

The Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church

MEMBERSHIP

The Rev. Paul R. Abernathy* (Washington) 1999

Mrs. Kit T. Caffey (Central Gulf Coast) 2003

Dr. Mary Lou Crowley (Central New York) 2000

Mr. Richard H. Hagemeyer (Hawaii) 2000

The Rt. Rev. Dorsey F. Henderson, Jr. (Upper South Carolina) 2003

Mrs. Patricia B. Kilpatrick (Ohio) 2003, *vice chair*

Mrs. Mary S. Kimball (California) 2003

The Rev. Canon John Kitagawa (Maryland) 2000, *chair*

The Rev. Canon A. Robert Rizner (Central Florida) 2000

Robert C. Royce, Esq. (Virgin Islands) 2000, *secretary*

The Rt. Rev. Frank H. Vest (Southern Virginia) 2003

The Rt. Rev. R. Stewart Wood (Michigan) 2003

The Rt. Rev. Robert H. Johnson, *Executive Council liaison*

**The Rev. Paul R. Abernathy was unable to serve on the Commission and was not replaced*

Commission Representatives at General Convention

The Rt. Rev. R. Stewart Wood and Mrs. Mary S. Kimball for the House of Deputies to accept or reject, on behalf of the Commission, any non-substantial amendments proposed in such House to any Resolution contained in this Report.

MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission met three times during the triennium: at Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 20-23, 1998, and April 19-21, 1999, and November 15-7, 1999 at Duncan Center, Delray Beach, Florida.

During the work of the Commission, the Commission was guided by the following General Principles adopted by the Commission in 1995:

- This church is a national church participating fully in the Anglican Communion.
- This church is one diverse community of Christ's reconciling ministry in the world.
- This church will commit to the dioceses and provinces only that mission and ministry which cannot be accomplished effectively by parishes and congregations.
- This church will commit to national structures only that mission and ministry which cannot be accomplished effectively by dioceses and provinces.
- The form of this church will follow function, and the structure of this church will follow ministry and mission.
- This church must be structured at all levels so that structures do not inhibit deliberate change.

STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH

[**Note:** As to any proposed amendments that follow, matter to be deleted is indicated by ~~strikethrough~~ and matter to be added is indicated by single underline.]

THE GENERAL CONVENTION.

Resolution A115 Amend Canon I.1.2(g) on Convening First Meeting of Standing Commissions

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.1.2(g) is
- 2 hereby amended to read as follows [at page 14]:
- 3 Sec. 2(g) Every Commission shall be convened by a member of the Com-
- 4 mission appointed by the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Depu-
- 5 ties and when convened shall be organized by electing a chair, vice-chair and
- 6 secretary. In the event that the Commission is not convened as above provided
- 7 ~~within six months from the date of~~ by the first day of April following the adjourn-
- 8 ment of each Convention, one-third of the members may take such action as shall
- 9 be necessary to convene the Commission....

Explanation

In order to accommodate the possibility of holding Convocations of Interim Bodies in the year following a General Convention, a time certain of April 1 is proposed as the outside date for the organization of Standing Commissions.

Resolution A116 Reduction in the Size of the House of Deputies

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the Standing Com-
- 2 mission on the Structure of the Church is directed to propose to the 74th General
- 3 Convention a canonical plan to reduce the size of the House of Deputies to two
- 4 clerical and two lay Deputies from each Diocese.

Explanation

During the Comment Period to the Draft of the 1997 Report of the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to the General Convention, numerous respondents called for the reduction in size of the House of Deputies. For the thirty years preceding the 1991 General Convention, this Commission proposed either a form of proportional representation or canonical amendments to reduce the size of the Deputations from four to either three or two as permitted by the Constitution. These proposals have been defeated by overwhelming votes. No such proposals were offered in 1991, 1994, or 1997, and none have been called for by the General Convention. The action on this resolution will evidence the clear will of the General Convention that this issue either be or not be revisited for action by the General Convention in 2003.

EVALUATION OF 1997 LEGISLATION ON STRUCTURAL ISSUES

During the past triennium, the Commission canvassed the several Interim Bodies and others affected by the legislation enacted by the 1997 General Convention. Based upon evaluation during the coming triennium, the Commission may make further recommendations in consultation with these bodies to attempt to coordinate and enhance their work and efforts.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP.

Resolution A117 Amend Canon I.2.2 as to Commencement Date of Term of Office of Presiding Bishop

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.2.2 be
 2 amended to read as follows [at page 26]:
 3 Sec. 2. The term of office of the Presiding Bishop, when elected according
 4 to the provisions of Article I, Section 3 of the Constitution, shall be nine years,
 5 beginning the first day of the ~~calendar year~~ third full month following the election
 6 after the close of the Convention at which the Presiding Bishop is elected ...

