

ACTS OF THE 208TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina

Act 2023-1
(Resolution 208.9)
On the Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry

The 208th Annual Convention enacts:

“Resolved, that the 208th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina submit the following resolution to the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, June 2024:

‘Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church give gratitude for the difference Bishop Curry’s extraordinary leadership and love have made, and for his witness through prayers, revivals, and sermons, wishing him Godspeed upon his retirement in 2024.’ ”

Act 2023-2
(Resolution 208.1)
On Episcopal Elections

The 208th Annual Convention enacts:

“Article XII of the Constitution of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

When a Bishop is to be elected the Convention shall vote ~~by written ballot and~~ separately by orders; and a concurrence on the same ballot of a majority of all the clergy entitled to vote in the Convention, whether present or not, and of a majority of all lay delegates authorized to be chosen as provided by canon, whether present or not, shall be necessary to an election.”

Adopted upon Second Reading.

Act 2023-3
(Resolution 208.2)
On Modernizing the Pre-Convention Process

The 208th Annual Convention enacts:

“Canon D-I.1, Section 1 of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

Section 1. Clergy. ~~Before the opening of the annual Convention or of a Special Convention, the Secretary shall apply to the Ecclesiastical Authority for a list of clergy entitled to seats, and shall receive such list at least 120 days before the opening of an annual Convention, or 60 days before a Special Convention. From this list the Secretary shall prepare, at least 90 days prior to the annual Convention and 30 days prior to a Special Convention, and publish from this list the official clergy roll of the Convention, which roll shall be prima facie evidence of the right to seats therein. After the Secretary's publication of the roll, the~~ *No less than 120 days before an annual Convention or 60 days before a Special Convention, the Secretary shall obtain from the Ecclesiastical Authority the roster of the clergy order of such Convention. In compliance with Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution, the roster shall specify which members of the Clergy Order have seat and voice and which have seat, voice, and vote. The Ecclesiastical Authority may certify to the Secretary additional clergy entitled by the Constitution to seat and voice or, as the case may be, seat, voice, and vote in the Convention until one hour prior to the opening session of the Convention.*

Canon D-I.1, Sections 2 and 3 are amended as follows:

Section 2. Laity. ~~The clerks of the several parish and mission vestries electing lay delegates to the Convention shall furnish two certificates showing the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the lay persons elected. One shall be provided to the delegates-elect, and one shall be forwarded to the Secretary of the Convention. The latter shall be mailed at least 110 days before the opening session. From these certificates the Secretary shall prepare and publish at least 90 days before the opening of the Convention a roster of lay delegates to that Convention. The Secretary shall not insert any name upon the roll without the evidence of one of these certificates or an amended certificate signed by the rector or clerk of the parish or by the vicar or clerk of the mission, submitted to the Secretary not later than one hour prior to the opening session of the Convention, unless specifically directed to do so by the Convention upon recommendation of its Committee on Credentials. Defective or doubtful certificates shall be laid aside, to be acted on after the Convention shall have organized.~~

Each congregation (parish or mission) shall be represented in the Convention in accordance with the average number of its enrolled adult communicants in good standing, as contained in the last three annual statistical reports printed in the Journal as follows:

<i>Enrolled Adult Communicants in Good Standing</i>	<i>Number of Lay Delegates</i>
1 - 49	1
50 - 149	2
150 - 299	3
300 - 599	4
600 - 999	5
1000 and over	6

Section 2. Laity. (a) *In this Section 2, "church" shall mean a parish or mission in union with Convention.*

(b) *No less than 200 days before each annual Convention, the Secretary of the Convention shall calculate the number of delegates to which each church is entitled*

according to the average number of its enrolled adult communicants in good standing, as shown on the three most recent parochial reports filed with The Episcopal Church, as follows:

<i>Enrolled Adult Communicants in Good Standing</i>	<i>Number of Lay Delegates</i>
<i>1 - 49</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>50 - 149</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>150 - 299</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>300 - 599</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>600 - 999</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>1000 and over</i>	<i>6</i>

(c) Should the number of delegates to which a church is entitled change from the previous annual Convention, the Secretary shall promptly so notify the senior warden of the church. If the number of delegates for a church decreases and the reduction is not offset by expiration of terms of incumbent delegates, the vestry of that church shall determine which delegate(s) shall be removed from the delegation.

