RULES OF ORDER OF THE CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA

I. The Order of Business at the Annual Convention or any Special Convention shall be proposed by the Bishop or the presiding officer for adoption by the Convention. Upon adoption, only the Convention may make any change in the Order of Business prescribed under the authority thereof.

II. Any of the rules of order may be suspended by simple majority vote of the Convention, except those rules which specify a larger majority for a specific action. Any such rule may be suspended upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting.

III. The lay delegates of a parish or mission shall be denied the right to vote, except by majority vote of the Convention upon a showing of good cause by the rector, vicar, or vestry, if it has failed to achieve timely compliance with (1) the provisions of Canon 30 concerning parochial reports, or (2) the provisions of Canon 17(i) concerning filing a copy of its annual audit. Failure to comply with these requirements shall be determined as of the tenth day preceding the convening of any Annual or Special Convention and shall be reported to the Convention by the Secretary as the first order of business. [Added by Act 2007-12; succeeding Rules renumbered accordingly; Amended by Act 2010-4; Amended by Act 2018-8.]

IV. (a) Resolutions for Convention action may be submitted by members and officers of the Convention, canonical commissions, committees and other bodies chartered or recognized by the Ecclesiastical Authority or the Diocesan Council, or Convention committees. The presiding officer of the Convention shall refer to an appropriate Convention Committee for consideration and report all such resolutions except those which accompany the report of the Committee on Dispatch of Business. To assure timely reports, it is appropriate for Convention Committees to meet for consideration of resolutions referred to them at any time after they have been appointed.

(b) While preambles or any recital of reasons, explanatory comments, or argument regarding any resolution may separately accompany its introduction or its report from a Convention Committee, they shall not constitute a part of the resolution for purposes of legislative action. Only the text of the adopted resolution shall be printed in the Journal of the Convention.

(c) Reports from institutions (and portions of such reports) which propose no resolutions shall be deemed filed and received by title and need not be referred to committee. [Amended by Act 2006-9; Amended by Act 2011-1.]

V. After the President has taken the chair no member shall continue standing except to address the Chair.

VI. No member shall address the Convention or make any motion except from the microphones provided for that purpose and after recognition by the Presiding Officer.

VII. Speakers shall address the Presiding Officer and shall confine themselves to the point in debate.

VIII. No motion shall be considered unless seconded and, if required by the Presiding Officer, reduced to writing.
IX. When the Presiding Officer is putting any question, the members shall continue in their seats and shall not hold any private discourse.

X. Except by leave of the Convention, no member shall speak more than twice in the same debate, nor longer than two minutes at one time. The total time of debate on any question or resolution shall be a maximum of twenty minutes.

XI No applause shall be permitted during any debate or voting of the Convention or of the Committee of the Whole.

XII When a question is under consideration, no motion shall be received except to lay upon the table, to call for the previous question, to postpone to a certain time, to postpone indefinitely, to commit, to amend, or to divide; and motions for any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order herein named. The motions to lay on the table, to call for the previous question, and to adjourn shall always be in order and shall be decided without debate; and of these the motion to adjourn shall take precedence.

XIII If the question under debate contains several distinct propositions, the same shall be divided at the request of any member, and a vote taken separately, except that a motion to strike out and insert shall be indivisible.

XIV All amendments shall be considered in the order in which they are moved. When a proposed amendment is under consideration, a motion to amend the same may be made. No amendment to a second amendment shall be in order. But when an amendment to an amendment is under consideration, a substitute for the whole matter may be received. No proposition on a subject different from the one under consideration shall be received under color of a substitute.

XV. In a vote by orders the individual votes of the clergy and laity shall be taken separately. A majority of affirmative votes in both orders shall be necessary to any decision on any vote by orders.

XVI A question once decided shall stand as the action of the Convention and shall not be drawn again into debate. A member of the Convention who voted on the prevailing side may move to reconsider any vote so long as the motion is made on the same or succeeding day to that on which the vote was taken, except that such a motion may be voted on at any time with the consent of two-thirds of the Convention.

XVII (a) Reports to the Convention from all commissions, committees, temporary bodies, and institutions of the Diocese shall be in writing. All reports recommending or requiring any action
or expression of opinion by the Convention shall be accompanied by corresponding resolutions to be introduced in accordance with Rule of Order IV(a).

(b) Reports to the Convention by commissions, committees, or temporary bodies that require no action or expression of opinion by that body and which have been distributed in advance shall be received as presented.

(c) A Convention Committee report on resolutions referred to it may include statements of reasons for the committee’s recommendations, may be accompanied by a minority report (if signed by one-fourth of the committee’s membership), and, with respect to each resolution or group of related resolutions requiring separate action, shall take one of the following forms:

1. Recommend adoption.
2. Recommend adoption of a substitute resolution.
3. Recommend rejection. In this event the resolution shall lie upon the table unless (a) a majority of the delegates present and voting call for placing the resolution on the agenda for immediate consideration, or (b) the report is accompanied by a minority report recommending adoption, in which case the question shall be consideration of the minority report.
4. Report without recommendation. In this case the presiding officer shall put the original resolution, stating that the committee makes no recommendation.

XVIII All questions of order shall be decided by the presiding officer without debate. Any member may appeal from such decision, when, on motion by the member, duly seconded, the question shall be decided by majority vote of the Convention. On such an appeal no member shall speak more than once without leave.

