

# **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON**

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## **ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS**

### **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Constitution:

- (1) BISHOP.—The term “Bishop” means the Bishop of the Diocese of Washington.
- (2) COMMUNICANT OF THIS CHURCH IN GOOD STANDING.—The term “communicant of this Church in good standing” means an individual who is a communicant in good standing as defined in the canons of this Church.
- (3) COMMUNICANT OF THIS DIOCESE IN GOOD STANDING.—The term “communicant of this Diocese in good standing” means an individual who is—
  - (A) a communicant of this Church in good standing; and
  - (B)(i) a member of a parish, separate congregation, or mission of this Diocese entitled to vote in that parish, separate congregation, or mission; or
  - (ii) enrolled in the register of a college chaplaincy of this Diocese.
- (4) CONVENTION.—The term “Convention” means the Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the Diocese of Washington, a diocese of this Church, incorporated as a corporation by the Act of March 16, 1896 (29 Stat. 58).
- (5) DIOCESE.—The term “Diocese” means the Diocese of Washington.
- (6) ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY.—The term “Ecclesiastical Authority” means the Bishop or the Bishop Coadjutor, Bishop Suffragan, or the Standing Committee as provided under Article 6.

(7) MEETING OF THE CONVENTION.— The term “meeting of the Convention” means any annual meeting or special meeting of the assembled participants of the Convention.

(8) MEMBER OF THE CONVENTION.— The term “member of the Convention” means any individual who is a clerical member of the Convention or a lay member of the Convention.

(9) PARTICIPANT OF THE CONVENTION.— The term “participant of the Convention” means any individual who is—

- (A) a member of the Convention;
- (B) a cleric with seat and voice, but not vote at any meeting of the Convention; or
- (C) a lay individual with seat and voice, but not vote at any meeting of the Convention.

(10) THIS CHURCH.—The term “this Church” means the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, also known as The Episcopal Church.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **MEETINGS OF THE CONVENTION**

#### **SEC. 201. ANNUAL MEETINGS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.-- An annual meeting of the Convention shall be held in each calendar year.

(b) DATE AND PLACE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.— Except as provided under paragraph (2) or subsection (c), at each annual meeting, the Convention shall determine the date and place for the following annual meeting.

(2) ALTERNATE DETERMINATION OF DATE AND PLACE.—

(A) BISHOP AND STANDING COMMITTEE.-- The Bishop shall determine the date and place for the annual meeting, if—

- (i) the Convention does not set the date and place under paragraph (1); and
- (ii) the Bishop has the consent of the Standing Committee.

(B) STANDING COMMITTEE.-- The Standing Committee shall determine the date and place for the annual meeting, if—

- (i) the Convention does not set the date and place under paragraph (1); and
- (ii) (I) the office of Bishop is vacant; or
- (II) the Bishop is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office.

(c) CHANGE OF DATE OR PLACE.—

(1) SUFFICIENT CAUSE.— Any change in the date or place of the annual meeting under this subsection may be made only for sufficient cause as determined by—

- (A) the Bishop and the Standing Committee for any change under paragraph (2); or

(B) the Standing Committee for any change under paragraph

(3).

(2) BISHOP AND STANDING COMMITTEE.— With the consent of the Standing Committee, the Bishop may change the date or place of the annual meeting.

(3) STANDING COMMITTEE.— The Standing Committee may change the date or place of the annual meeting, if—

(A) the office of Bishop is vacant; or

(B) the Bishop is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office.

(d) ABSENCE.— For purposes of this section, the Bishop shall—

(1) determine any period in which the Bishop is absent; and

(2) provide written notice of that determination to the Standing Committee.

## **SEC. 202. REMOTE ELECTRONIC MEETINGS.**

The Convention may hold any meeting of the Convention as a remote electronic meeting.

## **ARTICLE 3 MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION**

### **SEC. 301. COMPOSITION.**

The Convention shall be composed of clerical members of the Convention and lay members of the Convention.

### **SEC. 302. ENTITLEMENT TO VOTE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.— All clerical members of the Convention and lay members of the Convention shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Convention.

(b) SINGLE VOTE.— If more than 1 provision of the Constitution or the canons entitles an individual to vote at a meeting of the Convention, that individual may not vote more than once on any vote at that meeting.

