

Resolution CC2 – Amend Canon 10 – Executive Council

Author: Constitution & Canons Committee

October 23, 2013

RESOLVED, that Canon Sections 10.1, 10.5.2, 10.5.3, 10.5.4 be amended to read as follows:

CANON 10

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Sec. 10.1. Powers Authority of Executive Council. ~~There shall be an~~ The Executive Council which shall exercise the powers of Convention between meetings thereof, implementing the directives and policies of that body, initiating and developing new work, but not acting in conflict with the expressed will of Convention. carry out the program and policies adopted by the Diocesan Convention. Except as may be provided for by the Diocesan Convention, by the Constitution or these Canons or otherwise delegated to other Diocesan officials or entities, the Executive Council shall have charge of the coordination, development, and implementation of the ministry and mission of the Diocese.

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Sec. 10.5 Organization

10.5.1. The Executive Council shall have the advice and assistance of two types of organizations:

- a. Those required by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and incorporated into the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth;
- b. Those established by Convention and/ or Executive Council;

10.5.2. The Executive Council shall make decisions as a single body, but shall organize into the following ~~small groups~~ committees to carry out the work of Executive Council and for oversight, responsiveness, and advocacy for the organizations identified in 10.5.1: Congregation Development, Christian Formation, ~~Finance~~, Structures, ~~and~~ Management and Finance. Prior to the ~~first meeting~~ first meeting of the Executive Council after the end of the Annual Convention each year, the Bishop, the President of the Standing Committee, and the President of the Corporation shall meet and initially assign new members of the Executive Council to one of the ~~groups~~ committees. Each ~~group~~ committee may increase its membership with Executive Council approval to ensure that the ~~group~~ committee has the expertise to carry out the work assigned to it. The additional members will have seat, voice, and vote in the ~~group~~ committee, but not in the Executive Council. Each ~~group~~ committee may elect its own Chair. Each ~~group~~ committee shall provide a written report at each meeting of the Executive Council of its activities since the last Executive Council meeting. Each ~~group~~ committee shall designate its own clerk, who does not need to be a member of the Executive Council.

a. **Congregation Development.** This ~~group~~ committee serves as the Executive Council's Link with programs and services for the missionary work in the Diocese and development of congregations, which may include: church plants; overseeing missions and assisting congregations moving from mission to parish status; and leadership development, stewardship and congregation life and ministry for all congregations. Also, this ~~group~~ committee oversees the communication efforts of the Diocese and recommends allocation of resources for congregation development and assistance.

b. **Christian Formation.** This ~~group~~ committee serves as the Executive Council's link to programs and services to promote and further the work of Christian education and formation throughout the Diocese for all age levels and to recommend allocation of resources for Christian education and formation.

~~c. Finance. This group shall be the Finance Committee of the Executive Council and shall have the duties as set out in applicable canons and overall responsibility for drafting the proposed budget of the Diocese, overseeing the audit processes for Diocesan and congregational institutions, training appropriate diocesan and parish officials on financial procedures, receiving and coordinating requests for assistance from congregations; recommending investment policy for church funds; and coordinating the financial affairs of the diocese in cooperation with the Fund for the Endowment for the Episcopate, and the Diocesan Corporation. The President of the Board of Trustees of the Diocesan Corporation, and the Treasurer of the Diocese shall be among the members of this group.~~

~~c.~~ **d. Structures.** This ~~group~~ committee carries out the Executive Council's responsibilities for the review and evaluation of the effectiveness of diocesan structure, programs and services and for the maintenance of sound and accepted best practices in the affairs of the Diocese, its organizations, institutions, and congregations.

~~d.~~ **e. Management.** This ~~group~~ committee shall meet regularly between meetings of the Executive Council to monitor progress on Executive Council initiatives and resolves, undertake work delegated by the Executive Council, recommend action on time sensitive matters, appoint persons for organizations established by the Executive Council in Sec. 10.5.3, and develop the agenda for each Executive Council meeting. Its members shall be the Bishop Diocesan, the President of the Standing Committee, the President of the Diocesan Corporation, the Diocesan Treasurer, the Diocesan Chancellor, Chair of the Finance Committee, Director of Communications, and one member of the Executive Council from each of the other groups of the Executive Council.

10.5.3. The Executive Council may recognize or establish, help define the scope of work, hold accountable, and support organizations as it deems appropriate and necessary to carry out the work of the Diocese. Ad hoc organizations shall be given a specific mandate and time frame for completing their work. The chairs and members of the organizations do not need to be members of the Executive Council, except as stated elsewhere in the canons. An organization may fill vacancies in its membership or increase its membership. An organization may disband when its mission is complete. For organizations established by the Executive Council, the Management Group will appoint persons to those organizations. The Management

Group may be assisted by the Nominations Committee per Canon 45. Each organization will be assigned to one of the Executive Council ~~small groups~~ committees. An organization shall keep full records of its proceedings and shall provide a written report at each meeting of the Executive Council of its activities since the last Executive Council meeting.

10.5.4. Finance Committee. The Finance Committee of the Executive Council is the diocesan body with the authority to give effect to the required business methods in church affairs required by Canon I.7 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church (General Canons). The members of the Finance Committee shall be determined as the other Executive Council committees as defined in Section 10.5.2. The duties of the Finance Committee are as follows:

a. In addition to other duties assigned to it by Canon, the Bishop, the Executive Council or the Convention, the Finance Committee shall assure compliance with Canon I.7 of the General Canons concerning “Of Business Methods in Church Affairs” and the Canons of this Diocese, maintain coordination of the financial affairs of the Diocese, except as may be delegated by Convention to other Diocesan bodies; provide for clarity and accuracy of the collection and disbursement of all funds, and cooperation between the various officers, corporate bodies, Diocesan committees, working groups, and other entities, establishing its own rules therefore; and keep a record of its meetings, all of which shall be submitted regularly to the Executive Council and annually to the Convention.

b. The Finance Committee shall act as advisor to the Bishop and Executive Council in financial matters and, upon request, as advisor to Parishes and Missions.

c. The Finance Committee shall see that appropriate annual audits of the Diocese, the Congregations and all institutions are performed by qualified auditors as provided in General Canon I.7.

d. The Finance Committee shall serve as the budget committee of the Diocese as provided in Section 10.6 below, working with the Treasurer and other groups and institutions of the Diocese to develop and propose each annual budget to the Executive Council, pursuant to budget policies of the Diocese, and see that a budget system is introduced into all Parishes and Missions.

The Treasurer of the Diocese and the President of the Diocesan Corporation shall be members of the Finance Committee.

EXPLANATION

Canon Section 10.1 is revised to make it consistent with the authority of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church as provided in Title I, Canon 4 of the General Canons.

The term “groups” is changed to the more familiar term “committees” used elsewhere in the Canons.

Canon Section 10.5.4 is added to emphasize the role of the Finance Committee in assuring compliance with Title I, Canon 7 of the General Canons and to emphasize its role as coordinator of the financial affairs of the Diocese.