

The Standing Commission on The Structure of the Church

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INTRODUCTION

Title I, Canon 1, Section 2(n)(6) defines the work of the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church (hereinafter referred to as Structure Commission). Specifically the Canons mandate that the Structure Commission study and make recommendations concerning the structure of the General Convention and that of the Church. An additional charge directs the Structure Commission to review the operation of the several committees and commissions to determine the necessity for their continuance and the effectiveness of their functions, and to bring about a coordination of their efforts.

The Structure Commission constructs its agenda from the following sources:

1. Specific referrals by resolutions of the preceding General Convention.
2. The Commission's review of "... the operation of the several committees and commissions. . . ."
3. Resolutions introduced at preceding General Conventions, but not adopted (at times because of lack of time for full consideration).
4. Matters requested for consideration by other commissions, committees, organizations, or individuals.
5. Matters identified by members of the Commission.

The Structure Commission is grateful for the knowledge, counsel, and experience offered to the Commission by the Most Rev. John Maury Allin, D.D., Presiding Bishop; the President of the House of Deputies, Dr. Charles R. Lawrence; and the Executive Officer of the General Convention, the Rev. Canon James R. Gundrum, D.D.

Commission Membership

The composition of this Commission, with date of expiration of term and diocese of each member being placed in parentheses, is as follows:

The Rt. Rev. Sam Byron Hulsey (1988, N.W. Texas)
The Rt. Rev. Rustin Kimsey (1988, Eastern Oregon)
The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Witcher, *Chairman* (1985, Long Island)
The Rev. Edward Rodman (1988, Massachusetts)
The Rev. Carlos Touche-Porter (1985, Central and South Mexico)
The Rev. Robert M. Wainwright, *Vice-Chairman* (1985, Rochester)
Mr. Charles M. Crump (1988, West Tennessee)
* Helen Eisenhart (1985, Washington)
Mr. George T. Guernsey III (1985, Missouri)
Mrs. Harold Nicrosi, *Secretary* (1985, Alabama)
Mr. Tom Van Culin (1988, Hawaii)
Mr. Robert J. Wesley (1985, Maryland)

[* Executive Council Liaison]

The Commission voted to authorize the Chairman, Bishop Witcher, with respect to the House of Bishops, and the Vice-Chairman, Father Wainwright, as to the House of Deputies, to accept or reject, on behalf of the Commission, any amendments proposed in the respective Houses, and as alternatives, Bishop Hulsey and Mr. Crump.

The full Standing Commission met three times during the triennium—in Chicago, Illinois, May 25-27, 1983; Garden City, N.Y., October 26-28, 1983; and Memphis, Tennessee, September 26-28, 1984. A subcommittee, authorized by the full Commission to draft the Blue Book report, met in Garden City, January 21-22, 1985, and wrote this report—which was submitted to the entire Commission membership for their review, revision, and concurrence.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

The Presiding Bishop

JOINT NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

The Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, created by Title I, Canon 2, Sec. 1 at the 1979 General Convention, was first elected at the 1982 Convention. This Commission was directed to monitor the operations of the Joint Nominating Committee and make recommendations for changes in procedure.

The Commission believes a Joint Nominating Committee should be elected at each General Convention in order to be in place in the event a vacancy in the office of Presiding Bishop should occur in the interim between meetings of the General Convention, rather than to have such Committee appointed by the respective presiding officers of the two Houses as provided in the present Canon.

At the 1982 General Convention, caucuses were held by bishops and by deputies from their respective provinces to nominate bishops and deputies, but, as no guidelines were established in the Canons, there was a disparity of procedure in the caucuses.

The Commission believes the provincial caucuses can serve a very useful function if they will select only two nominees in each order for balloting by the respective Houses. To nominate *only one* in each order is to usurp the prerogative of choice of the Houses. If *more than two* in each order are nominated, the full membership of the Houses does not have the benefit of recommendations of the bishops and deputies from the respective provinces as to the more qualified nominees.

The present Canon makes no determination as to the status of a member of the Joint Committee changing provinces or changing orders as presbyter, deacon or lay person. The Commission believes that any such changes should *not* make such member ineligible to continue to serve on the Committee.