(c) ENTITLEMENT TO VOTE RETAINED.— An individual shall remain entitled to vote, if—

(1) a provision of the Constitution or canons entitles that individual to vote; and

(2) another provision of the Constitution or canons provides that individual with seat and voice, but not vote at any meeting of the Convention.

### **SEC. 303. CLERICAL MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION.**

(a) MEMBERS.— Except as provided under subsection (b), the clerical members of the Convention shall be—

- (1) the Bishop, any Bishop Coadjutor, and any Bishop Suffragan; and
- (2) any cleric—

- (A) who was ordained in this Diocese and has continued in canonical residence from ordination; or

- (B) who—

- (i) transferred to this Diocese by Letters Dimissory;

- and

- (ii) not less than 60 days before the meeting of the Convention, had Letters Dimissory accepted by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

(b) CLERGY UNDER ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE.— A cleric may not be a clerical member of the Convention, if that cleric is--

- (1) under a sentence of suspension or deposition; or

- (2) subject to an accord or order of ecclesiastical discipline that provides that the cleric is not a clerical member of the Convention for a specified period.

#### **SEC. 304. LAY MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—

- (1) LAY MEMBERS.-- The lay members of the Convention shall be--

- (A) at least 1 lay delegate from each parish or separate congregation in union with the Convention;

- (B) at least 1 lay delegate from each organized mission under the authority of the Diocese;

- (C) at least 1 lay delegate from the Cathedral;

- (D) the Secretary of the Convention, the Treasurer of the Convention, the Chancellor of the Diocese, the Chair of the Finance Committee of the Diocesan Council, and the President of the Episcopal Church Women; and

- (E) subject to paragraph (2), any additional lay delegates as provided by Canon.

(2) LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL LAY DELEGATES.— The total number of additional lay delegates provided by Canon may not exceed the total number of—

- (A) lay delegates provided under paragraph (1)(A), (B), and (C); and

- (B) officers under paragraph (1)(D).

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.— Each lay member of the Convention—

- (1) described under subsection (a)(1)(A) or (B) shall be—

- (A) at least 18 years of age;

- (B) a communicant of this Diocese in good standing; and

- (C) a member of the parish, separate congregation, or organized mission from which that member is elected;

- (2) described under subsection (a)(1)(C) shall be—

- (A) at least 18 years of age; and

- (B) a communicant of this Church in good standing;
- (3) described under subsection (a)(1)(D) shall be—
  - (A) at least 18 years of age; and
  - (B) a communicant of this Diocese in good standing; and
- (4) described under subsection (a)(1)(E) shall be—
  - (A) at least 18 years of age; and
  - (B) in the case of a delegate from—
    - (i) a parish, separate congregation, or organized mission—
      - (I) a communicant of this Diocese in good standing; and
      - (II) a member of the parish, separate congregation, or organized mission from which that member is elected; or
    - (ii) a college chaplaincy—
      - (I) a communicant of this Diocese in good standing; and
      - (II) enrolled in the register of that college chaplaincy.

#### **SEC. 305. STATUS THROUGHOUT YEAR.**

(a) IN GENERAL.-- Except as provided under subsection (b), a lay member of the Convention—

(1) shall be a lay member of the Convention for an annual meeting of the Convention and retain membership without reelection or reappointment until the next annual meeting of the Convention; and

(2) may attend all adjourned and special meetings as a lay member of the Convention until that next annual meeting of the Convention.

(b) EXCEPTION.— A lay member of the Convention who is a delegate from a parish, separate congregation, organized mission, or the Cathedral shall remain a lay member of the Convention until succeeded under the by-laws of that parish, separate congregation, organized mission, or the Cathedral.

#### **SEC. 306. CANONS.**

(a) MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION.-- The Convention may adopt canons relating to the membership of the Convention.

(b) CANONS AFFECTING NUMBER OF MEMBERS.-- Any canon adopted under subsection (a) that affects the number of members of the Convention may not take effect until the annual meeting of the Convention following that adoption.

(c) INDIVIDUALS WITH SEAT AND VOICE, BUT NOT VOTE.-- The Convention may adopt canons to provide for any individual who is not a member of the Convention to be entitled to seat and voice, but not vote at any meeting of the Convention.

