

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND CANONS COMMITTEE

235th Annual Convention The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

Constitution, Canons and Rules of Order

Constitutional Amendments

ARTICLE IX Standing Committee

The Proposed Amendments to Article IX of the Constitution, highlighted in red, received First Reading Approval by majority vote of each Order in Convention November of 2024, and will be presented in Convention November 2025 for Second Reading Approval.

Section 1. There shall be a Standing Committee consisting of six ~~priests~~ **canonically resident clergy** of the Diocese and six laypersons, who are confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church in the Diocese. The Chancellor, unless an elected member of the Standing Committee, shall be an ex-officio member of the Standing Committee without vote. The members of the Standing Committee shall be elected by ballot for a term of three (3) years. At each annual Convention two ~~priests~~ **canonically resident clergy** and two laypersons shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. No ~~priest-clergy~~ or layperson whose term has expired shall be eligible for re-election until the passage of one Convention year from the date of said expiration.

Section 2. If there be no Bishop acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. In all decisions as the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Standing Committee shall vote by Orders; and a majority vote of the members present from each Order shall be necessary for a decision.

Section 3. At their first meeting after the election the Standing Committee shall choose one ~~of the priests~~ of their body to be their president and another member of their body to be their secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep regular minutes of all the proceedings and business of the committee. The committee shall maintain a written record of all of its activities and preserve the records and minutes of its meetings, **and may adopt bylaws.**

Convention Resolution:

Recognition of Returning Mission
Dated: Nov. ___ 2025

**Resolution for Presentation and Adoption at the
November, 2025 Annual Convention**

[Recognition and Restoration of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church]

Whereas, prior to 2012, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church was an Episcopal parish, known as Good Shepherd, Charleston, in union with The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, pursuant to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese; and

Whereas, in 2012, disassociated clergy attempted to lead Good Shepherd, Charleston out of The Episcopal Church; and,

Whereas, from 2012 through August 17, 2022, loyal Episcopalians in Good Shepherd, Charleston, now known as St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, through no fault of their own, were unable to have the parish comply with the provisions of Canon 4; and,

Whereas, the faithful Episcopalians in St. Peter’s Episcopal Church desire to have this Church be recognized as a Mission in union with the Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina and in “good standing” with the Convention;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that this 235th Annual Diocesan Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina does hereby waive any current canonical provision that would prevent or delay the recognition of this St. Peter’s Episcopal Church as a Mission in union with Convention.

Be it further resolved that this 235th Annual Diocesan Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina does hereby recognize that the above named Episcopal Mission is in full union with this Convention and is accorded the full privileges of membership in the Convention, pursuant to Article VIII of the Diocesan Constitution.

CANON 7
Parish Vestries and Mission Councils
PROPOSED CHANGES TO CANON 7
[EXISTING CANON SHOWN BELOW]

Section 1. In every parish there shall be a vestry composed of two wardens and three (3) to fifteen (15) additional elected vestry members.

Section 1.1. Each parish, in its bylaws, shall establish the method of selecting wardens (election at annual meeting, election by the vestry, or appointment by the rector), and the length of the term of office for wardens, if any.

Section 1.2. Each parish, in its bylaws, shall establish the number of additional elected vestry members and the length of the term of office for additional elected vestry members. No additional elected vestry member shall serve for more than three consecutive years in office. At the completion of a total of three years of service on the vestry, an additional elected vestry shall not be eligible for election to another term as an additional vestry member until one year after the expiration of such member's term. This limitation shall not affect the additional elected vestry member's eligibility to serve as a warden or, if selected to serve as a warden, the length of her or his term as warden, unless otherwise limited by the parish's bylaws.

Section 2. In every mission there shall be a mission council composed of at least one warden and three (3) to fifteen (15) additional elected council members.

Section 2.1. Each mission, in its bylaws, shall establish the number of wardens, the method of selecting wardens (election at annual meeting, election by the council, or appointment by the vicar), and the length of the term of office for wardens, if any.

Section 2.2. Each mission, in its bylaws, shall establish the number of additional elected council members and the length of the term of office for additional elected council members. No additional elected council member shall serve for more than three consecutive years in office. At the completion of a total of three years of service on the council, an additional elected council member shall not be eligible for election to another term as an additional council member until one year after the expiration of such member's term. This limitation shall not affect the additional elected council member's eligibility to serve as a warden or, if selected to serve as a warden, the length of her or his term as warden, unless otherwise limited by the mission's bylaws.

Section 3. The wardens shall always be confirmed communicants of the parish or mission who have attained the age of 18 years and who have communicated at least three times in the year preceding their election. The additional elected members of the vestry or council shall always be confirmed communicants of the parish or mission who have attained the age of 18 years and who have communicated at least three times in the year preceding their election.