The Commission submits the following resolution, which constitutes a redraft of Section 1:

Resolution #A—151

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That Title I, Canon 2, Section 1 be amended by striking the same in its entirety and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

Of the Presiding Bishop

Sec. 1(a). At each General Convention the House of Deputies shall elect one Clerical and one Lay Deputy from each Province as members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop. A Deputy from a particular Province may be nominated only by another Deputy from the same Province, but the election of each member of the Committee shall be by the entire membership of the House of Deputies, with a majority of those voting necessary for election. Prior to the election, the Clerical and Lay Deputies from each Province shall hold a caucus, at which two nominees in each order shall be selected by the caucus, and these shall be the only nominees upon which the House of Deputies shall vote in electing the members of the Joint Nominating Committee.

(b) At each General Convention the House of Bishops shall elect one Bishop from each Province as members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop. A Bishop from a particular Province may be nominated only by another Bishop from the same Province, but the election of each member of the Committee shall be by the entire membership of the House of Bishops, with a majority of those voting necessary for election. Prior to the election, the Bishops from each Province shall hold a caucus, at which two Bishops as nominees shall be selected by the caucus, and these shall be the only nominees upon which the House of Bishops shall vote in electing the members of the Joint Nominating Committee.

(c) In the event vacancies shall occur in the Joint Nominating Committee after the election of its members due to death, disability, resignation, or other within one year of the next General Convention, the vacancies shall not be filled and the remaining members shall constitute the Joint Nominating Committee. In the event such vacancies shall occur more than one year prior to the next General Convention, the Presiding Officer of the House of Bishops shall appoint Bishops and the President of the House of Deputies shall appoint Clerical and Lay Deputies, in all cases from the same Provinces as those Bishops or Deputies whose positions are being filled. An elected or

appointed member who shall not be a Deputy to the next General Convention shall continue as a member of the Joint Nominating Committee until the adjournment of such next General Convention. A member of the Committee who transfers from one Province to another or a Lay Deputy who is ordained Presbyter or Deacon, or a Presbyter or Deacon who is consecrated a Bishop, shall not thereby become ineligible to continue to serve on the Joint Nominating Committee through the next succeeding General Convention.

(d) The Joint Nominating Committee shall remain in office until the adjournment of the next General Convention at which a new Joint Nominating Committee shall be elected. Members of the Committee are eligible for reelection.

(e) At the General Convention at which a Presiding Bishop is to be elected, the Joint Nominating Committee shall present to the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies in Joint Session the names of not fewer than three members of the House of Bishops for the consideration of the two Houses in the choice of a Presiding Bishop. At the Joint Session to which the Joint Nominating Committee shall report, any Bishop or Deputy may nominate any other member of the House of Bishops for the consideration of the two Houses in the choice of a Presiding Bishop, and there may be discussion of all nominees. Commencing on the day following the Joint Session, election shall be by the House of Bishops from among such nominees. If the House of Bishops shall find itself unable to elect a Presiding Bishop from among such nominees, another Joint Session shall be held, at which additional nominations may be received, and on the following day, election shall be by the House of Bishops from among all of the nominees. After the election by the House of Bishops, the House of Deputies shall vote to confirm or not to confirm such choice of Presiding Bishop.

(f) In the event a vacancy in the office of Presiding Bishop shall occur in the interim between meetings of the General Convention, as specified in the second paragraph of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution, the Joint Nominating Committee, within three months after the creation of such vacancy, shall submit to the Secretary of the House of Bishops the names of not fewer than three members of the House of Bishops for the consideration by that House in the choice of a Presiding Bishop to fill the vacancy, and simultaneously therewith shall transmit a copy of such report to the Secretary of the House of Deputies for mailing to all Deputies. Such report shall also be released to the Church and secular press. Thereafter, the House of Bishops shall hold a special meeting for the purpose of electing a Presiding Bishop to fill the vacancy; and, in such election, the vote shall be upon the nominees of the Joint Nominating Committee and any further nominations made by any voting member of the House of Bishops. The Presiding Bishop elected to fill the vacancy shall hold office until the installation of a Presiding Bishop elected at the next succeeding General Convention; and the Bishop elected to fill the vacancy, if otherwise qualified, shall be eligible for reelection.