## **ARTICLE 4 QUORUM**

### **SEC. 401. QUORUM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.— A quorum for the conduct of business at any meeting of the Convention shall be--

(1) the lesser of—

(A) 50 clerical members of the Convention; or

(B) 25 percent of all clerical members of the Convention; and

(2) the lesser of—

(A) 50 lay members of the Convention; or

(B) 25 percent of all lay members of the Convention.

(b) ADJOURNMENT.— A quorum shall not be required for a vote to adjourn.

## **ARTICLE 5 BUSINESS AND VOTES IN THE CONVENTION**

### **SEC. 501. BUSINESS AND VOTES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under subsection (b), all business of the Convention shall be conducted with the participants of the Convention acting as a single body.

(b) VOTING BY ORDERS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT OF VOTE.— If any 5 members of the Convention require that any vote be conducted by orders, the clerical members of the Convention and the lay members of the Convention shall vote separately.

(2) PASSAGE.— A vote under paragraph (1) shall pass, if a majority of —

(A) the clerical members of the Convention present and voting vote in favor; and

(B) the lay members of the Convention present and voting vote in favor.

## **ARTICLE 6 ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY**

### **SEC. 601. ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY.**

(a) BISHOP.— The Bishop shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

(b) BISHOP COADJUTOR.—The Bishop Coadjutor shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, if—

(1) the office of Bishop is vacant; or

(2) the Bishop is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office.

(c) BISHOP SUFFRAGAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.— The Bishop Suffragan shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, if—

- (A)(i) the office of Bishop is vacant; or
- (ii) the Bishop is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office; and
- (B)(i) the office of Bishop Coadjutor is vacant; or
- (ii) the Bishop Coadjutor is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office.

(2) MULTIPLE BISHOPS SUFFRAGAN.— If there is more than 1 Bishop Suffragan, paragraph (1) shall apply to—

- (A) the Bishop Suffragan with the most seniority based on the date of consecration to the episcopate; or
- (B) if the Bishop Suffragan with the most seniority is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office, the Bishop Suffragan with the next most seniority.

(d) ABSENCE.— For purposes of this section, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall—

- (1) determine any period in which that Ecclesiastical Authority is absent; and
- (2) provide written notice of that determination to—
  - (A) the appropriate Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan who shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority in accordance with this section during that period; or
  - (B) if subparagraph (A) is not applicable, the Standing Committee.

(e) STANDING COMMITTEE.— If no Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

## ARTICLE 7 ELECTIONS OF BISHOPS

### SEC. 701. ELECTIONS OF BISHOPS.

- (a) BALLOT AND ORDERS.-- Each election of a Bishop shall be conducted—
  - (1) by ballot in a meeting of the Convention; and
  - (2) by orders with the clerical members of the Convention and the lay members of the Convention voting concurrently and separately.

(b) VOTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.— Except as provided under paragraph (2), a candidate shall be elected Bishop, if that candidate receives the majority of votes required under subsection (c).

(2) ALTERNATIVE REQUIREMENT.— If the requirements of subsection (c) relating to the percentage of the members of the Convention present is not met, a candidate shall be elected Bishop, if that candidate receives the supermajority of votes required under subsection (d).

(c) ELECTIONS IN GENERAL.—

(1) MAJORITY VOTE IN EACH ORDER.-- A candidate shall be elected Bishop, if—

(A) 67 percent of all clerical members of the Convention are present;

(B) that candidate receives the majority of votes of all clerical members of the Convention present and voting;

(C) 67 percent of all lay members of the Convention are present; and

(D) that candidate receives the majority of votes of all lay members of the Convention present and voting.

(2) RETIRED AND INACTIVE CLERICAL MEMBERS.— For purposes of paragraph (1)(A), a clerical member shall not be counted in determining the total of clerical members, if that clerical member—

(A) is retired or disabled under the rules of the Church Pension Fund; or

(B) has not been present at any meeting of the Convention during the 5-year period preceding the date of the meeting for which a determination is being made under this paragraph.

(d) ELECTIONS WITH SUPERMAJORITY VOTE IN EACH ORDER.—

Subject to subsection (b), a candidate shall be elected Bishop, if that candidate receives—

(1) 67 percent of the votes of all clerical members of the Convention present and voting; and

(2) 67 percent of the votes of all lay members of the Convention present and voting.

