

The Diocese of New Jersey
239th Annual Diocesan Convention
Consent Calendar 2023

This Consent Calendar is published by the Committee on Rules of Order and Dispatch of Business pursuant to Rule IV.3 of the Rules of Order. It contains all resolutions to be voted on by the Diocesan Convention other than elections, budget matters, resolutions proposed by diocesan bodies that vote to have them voted on separately, and any resolution that is removed from this Consent Calendar.

At any time before a final vote on the Consent Calendar, any resolution may be removed from the Consent Calendar by written notice to the Secretary of Convention or by announcement on the floor of Convention by (i) the individual or diocesan body that proposed the resolution, (ii) any four voting members of the Convention, or (iii) the President of the Convention. Any resolution removed from the Consent Calendar shall be taken up for debate and consideration at a time to be determined by the President.

Note that a vote to approve the Consent Calendar is to take the action, if any, recommended by the diocesan body proposing the resolution. If the Consent Calendar is not approved, then all items on the Consent Calendar shall be taken up for debate and consideration at a time to be determined by the President of Convention.

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1. Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons
Implementing Resolution III
Recommendation of Committee: **Adopt**

Resolved, That Canon 9 of the Diocese of New Jersey be amended to read as follows (deletions shown by strikethrough, insertions by double-underline):

CANON 9

Episcopal Elections

SECTION 1. Prior Consents for Elections of Bishops Coadjutor or Suffragan. Before an election of a Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan can be authorized, the election process, including a budget provision for the election and the position, must be approved by a regular or special meeting of the Diocesan Convention, and consents from a majority of Standing Committees of The Episcopal Church and of Bishops exercising jurisdiction must be obtained.

(a) Whenever the Bishop of the Diocese wishes to call for the election of a Suffragan Bishop or a Bishop Coadjutor, the Bishop shall give written notice to all members of the Convention not later than sixty days before the annual or special meeting of the Convention at which the request will be considered.

(b) The Diocesan Council, with the assistance of the Finance and Budget Committee, shall prepare and adopt a proposed financial plan to defray all expenses to be incurred in

connection with the election, in a manner that incorporates the expenses into the Diocesan Budget over a period not to exceed three years. The plan shall include appropriations for the work of the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee and the Transition Committee provided for in this Canon, the cost of the Electing Convention, and the cost of the Consecration Service. The plan shall also set the proposed initial level of compensation for the new bishop and provide for the moving expenses of the new bishop. A copy of the proposed financial plan shall be mailed to all members of the Convention not later than thirty days before the meeting of the Convention referred to in subsection (a) of Section 1 of this canon.

(c) The Convention shall act first on the Bishop's request for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor or Suffragan, and if that is approved the Convention shall then consider the financial plan proposed by the Council. The Convention may adopt the plan as proposed, adopt a modified version of the plan, or reject the plan. Only if the Convention approves both the resolution consenting to the election and the financial plan may the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese proceed to seek the consent of a majority of the Bishops exercising jurisdiction and of the Standing Committees of The Episcopal Church for such election to go forward. Upon receipt of such consents, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall promptly begin the process of electing a Bishop Search and Nomination Committee as set forth in Section 4 of this Canon.

SECTION 2. Procedure for Successor to Bishop Diocesan. ~~If the Bishop Diocesan gives notice of resignation, he or she shall promptly begin the process of electing Convocational members of the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee as set forth in Section 4 of this Canon.~~ In the event of the death of the Bishop Diocesan, Diocesan or the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Diocese and the Bishop Diocesan, ~~or upon the Bishop Diocesan's giving notice of resignation or retirement, the Ecclesiastical Authority~~ the Standing Committee shall promptly begin the process of electing ~~a Bishop Search and Nomination Committee as set forth in Section 4 of this Canon~~ such Convocational members. Simultaneously, the Diocesan Council shall prepare and adopt a financial plan as described in subsection (b) of Section 1 of this Canon for the election of a successor, to be mailed to all members of the Convention not later than thirty days before the next annual or special meeting of the Convention. The Convention may adopt the plan as proposed or adopt a modified version of the plan.

