

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
2021 Diocesan Convention
Resolutions

Resolution 3 – Amendments to the Canons of the Diocese of Bethlehem

I. TYPE OF RESOLUTION:

Update of the Diocesan Canons

II. TITLE & AUTHOR OF RESOLUTION:

Amendments to the Canons of the Diocese of Bethlehem

Committee on Constitution and Canons

III. RESOLUTION:

Resolved, That the following Amendments to the Canons of the Diocese of Bethlehem be approved by this 150th Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem:

1) Title II, Canon 3, Section 1.A.5 shall be amended as follows: the portion underlined shall be added.

5. Lay Members in good standing of the Parish who are physically present, who are at least 18 years of age, who are regular attendants at the services of the parish, and who are regular contributors for the six months preceding the meeting to the support of the Parish, shall be entitled to vote at all Parish Meetings. A quorum for the transaction of business in the Annual Parish Meeting shall consist of 25% of the persons entitled to vote if they were present or 25 persons entitled to vote, whichever is less. The Vestry may by resolution permit one or more members to participate in a Parish Meeting by means of conference telephone or other electronic technology by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other in a manner that is substantially simultaneous and continuous. Participation in a meeting by conference telephone or other electronic technology shall constitute presence.

2) Title II, Canon 3, Section 1.C.3a shall be amended as follows: the portion underlined shall be added.

3. Meetings of the Vestry

a. Regular meetings of the Vestry shall be held at least quarterly. All Vestry members are expected to be present at Vestry meetings. If any member of the Vestry is absent from three consecutive meetings without due cause, as determined by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and the Wardens, that seat shall be declared vacant. The Vestry may by resolution permit one or more Vestry members to participate in a Vestry meeting by telephone or other electronic technology under the conditions described in Canon 3.1.A.5 of this Title II.

(continued)

3) Title II, Canon 3, Section 2.A.1 shall be amended as follows: the portion in ~~strikeout~~ shall be deleted and the portion underlined shall be added:

1. In every Parish, the Annual Parish Meeting shall be held in January at a time and place designated by the Vestry. Public notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given ~~at all the services on the two preceding weekends~~ to all members of the congregation at least two weeks prior to the Meeting. With the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority, the Annual Meeting may be held during a different month. “

4) Title II, Canon 3, Section 2.B.4. shall be amended as follows: the portion in ~~strikeout~~ shall be deleted and the portion underlined shall be added:

4. Notice of such meeting shall be ~~read publicly in church during all regular worship services in the~~ given to all members of the congregation at least two calendar weeks prior to the meeting. This notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting, the business to be considered, and by whose order the meeting is called.

5) Title IV, Canon 7, Section 2 shall be amended as follows:

The current Section 2 shall be deleted:

~~Section 2. No existing Canon shall be changed, and no new Canon shall be enacted on the day on which the change or the enactment may be proposed.~~

The following Section 2 shall be adopted:

Any amendment to the Canons shall be effective on the date of approval by Convention, unless otherwise stated.

Respectfully submitted by the following members of the Committee on Constitution and Canons:

Linda M. Henry, Chair

John E. Feather

Todd A. Moffett

C.H. Welles, IV

Full Diocese of Bethlehem Canons can be read on the diocesan website: <https://diobeth.org/governance-and-administration/>