XIX. No member shall be absent from the sessions of the Convention without leave or unless unable to attend.

XX. When the Convention is about to rise, every member shall remain seated until the President leaves the chair.

XXI On motion duly put and carried, the Convention may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, with or without closed doors, for the purpose of discussing such subjects as may be approved by the Convention.

The Bishop may select and announce subjects for discussion: Provided, that if the motion to go into a Committee of the Whole has specified the subject to be discussed, that subject shall first be disposed of.

XXII (a) No nomination shall be received unless the person to be nominated has indicated assent thereto. Nominations for election by the annual Convention may be submitted electronically or in writing to the Secretary of the Convention at least 40 days before the opening session thereof. Any nomination received by the Secretary after the specified date shall be returned to the nominator and may be submitted from the floor of the Convention in accordance with the provisions of this rule of order. All nominators and nominees must be communicants in good standing in this Diocese. At the first business session of the Convention the presiding officer shall call for nominations from the floor, at which time the Secretary shall read the names of all persons whose nominations have been received at least 40 days before the opening of the Convention, after which additional nominations may be received from the floor, provided that
any such nomination is submitted jointly by three voting members of the Convention, each being from a different parish or mission. Each nomination shall be accompanied by a brief biography of the nominee on a form prepared by the Secretary of the Convention. The information to be included on the biographical form (to be signed by the nominator) shall include at least the following: nominee’s name, address and home congregation, and prior as well as present parochial and diocesan offices. [Amended by Act 2007-11; Amended by Act 2016-2.]

(b) The names and biographies of all persons nominated in writing to the Secretary at least 40 days before the opening session of the Convention shall be given to the deans of the convocations and shall be included in the advance materials distributed by the Secretary to members of the Convention prior to the meetings of each convocation which are to be held not later than 10 days prior to the Convention. The Secretary shall also post the biographical forms in a conspicuous place in or adjacent to the room in which the Convention meets so that they may be seen throughout the Convention session by all delegates.

(c) All nominations shall be reported to the Convention by the Secretary together with appropriate instructions as to how to cast a valid ballot. Delegates may vote for fewer candidates than the number of positions to be filled, but ballots containing votes for more than the number of positions to be filled shall be rejected.

(d) All elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. The results shall be determined by a majority of votes cast on the ballot or by such larger majority as may be required by the Constitution or by canon. If candidates are to be chosen for different terms to the same office, the Secretary shall assign terms to those elected in the order of the number of votes received.

(e) Nominees receiving a majority vote (as herein defined) on any ballot shall be declared elected. If subsequent ballots be required, the nominees to be voted on shall be limited to the number remaining which is equal to twice the number of offices to be filled and who received on the preceding ballot the highest number of votes exclusive of those declared elected.

(f) After the election of Deputies to the General Convention, alternates for these deputies are designated from the remaining candidates in the order of the number of votes received on the preceding ballot. [Amended by Act 2016-3 and Act 2018-6.]

XXIII (a) Resolutions to be acted on at the annual Convention shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention on or before the 40th day preceding the opening date of the Convention. Upon submission, resolutions shall be referred to the appropriate Convention Committee as prescribed by Rule of Order IV(a), and the texts thereof shall be included in the advance materials distributed by the Secretary of the Convention to the members of the Convention prior to the Convention. Resolutions submitted to the Secretary later than specified shall be returned to the introducer without action.

Resolutions not proposing or requiring amendment of the Constitution or Canons may be introduced during the Convention but may be acted upon only as follows: If introduced in the first business session of the Convention, the question before the Convention shall be whether the resolution shall be considered. Upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the delegates, the resolution shall be referred to an appropriate Convention Committee for study and report to that Convention. Such resolutions that fail to receive the required vote, as well as resolutions introduced after the close of the first business session of the Convention, shall not be considered.

This rule shall not apply to resolutions of courtesy.

(b) Any portions of the Bishop’s address meriting the Convention’s response shall be referred by the Diocesan Bishop to an appropriate Convention Committee.
(c) The Secretary of the Convention, with the assistance of the Chancellor of the Diocese, shall review each resolution submitted within the time prescribed in section (a), above, to determine whether favorable action on the resolution would require adoption or amendment of a constitutional provision, canon, or rule of order. All such resolutions shall be simultaneously reported to the Commission on Constitution and Canons and referred to the appropriate Convention Committee. The Commission shall report its recommendations with respect to such measures to the Convention at the first business session either as part of its annual report or separately, as may be most convenient. No resolution amending the Constitution or Canons shall be considered on the day on which proposed, except by a two-thirds vote of those entitled to vote. Amended by Act 2006-9.)

XXIV If a resolution submitted for Convention action would substantially affect diocesan finances, the presiding officer of the Convention shall, at the time the resolution is referred to an appropriate Convention Committee under Rule of Order IV(a), also request the Convention Committee on Administration of the Diocese to consider the measure. The Convention shall not take up the resolution until its Committee on the Administration of the Diocese has, without recommendation, furnished the Convention with an analysis of the effect adoption of the resolution would have on the fiscal affairs of the Diocese.

XXV. Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, the Constitution, Canons, and Rules of Order of the Diocese of North Carolina, and any Special Rule proposed by the Committee on Dispatch of Business for the election of a bishop or the consideration of any other specific items of business, the Parliamentary Authority governing the transaction of business by the Annual Convention or any Special Convention shall be the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised. [Added by Act 2008-6]

Certified by Charles L. Till, Secretary of the Convention
January 23, 2019