(d) The vestry of each church shall elect as delegates constitutionally qualified lay persons for a term that begins on the first day of the next annual Convention and ends on the day before the first day of the fourth next annual Convention, including all Special Conventions during such term. A delegate may be re-elected for consecutive terms. Vestries of churches entitled to more than one delegate shall, to the extent possible, stagger the terms of their delegates. If a vacancy arises among the delegates of a church, the vestry of the church shall elect a constitutionally qualified lay person to complete the term.

(e) The vestry of each church may elect as alternates as many constitutionally qualified lay persons as it is allocated delegates for a term that begins on the first day of the next annual Convention and ends on the day before the first day of the second next annual Convention, including all Special Conventions during such term. An alternate may be re-elected for consecutive terms. The vestry shall designate its alternates in sequence in the order of votes received. If a vacancy arises among the alternates of a church, the vestry of the church may elect a constitutionally qualified lay person to complete the term.

(f) No less than 110 days before each annual Convention, the clerk of each vestry shall submit to the Secretary the names and contact information for all delegates, whether newly elected or continuing in their terms, and for all alternates. If, subsequent to this submission, a vestry elects a successor delegate or alternate, the clerk shall promptly notify the Secretary of the name and contact information of the electee and the name of the delegate or alternate whom the electee has succeeded.

(g) If a delegate does not serve at a Convention or session thereof, such delegate may be replaced at such Convention or session thereof by the first available alternate of the church in the sequence of election. Alternates may not sit with their delegation and do not have seat, voice, or vote unless and until authorization for such alternate to serve is signed by the vestry clerk, senior warden, rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge of the church and accepted by the Committee on Credentials. The same process shall be followed for a delegate resuming service at a Convention after replacement by an alternate. A delegate or alternate replaced during a Convention shall relinquish his or her credentials to the Committee on Credentials and leave the floor.

(h) The Secretary shall not enroll, and the Committee on Credentials shall not issue credentials to, any delegate or alternate without evidence of election by a vestry as required by Section 2(f) of this Canon D-I.1 and, if applicable, evidence of authorization as required by Section 2(g) of this Canon D-I.1. The Secretary shall lay aside defective, doubtful, or disputed documents pertaining to delegates or alternates for referral to the Committee on Credentials, which shall report its recommendations regarding such documents to the Convention for its action after the Convention shall have organized.

~~**Section 3. (a)** Lay persons who meet the constitutionally required qualifications shall be elected delegates and alternate delegates to the Convention in accordance with the terms of this section. The length of initial terms under this system shall be prescribed by rule of order; upon the expiration of initial terms each lay delegate shall be elected for a term of three years except as may be required under the provisions of Subsection (b) below. At the time delegates are chosen the vestries shall elect for one year terms alternate delegates equal in number to the number of delegates authorized by Section 2, above.~~

~~**(b)** Should the average number of enrolled adult communicants in good standing of a congregation at any time require that it elect a greater or smaller number of lay delegates than initially prescribed, the Secretary of the Convention, not later than 200 days prior to the Convention at which the new representation is first to take effect, shall notify the parish or mission of that fact, specifying in the notice which delegates, if any, are to be elected for terms of less than three years in order to maintain so far as possible the division among the Convention's lay membership prescribed by the Constitution. Upon the expiration of the initial terms required under this subsection, each lay delegate from the affected parish or mission shall be elected for a term of three years.~~

Canon D-II.1, Sections 1 and 2 are amended as follows:

Section 1. The Secretary shall:

~~**(a)** Take all necessary steps to inform the Convention delegates not only of the time and place of annual and special Conventions, but also of the particular business of each Convention.~~

~~———**(b)** Notify vestries of the number of lay Convention delegates their parishes and missions are entitled to elect and the length of terms for which such delegates are to be elected.~~

~~———**(c)** Prepare the canonical lists of the clerical and lay delegates entitled to membership in the Convention.~~

~~———**(d)** From the roster of the preceding annual Convention ascertain the names of clerical and lay delegates whose membership in the next annual Convention can be presumed and, not later than August 15, inform those persons that Convention Committees are to be appointed by the Bishop and request that, not later than September 10, they inform the Bishop in writing of the committees to which they have an interest in being named. Perform the various duties required of the Secretary by the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese, and the Rules of Order of Convention.~~

(e b) Call the Convention to order for the purpose of organization in the absence of the Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop (if there be such), and the President of the Standing Committee.