RETIREMENT AGE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP

The 1967 General Convention set the term of office of the Presiding Bishop at 12 years, beginning three months after the close of the Convention at which he is elected, "unless he shall attain the age of sixty-five years before his term shall have been completed; in that case, he shall resign his office to the General Convention which occurs in or next after the year of his attaining such age."

At that time, there was a general movement in America to require retirement at age sixty-five in business and other secular activities to make positions of leadership available for younger people.

In recent years, we have seen greater recognition of our older citizens. Heads of state serve beyond the proverbial three score years and ten.

Title III, Canon 21, Section 10 provides that "every Minister of this Church occupying any position in this Church shall resign the same and retire from active service" upon attaining the age of seventy-two years.

This Commission recommends that retirement from the Office of Presiding Bishop should occur at the Convention nearest to the date of his attaining seventy-two years of age.

The Commission further recommends that this amendment be considered early in the 1985 General Convention, and that it take effect from and after its passage. If so enacted, this will give a greater freedom of choice in the election of the next Presiding Bishop.

The Commission recommends the adoption of the following resolutions:

Resolution #A—152

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the first sentence of Title I, Canon 2, Section 2 be amended by changing the words "sixty-five" to the words "seventy-two" and by changing the words, "which occurs in or next after the year of his attaining such age" to "which occurs nearest to the date of his attaining such age" so that, as amended, the first sentence shall read as follows:

Sec. 2. The term of office of the Presiding Bishop, when elected according to the provisions of Article I. Section 3 of the Constitution, shall be twelve years, beginning three months after the close of the Convention at which he is elected, unless he shall attain the age of ~~sixty-five~~ *seventy-two* years before his term shall have been completed; in that case, he shall resign his office to the General Convention which occurs in ~~or next after~~ *nearest to the year date* of his attaining such age.

Resolution #A—153

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That Title III, Canon 21, Section 10 be amended by changing the period at the end of the first sentence to a semicolon, and by adding the following:

Provided, that this shall not apply to the retirement of the Presiding Bishop as provided in Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.

**SUCCESSION IN CASE OF RESIGNATION, DEATH OR
DISABILITY OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP**

The Constitution, Article I, Section 3, provides that in the event the Presiding Bishop shall resign his office or in case of his death or disability, if such event occurs more than three months before the date of the next General Convention, a special meeting of the House of Bishops shall be called immediately to elect a member thereof as Presiding Bishop.

In view of the fact that the General Convention has established the procedure for the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, this Commission has recommended a change in the Canon to provide for the election of the Joint Nominating Committee at each General Convention in order to be in place in the event

a vacancy occurs. To make this effective, it will be necessary to amend the Constitution by the following resolution:

Resolution #A—154

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the second paragraph of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution be amended as follows:

But if the Presiding Bishop of the Church shall resign his office as such, or if by reason of infirmity he shall become disabled, or in case of his death, the Bishop who, according to the Rules of the House of Bishops, becomes its Presiding Officer, shall (unless the date of the next General Convention is within three months) **immediately** call a special meeting of the House of Bishops, to elect a member thereof to be the Presiding Bishop. *Such Special Meeting shall be called for a date not less than one month after the resignation, disability or death of the Presiding Bishop. The Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop shall transmit to the Secretary of the House of Bishops the names of not fewer than three members of the House of Bishops for the consideration of the House of Bishops in the choice of the Presiding Bishop, and additional nominations may be made by Bishops in the Special Meeting.* The certificate of election on the part of the House of Bishops shall be sent by the Presiding Officer to the Standing Committees of the several Dioceses, and if a majority of the Standing Committees of all the Dioceses shall concur in the election, the Bishop elected shall become the Presiding Bishop of the Church.

