted text overstruck; and be it further

RESOLVED That in accordance with Canon 37, Section 2, this amendment will take effect upon adjournment of the November 14, 2024 Diocesan Convention.

CANON 8: ~~Deputation to Provincial Meetings~~ DELEGATION TO PROVINCIAL SYNOD

1. The annual Convention shall elect delegates and alternate delegates to represent the Diocese in the Provincial Synod of the Province of New England in such numbers and orders and with such terms of office as allowed the Diocese in the Canons of the Provincial Synod in place from time to time. Delegates and alternates shall serve for a three-year term and until their successors are elected. At every third session of the annual Convention, one Clerical and one Lay Deputy (and one Alternate in each Order) shall be elected to represent this Diocese in the Provincial Synod of the Province of New England, to serve for a three-year term and until their successors are elected. The Clergy so elected or appointed shall be canonically resident in this Diocese. The Laity so elected shall be communicants of the Church, having domicile in this Diocese.
- ~~2. In the case of the inability of any deputy to attend or in the case of vacancy, the Bishop shall have the power to appoint a provisional representative or representatives to serve. Any vacancy in the Diocese's delegation shall be filled by appointment by the Bishop and the appointee shall serve until the next annual Convention.~~
3. The duties of the ~~Deputies to the Provincial Synod~~ Delegates shall be as defined in the Canons and rules of order enacted by the Province of New England.
4. Deputies and Alternate Deputies to the General Convention of this Church shall *be ex officio* representatives to the Provincial Convocation immediately preceding the meeting of the General Convention.

EXPLANATION

The Synod of the Province of New England changed their Canon regarding diocesan representation in 2020, to specify that each diocese is entitled to three representatives, now identified as delegates rather than deputies, and three alternates, each to serve a three-year term. At least one of each group must be a member of the clergy, and at least one must be a lay person. This resolution brings the Canons of the Diocese of Vermont into conformity with those of the Province. The relevant canon of the Province reads:

Provincial Delegates:

II.4(c) Each Diocese within the Province shall be entitled to representation in the Provincial House of Deputies hereinafter termed "House of Delegates," by three Delegates and up to three

Alternate Delegates, elected in such manner as their diocese may determine, consistent with this Canon. Neither the Delegates nor the Alternate Delegates may be all clergy or all lay. Each shall serve a term of three years, and shall be eligible for re-election, but may not serve more than two consecutive three-year terms without an intervening year. A Delegate who initially fills an unexpired term shall be eligible to be elected to two consecutive three-year terms. The terms of office of a diocese's Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be staggered so that, where possible, each year the term of office of one Delegate and one Alternate Delegate expires.

The current Canon 8 of the Diocese of Vermont calls for the election of one clergy and one lay deputy and one alternate in each order. In 2023, the Diocesan Convention elected a third delegate to join the continuing lay and clergy delegates, but the enabling Canon was not changed. The clergy delegate's term expires this year, so the 191st Diocesan Convention will elect a clergy delegate. One current lay delegate's term expires in 2025 and the other in 2026, so terms are staggered as called for by the provincial Canon. The Diocese may elect up to three alternate delegates, whose terms should also be staggered.

The resolution provides for the amendment to take effect at the conclusion of this Convention in accordance with Canon 37: AMENDMENTS TO CANONS. The relevant section reads:

2. The Committee on Canons may submit proposed amendments to these Canons at any annual Convention for immediate adoption, instead of deferring action for one year, provided the submission of such proposed amendment is approved by a concurrent vote, by Orders, of two-thirds of those present and voting in each Order.