

**Acts of the 209th Annual Convention  
of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina**

**Act 2024-1  
(Resolution 209.3)  
On Definitions in the Canons**

The 209th Annual Convention enacts:

"Canon D-V.8 of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

***Canon D-V.8  
Definitions, Registers, and Reports***

**Section 3.**

(a) Definitions. ~~A member—The terms “Member”, “Adult”, “Confirmed”, “Communicant”, and “ in Good Standing” are defined by the Canons of the General Convention of this Church. of this Church is a person who has been baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and whose baptism has been duly recorded in this Church.~~

~~—An adult member is a member who is 16 years of age, or older.~~

~~—A confirmed member is:~~

~~—————(1) one who has been baptized in this church as an adult and has received the laying on of hands by the Bishop at Baptism, or~~

~~—————(2) one who has been baptized in this church as an adult and at some time after the Baptism has received the laying on of hands by the Bishop in Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, or~~

~~—————(3) any baptized person who received the laying on of hands at Confirmation by any bishop in apostolic succession and has been received into The Episcopal Church by a Bishop of this Church, or~~

~~—————(4) any baptized person who has received the laying on of hands by a Bishop of this Church at Confirmation or Reception.~~

~~—A communicant is a member who has received the Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding year.~~

~~—A communicant in good standing is a communicant who, for the preceding year, has been faithful in corporate worship (unless for good cause prevented) and has been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.~~

~~An enrolled member of a congregation is a member whose baptism has been recorded in that congregation, or who has been duly transferred to that congregation.~~

~~(b) For statistical purposes the minister in charge of a parish or mission shall annually report the number of baptisms, confirmations, marriages and burials. The minister shall also report the total number of baptized members, distinguishing those 16 and over from those under 16 years of age; the total number of confirmed communicants in good standing, distinguishing those 16 and over from those under 16 years of age; as~~

~~well as other items required by the Parochial Report form approved by the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.~~

(e) ~~The minister in charge of a parish or mission, or senior warden if there be no minister,~~ shall ~~also~~ maintain for current and future use lists of families and individuals within that cure, and for purposes of the enrollment or removal of each member maintain an indication of the member's status as baptized, under 16 or adult, whether or not a communicant, and if so whether in good standing, and whether considered confirmed or not.

**Section 4. *Letters of Transfer.*** ~~At least once a year~~When pastorally applicable, rectors and vicars shall instruct the people of their cures in regard to the procedure for law of this church concerning letters of transfer. ~~When members move their residence, the rector or vicar of their former congregation shall promptly inform the rector or vicar of a congregation in the area to which they have moved, and that member of the clergy shall use all diligence to see that these persons may become affiliated with an appropriate parish or mission without delay.~~

**Section 5. *Parochial Reports.*** ~~A report of every parish or mission in this Diocese shall be prepared annually for the year ending on December 31 preceding, upon the blank form prepared by the Executive Council of this Church and approved by the General Convention Committee on the State of the Church. It shall be sent in duplicate not later than March 1 to the Bishop, or, if there is no Bishop, to the Secretary of the Convention. The Bishop may require that this report be mailed directly to the Secretary, who shall report to the Bishop any parish or mission whose report has not been received by March 1. The report shall include all information necessary to complete the prescribed form in accordance with the provisions of Title I, Canon 6, Section 1, of the Canons of the General Convention. In every parish and mission the preparation and delivery of this report shall be the joint duty of the rector or vicar and vestry unless there is no rector or vicar, in which case it shall be the duty of the vestry to prepare and deliver the report. Every parish and mission of the Diocese shall make a timely and complete filing of an annual parochial report as required by the Canons of the General Convention of this Church and shall use the form provided by the Secretary of the General Convention of this Church. The vestry of each parish and mission shall approve the parochial report before it is filed. If a parish or mission has no minister, the senior warden shall be responsible for compiling and filing the report.~~

In administering the provisions of Canon D-IV.4 with respect to establishing each parish's and mission's share of the Diocesan budget, the Diocesan Council may estimate the income and expenses of any parish or mission that has failed to submit its parochial report by ~~February~~March 1. [Amended by Act 2006-7.]

