

TITLE: C1-2021 Calling Meetings of Convention

PROPOSED BY: Barbara Jewell, Chancellor, Canon Charles R. Mack, Chancellor Emeritus and Vice Chancellor and Delegate from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Woodland

REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION: Barbara Jewell, Chancellor, Canon Charles R. Mack, Chancellor Emeritus and Vice Chancellor and Delegate from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Woodland

DATE SUBMITTED: August 16, 2021

RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, That Article VI of the Constitution is hereby amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE VI

Meetings of Convention

Section 1. There shall be an annual meeting of the Convention in each calendar year at such time and place as the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint *by a call issued, in the absence of such other reasonable time provided by Convention by Canon, at least four months before the meeting. The meeting shall be held in person unless the Ecclesiastical Authority with the consent of Standing Committee orders the meeting to be held electronically.*

Section 2. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall have power to call a special meeting of the Convention (and shall call a special meeting upon the request of the Standing Committee), designating the time, place and purpose of such meeting *by a call issued at least sixty days before the meeting. . The meeting shall be held in person unless the Ecclesiastical Authority with the consent of Standing Committee orders the meeting to be held electronically.* No business, other than that stated in the call, shall be transacted except by unanimous vote of the special meeting. The record of the vote must show a quorum was present.

Section 3. ~~Notice of the time and place of every annual or special meeting of the Convention shall be given by the Secretary of Convention. Such notification shall be in printed or written form sent by mail to every member of the Clergy actually and canonically resident in the Diocese, and Clerk of every Vestry or Mission Committee in union with Convention. Notification shall be sent at least twenty five days before the time appointed for the meeting unless otherwise stipulated in this Constitution or the Canons of this Diocese. The notice of every annual meeting shall include: an agenda of the Convention, a copy of the proposed Diocesan Budget for the coming year, the text of any proposed change to the Constitution or the Canons of this Diocese, the text of any measure affecting the financial responsibility of Parishes or Missions to the Diocese, the text of Resolutions to be brought before the Convention, except for Resolutions received by the Convention by unanimous consent of the Delegates, and a verbatim copy of the call issued by the Ecclesiastical Authority. This canon does not apply to the election of a Bishop, nor to a member of the clergy serving in, or a lay person who is a communicant in good standing in a parish or organized mission in union with~~

~~the convention of the Diocese of Northern California. Contemporaneously with the call by the Ecclesiastical Authority the Secretary of Convention shall give notice of the call to Clergy having seat, voice, and vote in Convention and to the Clerk of every Vestry or Mission Committee in union with the Diocese in the manner as Convention may provide by Canon or House Rule. The notice shall be accompanied by such additional information as Convention may require by Canon or House Rule.~~

RESOLVED, That Section 1 of Article XIV of the Constitution, concerning election of a Bishop, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 1. Election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan shall be made only in an annual meeting of the Convention or in a special meeting called for the purpose. ~~The object of such special meeting shall be stated in the notice sent by the Secretary of Convention to all Clergy actually and canonically resident in this Diocese and to the Clerk of every Parish and Mission in union with the Convention. Notification of such special meeting shall be made at least sixty days before the meeting.~~

EXPLANATION: This Resolution updates the Diocesan Constitution to allow electronic meetings of Convention and electronic notice of meetings. ***Because of its exceptional nature, the consent of Standing Committee is required for holding an electronic meeting of Convention***, It also eliminates existing internally inconsistent language that does not follow current practice. This Resolution seeks to conform the provisions to current practice.

The first Resolve limits the Constitution to providing for a call and notice, directing the details of notice to be provided by Canon or House Rule. Experience may call for revisions. Such revisions are best provided by Canon or House Rule adopted by Convention. The language of the current provision refers to itself as a canon, which indicates that it was originally drafted as a canonical, not a constitutional provision.

This resolution comes to Convention now to enable it to adopt a Canon permitting electronic meetings as well as place meetings and to give electronic notice as well as mail notice of the meetings. Electronic meetings this year and last year are possible only because the Governor has issued a preemptive Covid 19 executive order permitting them.

The second Resolve eliminates redundant language that duplicates the notice requirement of the first Resolve.

This Resolution proposes a constitutional amendment. As such it must be adopted by a majority vote and then must lie over until the next Convention and be approved by a two-thirds vote of the lay order and of the clergy order, voting separately and by the Bishop.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no anticipated fiscal impact.