SECTION 3. Composition of the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee. When a bishop is to be elected, there shall be a Bishop Search and Nomination Committee consisting of 16 Convocational Members and six Members-At-Large, elected in the following manner:

- (a) One member of the clergy and one lay person shall be elected in each convocation of the Diocese in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of this Canon.
- (b) Six additional Members-At-Large, either clergy or lay, shall be elected by the Convocational Members. The election shall be by majority vote of all the Convocational

Members. In electing the Members-At-Large, the Convocational Members shall be as inclusive as possible to ensure that the Committee is representative of the entire Diocese.

(c) In addition to the elected members, a Chair shall be appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. If there is no Bishop, the appointment shall be made by the Standing Committee. The Committee, including all At-Large Members, shall elect a Vice-Chair from the members of the Committee.

(d) Lay members of the Committee shall be confirmed adult communicants in good standing of a Parish or Mission within the Diocese. Clergy members shall be canonically resident in the Diocese.

(e) Vacancies among Convocational Members shall be filled by appointment of the Dean of the Convocation. Vacancies among the Members-At-Large shall be filled by the Committee.

SECTION 4. Election of Bishop Search and Nomination Committee Members by Convocations.
Convocational Members shall be elected in the following manner:

(a) When the election of a bishop under Section 1 or 2 of this Canon is called for, the Bishop Diocesan if there be one, or in the absence of a Bishop Diocesan, the Standing Committee, Ecclesiastical Authority announces the call for the election of a bishop, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a specific Sunday for Special Meetings to be held in each Parish and Mission of the Diocese to elect special delegates to a special meeting in each convocation for the purpose of electing members of the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee. On that Sunday, every Parish and Mission in the Diocese shall hold a special meeting of the Congregation, in accordance with the provisions of the Canons of the Diocese and the laws of the State of New Jersey, for the purpose of electing six special delegates to the special meeting of the Convocation. The Chair of the meeting shall forthwith certify to the Dean of the Convocation and to the Ecclesiastical Authority the names and full contact information of the persons elected.

(b) On the fourth Sunday thereafter, the Dean of each convocation shall convene a Special Meeting to elect members of the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee, due notice having been given to each church in the convocation. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall make provisions (i) for preregistration of those clergy and elected special delegates who will be authorized to vote at the Special Meetings and (ii) for nominations of candidates prior to such meeting to be made by those entitled to vote at such meeting or by self-nomination. Those entitled to vote at the meeting shall be the six duly certified Special Delegates from each Parish and Mission in the Convocation and all members of the clergy, canonically resident in the Diocese, who exercise their ministry within the Convocation. A majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for election. It shall be the duty of each Dean to certify forthwith to the Ecclesiastical Authority the names and full contact information of the persons elected.

SECTION 5. Self-Study and Diocesan Profile. The Bishop Search and Nomination Committee shall be responsible for conducting a Diocesan Self-Study. Using information developed by a Diocesan Self-Study, the Committee shall develop a Diocesan Profile. The Committee may engage such professional assistance as it deems reasonable to complete its task.

SECTION 6. Obtaining Candidates.

(a) The Bishop Search and Nomination Committee shall take the steps necessary to encourage the recommendation of qualified candidates and shall circulate the Diocesan Profile and other pertinent information to all clergy, Parishes, and Missions of the Diocese, the Office of Transition Ministry of the Episcopal Church, the Presiding Bishop and all active Bishops of the Episcopal Church notifying them that recommendations are being received, and stating the process for nomination and election.

(b) The Committee shall screen all candidates recommended and shall establish its own procedures for determining which candidates are best suited for nomination. It shall submit a list of no fewer than four nor more than six candidates to be placed in nomination at the Electing Convention.

(c) Not later than one year after it is constituted, the Committee shall report to the members of the Electing Convention and to the Diocese as a whole, the names of the persons to be nominated by it at the Electing Convention, together with a brief biography of each nominee. The committee shall include notice of the Electing Convention with its report. The date of the electing Convention shall not be less than three months nor more than five months after the date the report is issued.

SECTION 7. Independent Nominations. When the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee has announced its list of nominees, there shall be a period of 30 days after the date when its report is issued during which Independent Nominations to the electing Convention may be made. No independent nominations shall be received after that date. The Committee shall provide, upon request, a Nomination Petition Form on which the deadline for submitting independent nominations and the method of submitting them is clearly stated. The Nomination Petition shall require the signatures of at least two persons from at least five Convocations.