Nominations for the Office of President and Vice-President of the House of Deputies

No provision is made in the Canons or Rules of Order of the House of Deputies for any procedure for developing nominations for the offices of President and Vice-President of the House of Deputies. If Title I, Canon 1, Section 1 is amended to provide for the election of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop at each General Convention, the Deputy members of that Committee could serve as a nominating committee for the offices of President and Vice-President. The following resolution would accomplish this purpose:

Resolution #A—155

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That Title I, Canon 1, Section 1(b) be amended by inserting after the second sentence thereof the following:

The members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, elected by the House of Deputies in accordance with Title I, Canon 2, Section 1(a), acting as a House of Deputies Committee on Nominations shall submit to the House of Deputies at the times fixed for the nomination for the offices of President and Vice-President of the House of Deputies the names of one, or more, nominees for each office; but further nominations may be made by any Deputy.

Size of the House of Deputies

For more than thirty years, the size of the House of Deputies has been a concern to the church. The increase in the number of bodies in union with the General Convention has so increased the number of deputies as to diminish greatly the possibilities of deputy participation in the legislative process.

In 1952, the Joint Committee on Structure and Organization of the General Convention recommended a canonical amendment reducing the representation of each diocese in the House of Deputies to three presbyters and three lay persons. That recommendation has been discussed regularly since that time, and perhaps before, and resolutions addressing the issue have been recommended to the House of Deputies at the 1973, 1976, 1979, and 1982 General Conventions.

A concern that such a reduction in the size of the House of Deputies would adversely affect the proportionate representation of minorities and women has continually surfaced. This Commission has carefully studied the available information relating to this concern and believes it to be unwarranted. A reduced House, based on a projection of the known membership of the 1982 House of Deputies, would actually increase the proportionate representation of minorities and women from 22.2% to 22.6% of the total House membership. The proportions of membership of specific minority groupings and of women would remain essentially the same as those proportions found in the 1982 House of Deputies.

A House of Deputies of reduced size would also address the related concerns of being limited in a choice of sites for holding the General Convention and of the increasing costs associated with attendance of a larger number of deputies. A reduction in the numbers of deputies may contribute to better stewardship of available financial resources at the national, diocesan, and individual levels, and could open up additional sites for consideration for future meetings.

This Commission recommends to the 1985 General Convention adoption of the following resolution:

Resolution #A—156

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That there be enacted a new Canon I.1.3(a) to read as follows:

Sec. 3(a). The Church in each Diocese which has been admitted to union with the General Convention shall be entitled to representation in the House of Deputies by three Presbyters and/or Deacons, canonically resident in the Diocese, and by three Lay Persons, communicants of this Church, in good standing in the Diocese but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese.

And be it further

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the present Canons I.1.3(a) and I.1.3(b) be renumbered as Canons I.1.4(a) and I.1.4(b), and that Canon I.1.4 be renumbered as Canon I.1.3(c), that present Canon I.1.3(c) be renumbered as Canon I.1.3(b).

Inclusion of the Convocation of American Churches in Europe in the Second Province

Since some committees and commissions of the Church are composed of provincial representatives, the following resolution is recommended to give the Convocation of American Churches in Europe the opportunity of participating in such representation:

Resolution #A—157

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That Title I, Canon 8, Section 2 be amended so that the third paragraph will read as follows:

The Second Province shall consist of the Dioceses within the States of New York and New Jersey, *and the Missionary Dioceses of Haiti and the Virgin Island, and the Convocation of American Churches in Europe.*

SUMMARY OF OTHER MATTERS STUDIED

The Commission considered a number of items which are yet unresolved or remain on the agenda for continued study.

Status of clergy in specialized ministries

The Commission considered sympathetically the status of clergy who are in what can best be described as "specialized ministries" and are now classified as simply non-parochial. In the minds of many, non-parochial means inactive, which is far from the case. These ministries would include school, military, hospital, and prison chaplains; theological professors; teachers in universities; diocesan administrators; among others. The Commission referred this matter to the Council for the Development of Ministry and the House of Bishops Committee on Ministry for new ways of defining these valid and effective ministries performed by the clergy of the Church.

Pooled travel funds

The Commission continued to study the perennial topic of pooled travel funds. Everyone thinks an equalization of travel expenses of the Deputy to General Convention is a good idea, but no one knows exactly how to implement what of necessity must be a voluntary participation. It was noted that such a proposal was implemented in the House of Bishops, but went out of existence for lack of participation by those who may have required greater expenses.

