

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON THE CONSTITUTION AND CANONS
FOR THE 125TH ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The Committee on the Constitution and Canons has three items to present to the Convention for action. One item is substantive and two items are technical corrections. These three items will require two votes by the Convention.

First, the Committee submits to the Convention amendments to the canons to extend the pilot program for alternatives to Regional Assembly meetings by an additional 2 years.

Second, the Committee submits to the Convention technical and conforming amendments to the Canons that (1) provide a technical correction for two inconsistent provisions in the Canons (relating to the Treasurer's membership on the Finance Committee) to be consistent with Diocesan practice; and (2) provide a technical correction to section 3504(b)(3) of the Canons where the word "mission" was omitted in error.

These proposed amendments appear on pages 42 through 44 of the Convention booklet.

PART I

**PILOT PROGRAM FOR ALTERNATIVES
TO REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS**

On January 27, 2018, the 123rd Convention passed a resolution that amended the Canons by adding section 2306 that established a pilot program for alternatives to Regional Assembly meetings. The resolution that established the pilot program also contained a freestanding section providing for a conforming repeal of the text of section 2306 when the pilot program terminated after two years in 2020.

Under the pilot program any region may initiate a plan that provides an alternative to the conduct of the business of the region at a traditional annual meeting of the regional assembly. The alternative plan could include any alternative to an in-person meeting, such as one or more electronic meetings and the use of electronic voting. Every region over the last two years have initiated and implemented a plan. After monitoring the pilot program over the two-year trial period, the Diocesan Council and Bishop have received mainly positive responses. In the fall of 2019 the Diocesan Council and Bishop submitted a proposal to the Committee on the Constitution and Canons to extend the pilot program by an additional two years for further evaluation. During the additional two-year period a region may conduct its annual regional assembly in the traditional manner or choose the option to initiate an alternative plan under section 2306 of the Canons.

The proposed changes require amending the text of the Canon, which includes a sunset date, and also requires amending the original resolution that established the pilot program, because that resolution included an automatic repeal provision.

Appendix I following the proposed amendments to the Canons and establishing resolution shows the strikes and inserts to the text of section 2306 of the Canons and the text of section 2 of that resolution.

Therefore, the Committee on the Constitution and Canons moves the adoption of a resolution amending the Canons and the related resolution as follows:

Resolved,

1 **SECTION 1. PILOT PROGRAM FOR ALTERNATIVES TO REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.— Section 2306(e) of the Canons is amended by striking “February 15,
3 2020” and inserting “February 15, 2022”.

4 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.— The Resolution of January 27, 2018 relating to the
5 Pilot Program for Alternatives to Regional Assembly Meetings is amended by striking section 2.

6 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.— This section shall take effect on the day after the last day of the
7 annual meeting of the Convention in calendar year 2020.

8 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF PROGRAM.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.— Section 2306 of the Canons is repealed.

10 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.— This section shall take effect on February 15, 2022.

11 **APPENDIX I**

12 **TEXT OF CANON AND RESOLUTION**
13 **ESTABLISHING PILOT PROGRAM**

14 **SECTION 2306 OF CANON 23**

15 **SEC. 2306. PILOT PROGRAM FOR ALTERNATIVES TO REGIONAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.— There is established the Pilot Program
17 for Alternatives to Regional Assembly Meetings (in this section the “Program”).

18 (b) ALTERNATIVE TO MEETINGS.— Notwithstanding sections 2303 and 2304, a
19 Regional Assembly may conduct the business of the Regional Assembly in a manner that—

20 (1) is an alternative to holding an annual meeting; and

21 (2) complies with this section.

22 (c) PLANS FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION.—

23 (1) SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF PLAN.— A Regional Assembly may
24 participate in the Program if the Bishop submits a plan described under paragraph (2) to
25 the Council and the Council approves the plan.

26 (2) CONTENTS OF PLAN.— A plan shall include—

27 (A) an identification of the region;

28 (B) a process for addressing and taking appropriate action of the agenda
29 under section 2303(d) without holding an annual meeting; and

30 (C) a process for nominations and elections under section 2304 without
31 holding an annual meeting.