Explanation

The Meetings of the General Convention have occurred between July and September depending upon the beneficial arrangements that may be made with the host city. Presiding Bishop Browning was elected in Anaheim, California, in September of 1985, which meant that just over three months elapsed for him to settle his affairs, depart from his diocese, and assume office. The election of Presiding Bishop Griswold in July of 1997 meant that a period of almost six months elapsed before his assuming office. Both Presiding Bishops have advised the Commission that this interval is much too long for both the national church and the affected diocese and needs to be reduced.

Resolution A118 Amend Canon I.2.3(a) as to Date of Resignation from Previous Jurisdiction by Presiding Bishop-elect.

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.2.3(a) be
 2 amended to read as follows [at page 27]:
 3 Sec.3(a) Upon the expiration of the term of office of the Presiding
 4 Bishop, the Bishop who is elected successor shall tender to the House of Bishops
 5 a resignation from the Bishop’s previous jurisdiction to take effect upon the date
 6 of assuming the office of Presiding Bishop, or, upon good cause with the advice
 7 and consent of the Advisory Committee established under the Rules of Order of
 8 the House of Bishops, not later than six months thereafter.

Explanation

Section 3 was first adopted in 1943 and continues in the same form today. Given the current demands upon the time and energy of a Presiding Bishop coupled with the continuing requirements for a Bishop’s oversight of, and a continuing Ecclesiastical Authority functioning in, the Diocese wherein the Presiding Bishop-elect held jurisdiction, it would seem appropriate for the Presiding Bishop-elect to resign the previous jurisdiction contemporaneously with assuming the office of Presiding Bishop. However, inasmuch as there may be good reasons to defer the resignation, such as ordination requirements, other ecclesiastical matters, or personal matters such as health insurance, etc., the House of Bishops’ Advisory Committee (HB Rule of Order XXVI) could advise and consent to a delay in the effective date of up to six months.

STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH

Resolution A119 Amend Canon I.2.4(a)(6) as to Visitations by the Presiding Bishop

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.2.4(a)(6)
2 is hereby amended to read as follows [at page 27]:
3 ~~Visit every Diocese At the Presiding Bishop's discretion, visit the Dioceses~~
4 of this Church for the purpose of: (i) Holding pastoral consultations with the
5 ~~Bishop or Bishops~~ thereof and, with their advice, with the Lay and Clerical lead-
6 ~~ers of the jurisdiction thereof~~; (ii) Preaching the Word; and (iii) Celebrating the
7 Holy Eucharist.

Explanation

With the reduction of the term of office of a Presiding Bishop to nine years, it is unlikely that any Presiding Bishop could visit all the dioceses of this church in fulfillment of the present canonical mandate. This amendment will provide flexibility and efficiency as to how and when such visitation shall be made as may be best for the mission and ministry of this church as determined by the Presiding Bishop.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES

At the Convocation of Interim Bodies held at Minneapolis in March of 1998, the Commission met with President Chinnis to consider the effects of the 1997 canonical legislation on the Office of the President of House of Deputies and to seek her gracious insight into her experience as President and any recommendations for future structural changes to the office that she might propose. In addition, her personal assistant provided the Commission with a detailed analysis and evaluation of the canonical and ceremonial responsibilities of the Office of President. The following represent the Commission's proposals in response to this information. However, it must be noted that these proposals have not been initiated or endorsed by the President.

Resolution A120 Amend Canon I.1.1(b) on Term of Office for President and Vice President of House of Deputies

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.1.1(b) is hereby
2 amended to read as follows [at page 11]:
3 Sec. 1(b) ... The House of Deputies shall elect from its membership, by a
4 majority of separate ballots, a President and Vice President, who shall be of dif-
5 ferent orders. Such officers shall take office at the adjournment of the regular
6 meeting at which they are elected, and shall continue in office until the adjourn-
7 ment of the following regular meeting of the General Convention. They shall
8 be and remain ex officio members of the House during their term of office. No
9 person elected President or Vice President shall be eligible for more than ~~three~~
10 two consecutive full terms in each respective office. ...; and be it further
11 *Resolved*, That, pursuant to Canon V.1.6, this amendment shall take effect
12 as from the opening of the 73rd General Convention.

Explanation

Prior to 1964, the President of the House of Deputies was elected at the opening organization session of the House. There was no office of Vice President. There were no limita-

tions on the numbers of terms that could be served inasmuch as the political will of the House could be invoked during the election process at each General Convention. In 1967, the limitation of three terms in each respective office was added.

For the last quarter century, no sitting President has been opposed for re-election. Two of the past four Presidents have served three full terms in office with distinction and integrity.