(f c) Keep a record of all Convention proceedings, prepare and issue its journals, and publish the journals in an easily accessible format. *Each journal shall contain the roster of members of a Convention as of one hour prior to the opening of such Convention.*

(g d) Preserve and have ready for reference all Convention papers not specially given into other hands.

Section 2. ~~The Secretary shall mail notices of all Conventions to each member of the clergy who is entitled to a seat and vote therein, and to the senior warden of each parish and mission. These notices shall include the forms for certifying lay delegates and alternates and, in the case of the annual Convention, shall be sent at least 140 days prior to the date thereof, and not later than 60 days prior to the date of a Special Convention.~~

(a) *No less than 150 days before an annual Convention, the Secretary shall publish the number of delegates to which each parish and mission in union with Convention is entitled and shall send notice of such Convention to each member of the clergy of the Diocese and to the senior warden of each such parish and mission. The notice to senior wardens shall specify how clerks of vestries shall make the submission required by Canon D-I.1, Section 2(e).*

(b) *No less than 90 days before an annual Convention, the Secretary shall publish the roster of members of Convention as determined by Canon D-I.1, Sections 1 and 2(e) and send to each member the instructions for submitting nominations, resolutions, and statements of interest to serve on legislative Committees of the Convention.*

(c) *No less than 30 days before a Special Convention, the Secretary shall publish the roster of members of such Convention.”*

Act 2023-4

(Resolution 208.3)

On Convention Credentials and Election Committees

The 208th Annual Convention enacts:

“Canon D-I.8, Section 1 of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

Section 1. Appointment of Committees. Not later than 40 days prior to the annual Convention, the Bishop (or presiding officer of the Convention) shall annually appoint, at least three clerical and five lay persons, being members of the Convention who have served as delegates in at least one prior annual Convention of this Diocese, to each of the Convention Committees listed below, shall name the ~~presiding officer~~ *chair* of each such committee, shall notify each committee member of the appointment, and shall inform the committee’s ~~presiding officer~~ *chair* of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the members. Should a larger membership be desired for any Convention Committee, the Bishop (or presiding officer of the Convention) may appoint additional members with the

requisite Convention experience but shall retain approximately the same proportion of lay and clerical members. The committees so constituted shall be:

- (a) The Committee on Constitution and Canons
- (b) The Committee on Administration of the Diocese
- ~~(c) The Committee on Credentials~~
- ~~(d) The Committee on Elections~~
- (e c) The Committee on Faith and Morals
- (f d) The Committee on National and International Affairs
- (g e) The Committee on the Program of the Church
- (h f) The Committee on Social Concerns

In addition, there shall be a Committee on Dispatch of Business which shall be constituted and have the duties and responsibilities set out in Section 2 of this Canon *and a Committee on Credentials and Elections which shall be constituted and have the duties and responsibilities set out in Section 6 of this Canon.*

Canon D-I.8, Section 2 is amended as follows:

Section 2. The Bishop (or other person entitled to preside in Convention) shall appoint a Committee on Dispatch of Business and designate a ~~presiding officer~~ *chair* who shall have been a member of a preceding annual Convention in either the lay or clerical order. The Diocesan bishop and any other bishops then active in the Diocese, the Secretary of the Convention, the Chancellor of the Diocese, and the chairs of the legislative committees of the Convention shall be members *ex officio*. The Committee on Dispatch of Business shall serve the Convention of the Diocese in the following ways:

- (a) Before a Convention: the ~~presiding officer~~ *chair* of the Committee shall
 - (1) Prepare the agenda for the forthcoming Convention;
 - (2) Recommend to the Commission on Constitution and Canons four weeks in advance of the Convention any suggested changes in the Rules of Order.
- (b) During a Convention: the Committee shall provide requested assistance to the presiding officer of the Convention, and a member of the Committee shall always be entitled to the floor on the business of the Committee. The presiding officer of the Convention shall refer to this Committee without debate all resolutions or motions suggesting orders of the day. The Committee shall also:
 - (1) Suggest special orders for the dispatch and furtherance of Convention business;
 - (2) Recommend the disposition of all resolutions referred to it; and
 - (3) Recommend the disposition of any unfinished Convention business.

