

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D053
Title: Amend Title IV to Require Timely Appointments to Church-wide Disciplinary Boards
Proposer: Van Brunt, Mr. Paul
Topic: Discipline

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2022-A118 Amend Canon IV.5.4 [On Disciplinary Structures]
2022-A075 Amend Canon IV.5.4 [Court of Review]

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#).

D053 - Amend Title IV to require timely appointments to church-wide disciplinary boards

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Van Brunt, Mr. Paul

Endorsed by: Brown, Deputy Nathan, Lawton, Ms. Sarah

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: Yes

Requests New Interim Body: No

Directs an Interim Body: No

Directs Dfms Staff: No

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents:

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That Canon IV.5.4.j is hereby amended to read as follows:

<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (***) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

Vacancies on the Court of Review must be filled by the President of the House of Deputies for lay and Clergy members and by the Presiding Bishop for Bishop members within sixty days of the President of the Court of Review's declaration of a vacancy on the Court.

<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>

Vacancies on the Court of Review must be filled by the President of the House of Deputies for lay and Clergy members and by the Presiding Bishop for Bishop members *within sixty days of the President of the Court of Review's declaration of a vacancy on the Court.*

And be it further

Resolved, That Canon IV.17.3.e is hereby amended to read as follows:

<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (***) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

A vacancy among the member Bishops must be filled by the Presiding Bishop with the advice of the Bishop members of the Executive Council. A vacancy among the other members must be filled by the President of the House of Deputies with the advice of the lay, Priest, and Deacon members of the Executive Council. All vacancies must be filled within sixty days of the vacancy arising.

<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>

A vacancy among the member Bishops must be filled by the Presiding Bishop with the advice ~~and consent~~ of the Bishop members of the Executive Council. A vacancy among the other members must be filled by the President of the House of Deputies with the advice ~~and consent~~ of the lay, Priest, and Deacon members of the Executive Council. *All vacancies must be filled within sixty days of the vacancy arising.*

And be it further

Resolved, That Canon IV. 17.8.b is hereby amended to read as follows:

<Amended text as it would appear if adopted and concurred. Scroll below the line of asterisks (***) to see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

The Presiding Bishop must fill any vacancies on the Court of Review for Bishops within sixty days of the vacancy arising.

<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>

The Presiding Bishop must fill any vacancies on the Court of Review for Bishops *within sixty days of the vacancy arising.*

Explanation

In their Blue Book Reports for this General Convention both the Disciplinary Board for Bishops and the Court of Review mentioned that they lost members over the course of the biennium due to a death and the election of a priest to the episcopacy, but after making

multiple requests for a replacement to be appointed, no appointments were made by the President of the House of Deputies whose duty it is.

In a regular Title IV case for a Bishop, ten of the eighteen members of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops serve on either the Conference Panel or Hearing Panel. With multiple cases happening at one time (currently six at the time of writing this explanation), the Disciplinary Board needs all positions to be filled so that the important work of Title IV can be done. It is a similar case for the Court of Review.

The amendments to Title IV proposed in this resolution would require the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies to make the appointments within a two-month window for finding a nominee, gaining their consent to serve, and, in the case of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops, receive the consent of the appropriate members of the Executive Council. With multiple issues regarding Title IV processes over the last year in our church, this resolution will help commit us to ensure that all cases are worked on efficiently and accurately.

This legislation was authored by Ms. Laura Ammons of the Diocese of Florida and Mr. Richard Pryor, III of the Diocese of Ohio.