SECTION 8. Final Report of the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee. After the period for receiving independent nominations has expired, the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee shall publish an Election Booklet containing the names, photographs, and biographical sketches of all nominees and such other material about the nominees as the Committee shall choose to include. The Election Booklet shall state which nominees were nominated by the Committee and which were nominated independently, but in every other respect all nominees shall be treated equally. The Election Booklet shall include a detailed statement of the election process including the Proposed Rules of Order and Agenda for the Electing Convention. The Election Booklet shall be

distributed to each member of the Electing Convention not less than 30 days before the electing Convention and also made available to the Diocese as a whole.

SECTION 9. Introduction of Nominees to the Diocese. After the Election Booklet has been distributed, the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee shall provide one or more opportunities for members of the Electing Convention to meet and confer with all nominees. Opportunity shall also be afforded all members of the Diocese to meet the nominees. The Committee shall be responsible for establishing the time, place, and format of any pre-Convention meeting of candidates. All such meetings shall be complete at least seven days prior to the Electing Convention.

SECTION 10. Composition and Duties of the Transition Committee. There shall be a Transition Committee consisting of between eight and twelve members. Lay members of the committee shall be confirmed adult communicants in good standing of a Parish or Mission within the Diocese. Clergy members shall be canonically resident in the Diocese. The composition of the committee and its duties shall be as follows:

(a) Following the organization of the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee by the appointment of its Chair and the election of its Members-At-Large, the Standing Committee shall appoint a Chair for the Transition Committee, and the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee shall choose one of its members to be a liaison member of the Transition Committee. The Chair and the liaison member shall then consult with the Standing Committee to assist it in appointing the remaining members of the Transition Committee. Members should be considered for their aptitude, experience, and expertise in the tasks required of the committee. The committee members should organize themselves at least six months before the expected date of the Electing Convention.

(b) The Transition Committee shall be responsible for planning and overseeing the Electing Convention. Subject to the consent of the Bishop Diocesan, if there is one, or if not the Standing Committee, Ecclesiastical Authority, and in consultation with the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee, the Transition Committee shall fix the date, time, and place of the Electing Convention. The committee shall strive to ensure that the entire process of nominating and electing a Bishop is conducted in a pastoral manner. The committee shall confer with the Committee on Rules of Order and Dispatch of Business for the Electing Convention to assist it in developing Rules of Order and an Agenda for the Electing Convention. The committee shall communicate regularly with members of the Electing Convention and with the Diocese at large to ensure an active awareness of the entire election process. The Bishop Diocesan, if there is one, or if not the Standing Committee Ecclesiastical Authority may for good cause adjourn the date of the Electing Convention and reschedule the same with the advice and consent of the Transition Committee.

(c) The Transition Committee shall provide pastoral and practical assistance to any present bishop, the bishop-elect, and their spouses and families throughout the transition process.

(d) The Transition Committee shall be responsible for planning and overseeing the leave-taking of an incumbent bishop, the relocation of the family of the bishop-elect, and the services of consecration or induction of the bishop-elect.

(e) The Transition Committee should coordinate its tasks as necessary with the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee, the Standing Committee, and diocesan staff.

SECTION 11. Placing in Nomination. At the Electing Convention, the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee shall place in nomination all names listed in the Election Booklet. Nominations from the floor of Convention shall not be permitted. No nominating speeches or laudatory addresses shall be made on behalf of any nominee.

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2. Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons
Implementing Resolution IV
Recommendation of Committee: **Adopt**

Resolved, That Section 9 of Canon 9 of the Diocese of New Jersey be deleted and following sections renumbered; and be it further

Resolved, That a new subsection (b) be inserted in Section 10 (to be renumbered as 9 under the preceding Resolved) of Canon 9 to read as follows:

(b) After the Election Booklet has been distributed, the Transition Committee shall provide one or more opportunities for members of the Electing Convention to meet and confer with all nominees. Opportunity shall also be afforded all members of the Diocese to meet the nominees. The Committee shall be responsible for establishing the time, place, and format of any pre-Convention meeting of candidates. All such meetings shall be complete at least seven days prior to the Electing Convention.

And be it further

Resolved, That the following subsections of such section be renumbered.

