

**DOMA Constitution & Canons Committee Report  
Proposed Amendments**

**Proposed Amendment 1: Canon IA.2.3.B.i (p. 14)**

**Current text:**

Each Mission of the Diocese shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate and each Congregation of the Diocese shall be entitled to two Lay Delegates. Missions and Congregations without permanently assigned clergy shall be authorized one additional Lay Delegate. In addition, each Congregation having in excess of 200 Eligible Voters as that term is defined in Title IB, Canon 1, Section 3.1.i.b shall be entitled to one additional Lay Delegate for each 200 or fraction thereof above the first 200. The number of Eligible Voters shall be based upon the current Annual Report prepared and filed in accordance with Title I, Canon 6, Section 8 of the Provincial Canons and these Canons.

**Proposed text:**

Each Mission of the Diocese shall be entitled to one Lay Delegate and each Congregation of the Diocese shall be entitled to two Lay Delegates. Missions and Congregations without permanently assigned clergy shall be authorized one additional Lay Delegate. In addition, each Congregation having in excess of 200 ~~Eligible Voters~~ **Members age 16 years or older** as that term is defined in Title IB, Canon 1, ~~Section 3.1.i.b~~ **Section 3.1.i.a** shall be entitled to one additional Lay Delegate for each 200 or fraction thereof above the first 200. The number of ~~Eligible Voters~~ **Members** shall be based upon the current Annual Report prepared and filed in accordance with Title I, Canon 6, Section 8 of the Provincial Canons and these Canons.

**Rationale:**

The Canons as currently written assume that the number of Eligible Voters in each congregation has been reported through the filing of the Province's Annual Congregational Report. However, the Provincial Annual report does not call for the submission of the number of Eligible Voters, so that number is not readily available for use by most Missions and Congregations. The Annual Congregational Report does call for the number of members by age grouping. Based on an analysis of the 2013 Congregational Reports, the Committee does not expect this change to alter the number of delegates from any of the churches.

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**Proposed Amendment 2: Canon IA.3.1.B.iv (p. 16)**

**Proposed text:**

**No individual shall serve as a member of the Standing Committee for more than six years of any given period of nine consecutive years, whether by election, appointment, or a combination thereof.**

**Rationale:**

Absent this addition, someone appointed by the Bishop for six one-year terms could then immediately be elected for two more three-year terms—or vice versa—without an ineligibility period ever coming into effect. The proposed addition requires a 3-year ineligibility period after six years of service, no matter how those membership years come about.

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**Proposed Amendment 3: Canon IA.3.2.E (p. 16)**

**Proposed new text:**

**E. To fill vacancies in its own membership, with such appointments to run until the next annual Synod;**

**Rationale:**

There is currently no provision for filling vacancies in the Standing Committee. The proposed amendment would provide a procedure for doing so that is in keeping with the practice of many other dioceses of the Province. Limiting these appointments to the time until the next Synod preserves the Synod's role in electing the members of the Standing Committee.

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**Proposed Amendment 4: Canon IA.5.3.A (p. 19)**

**Current text:**

There shall be a Committee on Constitution and Canons, which shall consist of 12 members plus the Chancellor as an *ex officio* member with voice but no vote. Three members shall be appointed by the Bishop. The remaining nine members shall be elected by the Synod for staggered three year terms.

**Proposed text:**

There shall be a Committee on Constitution and Canons, which shall consist of 12 members plus the Chancellor as an *ex officio* member with voice but no vote. Three members shall be appointed by the Bishop. The remaining nine members shall be elected by the Synod for staggered **three-year** terms. **The Standing Committee shall fill vacancies which may arise between meetings of the Synod, such appointments to run until the next annual Synod.**

**Rationale:**

There is currently no provision for the filling of vacancies on the Committee. The proposed amendment follows the provisions for filling vacancies on the Provincial Assembly/Council delegation (IA.2.10, p. 15) and on the Ecclesiastical Trial Court (IV.4.1, p. 37).

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**Proposed Amendment 5: Canon IB.1.3.K (p. 26)**

**Current text:**

On or before the first day of March, the Rector and Wardens shall submit to the Secretary of the Diocese an Annual Report on a form to be prescribed by the Standing Committee. The data thus reported shall be drawn from Registers of the Congregation, and the list of Members and Eligible Voters required to be maintained by this Canon. The Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may take appropriate action should any Congregation fail to comply with the requirement of this Canon.

**Proposed text:**

On or before the first day of March, the Rector and Wardens shall submit to the Secretary of the Diocese an Annual Report on a form to be prescribed by the Standing Committee. The data thus reported shall be drawn from Registers of the Congregation, and the list of Members ~~and Eligible Voters~~ required to be maintained by this Canon. The Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may take appropriate action should any Congregation fail to comply with the requirement of this Canon. **At the discretion of the Standing Committee, the Annual Report required by the Province (Provincial Canon I.6.8) may serve to meet the requirements of the Diocesan Annual Report.**

**Rationale:**

The Diocese has never yet created a form for such a report, and the Provincial Annual Report required by Canon I.6.8 (p. 7) includes all the information the Diocese needs. The proposed amendment allows the Standing Committee to count the Provincial Annual Reports as Diocesan Annual Reports, but also reserves their power to create such a report in the future, if other/more information is required.