



**REFORMED EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC
COMMITTEE ON CANONS**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CANONS TO THE 145TH COUNCIL
OF THE DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC**

OCTOBER 20, 2025

The Committee on Canons reports as follows:

The Committee met on October 20, 2025, to consider proposals for amendments to the Diocesan Constitution and to the Diocesan Canons.

They are as follows:

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC**

**ARTICLE IX
Boards and Committees**

Commentary: Article IX of the diocesan constitution contains provisions relating to the formation and operation of various diocesan committees, including, *inter alia*, the diocesan trustees, the standing committee, the seminary board, and the Parochial Apportionment Committee. This committee was originally instituted for the purpose of allocating responsibility for contributions to the diocesan budget from the individual parishes. However, over time, the work of the committee has largely been superseded by the fact that the tithe has become the standard for parish contributions and that the trustees have reconfigured the budget process to account for tithe income rather than relying on apportionments that vary from year to year. Consequently, it is contended that the Committee on Parochial Apportionment has outlived its usefulness and should not be continued. The Committee on Canons, therefore, recommends that the Constitution be amended to eliminate the Committee on Parochial Apportionment as a standing committee of the diocese.

Article XI of the Constitution provides that it may be amended “by a unanimous vote of any stated meeting of the Council” without the need for any second reading. The Committee on Canons, therefore, proposes that the following Amendment be approved unanimously by the 145th Council of the Diocese without need for a second reading. Upon unanimous approval, this Amendment will take immediate effect.

Current version:

ARTICLE IX - Boards and Committees

Section 1. The following Committees and Boards shall be elected annually

....

(4). A Committee on Parochial Apportionments, consisting of five members, which shall receive from the Trustees of the Diocese the budgetary requirements for funding diocesan ministries and agencies, and shall establish the apportionment required from each parish for the support of the work of the Diocese.

Proposed Amendment:

That Subsection (4) of Section 1 of Article IX of the Constitution of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic be deleted in its entirety.

THE COMMITTEE ON CANONS, THEREFORE, MOVES AS FOLLOWS:

A. That Subsection (4) of Section 1 of Article IX of the Constitution of the Diocese of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic be deleted in its entirety.

B. That the foregoing Amendment be unanimously approved by the 145th Diocesan Council without a second reading and that it take effect immediately upon adoption.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE
CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF THE NORTHEAST AND MID-ATLANTIC**

PROPOSAL I: AMENDMENT TO CANON VI

**PROPOSED CHANGE
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE**

Commentary: Canon VI of the Diocesan Canons provides for the creation of an Administrative Committee. This committee is composed of the officers of the Council as well as representatives of various diocesan committees. One of the committees is the Committee on Apportionments. In light of the proposal to amend the Constitution to eliminate the Committee on Apportionments, the Committee on Canons recommends that the provisions of Canon VI be amended to account for the fact that the Committee on Apportionment no longer exists.

Current version:

CANON VI - The Administrative Committee

There shall also be an Administrative Committee, consisting of the Officers of the Council, all Treasurers elected by the Council, the Standing Committee, the Committee on Parochial Apportionments, and the Trustees of the Diocese, which shall meet at the call of the Ordinary and Standing Committee to transact urgent business not deemed grave enough to demand a special meeting of the Council; which also, by a two-thirds vote of any Council, shall act as that Council in continuum, for the transaction of specific items referred to it. It shall report all its acts to the next succeeding Council.

Proposed Amendment:

CANON VI - The Administrative Committee

There shall also be an Administrative Committee, consisting of the Officers of the Council, all Treasurers elected by the Council, the Standing Committee, ~~the Committee on Parochial Apportionments~~, and the Trustees of the Diocese, which shall meet at the call of the Ordinary and Standing Committee to transact urgent business not deemed grave enough to demand a special meeting of the Council; which also, by a two-thirds vote of any Council, shall act as that Council in continuum, for the transaction of specific items referred to it. It shall report all its acts to the next succeeding Council.

THE COMMITTEE ON CANONS, THEREFORE, MOVES AS FOLLOWS:

- A. That Canon VI of the Diocesan Canons be amended to eliminate the words, “the Committee on Parochial Apportionments”.**
- B. That the foregoing Amendment be unanimously approved by the 145th Diocesan Council without a second reading and that it take effect immediately upon adoption.**

PROPOSAL II: AMENDMENT TO TITLE III, Canon 1, Section 9

PROPOSED CHANGE INTERIM RECTORS

Commentary: The original canon provides that, in case of a vacancy, an interim rector may be appointed by the Bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee. The provision also prohibits the interim from being appointed rector by the parish search committee. The proposal is to permit -- in special cases -- an interim to be considered for the rectorship of the parish. Before doing so, however, the vestry must receive consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Current version:

Section 9. The Ordinary and Standing Committee may appoint an Interim Rector, to provide pastoral care for any Parish involved in a search process to fill a pulpit vacancy. No clergyman appointed to serve as Interim Rector may be considered a candidate for the rectorship of that Parish.

Proposed Change:

Section 9. The Ordinary and Standing Committee may appoint an Interim Rector, to provide pastoral care for any Parish involved in a search process to fill a pulpit vacancy. No clergyman appointed to serve as Interim Rector may be considered a candidate for the rectorship of that Parish without the express prior consent of both the Ordinary and the Standing Committee.

THE COMMITTEE ON CANONS, THEREFORE, MOVES AS FOLLOWS:

A. That Title III, Canon I, Section 9 of the Diocesan Canons be amended to add the words, “without the express prior consent of both the Ordinary and the Standing Committee” at the conclusion of the final sentence, the amended version to read:

No clergyman appointed to serve as Interim Rector may be considered a candidate for the rectorship of that Parish without the express prior consent of both the Ordinary and the Standing Committee

B. That the foregoing Amendment be unanimously approved by the 145th Diocesan Council without a second reading and that it take effect immediately upon adoption.

Respectfully submitted,
(The Very Reverend Dr.) Jon Abboud, Archdeacon
(The Reverend Dr.) M.P. Harrington
John Hendershot, Esquire