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3. Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons
Implementing Resolution V
Recommendation of Committee: **Refer back to Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons for further study and report to the 240th Diocesan Convention**

Resolved, That Section 6(c) of Canon 9 of the Diocese of New Jersey be amended to read as follows (deletions shown by strikethrough, insertions by double-underline):

(c) Not later than one year after it is constituted, the Committee shall report to the members of the Electing Convention and to the Diocese as a whole, the names of the persons to be nominated by it at the Electing Convention, together with a brief biography of each nominee. The committee shall include notice of the Electing Convention with its report. The date of the

electing Convention shall not be less than ~~three months~~ ninety days nor more than five months after the date the report is issued.

And be it further

Resolved, That Section 7 of Canon 9 be amended to read as follows (deletions shown by strikethrough, insertions by double-underline):

SECTION 7. Independent Nominations. The independent nomination process shall be handled by the Standing Committee. When the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee has announced its list of nominees, there shall be a period of ~~30~~ fourteen days after the date when its report is issued during which Independent Nominations to the electing Convention may be made. No independent nominations shall be received after that date. The Standing Committee shall provide, ~~upon request,~~ a Nomination Petition Form on which the deadline for submitting independent nominations and the method of submitting them is clearly stated. The Nomination Petition shall require the signatures of at least ~~twelve persons,~~ two persons from at least ~~five~~ six Convocations, one Member of the Clergy and one Lay Person from each Convocation. The clergy signatures should include five priests and one deacon. Persons signing the petition may not subsequently serve as references for the nominee. The Standing Committee shall screen all petition candidates and share with the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee any qualified petition nominees for inclusion in the Election Booklet.

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4. Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons
Implementing Resolution VI
Recommendation of Committee: **Adopt**

Resolved, That Section 1 of Canon 27 of the Canons of the Diocese of New Jersey be amended to read as follows (deletions shown by strikethrough, insertions by double-underline):

SECTION 1. There shall be a Board of Missions to which shall be entrusted under the Bishop, the Missionary work of the Diocese. The Bishop or some person designated by the Bishop shall serve as Chair of the Board. Each Convocation shall in an annual meeting elect one clerical member and one lay member at least one of whom will be a vicar or a lay member of a Mission church to serve a three-year term, which shall begin ~~immediately upon election~~ the following January, provided, that if there is no Mission church in a Convocation, or if there is no one who is a member of a Mission church willing to serve, then the member or members elected, clergy or lay, may be from any church of the Convocation. The elections shall be staggered such that no more than one-third of the membership shall end their terms in a given year. In addition, both the Bishop and Diocesan Council may each appoint two members for three-year terms. In the event of an unexpected vacancy, Convocations may elect members for the unexpired terms of members previously elected by its Convocation and the Bishop or Diocesan Council may appoint members to fill the unexpired terms of their appointments.

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5. Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons
Implementing Resolution VII
Recommendation of Committee: **Adopt**

Resolved, That the third sentence of Section 2 of Canon 49 of the Canons of the Diocese of New Jersey be amended as follows (deletions shown by strikethrough, insertions by double-underline):

SECTION 2. The governing body of Trinity Cathedral shall be a Chapter. The Chapter shall consist of the Bishop, who shall be the presiding officer; the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, the Suffragan Bishops, if there be any; the Dean of the Cathedral; four ~~presbyters~~ Members of the Clergy and four ~~lay persons~~ Lay Persons elected by the Diocesan Convention for three-year terms; three members appointed in writing by the Bishop for three-year terms; the following members elected by and from the Cathedral congregation, namely, a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden each elected for two-year terms, and nine other lay persons elected for three-year terms; and a Treasurer and a Clerk elected by the Chapter.

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6. Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons
Implementing Resolution VII
Recommendation of Committee: **Adopt**

Resolved, That Section 1(b)(1) of Canon 74 of the Canons of the Diocese of New Jersey be amended to read as follows (insertions shown by double-underline):

(1) The Parish or Mission shall pay the clergyperson a housing subsidy, not less than the minimum amount established by Diocesan Convention. This provision is intended to apply to situations in which the clergyperson owns or rents a home as a primary residence. In special circumstances the clergyperson may make a written agreement with the Parish or Mission to accept a lesser amount for a given period of time, but all such agreements must be reviewed and approved in writing by the Standing Commission on Clerical Compensation.