Sitting Vice Presidents have generally not been opposed for election to the Office of President. Presumably, this has been in recognition of the experience gained through serving *ex officio* on the Council of Advice to the President of the House of Deputies, Executive Council, and Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements, assisting with the organization and management of the House of Deputies and its Legislative Committees, and observing the Interim Body appointments. It is likely, therefore, that a Vice President/President could serve for eighteen years.

As has been noted formally and informally (e.g. *Zacchaeus Project*), developing lay leadership on all levels within the church is becoming a very serious issue, creating concerns for the continuing health, vitality, and mission and ministry of the church. By shortening the tenures of office, the raising up of new lay leadership may be encouraged and enhanced.

Further, shorter terms of office and the contraction of the period for succession may enable more persons contemplating service in these offices to commit to such service.

It is proposed that a limit of two consecutive terms would both allow the House of Deputies to enjoy and make use of the talents and ministry of its President and Vice Presidents, but also provide for a more frequent change in leadership.

Establishing the effective date as from the opening of the General Convention is intended to make clear that the terms of office of the President and the Vice President to be elected in 2000 will be so limited by this amendment.

Resolution A121 Amend Canon I.1.1 to Provide for a Stipend for the President of House of Deputies

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that
2 Canon I.1.1 is hereby amended by the addition of the following new clause to
3 read as follows [at page 12]:
4 (c) _____ The President of the House of Deputies shall receive a stipend
5 in an amount not to exceed forty (40%) percent of the stipend budgeted for
6 the Executive Director of the Executive Council during the President's term of
7 office, such stipend to be pro rated during the first and last years of such term.
8 Both the stipend and the necessary expenses of the President's office shall be
9 fixed by the General Convention and shall be provided for in the budget submit-
10 ted by the Treasurer, as provided for in this Canon; and be it further
11 *Resolved*, That, pursuant to Canon V.1.6, this amendment shall take effect
12 as from the opening of the 73rd General Convention.

Explanation

During the past six years some discussion has taken place as to providing a stipend to the President of the House of Deputies. In 1997, the General Convention considered this

STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH

issue rather obliquely as a budget line item and it was not approved. Independently and at the suggestion of the Administration and Finance Committee of the Executive Council, the Commission raises the issue in this form so that a full and frank debate on the merits may be had outside a pure budget process.

The Commission recognizes that the Office of President has never been, nor is it now intended to be a full-time position. There are over thirty references to this Office in the Canons, forty-five in the Rules of Order and six in the By-Laws of Executive Council. Most pertain to the conduct of the General Convention and the appointive process. In addition to the predictable work within the triennial cycle, the President may be involved with unpredictable events in the life of the church. Much is asked of the President on a voluntary basis. The Commission believes that it would be inappropriate to fund or possibly encourage persons to seek a full-time and fully stipendiary position.

On the other hand, personal circumstances or the concomitant holding of a position that underwrites or supports an individual's service in the Office of President should also not be either a determining or limiting factor. By providing a limited level of compensation, some who might otherwise not be able to consider offering themselves for service now may be able to do so. The provision for the stipend "not to exceed" is intended to cover a situation in which a retired Member of the Clergy might be in conflict with of Church Pension Fund rules on work after retirement by retired clergy. The effective date is established to make clear that the stipend for the President, if adopted, will apply to the President to be elected in 2000.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Resolution A122 Amend Canon I.4.3(a) as to the Presiding Bishop-elect's Assuming the Chair and Presidency of the Executive Council.

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.4.3(a) be
- 2 amended to read as follows [at page 31]:
- 3 Sec. 3(a) The Presiding Bishop shall be ex officio the Chair and Pres-
- 4 ident. However, at the first meeting of the Executive Council following the
- 5 adjournment of any General Convention at which a Presiding Bishop is elected,
- 6 the Presiding Bishop-elect shall be ex officio the Chair and President

Explanation

There is the possibility that meetings of the Executive Council following a General Convention at which newly elected members come to office and appointments are made might be held prior to the start of the term of the newly elected Presiding Bishop. This amendment would provide for the Presiding Bishop-elect to preside over these meetings and make the necessary appointments, etc. rather than the outgoing Presiding Bishop.

Resolution A123 Amend Canon I.4.4(a) as to Meetings of the Executive Council.

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.4.4(a) is
2 hereby amended to read as follows [at page 31]:
3 Sec. 4(a) The Council shall meet at such place, and at such stated times;
4 ~~at least three times each year~~, as it shall appoint and at such other times as it may
5 be convened. The Council shall be convened at the request of the President, or
6 upon written request of any nine members thereof.

