Rules of Order for the 2026 Diocesan Convention

PREAMBLE: The following Rules of Order are intended to provide systematic parliamentary procedures for the conduct of business at Diocesan Conventions. Each Convention is free to adopt its own rules of order, but these Rules of Order are recommended for their brevity and their past usefulness to Convention. Adoption of these Rules of Order shall be by majority vote of Convention.

1. **General**. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the authority for all questions of parliamentary procedure and voting at Convention business, except where the Canons, Constitution, or these Rules of Order specifically provide for a different rule.

2. **Elections**. All elections in which not more than one person per vacancy has been nominated shall be by voice vote. For all other vacancies, election shall be by ballot which may be taken electronically using Internet meeting services as provided in Rule 6, below.

   Except as otherwise required by Canon, an election by ballot shall be declared when the nominees have received a plurality of votes to fill the vacancies in the office. If precedence is significant in an office, the order of preference shall be the order of the number of votes received. Whenever an election vote occurs by Orders, each Order's selection shall be those candidates who receive a majority of the votes cast by the Order.

3. **Resolutions**. The Committee on Dispatch of Business may set a pre-Convention deadline for the submission of proposed Resolutions. Whenever practicable, prior to Convention all Resolutions, other than Courtesy Resolutions and Resolutions arising from the Bishop's Address and Charge to the Convention, shall be referred to the appropriate Diocesan Committee, Commission, or other body for review. Such review shall consist of evaluation of the issue presented with regard to established Diocesan policy, verification that an appropriate action clause is included in the Resolution, and the preparation of a recommendation to the Convention.

   Resolutions must be submitted before the official deadline so the meeting agenda can be published. New resolutions from the floor of the Convention will be ruled out of order. Emergency resolutions, submitted following the deadline or from the floor of Convention, will be allowed with the Bishop's discretion to determine genuine emergencies.

   Any such emergency Resolution submitted after the published deadline published by the Committee on the Dispatch of Business shall additionally require a two-thirds vote of Convention in order to be added to the agenda.

   The proposer(s) of such an emergency Resolution shall furnish all voting members of Convention with a copy of the full text of the Resolution and will be allowed to address the Convention for not more than two minutes to make the case for inclusion of the Resolution on the agenda. There shall be no debate as to the merit of the Resolution unless and until the Convention votes to add the Resolution to the agenda by a two-thirds

vote to suspend the Rules of Order.

Unless a two-thirds vote is required by Canon, a majority of the votes cast shall suffice to carry or defeat a Resolution.

4. **Debate.** Debate on each Resolution or other question shall be limited to no more than 20 minutes following the presentation of the resolution or question, and each speaker (other than the presenters of the Resolutions) shall be limited to not more than two minutes, with no one speaking a second time until all others have spoken a first time. These limits may be extended by a majority vote of Convention.

5. **Revision or Waiver of Rules of Order**. Revision or waiver of a Rule of Order shall be by two-thirds vote of Convention.

6. **Constitution and Canons to Prevail**. In the event of a conflict between the Rules of Order (including Robert's Rules of Order) and the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese, the Constitution or Canons, as the case may be, shall prevail.

7. **Special Rule of Order For 2026 "Remote" Annual Convention of the Diocese of Vermont.** The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont shall be conducted through use of an Internet meeting service designated by the Committee on Dispatch of Business that supports anonymous voting and visible displays (i) identifying those participating, (ii) identifying those seeking recognition to speak, (iii) showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending motions, and (iv) showing the results of votes. This electronic meeting of the Convention shall otherwise be subject to these Rules of Order. In addition, the following procedures shall apply:
   A. An anonymous vote conducted through the designated Internet meeting service shall be deemed a written ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement from any source that a vote be conducted by written ballot. Votes shall be deemed anonymous so long as votes cast by an individual are available only to the administrator of the voting system.
   B. Except when a written ballot is required, business may be conducted by unanimous consent.
   C. Members shall identify themselves as required to sign in to the Internet meeting service, and shall maintain Internet and audio access throughout the meeting whenever present, but shall sign out upon any departure before adjournment.
   D. The presence of a quorum shall be established by the online list of participating members or by an audible roll call of the members of the Convention.
   E. Each member is responsible for the member's audio and Internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
   F. The presiding officer may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The decision to do so, which is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member, shall be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.
   G. In addition to display of pending motions or results of votes, video of the presiding

officer and any member currently recognized to speak, or report, shall be displayed throughout the meeting, as well as such other video displays as the presiding officer may designate.