Canon D-I.8, Section 6 is amended as follows:

Section 6. *The Bishop (or other person entitled to preside in Convention) shall appoint a Committee on Credentials and Elections and designate a chair who shall have been a member of a preceding annual Convention in either the lay or clerical order. The Committee on Credentials and Elections shall review, investigate, and make recommendations to the Convention on all matters referred to it regarding the claims of delegates to seats and votes in the Convention. It shall supervise and conduct all Convention elections, certifying the election results to the presiding officer of the*

Convention and the Secretary. The committee may, with the consent of the Bishop, appoint laypersons who are communicants in good standing in the Diocese to assist as tellers.

Canon D-I.8, Section 7 is deleted.”

**Act 2023-5
(Resolution 208.4)
On Departments of Diocesan Council**

The 208th Annual Convention enacts:

“Canon D-III.3 of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

Section 4. Departments. The Diocesan Council shall *may* organize from its membership, supplemented as herein provided, ~~a Department of Outreach and Justice Ministries, a Department of Christian Formation, Department of Youth and Young Adults, a Department of Congregational Support and Development, a Department of Finance and Administration, a Department of Planning, and~~ such other departments as in its judgment may be necessary; and it shall provide the manner and means by which its departments shall be staffed and financed. From the Council membership the Bishop Diocesan shall appoint the members of each department and designate its chair. The chair of each chartered committee within a department shall be a member of the department. Subject to confirmation by the Council, the Bishop may appoint additional members to departments of the Council. Each department shall meet at least three times each year and report its activities to meetings of the Council. It shall receive and review budget requests from its chartered committees and submit its departmental budget to the Diocesan Council. The Bishop Diocesan, the Bishop Suffragan, and the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, shall be members of each department.

~~Subject to Council review and approval:~~

~~—— (a) The Department of Outreach and Justice Ministries shall be responsible for the work of the Diocese with respect to those programs and activities that embody our ministry locally, nationally, and overseas;~~

~~—— (b) The Department of Christian Formation shall oversee those bodies that provide program and resources for education and formation throughout the Diocese.~~

~~—— (c) The Department of Youth and Young Adults shall oversee Diocesan programs for youth, ministry in higher education, and young adults.~~

~~—— (d) The Department of Congregational Support and Development shall coordinate the work of those agencies that work directly with congregations.~~

~~—— (e) The Department of Finance and Administration shall oversee the development and administration of the Diocesan budget and disbursement of grants; shall oversee the business, personnel, and property affairs of the Diocese, including the work of the Treasurer and the annual audit of the Diocese; and shall formulate and review administrative and personnel policies of the Diocese.~~

~~— (f) The Department of Planning shall use demographic information to inform the evolution of the program and organization of the Diocese, evaluate and propose changes to the program and organization of the Diocese, and develop the policy of the Diocese with respect to real property and propose real property transactions.”~~

**Act 2023-6
(Resolution 208.5)
On Use of Teleconferencing**

The 208th Annual Convention enacts:

“Canon D-VII.4 of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

Section 1. Parishes, missions, and their vestries; Convocations; the Standing Committee; the Diocesan Council on behalf of itself, its Departments, and the Council Committee on the State of the Church; the Trustees of the Diocese; Commissions and Chartered Committees of the Diocese; the Disciplinary Board, the Fair Share Appeals Board, the Mission Endowment Board, and the Murdoch Memorial Society; and all other commissions and committees of the Diocese (collectively, “Diocesan Entities”) are authorized to ~~adopt bylaws providing for the~~ conduct of meetings by teleconference, videoconference, or any other technology that allows all persons participating to hear each other at the same time and to participate in discussion. For purposes of determining a quorum, conducting a parliamentary process, and voting, members participating in a meeting by means of remote technology are deemed present in person at the meeting.

Section 2. ~~Diocesan Entities are authorized to adopt bylaws providing that actions~~ *Actions* required or permitted to be taken by ~~the body~~ *any Diocesan Entity* may be taken without a meeting if (i) all members of the body consent to the action in writing or by authenticated electronic transmission, and (ii) such written or authenticated electronic transmissions are filed with the minutes of the proceedings.

