

CONSTITUTION & CANONS – 146AC-R03

146th ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

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The Committee on Constitutions and Canons makes the following report to the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.

The Committee met via Conference Call on December 18th, 2019 to discuss two proposals submitted by the publicized deadline. Both proposals are included in this report.

Proposed Amendment to Canon 2:

1 RESOLVED, Canon 2, Article 6 (Voting and Elections) of the Diocese of Newark Canons is amended as
2 follows:
3

4 Canon 2: (Voting and Elections)
5

6 6. No person shall be eligible for election to any office at Convention, nor shall any person elected by
7 Districts, or appointed to serve on Diocesan Council or other Diocesan Standing Committees,
8 Commissions or Boards accede to that office, unless that person shall have first completed or arranged
9 for the completion of anti-racism dialogues *and anti-sexism training* as approved by the Bishop after
10 consultation with the Diocesan *bodies* responsible for each training. *The anti-sexism training provisions*
11 *of this Article shall be a requirement after February 1, 2023.*
12

Supporting information:

13 At the 144th Diocesan Convention, resolution 144AC-R04 was passed, requiring that the Anti-Sexism
14 Task Force, created by that same resolution, be required develop a training program that will be
15 required for all clergy, all lay persons elected to leadership in the Diocese, diocesan search committees,
16 and that will be encouraged for use by all congregational search committees. The training program has
17 been developed. As we move towards implementation, the Canon has to be amended to create this
18 requirement.
19

20 This proposed amendment brings the Canon current with the resolution that was passed at the 144th
21 Diocesan Convention.
22

pre-existing text is not formatted,
proposed revisions are italicized; committee alternative revisions in bold (with strike thru text as appropriate);

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Proposed Amendment to Canon 5:

RESOLVED, Canon 5 (The Diocesan Council) of the Diocese of Newark Canons is amended as follows:

CANON 5 (The Diocesan Council)

1. COMPOSITION

There shall be a Diocesan Council consisting of the Bishop(s); The Secretary of the Convention, who shall also be a Secretary of the Diocesan Council; The Treasurer of the Convention, who shall also be Treasurer of the Diocesan Council; and up to *twenty-seven (27)* additional members. The Chancellor as legal advisor to the Council shall be afforded seat and voice at all meetings of the Council.

Of the additional members, *eighteen (18) Council members shall be elected at Diocesan Convention, who shall take office upon adjournment of the Annual Convention. Nine (9) of these members shall be from the clergy order, and nine (9) from the lay order. The remaining nine (9) shall be appointed by the Bishop to ensure broad representation across the diocese, with appointments named and approved at Diocesan Convention.*

~~*The term of any member elected or appointed shall be three (3) years, and no person shall be reelected or reappointed without an intervening year after the expiration of two (2) consecutive complete terms, except as provided below.*~~

Members shall be elected or appointed to serve for a term of three (3) years, provided that no person shall be elected to serve more than two (2) full terms in succession.

Diocesan Council shall have the authority to establish classes, and to fill vacancies between Annual Conventions.

At the 147th Diocesan Convention in 2021, up to six people shall be elected, three lay and three clergy. The Bishop shall appoint 3 people from either order to the class of 2024 and an additional individual from either order, for a two year term to the class of 2023.

At each of the next two subsequent Conventions, there shall be elections for up to three lay and up to three clergy, and the Bishop shall appoint up to three additional members each year. In all three conventions referenced, all incumbent members of Council as of January 2020 shall have their current terms observed, and if they are eligible for a second term as defined, they may run in their respective elections.

Supporting Information

Canon 5 previously provided for the majority of Diocesan Council members to be elected out of Districts. Over the years, it has become difficult to keep positions filled as many of our Districts are not meeting regularly. Members of Council represent the entire Diocese in their work, and as the “Convention between Conventions” the Deputies to Diocesan Convention should elect this body. This also brings Diocesan Council in alignment with the other two governing bodies in the way in which they are elected. The bishop’s appointments would be used, at her/his discretion, to ensure a diverse representation on Council from across the diocese. In any given year, there would be six (6) elected, and three (3) appointed. The enacting paragraphs (lines 23-30) allow for a smooth transition to the new election process.