REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

236th Annual Convention
The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

Constitution, Canons, and Rules of Order

Constitutional Amendments

The Proposed Amendments to Article I and Article IX of the Constitution, highlighted in red, will be presented to Convention for First Reading Approval by majority vote of each Order.
If approved for First Reading, the proposed amendments will be presented to Convention in 2027 for Second Reading by two-thirds vote of each Order.

ARTICLE I

Recognition of the Authority of The Episcopal Church **and the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina**

Section 1. The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina accedes to and adopts the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, as they now exist or may hereafter be amended by The Episcopal Church's General Convention and agrees to be permanently and irrevocably governed thereby.

Section 2. **The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese is the Bishop.**

ARTICLE IX
Standing Committee

Section 1. There shall be a Standing Committee consisting of six canonically resident clergy of the Diocese and six laypersons, who are confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church in the Diocese. The Chancellor **and Vice Chancellor,** unless ~~an~~ elected members of the Standing Committee, shall **serve as legal advisors to** ~~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 canonically resident clergy and two laypersons shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. No 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 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.

(New) Section 4: **Should a vacancy of a Standing Committee member occur between Annual Conventions, such vacancy shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Standing Committee, to serve until the replacement member is elected at the next Annual Convention. The replacement member shall be eligible for election at the next Annual Convention to complete the unexpired term to which such person was elected. Notwithstanding the limitation in Art. IX, Section 1, a person elected at the next Annual Convention to fill a vacancy of one year or less shall be eligible to be elected at the following Annual Convention to a succeeding term of three years. The replacement member for a layperson shall be a layperson of the Diocese, and the replacement for a clergy member shall be a canonically resident member of the clergy of the Diocese.**

The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina
Committee on Constitution & Canons
Committee Members:
The Rev. Canon Rob Donehue
The Rev. Canon Dr. Philip C. Linder, Canon to the Ordinary
The Rev. Dow Sanderson
The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Shaffer
Bert “Skip” Utsey, Chancellor
Melinda Lucka Kelley, Vice Chancellor