## **SEC. 702. ELECTIONS OF BISHOPS COADJUTOR AND BISHOPS SUFFRAGAN.**

(a) NOTICE.-- Before the election of a Bishop Coadjutor or a Bishop Suffragan, the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority shall give notice of that election at—

(1) an annual meeting of the Convention; or

(2) a special meeting of the Convention that is called by the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority after notice has been given to each parish and mission stating the purpose of the special meeting.

(b) INTERVENING PERIOD AFTER MEETING GIVING NOTICE.—The election of a Bishop Coadjutor or a Bishop Suffragan shall take place at an annual meeting of the Convention or a special meeting of the Convention called for that election that occurs at least 60 days after the meeting of the Convention providing notice of that election described under subsection (a).

(c) ELECTIONS.—Section 701 shall apply to the election of—

(1) any Bishop Coadjutor by substituting the term “Bishop Coadjutor” for the term “Bishop” each place that term appears; and

(2) any Bishop Suffragan by substituting the term “Bishop Suffragan” for the term “Bishop” each place that term appears.

## **ARTICLE 8**



## **PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION**

### **SEC. 801. PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION.**

(a) BISHOP.— The Bishop shall be the President of the Convention and the presiding officer of any meeting of the Convention.

(b) MEETINGS OF THE CONVENTION.— The President of the Convention may—

- (1) address any meeting of the Convention on the state of the Church;
- (2) call a special meeting of the Convention, at whatever time and place that the President determines necessary; and

(3) make any motion.

(c) DEBATE.— The President of the Convention—

(1) may not enter into debate; and

(2) may speak on any matter after conclusion of debate and before a vote on that matter.

(d) DESIGNATION OF A TEMPORARY PRESIDING OFFICER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.— During any meeting of the Convention that the President of the Convention is present, the President may designate any individual to act as a temporary presiding officer until the earlier of—

(A) the return of the President of the Convention as the presiding officer; or

(B) the adjournment of the meeting.

(2) PRESIDING OFFICER.— Subsections (b)(3) and (c) shall apply to an individual designated presiding officer under this subsection.

### **SEC. 802. VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE CONVENTION.**

(a) NUMBER OF VICE PRESIDENTS.—There may be more than 1 Vice President of the Convention at any 1 time.

(b) BISHOP COADJUTOR.—

(1) VICE PRESIDENT.— The Bishop Coadjutor shall be a Vice President of the Convention.

(2) BISHOP COADJUTOR AS PRESIDENT OF CONVENTION.— The Bishop Coadjutor shall be the President of the Convention, if—

(A) the office of Bishop is vacant; or

(B) the Bishop is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office.

(c) BISHOP SUFFRAGAN.—

(1) VICE PRESIDENT.— Any Bishop Suffragan shall be a Vice President of the Convention.

(2) BISHOP SUFFRAGAN AS PRESIDENT OF CONVENTION.-- The Bishop Suffragan shall be the President of the Convention, if—

(A)(i) the office of Bishop is vacant; or

(ii) the Bishop is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office; and

- (B)(i) the office of Bishop Coadjutor is vacant; or
- (ii) the Bishop Coadjutor is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office.

(3) MULTIPLE BISHOPS SUFFRAGAN.—If there is more than 1 Bishop Suffragan, paragraph (2) shall apply to—

- (A) the Bishop Suffragan with the most seniority based on the date of consecration to the episcopate; or
- (B) if the Bishop Suffragan with the most seniority is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office, the Bishop Suffragan with the next most seniority.

(d) ABSENCE.— For purposes of this section, the President of the Convention shall—

- (1) determine any period in which that President of the Convention is absent; and
- (2) provide written notice of that determination to—
  - (A) the appropriate Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan who shall be the President of the Convention in accordance with this section during that period; or
  - (B) if subparagraph (A) is not applicable, the Standing Committee.

### **SEC. 803. PRESIDING OFFICER AT A MEETING OF THE CONVENTION IF NO PRESIDENT OF THE CONVENTION IS PRESENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.— If no President of the Convention is present at any meeting of the Convention, the Convention shall elect a presiding officer immediately upon assembling.

(b) QUALIFICATIONS.— An individual elected presiding officer under this section shall be a priest or bishop of this Church.

