

November 11, 2022

To Clergy and Lay Delegates of the 206th Convention of the Diocese of Ohio:

Re: Constitutional Amendments Referred to Dioceses from the 80th General Convention

The 80th General Convention proposed several changes to the Constitution of The Episcopal Church (TEC). In accordance with Article XII of the TEC Constitution, it is the responsibility of each Diocese to make known such proposed alterations to its Convention prior to the 81st General Convention in 2024, and to certify that such action has been taken.

Due to the delay of the General Convention until July, 2022, this information was not available in time to be published in the Convention Handbook, and so is being provided to you in this format.

The text of each proposed amendment is included as an attachment to this email, and is available on the diocesan website: <https://www.dohio.org/convention>. The following is a summary of the three amendments:

A031: Amend the Constitution and Canons Relating to Mergers of Dioceses. The current process relating to mergers of Dioceses or formation of new Dioceses is contained in the Constitution which requires two General Conventions to approve. The proposed amendment would allow Dioceses more flexibility by deferring to the Canons the details of the process. The intent of the amendments is to build greater flexibility for Dioceses to achieve merger and/or unification, rather than requiring two General Conventions to approve such changes.

A059: Amend Article X of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church (First Reading). The proposed amendment would for the first time define the Book of Common Prayer as “those liturgical forms and other texts authorized by the General Convention.” In other words, liturgies that are not part of the current prayer book could be elevated to “prayer book” status by action of the General Convention, whether they are replacing parts of the prayer book or standing on their own.

A157: Amend Article 1, Section 7 regarding meetings of the General Convention. The current text requires that the General Convention shall “meet not less than once in each three years,” and does not allow for a delay due to conditions such as the pandemic. The proposed Constitutional Amendment allows the regular triennial meeting of General Convention to be delayed under exigent circumstances.

Sincerely,

Darcel Arrington,
Secretary to the 206th Convention of the Diocese of Ohio