

Report of the Committee on Constitution and Canons
Proposed Amendments to the Canons for the Diocese of Central Florida
November 10, 2011

Canon IV
Quorum and Methods of Voting in Convention

Section 1.

One-third of the clergy entitled to vote in the Convention, and one-third of the lay delegates entitled to vote in the Convention, when duly assembled, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a smaller number may adjourn the Convention from time to time.

Section 2.

The clergy and laity shall deliberate in one body. Every member [having the right to vote in accordance with Canon II](#) shall be entitled to one vote, and except when herein otherwise expressly provided, a majority of all the votes cast shall determine any question submitted to the Convention. The election of ~~a Bishop~~ ~~and~~ deputies to General Convention shall be by a majority of all votes cast. For all other elections, [except for the election of a Bishop](#), including the election of alternate deputies to General Convention, on the third and subsequent ballots and with the approval of a majority of the Convention, the election shall be by a plurality of all votes cast. [Only voting members present in person at the Convention may vote on matters coming before the Convention.](#)

[To the choice of a Bishop the concurrent vote, by ballot, \(which may be by electronic means\), of a majority of the clergy members having the right to vote present in the Convention and of the lay members present in the Convention, voting separately, shall be necessary.](#)

Explanation: Article VII of the Constitution requires the vote of a majority of each order. The Constitution supersedes the Canons. Therefore, this amendment is proposed to bring Canon IV into compliance with the Constitution.

Canon VI
Diocesan Board and Officers

Section 3. Election of the Board; [Eligibility of Lay Members](#)

The members of the Board shall be elected for 3 year terms. One clerical and two lay persons at large shall be elected each year at the Annual Convention. In addition, for each Deanery the Dean from the clerical order, and the President from the lay order, shall be elected by the Deanery Convocation for 3 year terms. Both the Dean and the President for each Deanery shall serve on the Diocesan Board. Members shall not be eligible for re-election until one Convention year shall have elapsed after the expiration of such member's term, but a member serving only a partial term is eligible for re-election to a full term of three years.

[A lay person shall be eligible to serve as a member of the Board who is entitled to vote on matters coming before the Parish or Mission of this Diocese of which that person is a member, is at least 18 years of age, and is a confirmed communicant in good standing of such Parish or Mission.](#)

Explanation: The members of the Board should be required to meet the same qualifications as a member of the Vestry of a Parish or Mission.

Canon IX
Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall be composed of seven members, four clerical members and three lay members. The four clerical members of the Standing Committee shall be elected for a 4 year term, with one such member's term expiring each year. The three lay members of the Standing Committee shall be elected for a 3 year term with one such member's term expiring each year. Members shall not be eligible for re-election until one Convention year shall have elapsed after the expiration of such member's term. A member serving only a partial term is eligible for re-election to a full term.

The election shall be by concurrent vote of both orders. The Standing Committee shall fill all vacancies on the Committee. The person filling such vacancy shall serve until the next Annual Convention.

A lay person shall be eligible to serve as a member of the Standing Committee who is entitled to vote on matters coming before the Parish or Mission of this Diocese of which that person is a member, is at least 18 years of age, and is a confirmed communicant in good standing of such Parish or Mission.

Explanation: The members of the Standing Committee should be required to meet the same qualifications as a member of the Vestry of a Parish or Mission.

Canon XVII Wardens, Vestry and Electors

Section 3.

Only communicant members of a Parish who are 16 years of age and over, whose names are duly enrolled as such in the register of the said Parish, and who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be entitled to vote on all matters coming before the Parish for a vote including the election of Vestry members. The vote of no person shall be questioned unless his or her right to vote shall be first challenged by a qualified elector. In the event of such challenge, the right of such person to vote shall be passed upon by a Committee of three appointed by the Rector (or in the event there shall be no Rector, then by the Senior Warden), and the findings of such Committee shall be final and binding. Only members entitled to vote and who are present at the meeting of the Parish at which a vote is to be taken may vote.

Explanation: This is to make clear that proxies are not permitted as a means of voting in order to assure that votes are cast by members who hear any discussion that takes place at the meeting prior to such vote.

Section 8.

Meetings of the Vestry shall be held annually, to receive reports of officers and committees, pass on the same, and turn over the affairs of the Parish to the newly elected Vestry. Other meetings of the Vestry may be provided for at regular times or called by the Rector, or, in the Rector's absence by the Senior Warden, or at the request of two members of the Vestry. The Ecclesiastical Authority has the

discretion to call a meeting of the Vestry of any Parish and preside at such meeting. Only members of the Vestry present at the meeting of the Vestry in person or by two-way electronic voice or voice and video may vote at a meeting. A member of the Vestry may not appoint a proxy or designate another person to vote for the Vestry member at any meeting of the Vestry.

Explanation: This is in accordance with Florida law and is inserted to clarify the requirement that only members of the Vestry may vote on matters coming before the Vestry. This also describes the manner by which a Vestry member may be present at a meeting by electronic means.

Canon XVI Ordained Ministers

Section 7. Deacons

~~(f) Upon attaining the age of seventy two years, each Deacon occupying any position in this Diocese shall resign that position and retire from active service, and the resignation shall be accepted. Thereafter, the Deacon may accept any position in this Diocese; provided, that (1) the tenure in this position shall be for a period of not more than one year, which period may be renewed from time to time, and (2) service in the position shall have the express approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority.~~

Explanation: This is now in the National Canons and is not necessary in the Diocesan Canons.

Canon XXIII Church Pension Fund

Section 1.

In conformity with the legislation adopted by the General Convention of 1913, pursuant to which the Church Pension Fund was duly incorporated, and in conformity with the Canon of the General Convention, "Of the Church Pension Fund," as heretofore amended and as it may hereafter be amended. The Church Pension Fund, a corporation created by Chapter 97 of the Laws of 1914 of the

State of New York as subsequently amended, is accepted and acknowledged as the authorized and approved pension system for the clergy of this Diocese and for their dependents [and as the authorized agency to establish and administer the lay employee pension system and denominational health plan of the Church.](#)

Explanation: This brings this Section into conformity with the lay employee pension and denominational health plan provisions of applicable National Canons and Resolutions adopted by the General Convention.