

**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS
TO THE 117th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONVENTION
October 26-27, 2018**

The Committee on Constitution and Canons makes the following Report to the 117th Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese.

The current Diocesan Canons can be found under the “Diocesan Convention” tab of the “Our Diocese” tab on our diocesan website: www.diocesewma.org.

Amend Canon 4, Section 1 (a) section in its entirety, and by substituting therefor the following:

At the Annual Meeting of the Diocese in the calendar year two years preceding a triennial meeting of the General Convention, four members of the Clergy and four Laypersons shall be elected as Deputies to represent the Diocese at the General Convention. The four (4) candidates in each Order receiving a majority of the votes of each order shall be elected as Deputies, with their position determined by the highest number of the combined votes of both orders. Following the election of the full number of Clergy and Lay Deputies, ballots shall be taken to elect four members of the Clergy and four Laypersons as Clergy and Lay Alternate Deputies. The four (4) candidates in each Order receiving a majority of the votes of each order shall be elected as Alternate Deputies, with their position determined by the highest number of the combined votes of both orders.

Committee Comments: This method was used prior to the 2016 election of General Convention Deputies. The election of 2016 followed the existing canons to the letter. It is the Committee’s belief that the proposed amendment providing for the separate election of Deputies and Alternates will result in a fairer election.

Committee Recommendation: The Committee recommends the adoption of the Amendment.

August 1, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Allison, Esq., Chairman

Attachment: Marked up revised Canon 4

CANON 4
Of The Deputies To The General Convention
~~(2012)~~ (2018)

Section 1 ~~(a) — At the Annual Meeting of the Diocese in the calendar year two years preceding a~~
~~(2009) — triennial meeting of the General Convention, eight members of the Clergy and eight~~
~~Laypersons shall be elected as Deputies and Alternate Deputies to represent the Diocese~~
~~at the General Convention. The four (4) candidates in each Order receiving the highest~~
~~number of votes shall be elected as Deputies. The four candidates in each Order receiving~~
~~the next highest number of votes shall be elected as Alternate Deputies, to serve, as~~
~~needed, in the order of the number of votes received.~~

(2018) (a) At the Annual Meeting of the Diocese in the calendar year two years preceding a
triennial meeting of the General Convention, four members of the Clergy and four
Laypersons shall be elected as Deputies to represent the Diocese at the General
Convention. The four (4) candidates in each Order receiving a majority of the votes of
each order shall be elected as Deputies, with their position determined by the highest
number of the combined votes of both orders. Following the election of the full number of
Clergy and Lay Deputies, ballots shall be taken to elect four members of the Clergy and
four Laypersons as Clergy and Lay Alternate Deputies. The four (4) candidates in each
Order receiving a majority of the votes of each order shall be elected as Alternate
Deputies, with their position determined by the highest number of the combined votes of
both orders.

(2009) (b) At the Annual Meeting of the Diocese in the calendar year immediately preceding a
triennial meeting of the General Convention, the Convention shall fill any vacancies
among the Deputies and Alternate Deputies for General Convention.

(c) The Deputies and Alternate Deputies shall continue in office until the Annual
Meeting of the Convention in the calendar year two years preceding the next Triennial
General Convention, or until their successors are elected.

(d) The Clerical Deputies and Alternate Clerical Deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons
canonically resident in the Diocese. The Lay Deputies and Alternate Lay Deputies shall be
confirmed adult communicants of the Church in the Diocese.

Section 2 Alternate Deputies elected at the Annual Meeting shall be named, by Order, in the Journal
in the order of votes received at their election. In the case of a vacancy occurring among
the Deputies after the Convention in the calendar year immediately preceding the
triennial General Convention, or of any vacancy among the Alternate Deputies, or in the
case of the inability of any Deputy to attend the General Convention, the Secretary of the
Convention shall designate from the list of Alternate Deputies, Clerical or Lay, in the order
of their record in the Journal, so many as may be necessary to insure, as far as practicable,
a full representation of the Diocese. The Council may fill vacancies among the Alternate
Deputies, to serve for the balance of the term for Alternate Deputies.