32 (3) PROCESSES.— Alternatives under this section to annual meetings may
33 include—

34 (A) any alternative to in-person meetings; and

35 (B) 1 or more electronic meetings (including any telephonic meeting) and
36 electronic voting.

37 (d) OTHER MEETINGS.—

38 (1) IN GENERAL.— If a Regional Assembly participates in the Program in any
39 calendar year, the Bishop shall call a regional meeting during that calendar year.

40 (2) REQUIREMENTS.— A regional meeting called under paragraph (1) shall be—

41 (A) an in-person meeting;

42 (B) held within that region; and

43 (C) open to any member of the Episcopal Church.

44 (e) TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.— The authority to conduct the Program under this
45 section shall terminate on ~~February 15, 2020~~ February 15, 2022.

46 SECTION 2 OF PILOT PROGRAM RESOLUTION

47 ~~SEC. 2. REPEAL OF PROGRAM.~~

48 ~~(a) IN GENERAL.— Section 2306 of the Canons is repealed.~~

49 ~~(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.— This section shall take effect on February 15, 2020.~~

PART II

GENERAL TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

TREASURER AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

There is a conflict between two provisions in the Canons that need to be reconciled to be consistent with Diocesan practice. Section 1303 of the Canons provides that the Treasurer is an ex officio member of the Finance Committee without a vote. Section 2802(a)(2)(B) of the Canons provides that the Treasurer is a voting member of the Finance Committee. In Diocesan practice the Treasurer is a full member of the Finance Committee with vote. During the multi-year restatement process of the Canons the section 2802 provision was added to make the Canons consistent with the actual practice of the Diocese, but the conforming changes to section 1303 were not made.

The proposed technical and conforming amendment strikes subsection (a) of section 1303. Although that subsection being stricken also contains references to the Diocesan Council and the Committee on Investments of the Diocesan Council, the existing provisions in the Canons that establish the Diocesan Council and the Committee on Investments of the Diocesan Council address membership and voting of the Treasurer, respectively, (i.e. section 2702(a)(2)(A)(iv) of the Canons provides that the Treasurer is a non-voting ex officio member of the Diocesan Council and section 2902(a) of the Canons provides that the Treasurer is a non-voting ex officio member of the Committee on Investments). The proposed amendment also provides technical redesignations and references.

Appendix II shows the strikes to the text of section 1303 of the Canons.

1 **APPENDIX II**

TEXT OF CANON RELATING TO TREASURER

2 **SEC. 1303. DUTIES.**

3 ~~(a) DIOCESAN COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.—~~ The Treasurer shall
4 ~~be a member ex officio without vote of—~~

5 ~~—————(1) the Diocesan Council;~~

6 ~~—————(2) the Committee on Finance for the Diocesan Council; and~~

7 ~~—————(3) the Committee on Investments for the Diocesan Council.~~

CORRECTION OF OMITTED WORD

8 Section 3504(b)(3) of the Canons omitted the word “mission” in error. The proposed amendment
9 corrects the omission.

10 Appendix III shows the insertion in italics to the text of section 3504(b)(3) of the Canons.

11 **APPENDIX III**

TEXT OF CANON RELATING TO “MISSION”

12 (b) NOTICE.— Not later than 10 days before the first annual meeting, the Bishop shall
13 provide notice of the date and place of that meeting to any individual who according to the records
14 of the mission—

15 (1) is a communicant of this Church in good standing;

16 (2) is at least 15 years of age;

17 (3) has attended more than 1 service at the *mission* before the first annual meeting;

18 and

19 (4) has contributed to the support of the mission before the first annual meeting.

Therefore, the Committee on the Constitution and Canons moves—

(1) the adoption of an amendment to the Canons relating to the Treasurer as a voting member of the Committee on Finance; and

(2) the adoption of an amendment to the Canons relating to a technical correction; With both taking effect on the day after the last day of the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention in calendar year 2020 as follows:

1 Section 1303 of the Canons is amended by striking subsection (a) and redesignating subsections (b)
2 through (e) as subsections (a) through (d), respectively.

3 Section 3504(b)(3) of the Canons is amended by inserting “mission” after “has attended more than
4 1 service at the”.

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