Explanation

This amendment will provide flexibility and efficiency as to the meetings of the Executive Council without regard to constraints of calendar years.

PROVINCES.

Resolution A124 To Discontinue the Existing System of Provinces, to Direct the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church to Prepare and Present All Canonical and Rules of Order Amendments Necessary To Do So, and to Provide Support for the Ongoing Mission and Ministry of Existing Networks within Provinces, etc.

1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That it is the will of the
2 General Convention that the existing system of Provinces as presently provided
3 for in the Canons of this church be and they hereby are discontinued as of the
4 adjournment of the 74th General Convention; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church
6 prepare and present to the 74th General Convention all necessary canonical and
7 Rule of Order revisions required to discontinue the existing system of Provinces,
8 including but not limited to revisions in: Canon I.2, as to the election of members
9 of the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop;
10 Canon I.4, as to the composition and election of members to Executive Council;
11 Canon III.23, as to election of Missionary Bishops; Canon IV.4, as to Courts of
12 Review of the Trial of a Priest or Deacon; and the Advisory Committee of the
13 House of Bishops; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That, prior to the 74th General Convention, each Province identify
15 existing and ongoing networks and programs of mission and ministry now being
16 conducted by that Province, and in conjunction with any Dioceses now constituting
17 that Province or any Dioceses participating in these networks and programs,
18 arrange for the appropriate ongoing support of these networks and programs.

Explanation

For many years the church has viewed the provincial system with concern as to the effectiveness of the provinces. Some provinces are very active in programs enhancing the mission and ministry of the church while others are not. Geographic combinations may be a convenient method of grouping dioceses, but this often does not combine dioceses of like interests and concerns. Networks and programs within geographic provinces may well

STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH

not be as effective as networks and programs instituted between dioceses not linked in a province but which share many common opportunities for mission and ministry. Concerns have been raised that the provinces add an additional layer of governance that may not be necessary, and may be inefficient, uneconomical, and a hindrance to effective mission and ministry.

The Commission offers these resolutions as opportunities for the General Convention to express its will as to whether the present provincial system should be continued or eliminated in favor of more flexible arrangements for mission and ministry.

PROVINCE IX

Resolution A125 Amend Canon I.9.1 to Conform Canon to Recite

Existing Constituent Dioceses

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That Canon I.9.1 be
- 2 amended to read as follows [at page 41]:
- 3 The Ninth Province shall consist of the Dioceses of this Church in Colom-
- 4 bia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, ~~Guatemala~~, and Honduras;
- 5 Mexico, Nicaragua, ~~Panama and the Canal Zone~~.

Explanation

This amendment brings the Canon into conformity with the present structure of the Ninth Province. Prior to 1997, Mexico became an independent Province of the Anglican Communion. On January 1, 1998, the Dioceses in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama and the Canal Zone were released from the jurisdiction of this church to become an independent Province of the Anglican Communion.

CUSTODIAN OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

Resolution A126 Amend Canon II.3.7 as to Appointment and Term

of Office of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer.

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, that Canon II.3.7 be
- 2 amended to read as follows [at page 59]:
- 3 Sec. 7. The appointment of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common
- 4 Prayer shall be made by nomination of the House of Bishops; *and* confirmed
- 5 by the House of Deputies at a meeting of the General Convention. The Custodian shall hold office until the second General Convention following the General
- 6 Convention at which the Custodian was nominated and confirmed until a successor is appointed, and any. A vacancy occurring in the office of Custodian during
- 7 the recess of the when General Convention is not meeting may be provisionally
- 8 filled until the next General Convention by appointment by the Presiding Bishop
- 9 upon the confirmation of the Executive Council.
- 10
- 11

Explanation

During the Comment Period on the Draft Comment Report of the Structure Commission in 1996, the Commission received a number of suggestions to the effect that the

term of office of the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer be considered in light of the terms of office of other officers of the General Convention. This proposal establishes a term of office but does not preclude further appointments of the same person. This proposed amendment also clarifies existing ambiguities and establishes a process for the filling of a vacancy in this office that includes the Executive Council acting for General Convention, when General Convention is not meeting.

1997 - 2000 FINANCIAL REPORT

	1998	1999	2000	Total
Appropriated	Block Grant Appropriation			
Expended	\$ 2,859	24,824	25,877	\$53,560

PROPOSED BUDGET AND BUDGET RESOLUTION

	2001	2002	2003	
Meetings	\$16,070	21,442	16,816	\$54,328

Resolution A127 Standing Commission on Structure Budget

Appropriation

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That there be
- 2 appropriated from the Assessment Budget of General Convention for the expenses
- 3 of the Standing Commission on the Structure of the church the sum of \$54,326
- 4 for the triennium 2000-2003.