

**Resolution 2: Rules of Order for the Special Convention to Elect the Twelfth Bishop  
Diocesan of the Diocese of Tennessee PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Moved by:** The Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Tennessee

**RESOLVED**, That, as we come together seeking consensus about who will be the Twelfth Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee, the 194<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee adopts the following Rules for the Special Electing Convention:

- 1. Location, Time, and Business of the Electing Convention.** A Special Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee has been called by Bishop Bauerschmidt and will convene at Christ Church Cathedral (Nashville) on August 22, 2026 at 9:00 AM to elect the Twelfth Bishop of Tennessee. No other business shall be in order.
- 2. President of the Electing Convention.** In accordance with Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Diocese of Tennessee, the President of the Convention shall be the Bishop Diocesan. In the event the Bishop is unable to preside, in accordance with Article VII, Section 4, “the Convention shall be called to order by the President of the Standing Committee, who shall appoint from the order of the Clergy an acting President, and the Convention shall be organized as provided by the Canon.”
- 3. Officers of the Electing Convention.** The officers of the Electing Convention will be the officers of the Convention elected by the 194<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee unless unable to fulfill their role, in which case a new nominee may be elected as the convention organizes itself for business.
- 4. Parliamentarian.** The Chancellor of the Diocese of Tennessee serves as parliamentarian. Except as otherwise provided in these rules, Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 12<sup>th</sup> Edition, governs parliamentary procedure. The Convention may suspend any of these rules by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present and eligible to vote.
- 5. Election Committee.** The President shall appoint a Chair of Elections and sufficient members to be assistants to act as the Election Committee. The Standing Committee shall name two non-voting observers.
- 6. In Person Only.** Only members of the Electing Convention attending in person will be eligible to vote in the Electing Convention. There will be no provision for proxy or remote voting, except as provided in Rule 19, below.
- 7. The Convention will be livestreamed** for viewing, but not for remote participation.
- 8. Composition of Convention.** In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution of the Diocese of Tennessee, “All Presbyters and Deacons of the Protestant Episcopal Church canonically resident in this Diocese, and all Lay Delegates, shall be entitled to seats and votes in this Convention.”
  - a. Delegates elected to serve for all the conventions in a year:** In accordance with Canon 1, Section 7.d of the Canons of the Diocese of Tennessee, “The Lay Delegates duly elected or appointed to serve at any Annual Convention shall be the Delegates to any other meeting of the Convention prior to the succeeding Annual Convention. Vacancies occasioned by death, removal, resignation, or incapacity to serve, shall be filled in the same manner as the original election or appointment.”

- b. *The number of lay delegates to which a congregation is entitled* shall be as set forth by Canon 1, Section 7.a of the Canons of the Diocese of Tennessee.
- c. *The election of lay delegates to convention:* In accordance with Canon 1, Section 7.b of the Canons of the Diocese of Tennessee, “It shall be the duty of the Vestry or Mission Council of each Congregation to elect its Lay Delegates and an equal number of Alternates, each of whom shall be a Confirmed Communicant in Good Standing of the Congregation and at least sixteen (16) years of age. In the case of a Mission, if there be no Mission Council, Lay Delegates and Alternates shall be appointed by the Vicar in Charge or by the Bishop. If any or all of the Lay Delegates shall fail to attend the Convention, Alternates shall be entitled to serve in their stead, in the order of their election.”
- d. *Evidence of such election* shall be as set forth in Canon 1, Section 7.c of the Canons of the Diocese of Tennessee.

## **9. Delegate Changes.**

- a. Up to and during the Special Convention, clergy in charge of congregations may replace any absent lay delegate with a duly certified alternate in the order of their election.
- b. If there is no clergy person in charge of a congregation, a warden or clerk of the vestry or mission council may petition the Bishop, up to and during the Special Convention, to replace a lay delegate who is unable to serve due to death, removal, resignation, or incapacity with a duly elected alternate.
- c. The Committee on Credentials must certify the replacement before any alternate is eligible to vote as a delegate.
- d. Any congregation, Vestry, or Mission Council electing new lay delegates or alternates between the Annual and Special Conventions must report the names of their new lay delegates and alternates to the Secretary of the Convention by submitting a new signed certification of election not less than six weeks prior to the Special Convention of August 22, 2026.

**10. Quorum.** In accordance with Article V of the Constitution of the Diocese of Tennessee, one third of all Clergy canonically resident in this Diocese and one third of all the Lay Delegates entitled to seats and votes shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Secretary, working with the Committee on Credentials, determines and announces that a constitutional quorum in both Orders is present prior to the opening of the Convention, and prior to the opening for business on any day subsequent to the opening of the Convention.

**11. Nominations.** The Convention shall only consider nominees of the Standing Committee in accordance with the Bishop Nominating Process approved by the 194<sup>th</sup> Convention of this Diocese. There shall be no further nominees for Bishop Diocesan and no nominations from the floor of the Electing Convention.

**12. The nominees and their family members (spouse, siblings, parents, or children) shall not be present at the Electing Convention.** Prior to the commencement of the election process, there shall be identified to the President of Convention a person who shall be the authorized representative of each nominee. Such person shall have authority to continue or withdraw the

name of the candidate from further consideration of the Convention at any time. Failure to identify such an authorized representative to the President of Convention, or the substantial absence of such representative thereafter, shall, at the discretion of the President, constitute a withdrawal of the nominee from the process. No nominee or a family member of a nominee may be present at the Electing Convention or serve as an authorized representative.

