

RESOLUTION 2021-1

RESOLUTION ADOPTING SPECIAL RULES OF ORDER

The 138th Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Carolina adopts the following Special Rules of Order for the conduct of a virtual Convention meeting February 13, 2021 through an internet meeting service due to the declared State of Emergency and Executive Orders of the Governor of the State of North Carolina in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

1. The Secretary of Convention will provide the necessary credentials to log into the virtual meeting to all delegates registered in advance for the Convention. The virtual site will enable registered delegates to address the meeting, to hear and participate in discussion, to vote on questions put to the Convention by the Presiding Officer, and to vote in elections. Login access will begin at least thirty (30) minutes before the scheduled starting time of the meeting session.
2. Non-delegate observers will be provided limited access to observe the meeting.
3. The Annual Convention meeting virtually has all the powers and authority to conduct Diocesan matters and business as if the Convention were meeting in-person.
4. The Convention will meet by way of internet meeting services with integrated audio and video, text, and voting capabilities.
5. Registered delegates shall identify themselves as required to sign into the internet meeting service, and shall maintain internet and audio access throughout the meeting whenever present, but shall sign out upon any departure before adjournment.
6. The presence of a quorum shall be established through the login/sign in process at the beginning of the meeting. Thereafter, the continued presence of a quorum is assumed and maintained through the list of participating members. Any member may demand a quorum check following any vote for which the announced totals add to less than a quorum. (Const. Art. VI)
7. Each participant is responsible for his or her audio and internet connections. No act of Convention shall be invalidated on the grounds that loss of, or poor quality of, a delegate's individual connection prevented or hindered that delegate's participation.
8. The Presiding Officer may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a delegate's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting. The Presiding Officer's decision to mute or disconnect is not debatable and not appealable.
9. A delegate shall seek recognition by the chair to address the Convention by using the "raise hand" feature. A delegate will be recognized in the order in which recognition was requested. If more than one delegate is in the queue to speak, the Presiding Officer shall have the discretion to recognize speakers in order to alternate between speakers speaking in favor of the motion or resolution and speakers speaking against the motion or resolution.

10. A delegate who intends to make a motion or a request, that under the Rules of Order may interrupt discussion, shall notify the Presiding Officer using the designated feature and shall then wait for the Presiding Officer to recognize the delegate before speaking.

11. A delegate intending to make a main motion or to offer an amendment shall, as soon as practicable post the motion or amendment in writing to the online area designated by the Secretary and restricted for this purpose, preceded by the delegate's name and a number corresponding to how many written motions the member has so far posted during the meeting.

12. The Secretary of Convention or her designee shall designate an online area exclusively for the display of the immediate pending motion, proposed amendments, and relevant documents to assist the delegates.

13. When voting, a delegate will use the designated feature, unless a vote by orders is required or called which will require further instruction. (Const. Art. VII) The Presiding Officer will announce the voting results by stating the number of votes on each side of the question and the number of abstentions, if any.

14. The Presiding Officer will be visible to the Convention while speaking during the virtual meeting. In addition, any delegate or guest who is addressing the Convention shall be visible while recognized to speak or report.

15. The following Canons regarding the conduct of the Convention are suspended for the virtual Convention in 2021:

- (a) Canon 2 of Title I, Worship at Convention.
- (b) Canon 1, section 5 of Title I, regarding Regular Committees of Convention.

16. The following Rules of Order for the conduct of the Convention are suspended for the virtual Convention in 2021:

- (a) Rule I, regarding celebration of the Holy Eucharist.
- (b) Rule IV, regarding appointment of Committees.
- (c) Rule VII, regarding delegate decorum once the Presiding Officer has taken the chair.
- (d) Rule VIII, regarding Resolutions, except Rule VIII (3) remains in effect as modified by paragraph 17.

17. The Convention will consider only those resolutions submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 29, 2021 and in compliance with Rule VIII (3). Rule VIII (1) is suspended to the extent it requires introduction and voting on resolutions on separate days.

18. These Special Rules of Order apply only to the meeting of the Annual Convention in 2021 and expire upon adjournment.

Submitted by Executive Council