

# TREC Basics

## *Redesigning General Convention*

- Single legislative house to replace House of Deputies and House of Bishops
  - BUT each order can still deliberate separately
  - BUT still will elect an Executive Officer in addition to Presiding Bishop (eliminates vice chair of House)
    - AND Executive Officer to alternate days as chair with PB. The Presiding officer would receive compensation.
    - AND Presiding Bishop to be elected by concurring votes of all three orders.
- Number of deputies reduced from 4 each for clergy and lay to 3 clergy and “up to” 3 lay.
  - BUT Canon could reduce the number of deputies to 2 and 2.
- Only bishops with jurisdiction, coadjutors or suffragens to have vote
- A quorum will consist of a majority of the bishops entitled to vote and a majority of dioceses who have at least one clergy and one lay deputy present.
- Measures (unless required or requested as vote by orders) will be passed by a simple majority of deputies present and voting.
  - BUT votes by orders will remain where required or requested
    - AND votes by orders will still remain with a single vote per order per diocese, rather than each deputy voting directly
    - Requires 3 dioceses and 3 orders to request vote by orders

## *Redesigning Executive Council*

- Executive Council to be cut in half by eliminating the provincial representatives to Council. Term would be 6 years.
  - General Convention would elect 11 members nominated by a Joint Nominating Committee which would find people that fit a special profile and had gender, age, race, diversity. No nominations from the floor permitted.
  - Provinces could nominate 9 members by submitting names to the Joint Nominating Committee. General Convention would vote on these as well.
  - BUT E.C. to have no staff except the DFMS staff that also serves PB and Presiding Officer.
- Presiding Bishop to preside over Council and Executive Officer to be vice chair.
- Presiding Bishop and Council to act as governing board between General Conventions and empowered to act.

## *Redesigning Ministry*

- Seminaries to look at new degrees and training to better prepare people for a variety of ministries
- Diocesan Councils and Commissions on Ministry to explore ways to ensure clergy can make an adequate living in or outside of the church, that Executive Council study clergy compensation, and the trustees of the Church Pension Fund look at ways to ensure that non-stipendiary clergy have adequate resources for retirement.
- DFMS to develop a network to help dioceses and parishes develop training for all forms of lay and ordained ministry and to help congregations become skilled stewards of their property.

- Create task force of 4 bishops, 4 clergy, 4 laity to redesign the process of selecting bishops and determining qualifications
- Require diocesan standing committees to have a mandatory period of exploration with adjoining standing committees during the process leading to an election of a bishop.
- Lower the percentage of the diocesan asking, but make it a mandatory assessment.
- Set aside \$200,000 to create a church-wide task force of experts to tell parishes and dioceses how to better use their property.
  - AND every Episcopal cathedral, congregation, religious community, and institution explore how have “full-scale community involvement” in the use of their space.
  - AND Standing Committees in every diocese create standards for intervention and endowment spending policies, and create “Future Generation Funds” to ensure continuation of resources.
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### ***Redesigning the Administration***

- The Presiding Bishop would serve as CEO
  - AND would appoint (with Executive Officer concurrence) a Treasurer (CFO), Secretary, General Manager, and Chancellor (not in resolutions, but in recommendations) The Secretary and Treasurer are currently elected by General Convention and are its officers.
  - BUT a two thirds vote of Executive Council could remove the Treasurer, Secretary, General Manager, or Chancellor
- Presiding Bishop responsible for setting an overarching vision and strategy for the church and to direct resources to reach these ends.
- Eliminate all standing commissions except for Liturgy and Music and Constitution and Canons (and broaden the mandates of these two)
  - AND PB and Executive officer use DFMS staff for studies rather than use task forces or standing commissions.
  - BUT Committees such as budget and nominations called for in Rules of Order are not eliminated at this point

### ***What does it mean?***

1. Increases top down control of the church
2. Decreases voice of laity in General Convention
3. Removes the voice of General Convention from selection of the Secretary and Treasurer.
4. Does not have any concrete changes to respond to the fact that the church is made up of small congregations.
5. Eliminates all of the committees that dealt with social justice issues, and the other goals for ministry expressed in the original resolution.
6. Reduces actions in the discretion of diocesan bishops and diocese and dictates specific roles to diocesan bodies that may be in conflict with diocesan structure.
7. Does not address the cumbersome divisions between the unincorporated association known as the Church and governed by General Convention, the incorporated missionary body known as the DFMS which has a staff, and the separate corporation known as the Church Pension Fund which actually performs many of the functions of the church from publishing and education to keeping the official list of clergy.