Autonomy for Ninth Province

Responding to a request from Province IX, the Commission studied the possibility of granting autonomous status to Province IX, thereby making it an independent province of the Anglican Communion. Province IX has given serious study to this and has reported to the Standing Commission on Structure that they are not ready at this time to seek autonomous status. However, the Commission will continue to study autonomy and be prepared to work with Province IX when it moves for this new status.

Spanish Episcopal Church

A request was received from the Spanish Episcopal Church for a closer relationship with the Episcopal Church through membership in either Province II or Province IX. After negotiations with the Rt. Rev. Arturo Sanchez, Bishop of the Spanish Episcopal Church, and with authorities in our Overseas Department and the Anglican Consultative Council, the Commission recommended that the Spanish Episcopal Church develop a closer relationship with the Convocation of American Churches in Europe. It was further recommended that the Spanish Episcopal Church continue to negotiate with the Church of England Bishop for Europe, in their growing relationship with the Anglican Communion. Through Bishop Sanchez, the Spanish Episcopal Church is developing an informal relationship with the Spanish-speaking provinces of the Anglican Communion rather than a constitutional union.

THE BLUE BOOK

Realignment of provinces

The dioceses in Wisconsin and Northern Michigan have formed the Wisconsin Episcopal Caucus and have requested that the Standing Commission on Structure study the restructuring of the entire provincial system of the Episcopal Church. The Commission recognized the value of the grouping of various dioceses into a cooperative unit such as that represented by Coalition 14, but did not endorse the particular proposal for a total realignment of provincial units. It noted that the policy of the Episcopal Church centers basically in dioceses and not in provinces, as is the case in some other Anglican Churches. While the Commission does not recommend the proposal as written, it will continue to study the provincial system with the view of strengthening it in order to make the mission of the Church more effective.

Office of the President of the House of Deputies

The Office of the President of the House of Deputies received extensive study, including conversations with the President of the House of Deputies, Dr. Charles R. Lawrence, which centered on three points:

1. The nature of the office of President of the House of Deputies as a full-time versus a part-time office.
2. The establishment of a permanent office with secretary, etc. for the President of the House of Deputies.
3. The method of nomination and election to the offices of the President and Vice-President.

The Commission concluded that the office of President of the House of Deputies must remain a part-time office unless a particular incumbent is willing and able to give full time to it as a volunteer. The Office should have office space and a secretary at a location convenient to the President. Further, the nominees could be selected by the Deputies who are members of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop, provided that such a Joint Nominating Committee be elected at each General Convention.

Composition of committees and commissions

The Commission, as requested, studied the composition of the various committees, commissions, boards and agencies of the General Convention. It was found that the diversity of membership of these groups was a reasonable representation of the Church as a whole.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	1983	1984	1985
Income			
Appropriated by the Convention	\$10,420.00	\$9,170.00	\$8,410.00
Expenses	9,282.89	4,642.20	5,000.00 (est.)

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS FOR NEXT TRIENNIUM

In addition to specific matters which may be referred to the Structure Commission by the General Convention or specified in the Canons, the Structure Commission has established the following goals and objectives for the next triennium:

1. Evaluation of the process of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop.
2. Evaluation of shorter form of General Convention (Los Angeles, 1985).
3. Continuation of monitoring the process of autonomy for Province IX.
4. Review of committees and commissions as canonically prescribed.
5. Consideration of material referred by General Convention, the Presiding Bishop, the President of the House of Deputies, provinces, deputies, and others.

The Commission, therefore, estimates its costs for the next triennium as detailed below, and submits the resolution following:

	1986	1987	1988
Commission meetings @ \$7,920	\$7,920	\$7,920	\$7,920
Committee meetings @ \$1,000	2,000	1,000	
Administrative expenses	750	500	750
Total	\$10,670	\$9,425	\$8,670

Resolution #A—158

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That there be appropriated from the Assessment Budget of the General Convention for the expenses of the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church the sum of \$28,760 for the triennium of 1986-1988.