(c) VOTE BY SINGLE BODY.— Notwithstanding section 501(b), the election of a presiding officer under this section shall be conducted by the Convention acting as a single body.

(d) MOTIONS AND DEBATE.— Section 801(b)(3) and (c) shall apply to an individual elected presiding officer under this section.

(e) SPECIAL MEETINGS.— A presiding officer may call for a special meeting of the Convention at the meeting in which that officer is elected under this section, if a majority of the Standing Committee requests the presiding officer to call the special meeting.

### **SEC. 804. UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS TO WAIVE PROCEDURAL PROVISIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.— The Convention may waive any provision of this Constitution, the Canons, or rule of procedure at any meeting of the Convention, if—

- (1) any participant of the Convention makes a unanimous consent request to waive the provision;

(2) no participant of the Convention present at the meeting objects to the request; and

(3) the provision relates to any procedure for the conduct of the meeting, including elections.

(b) **APPLICABILITY OF PROCEDURES.**— The Convention may adopt canons relating to the applicability of any procedure under subsection (a).

#### **SEC. 805. STANDING COMMITTEE CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETING.**

If no Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan is the President of the Convention, the Standing Committee may call a special meeting of the Convention.

### **ARTICLE 9 SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION**

#### **SEC. 901. APPOINTMENT AND TERM.**

(a) **APPOINTMENT.**— The President of the Convention, with the consent of the Convention, shall appoint a Secretary at each annual meeting of the Convention immediately upon the assembling of the Convention.

(b) **TERM.**-- The Secretary shall hold office until a successor is appointed.

#### **SEC. 902. REMOVAL AND VACANCY.**

(a) **REMOVAL.**-- The Secretary may be removed from office—

(1)(A) upon the written determination of the Bishop; and

(B) a vote of at least two-thirds of the Standing Committee; or

(2) by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Standing Committee, if—

(A) the office of Bishop is vacant; or

(B) the Bishop is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office.

(b) **VACANCY.**— If there is a vacancy in the office of Secretary at any time that the Convention is not meeting—

(1) the Bishop shall appoint a Secretary with the consent of a majority of the Standing Committee; or

(2) a majority of the Standing Committee shall appoint a Secretary, if—

(A) the office of Bishop is vacant; or

(B) the Bishop is absent or unable to perform the duties of the office.

(c) **ABSENCE.**— For purposes of this section, the Bishop shall—

(1) determine any period in which the Bishop is absent; and

(2) provide written notice of that determination to the Standing Committee.

#### **SEC. 903. DUTIES.**

The Secretary shall—

- (1) take minutes of the proceedings of any meeting of the Convention;
- (2) preserve the journals and records;
- (3) attest the public acts of the Convention;
- (4) transmit all records in possession of the Secretary relating to the Convention to the succeeding Secretary;
- (5) provide public notice of the time and place of any meeting of the Convention; and
- (6) perform any other duty as may be provided by Canon or resolution of the Convention.

## **ARTICLE 10 STANDING COMMITTEE**

### **SEC. 1001. ESTABLISHMENT.**

There is established a Standing Committee.

### **SEC. 1002. FIRST MEETING.**

(a) IN GENERAL.— The Standing Committee shall meet on the last day of the annual meeting of the Convention, or as soon after that annual meeting as practicable.

(b) ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY.— At the meeting of the Standing Committee described under subsection (a), the Standing Committee shall elect 1 of the members to be President and another member to be Secretary.

### **SEC. 1003. RULES AND PROCEEDINGS.**

(a) RULES.— The Standing Committee may establish and modify rules that—

- (1) relate to the proceedings of the Committee; and
- (2) are consistent with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

(b) NOTICE OF MEETINGS.— The members of the Standing Committee shall be given reasonable notice of any meeting of the Committee.

(c) QUORUM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.— Except as provided under paragraph (2), a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

(2) EXCEPTIONS.— The rules of the Standing Committee or a Canon may require a quorum that is greater than a majority.

(d) MINUTES.— The Standing Committee shall keep regular minutes of the proceedings of the Committee.

## **ARTICLE 11 ELECTIONS OTHER THAN ELECTIONS OF A BISHOP**

### **SEC. 1101. POSITIONS REQUIRING A VOTE BY ORDERS.**

(a) DEFINITION. — In this section, the term “candidate” means an individual

who is a candidate for the position of—

- (1) a member of the Standing Committee; or
- (2) a Deputy or Alternate Deputy to the General Convention.