**Section 6. *Inclusion in Journal Printing Reports.*** ~~The Secretary shall include in the Journal of the Convention such data from parochial reports required by Section 5 of this canon, or such parts of them as the Bishop may deem fit, shall be printed in the Journal of the Convention.~~

Canon D-V.1, Section 6(b) of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

(b) must not fail in any single year to file ~~with the Bishop or with the Secretary of the Convention, if the Secretary has been designated as the Bishop's agent for that purpose, a complete and correct~~the parochial report as prescribed in Canon D-V.8

Canon D-V.2, Section 4(f) of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

(f) It must not fail in any single year to file ~~with the Bishop or with the Secretary of the Convention, if the Secretary be designated as the Bishop's agent for such purpose, a complete and correct~~the parochial report as prescribed ~~and required by the provisions of~~ Canon D-V.8.

Canon D-VII.3 of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended by adding the following section:

Section 4. For purposes of the Canons of the Diocese, if there be no Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, "Bishop" in these Canons shall mean the Ecclesiastical Authority unless the context pertains to powers conferred solely by ordination to the episcopate.

**Act 2024-2**  
**(Substitute Resolution 209.1)**  
**On Legislative Committee Hearings Prior to Convention**

The 209th Annual Convention enacts:

"Canon D-I.8 of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

***Canon D-I.8***  
***Convention Committees***

**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 chair of each such committee, shall notify each committee member of the appointment, and shall inform the committee's 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 Faith and Morals

(d) The Committee on National and International Affairs, and

(e) ~~The Committee on the Program of the Church~~

(f) ~~The Committee on Social Concerns.~~

These five Committees shall be known as Legislative Committees. 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.

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**Section 4.** The Bishop (or presiding officer of the Convention) shall determine whether Legislative Committees will meet prior to Convention by means of teleconference or during Convention. Each Legislative Committee shall hold a hearing on Each Convention Committee shall consider the measures referred to it. At such hearing, a Legislative Committee, shall offer the sponsors and members of the Diocese reasonable opportunity within the time available~~allotted by the Convention's agenda~~ to explain their views thereon. Subsequent to such hearing, the Legislative Committee shall deliberate and, and shall report each measure to the Convention as prescribed by the Rules of Order. However, at any time prior to the convening of the Convention a Legislative Convention Committee to which a measure has been referred may request the Bishop to refer it to a different Legislative Convention Committee.

Rules of Order XXIII and XXIV are repealed, and Rule of Order IV is rewritten in entirety as follows:

**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.

**(b)** 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.

**(c)** While preambles or any recital of reasons, explanatory comments, or argument regarding any resolution (collectively, "Comments") 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. Motions to amend or to substitute Comments shall be out of order. Only the text of the adopted resolution shall be printed in the Journal of the Convention.

**(d) (1)** Resolutions shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention on or before the 40th day preceding the opening date of the Convention. The texts of such resolutions shall be included in the advance materials distributed by the Secretary to the members of the Convention prior to the Convention. The Secretary shall return to the introducer, without action, any resolution submitted to the Secretary later than specified.

(2) The Secretary, with the assistance of the Chancellor of the Diocese, shall review each resolution to determine whether favorable action on the resolution would require adoption or amendment of a constitutional provision, canon, or rule of order. The Secretary shall report all such resolutions to the Commission on Constitution and Canons, which shall report its recommendations thereupon to the Ecclesiastical Authority and the Secretary, who shall inform the Chair of the Legislative Committee to which the resolution is subsequently referred.

(3) The Ecclesiastical Authority shall refer such resolutions, except those of courtesy or appreciation or those which accompany the report of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, to a Legislative Committee which shall proceed as described in Canon D-I.8, Section 4.

(4) If a resolution would substantially affect Diocesan finances, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall 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.

(5) If the hearing of the relevant Legislative Committees shall have taken place by teleconference prior to Convention, a motion to recommit a resolution to a Legislative Committee shall be out of order.

