

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, shall offer the sponsors and other interested Convention delegates 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."

Comment: these changes would allow the legislative committee hearings for resolutions to be held on Zoom prior to Convention. Diocesan Council sees a number of benefits from this change: (1) the committees will have more time to perfect the language of any substitute resolutions, thereby avoiding grammatical errors; (2) the diocesan staff will not have to stay up past midnight Friday to get the substitute resolutions, including their translations into Spanish, onto the diocesan website and the Yapp app; (3) by holding hearings on different nights, members of Convention may attend multiple hearings instead of having to choose only one; and (4) several hours of Convention's time on Friday afternoon will be released for other uses. The resolution also abolishes a legislative committee that has not been used for over 10 years.