- 13. Speeches, floor debates, demonstrations, and campaign gear shall not be allowed**, except as permitted at the discretion of the President of the Convention. If a member of the electing convention wishes to speak on any question or deliver any matter to the Convention, the member shall rise to the microphone provided and wait to be recognized by the President or his designee.
- 14. Access to Convention Floor.** The floor of the Convention is restricted to those entitled to vote, officers of the Diocese, convention staff and volunteers, a nominee's authorized representative, and others necessary to the orderly operation of the Convention, as the President of the Convention sees fit in their discretion. A space for observing the Convention through remote means will be provided.
- 15. Spokespersons.** In order to honor the proceedings of the Electing Convention, the President of Convention and the President of the Standing Committee shall be the only official spokespersons for Diocesan communications with the press concerning this Episcopal election. While the Electing Convention is in session, the Convention proceedings are considered confidential with respect to social media posting, live-blogging, and other contacts with the press.
- 16. The Day's Schedule.** Following the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, there shall be a First Ballot for the election of Bishop Diocesan, and successive ballots thereafter as necessary, until the Bishop Diocesan is elected. The time permitted between ballots, as well as the order of silence, prayer, music, or other activity between ballots, shall be determined by the President of the Electing Convention.
- 17. Extension of Electing Convention.** If no nominee achieves the required votes in both Orders on the same ballot by 6:00 PM; or the Convention, by a two-thirds vote, sets a different time for adjournment; or if the President concludes that the stalemate shall likely not be resolved without significant time for further discernment, reflection, and prayer, the President may place Convention in recess and thereafter announce a date, time and location to reconvene. August 29, September 12, and September 19 are reserved as additional dates to convene.
- 18. Failure to Elect.** If the Special Electing Convention does not elect a Bishop Diocesan by the end of a fourth day of voting, the Convention shall adjourn *sine die*, and there shall be no election.
- 19. Voting Process.** Voting will take place using an electronic voting platform and will conform to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Tennessee. The President of the Electing Convention will provide a process by which a nominee entitled to vote, or a nominee's family member entitled to vote, may cast a vote while not present at the Electing Convention. This is the only exception to Rule 6, above. The Secretary of the Convention shall instruct the Chair of Elections to prepare paper ballots as a backup in the event the electronic ballot system fails at any time during the Convention.
- 20. Election Requirements.** In each ballot, the eligible Clergy and Lay Delegates shall vote separately by Orders. In accordance with Article XI of the Constitution of the Diocese of Tennessee, the vote required for an election is a two-thirds vote by each Order on the same

ballot. For the purpose of this Special Electing Convention, for each ballot cast, the number of members present in each Order will be deemed equal to the number of ballots submitted.

- 21. Nominee Withdrawal.** A Nominee may withdraw from consideration at any time during the Convention by means of oral communication, email, or other electronic means with their designated representative to Convention, with a signed letter of withdrawal to follow, prior to the next ballot. If the President of Convention is satisfied as to the legitimacy of the withdrawal, the President may postpone or dispense with the requirement of the withdrawal letter. No nominee shall be removed from a successive ballot for failure to achieve a certain number of votes on a previous ballot.
- 22. Procedure for Certification of Votes.** When the Secretary, Chair of Elections, Election Committee, and two, appointed non-voting observers have reviewed the balloting and determined its validity, the Secretary shall report to the President the total number of votes cast in each Order, the number necessary to constitute an election in that Order, and the number of votes cast for each Nominee. The Secretary shall verify the presence or absence of the required votes in each Order and shall pass all the information to the President to announce to the Convention. The results will be shared with each Nominee's representative.
- 23. Notice of Election.** The President declares an election when a Nominee has received two-thirds of the votes cast in both the clerical and lay Orders on the same ballot.
- 24. Notifying the Bishop-Elect and other Nominees.** When there is an election, the President of the Standing Committee shall immediately notify the Bishop-Elect and the other nominees the results of the election.
- 25. Signing the Attestation of a Due and Lawful Election.** Immediately following the election, while the Electing Convention remains in session, the President of the Convention shall arrange to have the signatures of a constitutional majority of the Convention affixed to the testimonial required by Canon III.11.3(a) of the Episcopal Church, attesting to the due and lawful election of the Bishop Diocesan. The testimonial shall be in substantially the form appended hereto.

#### **TESTIMONIAL OF THE ELECTION OF THE BISHOP OF TENNESSEE**

We, whose names are hereunder written, fully sensible of how important it is that the Sacred Order and Office of a Bishop should not be unworthily conferred, and firmly persuaded that it is our duty to bear testimony on this solemn occasion without partiality, do, in the presence of Almighty God, testify that we know of no impediment on account of which the Reverend \_\_\_\_\_ ought not to be ordained to that Holy Office. We do, moreover, jointly and severally declare that we believe the Reverend \_\_\_\_\_ to have been duly and lawfully elected and to be of such sufficiency in learning, of such soundness in the Faith, and of such Godly character as to be able to exercise the Office of a Bishop to the honor of God and the edifying of the Church, and to be a wholesome example to the flock of Christ.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_