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7. Standing Commission on Clerical Compensation
Implementing Resolution A
Recommendation of Commission: **Adopt**

Resolved, That the 239th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey approve the recommendation of the Standing Commission on Clerical Compensation, that for calendar year 2023, a 5% Cost of Living Adjustment be applied to each cleric's 2022 Cash Stipend (as long as the amount is greater than or equal to the Base Cash Stipend based on years of Credited Service as recorded by the Church Pension Fund or other alternative basis approved by the Commission).

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8. Standing Commission on Clerical Compensation
Implementing Resolution B
Recommendation of Commission: **Adopt**

Resolved, That the 239th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey approve the recommendation of the Standing Commission on Clerical Compensation that the minimum 2023 annual Cash Salary for new clerical ordinands be increased from \$33,600 to \$34,600, and the starting cash stipend for experienced assistants, vicars, rectors and priests-in-charge be increased from \$36,300 to \$37,400, with resulting scheduled increases in the minimum allowable Cash Stipends of clerics based on

number of years since ordination (this structure change is not in addition to the COLA, which in most situations will result in a Cash Stipend in excess of the minimum schedule).

9. Committee on Resolutions

Resolution 2023-1

Recommendation of Committee: **Adopt**

Subject: To establish a Pastoral Mental and Spiritual Health Committee in the Diocese of New Jersey

Be it resolved, That the 239th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey affirm the importance of good mental and spiritual health for all members of the diocese; and be it

Further resolved, That the Diocese of New Jersey establish a Pastoral Mental and Spiritual Health Committee to develop and oversee programs to promote good mental and spiritual health within the diocese, to consist of ten persons appointed by the Bishop and to be representative of the breadth of the diocese and include a roughly equal number of lay and ordained persons.

10. Committee on Resolutions

Resolution 2023-2

Recommendation of Commission: **Adopt**

Subject: Remembering the Victims and Survivors of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Be it resolved, That the 239th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey commend the reading during the month of November 2023 of the names of those parish members lost to COVID-19; and be it

Further resolved, That we continually pray for those who have perished, and for those who survived, and that God's Grace will heal and comfort all those affected and restore them to health; and be it

Further resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention forward a copy of this resolution to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

11. Committee on Resolutions

Resolution 2023-3

Recommendation of Commission: **Adopt**

Subject: Remembering the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center Victims

Be it resolved, That the 239th Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey reaffirm Resolution 2004-1 of the 220th Convention of the Diocese; and be it

Further resolved, That that Episcopalians in the Diocese continually pray for all those lost on September 11, 2001, all others lost at the hand of terrorism, those who have made the ultimate

sacrifice in the days since the attacks, those who still suffer in body and mind as a result of terrorist attacks, and all those we call peacemakers; and be it

Further resolved, That churches of the Diocese on September 11, 2023 join in observing the Six Moments of Silence that mark the loss of life in New York City, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia:

1. At 8:46 a.m., on September 11, 2001, hijacked American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the upper portion of the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City, New York.
 2. At 9:03 a.m., hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center.
 3. At 9:37 a.m., the west wall of the Pentagon was hit by hijacked American Airlines Flight 77, the impact of which caused immediate and catastrophic damage to the headquarters of the Department of Defense.
 4. At 9:59 a.m., the South Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed.
 5. At 10:03 a.m., the passengers and crew of hijacked United Airlines Flight 93 acted heroically to retake control of the airplane and thwart the taking of additional American lives by crashing the airliner in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, and, in doing so, gave their lives to save countless others.
 6. At 10:29 a.m., the North Tower of the World Trade Center collapsed;
- and be it

Further resolved, That the Secretary of the Convention forward a copy of this resolution to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

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12. Committee on Validation of the Minutes of the Convention
Resolution 1
Recommendation of Commission: **Adopt**

Resolved, That the minutes of the 238th Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey held on March 5, 2022 as posted on the diocesan website be approved by this 239th Annual Diocesan Convention.

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13. Committee on Validation of the Minutes of the Convention
Resolution 2
Recommendation of Commission: **Adopt**

Resolved, That the minutes of the Episcopal Electing Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey held on January 28, 2023 as posted on the diocesan website be approved by this 239th Annual Diocesan Convention.