(b) VOTE BY ORDERS. — Except as provided under section 1103, a candidate shall be elected, if that candidate receives a majority of votes of—

- (1) all clerical members of the Convention present and voting; and
- (2) all lay members of the Convention present and voting.

## **SEC. 1102. POSITIONS REQUIRING A VOTE BY SINGLE BODY.**

(a) DEFINITION.— In this section, the term “candidate” means an individual who is a candidate for any position that, by Canon—

- (1) is established;
- (2) except as provided under paragraph (3), requires an election by the Convention to fill; and
- (3) may provide for the filling of a vacancy by appointment.

(b) VOTE BY SINGLE BODY.— Except as provided under section 1103, a candidate shall be elected, if that candidate receives a majority of votes of all members of the Convention present and voting as a single body.

## **SEC. 1103. PLURALITY VOTES AND SPECIAL METHOD OF VOTING.**

(a) PLURALITY VOTES.— Except as provided under subsection (b), any election described under section 1101 or 1102 shall be determined by a plurality vote of all members of the Convention present and voting as a single body after the second ballot.

(b) SPECIAL METHOD OF VOTING.— The Convention may conduct an election described under section 1101 or 1102 by any special method, if at least 75 percent of all members of the Convention present and voting as a single body approve of that special method.

## **SEC. 1104. NON-APPLICABILITY OF ARTICLE 5.**

Section 501(b) shall not apply to a vote under this Article.

# **ARTICLE 12**

## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONVENTION AND PARISHES AND SEPARATE CONGREGATIONS**

### **SEC.1201. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CONVENTION AND PARISHES AND SEPARATE CONGREGATIONS.**

Each parish and separate congregation within this Diocese that has assented to this Constitution in writing or by sending a lay delegate to any meeting of the Convention shall be—

- (1) entitled to the entire benefit of this Constitution; and

(2) benefited and bound, equally with the other parishes and separate congregations in this Diocese, by any canon or measure approved by any Convention for the government of this Church in ecclesiastical concerns.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

#### **SEC. 1301. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.**

(a) **EXCLUSIVE AMENDMENT PROCESS.**— This Constitution shall be amended as provided under this Article.

(b) **AMENDMENT.**— A proposed amendment shall take effect, if the proposed amendment—

(1) is introduced in writing at a meeting of the Convention and approved by the Convention;

(2) is transmitted to the vestry of each of the parishes and separate congregations of the Diocese after that approval; and

(3) at the meeting of the Convention following the meeting of the Convention at which the proposed amendment was first approved, is approved in a vote by orders by a majority of—

(A) the clerical members of the Convention present and voting;  
and

(B) the lay members of the Convention present and voting.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**— A proposed amendment shall take effect—

(1) except as provided under paragraph (2), on the date following the last day of the meeting of the Convention that provides the second approval described under subsection (b)(3); or

(2) any date that is—

(A) provided with the proposed amendment; and

(B) approved in the second approval of the Convention described under subsection (b)(3).

(d) **EMERGENCY AMENDMENT PROCESS.**---

(1) **IN GENERAL.**— Notwithstanding subsection (b), a proposed amendment shall take effect if—

(A) the Ecclesiastical Authority—

(i) provides notice to the vestry of each of the parishes and separate congregations of the Diocese and the members of the Convention that describes the emergency that the Ecclesiastical Authority has determined necessitates the use of the amendment process under this subsection;

(ii) includes in the notice the text of the proposed amendment; and

(iii) introduces the proposed amendment in writing at a meeting of the Convention;

(B) at the meeting of the Convention a resolution stating that the Convention determines that there is an emergency that necessitates the use of the amendment process under this subsection is—

(i) voted on before the consideration of the proposed amendment; and

(ii) approved by 67 percent of the votes of all members of the Convention present and voting; and

(C) the proposed amendment is approved by 67 percent of the votes of all members of the Convention present and voting.

(2) VOTING AS A SINGLE BODY.— Section 501(b) shall not apply to any vote under paragraph (1).

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.— Notwithstanding subsection (c), a proposed amendment shall take effect—

(A) on the date following the last day of the meeting of the Convention that approved the amendment; or

(B) any date that is provided with the proposed amendment.