CANON 7
Parish Vestries and Mission Councils
[EXISTING CANON 7]

Section 1. In every parish there shall be a vestry composed of two wardens, and not less than three (3) or more than fifteen (15) persons as the vestry members of the parish, to continue in office for the term elected, which shall not exceed three years, and until their successors are elected. In every mission there shall be a mission council composed of at least one warden, and not less than three (3) or more than fifteen (15) persons as the council members of the mission, to continue in office for the term elected, which shall not exceed three years, and until their successors are elected. The wardens shall always be confirmed communicants of the parish or mission who have attained the age of 18 years and who have communicated at least three times in the year preceding their election. The members of the vestry or council shall always be confirmed communicants of the parish or mission who have attained the age of 18 years and who have communicated at least three times in the year preceding their election.

Section 2. The election shall be in accordance with the parish's or mission's bylaws.

Section 3. The wardens, and vestry or council thus elected, together with the rector, if there be one, shall constitute the vestry or council and shall be the official representative of the parish or mission. The rector or vicar shall preside at all meetings. In case of the absence of the rector or vicar, one of the wardens shall preside.

CANON 15
Diocesan Council
PROPOSED CHANGES TO CANON 15
[EXISTING CANON SHOWN BELOW]

Section 1. The Diocesan Council shall administer and carry out the missionary, educational, and social work of this diocese and such other work as may be committed to it by the diocesan Convention. In addition, the Diocesan Council may initiate and develop new work between meetings of Convention, as it may deem necessary. Further, the Diocesan Council shall receive and administer all funds raised for the purpose of diocesan mission and ministry, subject to the provisions of the constitution and canons of this diocese.

Section 2. The Diocesan Council shall be composed of these members:

- a.* The Bishop of the Diocese shall be an ex-officio member with seat, voice, and vote, and shall serve as both the president of the Diocesan Council and the executive head of all such work. **The Bishop may appoint a vice-president to serve on the Diocesan Council.**
- b.* In addition to the Bishop of the Diocese, any assistant bishops of the diocese, if there be such, the **Canon to the Ordinary**, the Treasurer of the diocese, **and the regional deans of the diocese shall serve ex-officio, with no vote.**
- c.* **Each deanery convocation shall elect two members per deanery, to serve as members of Diocesan Council. One of the elected members shall be a canonically resident clergy who is currently serving, other than a dean, from each deanery. The second member shall be a layperson, who is a member in good standing of a parish or mission in union with the Convention.**

Section 3. Terms for elected members are to be three years or until a successor is elected **by a special deanery convocation.** After serving for a full term, the elected members of Diocesan Council shall be ineligible for membership for the following year.

Section 4. **Elected members of Council who were elected by Diocesan Convention prior to 2025 shall continue serving until their three-year term ends, after which their successors shall be elected by their respective deanery convocations prior to or at the annual Diocesan Conventions, in staggered, three-year terms, per an established schedule, and according to the procedures set forth above.**

Section 5. The Diocesan Council may enact all necessary bylaws for its governance subject to the provisions of this canon.

Section 9.6 The Diocesan Council shall meet for organization at such place and time as the Bishop may designate, following the annual Convention. It shall hold other fixed meetings as it may appoint. The Bishop may call additional special meetings as may deem necessary. A majority of the elected members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 8. 7 The Diocesan Council shall submit to each annual meeting of the diocesan Convention a report of the work done under its supervision during the preceding year, **and a proposed operating budget necessary to implement the programs of the Diocese. The proposed operating budget of the diocese shall be approved by the Diocesan Council before submission to the Convention.**

CANON 15
Diocesan Council
[EXISTING CANON 15]

Section 1. The Diocesan Council shall administer and carry out the missionary, educational, and social work of this diocese and such other work as may be committed to it by the diocesan Convention. In addition, the Diocesan Council may initiate and develop new work between meetings of Convention, as it may deem necessary. Further, the Diocesan Council shall receive and administer all funds raised for the purpose of diocesan mission and ministry, subject to the provisions of the constitution and canons of this diocese.

The Bishop of the diocese shall be an ex-officio member with voice and vote, and shall serve as both the president of the Diocesan Council and the executive head of all such work.

Section 2. The Diocesan Council shall be composed of these members: The Bishop of the Diocese, any assistant bishops of the diocese, if there be such, the Archdeacon of the diocese, the Treasurer of the diocese, the Chancellor of the diocese, six canonically resident clergy and six laypersons, to be elected by the annual Convention, whenever vacancies exist. Terms are to be three years or until a successor is elected.

After serving for a full term, the elected members of Diocesan Council shall be ineligible for membership for the following year. The Diocesan Council shall have power to fill any vacancy in its elected membership until successors are elected by the next diocesan Convention. No person shall serve on the Diocesan Council, who is not a member in good standing of a parish or mission in union with the convention or who is not canonically resident clergy in the diocese.

Section 3. The Diocesan Council shall be organized by the Bishop into departments, including a department of finance and such other departments as the Bishop may deem necessary to carry out the program and work of the diocese.

