



Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina Report from the Committee on Constitution and Canons

The affairs of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina (the “Diocese”) are governed pursuant to the *Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina* (the “Constitution”) and the *Canons for the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina* (the “Canons”).

The 2017 (95th) annual Convention of the Diocese directed the Committee on Constitution and Canons (the “Committee”) to make proposals for amending or replacing the existing Constitution and Canons.

At the 2018 (96th) annual Convention of the Diocese, the Committee offered its proposals for amending and restating the Constitution (the “Restated Constitution One”) and for amending and restating the Canons (the “Restated Canons One”). The Committee was asked to further study these restated documents, to make adjustments it deemed appropriate after considering comments from any interested persons associated with the Diocese, and to report its recommendations to the 2019 (97th) annual Convention of the Diocese.

At the 2019 (97th) annual Convention of the Diocese, the Committee reported that it would be in the best interests of the Diocese for there to be additional time to consider restatements of the Constitution and Canons. It noted that additional time would allow persons in the Diocese more time to become familiar with the proposals and to share comments with the Committee for consideration. Along with its report, the Committee recommended the rejection of Restated Constitution One and Restated Canons One and offered as a motion a newly-restated Constitution (the “Restated Constitution Two”) and newly-restated Canons (the “Restated Canons Two”), and such documents were referred back to the Committee for consideration and for the Committee to report its recommendation to the 2020 (98th) annual Convention of the Diocese.

Following the 2019 (97th) annual convention of the Diocese, the Committee scheduled a series of meetings throughout the Diocese to solicit input and comments of interested parties as to Restated Constitution Two and Restated Canons Two. While several meetings were held, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Committee to cancel its remaining meetings. As a result, the Committee reported to the 2020 (98th) annual Convention of the Diocese that it would be in the best interests of the Diocese for there to be additional time to consider restatements of the Constitution and Canons. Along with its report, the Committee recommended the rejection of Restated Constitution Two and Restated Canons Two and offered as a motion a newly-restated Constitution (the “Restated Constitution Three”) and newly-restated Canons (the “Restated Canons Three”), and such documents were referred back

to the Committee for consideration and for the Committee to report its recommendation to the 2021 (99th) annual Convention of the Diocese.

Since the occurrence of the 2020 (98th) Convention, the Committee has solicited and obtained substantial additional input from stakeholders as to Restated Constitution Three and Restated Canons Three. After further studying the documents and taking into consideration comments received, the Committee made various modifications to these documents. In accordance with the terms of the existing Constitution and the existing Canons, the Committee now makes the following recommendations:

1. The Committee recommends adoption of Restated Canons Three as modified by the Committee (which modified document has been identified as “Final Version of the Restated Canons for Consideration by Convention” and has been published by the Diocese in advance of this Convention), but subject to adoption of Restated Constitution Three as modified by the Committee (discussed next). Therefore, the question for Convention is whether to adopt Restated Canons Three as modified by the Committee with the condition that adoption is contingent upon Restated Constitution Three as modified by the Committee also being adopted.
2. The Committee recommends adoption of Restated Constitution Three as modified by the Committee (which modified document has been identified as “Final Version of the Restated Constitution for Consideration by Convention” and has been published by the Diocese in advance of this Convention). Therefore, the question for Convention is whether to adopt Restated Constitution Three as modified by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted by the Committee this the 6th day of October 2021.