

**DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
241st CONVENTION  
OCTOBER 19, 2024**

**R-5**

Sponsor: Rev. Richard Morgan on behalf of the Board of Trustees  
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**AMENDING THE DIOCESAN CONSTITUTION AND CANONS, AND STANDING  
ORDER 30, TO HAVE A SINGLE ASSESSMENT FOR THE DIOCESAN BUDGET  
RATHER THAN AN ASSESSMENT AND A VOLUNTARY PLEDGE**

Resolved: The Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania shall be amended as follows in order to have a single assessment on individual parishes for the Diocesan budget rather than an assessment and a voluntary pledge:

**CONSTITUTION**

Article IV(3): Each Organized Mission and Aided Parish of this Diocese, reporting not less than 50 communicants, which has made a Parochial Report **and paid its assessment for the Episcopal Fund for the preceding calendar year**, may send to the Convention three Lay Deputies, chosen as may be provided for by Canon, who shall have all the rights of parochial Deputies.

Article IV(5)(d): For its representatives to be admitted to any Convention, a Church must . . .  
**~~(d) have paid its assessment for the maintenance of the Episcopate for the calendar year immediately preceding the stated Convention and the expenses of any Convention. — Convention may restore such right of representation upon reason satisfactory to it.~~**

**CANONS**

SEC 7.1 The Fund for the Endowment of the Episcopate shall consist of the investments constituting the permanent Fund, heretofore called the Episcopal Fund, and of such other sums or securities as may from time to time be given or raised for the endowment of the episcopate of the Diocese, and the investments thereof shall be in the care of and be managed by the Church Foundation. The Church Foundation shall pay over the net income to the Treasurer of the Diocese, to be used for the purposes of the **Assessment for the Support of the Episcopate Diocesan Budget** hereinafter described, and shall make an annual report to the Convention.

SEC 7.2.1 On an annual basis, subject to, and in order to give effect to, the mission and ministries of the diocese, the Finance Committee shall direct the process of forming a single budget for the diocese (**the “Diocesan Budget”**), consolidating the former episcopate and program budgets.

SEC. 7.2.1.2 The Finance Committee shall determine projected revenue from the following sources:

7.2.1.2.1 estimated income to be received from investments, including but not limited to income from the Fund for the Endowment of the Episcopate; **and**

7.2.1.2.2 an assessment upon the parishes, missions and chapels of the diocese in such manner as the Diocesan Convention shall direct in support of the ~~episcopate~~ **Diocesan Budget**, subject to the approval of the Standing Committee.; **and**

~~7.2.1.2.3 — voluntary pledges of support by the parishes and mission of the Diocese through a regular allocation of their income.~~

SEC 7.4.1 The Executive Office, on or before November 1st of each year, shall notify the proper officers of each parish, mission, or chapel of the amounts of the Assessments for the **Support of the Episcopate Diocesan Budget**, for Clergy Financial Assistance, and for Retired Clergy Medical Insurance for the ensuing calendar year. It shall be the duty of such officers to forward to the Treasurer of the Diocese one quarter of the amount of such assessments upon receipt of bill therefore, and the remaining three quarters not later than June 1st of the ensuing calendar year. Any parish or mission which at the time of meeting of any Convention, annual or special, is delinquent in its payment for the current or any previous year of the amounts so required of it shall be reported by the Executive Office to the Secretary of the Convention as liable to have forfeited its right to representation and vote in that Convention.

SEC 7.4.2 Not later than two months before the meeting of each Stated Convention any parish which has not paid and does not expect to be able to pay before that Convention its Assessments for the **Support of the Episcopate Diocesan Budget**, for Clergy Financial Assistance, and for Retired Clergy Medical Insurance of the previous year, but desires to have representation in such Convention, shall submit to the Finance Committee any considerations which the parish authorities believe should move the Convention to **not vote in favor of forfeiting its right to representation and vote in that Convention grant it representation in spite of such failure**. That Committee shall report to the Convention, for the information of the Committee on Claims of Laity to Seats, its recommendation; and the Committee shall not report favorably upon the application ~~for restoration~~ of the right to representation of any parish which has not pursued the above course.

SEC 7.5.3 Such sum as may be approved by the Convention for the above purposes shall be known as “The Clergy Financial Assistance Assessment” and the Diocesan Council shall assess the same upon and collect it from the parishes in union with the Convention on the same basis and in the same manner as in the case of the Assessment for the **Diocesan Budget Support of the Episcopate**.

S.R. 30

**Resolved, That** The Diocese of Pennsylvania **will assess each parish a percentage of its Normal Operating Income (NOI) as reported on he Parochial Report for the last reported year (the same percentage for each parish). This percentage will be reported by the Finance Committee in its presentation of the budget so that each parish will know what it is liable to pay if the budget is approved. adopt a formula for allocating the assessments based upon the Net Disposable Budget Income of each parish as it relates to the sum of all parishes' Net Disposable Income multiplied by the total assessment amounts (November 3, 2001).**

**EXPLANATION:**

When the Canons were changed to a unified budget (rather than the previous Episcopate and Program Budgets for Mission – 7.2.1) Convention unified the expense budget but did not unify the ask. It left in a mandatory assessment for the Episcopate and voluntary ‘pledges of support’ (7.2.1.2.3). This resolution unifies the Sacred Ask by removing the voluntary pledge component of the Sacred Ask and changing the definition of the purpose of the Assessment in the Canons from “Support of the Episcopate” to “Diocesan Budget” in each instance. In the Constitution, this requirement is simply removed, since there will no longer be an assessment for the “Episcopate Fund” or for “Maintenance of the Episcopate,” and since the requirement to pay the assessment “for the Diocesan Budget” will be described in the Canons. Since this resolution involves a change to the Constitution the entire resolution requires a two thirds majority at two Annual Conventions to take effect.