



# EPISCOPAL DIOCESE *of* INDIANAPOLIS

**181<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention  
November 16-17, 2018**

## **2018 Proposed Constitution and Canon Changes**

Proposed Amendment of Canon 13:1 (e)  
Proposed Amendment of Canon 18:2 (c)  
Proposed Amendment to Constitution Article III. Section 9

**The 181<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis  
November 16-17, 2018**

Subject: Proposed Amendment of Canon 13:1 (e)

Submitted by: The Rev. Bruce W. Gray, Rector of Holy Family, Fishers Indiana

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**This portion of the canon currently reads**

A Diocesan Audit Committee shall be formed consisting of volunteers capable of performing audits according to procedures adopted by the Diocese. Fees for this auditing service shall be set by the Audit Committee and approved by the Executive Council. The Audit Committee will be chaired by the Treasurer of the Diocese.

All Mission congregations and any Parish whose Normal Operation Income is less than \$120,000 shall be audited by the Diocesan Audit Committee every third year with internal audits performed in the intervening years by the Mission or Parish. The Diocese shall pay the cost of the audits performed by the Diocesan Audit Committee.

Congregations whose Normal Operating Income is at least \$120,000, but less than \$240,000 may choose to be audited by the Diocesan Audit Committee. Such Parishes are encouraged to conduct annual audits, but must conduct an independent audit at least once every three years with internal audits performed in all other years. Parishes in this category shall pay the fee charged by the Diocesan Audit Committee.

In Parishes whose Normal Operating Income is \$240,000 or greater, all accounts shall be audited annually by an independent Certified Public Accountant, or an independent Licensed Public Accountant.

All reports of such audits, including any memorandum issued by such auditors or the Diocesan Audit Committee together with all proposals made by them shall be filed with the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority not later than 30 days following the date of such report.

**Proposed Change**

A Diocesan Audit Committee shall be formed consisting of volunteers capable of performing audits according to procedures adopted by the Diocese. Fees for this auditing service shall be set by the Audit Committee and approved by the Executive Council. The Audit Committee will be chaired by the Treasurer of the Diocese.

All Mission congregations and any Parish whose Normal Operation Income is less than *(strike)* ~~120,000~~ *(add)* **\$150,000** shall be audited by the Diocesan Audit Committee every third year with internal audits performed in the intervening years by the Mission or Parish. The Diocese shall pay the cost of the audits performed by the Diocesan Audit Committee.

Congregations whose Normal Operating Income is at least *(strike)* ~~120,000~~ *(add)* **\$150,000**, but less than *(strike)* ~~\$240,000~~ *(add)* **\$300,000** may choose to be audited by the Diocesan Audit Committee. Such Parishes are encouraged to conduct annual audits, but must conduct an independent audit at least once every three years with internal audits performed in all other years. Parishes in this category shall pay the fee charged by the Diocesan Audit Committee.

In Parishes whose Normal Operating Income is *(strike)* ~~\$240,000~~ *(add)* **\$300,000** or greater, all accounts shall be audited annually by an independent Certified Public Accountant, or an independent Licensed Public Accountant.

All reports of such audits, including any memorandum issued by such auditors or the Diocesan Audit Committee together with all proposals made by them shall be filed with the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority not later than 30 days following the date of such report.

*(add)*

**The Normal Operating Income amounts stated in this canon shall be reviewed for revision at least every five years by the Treasurer of the Diocese. If changes are indicated, recommendations for revision of this canon shall be made to Diocesan Convention by the Treasurer.**

### **Explanation**

Since this canon was composed in 2007, inflationary rates from various organizations would today place the amounts used in the canon at roughly \$150,000 and \$300,000. Consequently this proposed amendment updates those figures. It also creates a new requirement for reviewing those amounts at least every five years by the Treasurer of the Diocese to inform Convention of the potential need for the updating of this canon.

This amendment was formed in consultation with the Treasurer of the Diocese.

Submitted by The Rev. Bruce W. Gray, Rector of Holy Family, Fishers Indiana

**The 181<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis**  
**November 16-17, 2018**

Subject: Proposed Amendment of Canon 18:2 (c)

Submitted by: North Central Deanery Clericus of the Diocese of Indianapolis

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WHEREAS:

Members of the Executive Council and also the Commission on Ministry in the Diocese of Indianapolis may be elected to two contiguous terms before standing down for a year [e.g., Canon 26.2.F: “No such member of the Commission who shall have served on the Commission for two full consecutive three-year terms shall be eligible for an additional term until one year after the expiration of the preceding term.”]; and

WHEREAS:

Congregations may have By-Laws that are more restrictive than the Diocesan canons, but not less; and

WHEREAS:

Some parishes in the Diocese of Indianapolis would be helped by the consistency of experienced Vestry leaders:

Therefore, let it be RESOLVED that Diocesan Canon 18, Section 2 (c) be replaced by the following:

(c) No member of a Vestry who is elected to a full three-year term **and has been re-elected to a second full three year term** shall be eligible for re-election to the vestry until one year after the expiration of the **second** term for which that member was elected. No member of the Vestry may serve more than 6 consecutive years.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Current **Canon 18, Section 2** reads:

(a) The number of Vestry members, as prescribed in the Articles of Incorporation or, in the absence thereof, in the By-laws of each Parish, shall not be less than three, nor more than fifteen, and within these limits the Parish, by majority vote may change the total number elected annually by amendment of the Articles of Incorporation or By-laws. Members in good standing who are qualified electors alone shall be eligible; and at least two-thirds of the members of the Vestry shall also be confirmed adult communicants in good standing. The Rector shall be an ex officio member and shall chair meetings of the Vestry.

(b) The qualified electors may each year choose by ballot one-third of the whole number of vestry members to serve for three years and until the election of their successors.

(c) No member of a Vestry who is elected to a full three-year term shall be eligible for re-election to the vestry until one year after the expiration of the term for which that member was elected.

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**Second Reading**

First Reading 2017

Proposed Amendment to Constitution Article III. Section 9

Article III.9 of the Constitution is hereby amended (text to be deleted shown as ~~strikethrough~~ while new language is underlined)

**Quorum for Election of Bishops**

**Section 9.** A quorum for election of a Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor or Suffragan Bishop shall consist of two-thirds of the clergy eligible to vote whose actual residence is within the Diocese of Indianapolis, exclusive of those who have resigned their positions and two-thirds of the lay delegates entitled to seats in the Diocesan Convention, provided that at least two-thirds of the Parishes and Organized Missions in union with the Diocesan Convention shall be presented by lay delegates.

**Explanation:**

This amendment brings the quorum requirement for electing conventions inline with the quorum requirement for annual conventions. The quorum for clergy is based on active clergy resident in the diocese. No clergy will be disenfranchised by this change, but retired and non-resident clergy will not be required to return to the diocese so that we can elect a bishop.

**As per Article XII:**

This Constitution may be altered or amended in the following manner: Any proposal to alter or amend, which shall have been introduced in writing, duly considered and approved by a majority vote at an annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention, shall be referred to the next annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention for final consideration and action and, if approved and adopted at such next annual meeting by two-thirds of each Order, voting separately, and concurred in by the Bishop, such amendment shall become effective at the time designated in the resolution of adoption.