(e) (1) Resolutions not proposing or requiring amendment of the Constitution, Canons, or Rules of Order 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 members of Convention, the resolution shall be added to the agenda of 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.

(2) If Legislative Committees have not met by teleconference prior to Convention, the Bishop or presiding officer of the Convention shall refer such a resolution to a Legislative Committee as described in Rule IV(d)(3) and, if applicable, Rule IV(d)(4).

(3) If Legislative Committees have met by teleconference prior to Convention, the Bishop or presiding officer of the Convention shall refer such a resolution to the Committee on Dispatch of Business which may, but is not required to, hold a hearing.

(4) This Rule IV(e) shall not apply to resolutions of courtesy or appreciation, which may be proposed at any time.

(f) Any portions of the Bishop's address meriting the Convention's response shall be referred to Diocesan Council for consideration after the Convention adjourns."

Act 2024-3  
(Resolution 209.2)  
On Filling Vacant Cures

The 209th Annual Convention enacts:

"Canon D-V.7 of the Diocese of North Carolina is amended as follows:

*Canon D-V.7*  
*Vacant Cures*

**Section 1.** When a ~~parish or congregation~~ cure becomes vacant, the senior warden thereof, s-or if there be no senior warden, another proper officer of the cures shall inform the Bishop. If the ~~vestry authorities of the cure~~ parish shall for 30 days have failed to make provision for services, the Bishop ~~may~~ shall take such measures as may be deemed expedient for the temporary maintenance of divine services therein.

**Section 2.** No rector, interim rector or other clergy of a parish shall be elected by any vestry during such time as the parish is not in compliance with Canon D-IV.4, nor until the member of the clergy who is proposed by the vestry shall have been approved in writing by the Ecclesiastical Authority ~~of the Diocese~~.

~~**Section 3.** Written notice of the election signed by the wardens shall be sent to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. If the Ecclesiastical Authority be satisfied that the parish is in compliance with Canon D-IV.4, and the person so chosen is a duly qualified minister and has accepted the office, it shall send notice thereof to the Secretary of the Convention, who shall so record it. Such record shall be sufficient evidence of the relation between the minister and the parish.~~

**Section 43.** No assistant minister or other clergy shall be called by the rector of a parish during such time as the parish is not in compliance with Canon D-IV.4, nor without the consent of the vestry, nor until the proposed assistant or other clergy shall have been approved in writing by the Ecclesiastical Authority ~~of the Diocese~~.

**Section 54.** In case of a vacancy in a mission, the Bishop ~~shall~~ may appoint a vicar for a term of not more than four years; at the end of such term the vicar may be re-appointed.

**Section 5.** Subsequent to the approval of a call by the Ecclesiastical Authority and its acceptance by a minister or, in the case of a mission, subsequent to the appointment of a vicar, a letter of agreement setting forth the terms of engagement between the member of the clergy and the parish or mission shall be negotiated and executed by such member, the senior warden of the parish or mission acting with consent of the vestry thereof, and the Ecclesiastical Authority. A valid letter of agreement is sufficient evidence of the relation between the minister and parish or mission.

**Act 2024-4**  
**(Substitute Resolution 209.4)**  
**On Global Mission Work**

The 209th Annual Convention enacts:

“Resolved, that in keeping with the advice of Resolution A088 adopted by the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church, the 209th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Carolina strongly encourages all congregations, individuals and organizations in the Diocese engaging in or considering global mission to connect and consult with the Office of Global Partnerships (and the regional partnership officers) as partners in mission in order to more fully and deeply fulfill the mission of the Church to seek and serve Christ in all people and uphold and advocate for the values of God’s liberating love throughout the world; and

Further resolved, that the Diocese strongly encourages all congregations, individuals and organizations in the Diocese engaging in or considering such engagement in global mission to also consult with the Chartered Committee on Global Mission and the Diocesan Global Mission Advocate for assistance and advice in engaging in these relationships in a peer-to-peer manner;”  
and

Further resolved, that the Diocese petition the Executive Council to consider the addition of an element to the Parochial Report to enable congregations to report international activities in which the congregation is engaging.”