

DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
240th CONVENTION
OCTOBER 23, 2023

R- _____

Sponsor: Christopher Hart on behalf of the Canons Committee

**AMENDING STANDING ORDER REGARDING ANNUAL CONVENTION AGENDA
TO CONFORM TO ACTUAL PRACTICE**

Resolved: Convention Standing Orders I-III of the Diocese of Pennsylvania shall be amended as follows:

I. The procedure for the opening of the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania shall be governed by Canon 3.1.1

1. ~~On the first day of the meeting of the Convention there shall be a public service according to Canon 3. On all subsequent days the Presiding Officer shall see that the Holy Communion is Celebrated at a time and place convenient to the Delegates. (Adopted, October 20, 1972)~~

II. The following business shall be conducted during the Annual Convention in an order to be established by the Convention Planning Committee and presented to the Convention delegates in the form of an agenda to be approved by them ~~Order of Business shall be as follows:~~

1. The first items shall be the election of a Secretary in accordance with Canon 3.2, followed by the appointment of a Parliamentarian and the approval of the agenda; Assistant Secretary, to be appointed by the Secretary, and confirmed by the Convention.

2. ~~Report of Committee on Dispatch of Business, and action thereon; the order of business for the second day to be printed for distribution on the morning of the second day.~~

3. ~~The report of business left unfinished at the last Convention. (Canon of Courtesy and Resolutions.)~~

2. Reports of the following Committees and action thereon.

(a) Committee on Claims of Clergymen to Seats pursuant to Canon 2.3

(b) Committee on Claims of Laity to Seats pursuant to Canon 2.8

~~(c) Committee on Charters.~~ Committee on Nominations pursuant to S.O. V.

~~(d) Committee on Canons.~~

(d) Committee on Resolutions pursuant to S.A. IV.4.

3. The address of the Bishop (Ecclesiastical Authority or designee thereof) Bishops² Addresses.

4. Financial matters including:

- a. approval of a resolution on clergy compensation; and
- b. approval of the Annual Budget

5. Elections following nominations presented by the Nominations Committee

6. Votes on Resolutions as presented by the Resolutions Committee

7. Presentation of canons of the Cathedral Chapter as provided in Canon 18.3.

8. Nominations of Directors of The Church Foundation as provided in The Church Foundation's bylaws.

4. ~~Reports of Standing Committees, Boards, and Institutions.~~

5. ~~Reports of Special Committees and Commissions.~~

III. Additional items of business for Convention may be set forth by the Convention Planning Committee in the convention agenda for approval by the delegates.

EXPLANATION: Having a Standing Order that sets forth the essential items to be addressed at the Annual Convention is a valuable resource. During the pandemic, for example, when changes to both the format and length of the Annual Convention were being considered, it was helpful to identify key agenda items. However, the current Standing Orders governing the business of Convention were passed 50 years ago and fail to conform to current practice in several significant ways. In addition, the concept of a predetermined agenda for Convention conflicts with Roberts' Rules of Order, which specifies that the agenda for an annual meeting of an organization should be determined by a convention planning committee, which we have, and presented to the delegates at the beginning of the Convention for amendment and approval, which we do. Also, provisions of the current Standing Orders conflict with provisions of Canon 3 regarding the opening of Convention and the appointment of a Secretary. Furthermore, the Diocese has a Convention Arrangements committee that meets frequently between conventions to receive suggestions about and develop the convention agenda.

In order to be approved this Resolution must be passed by a single Convention by a 2/3 vote.