Each department so organized shall include at least one voting member of the Diocesan Council in its membership. The Bishop shall appoint annually a person to serve as chair of each department. Each department may increase its own membership, having representation from the various deaneries, if practicable. The Bishop shall be an ex-officio member of each department.

Section 4. The department of finance shall be composed of the chief fiscal officer of the Diocese, as designated by the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Treasurer of the Diocese, and not more than four additional members, as may be chosen and confirmed in conformity with Section 3.

The department shall act as a council of advice to the Bishop and to the Diocesan Council in the financial matters of the diocese.

The department may require reports from the Treasurer of the diocese, the Trustees of the diocese, and such other persons as shall be charged with the receipts and custody of funds for any diocesan purposes.

Section 5. Other departments of the Diocesan Council shall develop and execute the programs and activities of the diocese assigned by the Diocesan Council, to which they shall report regularly. These departments may organize into as many divisions as may be necessary.

Section 6. There shall be maintained a Diocesan Headquarters at a place fixed by the Diocesan Council.

Section 7. The Diocesan Council may enact all necessary bylaws for its governance and the governance of its several departments, subject to the provisions of this canon.

Section 8. The Diocesan Council shall submit to each annual meeting of the diocesan Convention a report of the work done under its supervision during the preceding year, including the annual report of the treasurer.

Section 9. The Diocesan Council shall meet for organization at such place and time as the Bishop may designate, following the annual Convention. It shall hold other fixed meetings as it may appoint. The Bishop may call additional special meetings as may deem necessary. A majority of the elected members shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, shall serve as chairman. If neither the Bishop nor the Bishop Coadjutor is present, the Diocesan Council shall choose a chairman from its own membership.

Section 10. The Diocesan Council, through its departments, shall submit to the annual Convention a proposed program of activities for the year, together with a proposed operating budget necessary to implement the program. The proposed program of each department and the proposed operating budget of the diocese shall be approved by the Diocesan Council before submission to the Convention.

CANON 16
Deaneries
PROPOSED CHANGES TO CANON 16
[EXISTING CANON 16 SHOWN BELOW]

Section 1. The Diocese shall be divided into deaneries, as determined annually by the Ecclesiastical Authority and announced at Convention. At the annual Convention, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall announce a member of the clergy, canonically resident within each deanery as Dean, who shall serve as the presiding officer of her or his deanery.

Section 2. Each deanery shall hold at least two regular convocations per year, as scheduled by the presiding officer. All canonically resident clergy and all elected members of Diocesan Council shall attend these convocations. All adult communicants of the Diocese have the right to attend deanery convocations. Deaneries may hold additional convocations as scheduled by the presiding officer.

Section 3: A majority of clergy and a majority of the most recently elected lay delegates within each deanery shall constitute a quorum in regular convocations and in additional scheduled convocations. All voting members of Convention within each deanery in attendance shall be entitled to vote on matters that require a vote in convocations.

Section 4: The deanery convocations shall: i) discuss affairs of diocesan and regional concern, and ii) other matters that will strengthen collegiality and further the work of the church.

CANON 16
Deaneries
[EXISTING CANON 16]

Section 1. The Diocese shall be divided into deaneries, the number and boundaries of which shall be determined from time to time by the Ecclesiastical Authority. The presiding officer of each deanery shall be a dean appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve for one year, which appointment shall be made at each annual Convention.

Section 2. There shall be regular deanery meetings, not less frequently than twice a year, of the clergy in each deanery as scheduled by the presiding officer. It shall be the duty of all clergy to meet as a deanery convocation.

Section 3. The deanery convocations shall: i) discuss affairs of diocesan and regional concern, ii) study issues relating to the territory of the deanery, iii) provide input during the formation of the diocesan budget, iv) provide for educational opportunities, and v) other matters that will strengthen collegiality and further the work of the church.

ADDITIONAL PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CANONS

Title I

Canon 7 Sec. 6: (*correction of TEC Canon section number*) The pastoral connection shall not be dissolved except as provided for by Title III Canon ~~9.13~~ **9.9** of the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Canon 12: Trustees – The Chancellor of the Diocese shall serve ~~ex-officio without a vote.~~
as advisor to the Trustees.

Canon 17 Sec. 2.2: **Replace correct name for TEC** -The vestry of the cathedral parish shall be elected and function as a parish vestry in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in South Carolina and the ~~Episcopal Church in the United States of America~~
“The Episcopal Church”

Canon 17 Sec. 3 **Delete the word Diocesan** **“Executive”** Council

Canon 18 **Delete Committee on** **“Architecture and Construction”**

Canon 20: This revision changes parish report due date ~~from February 1~~ **to March 1**, to be consistent with the constitutional change approved in 2024.

Title II

Canon 2: **Delete the** **“Committee on the State of the Church”**

Rules: Add **Sec 12: Diocesan Council Report at Convention**

[This change would add the Diocesan Council report to the list of Convention reports, along with the reports of the Standing Committee and Trustees, etc.]