Section 3. ~~Bylaws adopted pursuant to this Canon must be consistent with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of North Carolina and of the General Convention and shall be submitted to the Ecclesiastical Authority for approval.”~~

**Act 2023-7
(Substitute Resolution 208.10)
On Affordable Housing**

The 208th Annual Convention enacts:

“Resolved, that the 208th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina submit the following resolution to the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church, to be held in Louisville, Kentucky, June 2024:

‘Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 81st General Convention authorize the establishment of a Task Force on Affordable Housing and Homelessness. The Presiding Bishop shall appoint the Episcopal members and the President of the House of Deputies shall appoint the Priests and Deacons and the Lay Persons to the Task Force, to be composed of thirteen (13) people, representing the diversity of the Church, as follows: 2 Bishops, 5 Priests or Deacons, and 6 Lay Persons, to complete the following work: (a) investigate and document the engagement of Episcopal dioceses and congregations in the development of permanent, transitional, supportive, and emergency housing, and in ministries that assist families and individuals to access and sustain housing; (b) recommend approaches that will increase involvement of dioceses and congregations based on best practices identified, given local needs; and (c) study and formulate a recommendation regarding the need for a Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness, or other most effective means, to elevate and empower Episcopal engagement in addressing this long-term and complex racial and economic justice issue; said work to be completed by November 30, 2026. And be it further

Resolved, That the Task Force on Affordable Housing and Homelessness ends with the submission of their report to the 82nd General Convention. And be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request a budget allocation of \$95,000 for the implementation of this resolution.”

Act 2023-8
(Substitute Resolution 208.07)
On Guiding Principles for World Mission

The 208th Annual Convention enacts:

“Resolved, that the 208th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina adopts the Guiding Principles for World Mission, as set forth by the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church and commended to all dioceses as the foundation upon which all global mission work is engaged, those principles being:

- Think and imagine a world where love is the way;
- Commit to world mission that is incarnated in personal presence, meeting Christ in all whom we encounter, in our backyard or around the globe;
- Go the Way of Love: cross boundaries, listen deeply, and live like Jesus;
- Walk the Way of Love with our companions in mission, in mutual discovery and deepening of God’s reconciling love, learning together, praying together, worshipping together, as we transform and bless each other;
- Excite, inspire, and engage others to discover the joy of God’s mission;
- Honor and embrace in mutual discovery the God-given gifts of all individuals, parishes, dioceses, their partners, and their communities;

- Nurture relationships to develop avenues for cross-cultural mission, local/global/pilgrimage, for all ages and abilities;
- Advocate for structural changes to support global mission issues, including promoting the dignity of all and honoring refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers everywhere;
- Honor our sacred differences while we unite as Beloved Community around God’s table
- Support missionaries, from discernment, during their service, and upon their return;
- As we walk this Way of Love, address together the many issues of poverty, violence, oppression, and environmental degradation;
- Remember that to “Go” can also mean “Go” by building relationships, learning, listening, encouraging across space through virtual presence and communication from where you are;
- Encourage all dioceses to have a Diocesan Global Mission Advocate; and

Further resolved, that all Diocesan Global Mission activities, missions, and visitations shall be planned with study and discussion of these principles as a part of their preparation; and

Further resolved, that congregations be encouraged to undertake study and discussion of global mission, including consideration of these principles as they contribute to mutuality and human dignity; and

Further resolved, that congregations be encouraged to name a member or committee to assume leadership of their global mission initiatives, sharing the name of their point person or committee chair(s) with the Chartered Committee on Global Mission.”

**Act 2023-9
(Substitute Resolution 208.6, as amended)
On Mental Health**

The 208th Annual Convention enacts:

“Resolved, that the 208th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina recognize the statewide prevalence of mental illness and the need for effective ministry with people facing mental health challenges; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese now equip its people to interact in compassionate, competent ways with those experiencing mental health challenges; and be it further

Resolved, that Convention authorize the development of an implementation strategy using evidence-based resources and training processes, such as Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and other relevant organizations and networks; and be it further

Resolved, that Convention recommend training in MHFA and general awareness of mental health and illness for all active clergy and staff in the church entities of the diocese, with issuance of certifications; and be it further

Resolved, that in 2024 the Diocese expedite the identification of MHFA instructors and the resources to train instructors and if possible begin a pilot program in anticipation of our 2025 rollout; and be it further

Resolved, that Convention directs Diocesan Council to include in the 2025 Ministry and Mission budget initial start-up funding for the planned training of instructors for MHFA for Adults and MHFA for Youth, as well as training sessions for members of the Diocese and develop a wider community awareness effort.”