



Rules of Order

I. ORGANIZATION

- A. Each session of the convention shall be opened with prayer.
- B. The Secretary of the preceding convention (or, in their absence, the Secretary Pro Tempore to be elected via vote) shall send out the names of the communities of faith in union with the convention; and the lay delegates from each shall present their certificates of election, which shall be referred to a Committee on Credentials, appointed by the Chair, consisting of one presbyter or deacon and one layperson. However, at the discretion of the Chair, certificates of election may be required to be sent in prior to the convention and be referred to the Committee on Credentials immediately preceding the opening session of the convention, thereby eliminating the reading of the names of the parishes and missions.
- C. The Secretary shall publish the names of the clergy entitled to seats in the convention and shall enter into the journal the names of those who are present.
- D. The Committee on Credentials shall report.

II. GENERAL

- A. If the Chair withdraws from the sittings of the convention, they shall appoint a Chair to preside in their absence.
- B. At any time before the final adjournment of the convention, the Chair may, and if requested by any seven (7) members shall call for the reading of the minutes of the sessions just completed; and after such reading, the minutes shall be corrected, signed by the Chair, and attested by the Secretary.

- C. No motion shall be considered as before the convention until it is seconded and stated by the Chair.
- D. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received unless it is to lay on the table, to move the previous question, to postpone to a set time, to commit, to amend, to substitute, to postpone indefinitely, or to divide it, and motions of any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order therein named.
- E. A motion to amend by substitution shall be in order.
- F. A motion to amend, to substitute, or to amend by substitution must be in writing and presented to the Chair when made.
- G. A motion to adjourn and a motion to lay on the table shall always be in order and shall be decided without debate. A motion to lay on the table shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- H. A question being decided, it shall not be reconsidered at the same convention without the consent of two-thirds of the members present, nor without a motion being made by one of the majority on the prior decision.
- I. Elections (other than the election of a Bishop)
 - 1. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.
 - 2. When nominations are made for any office, the names shall be recorded in the order in which they are presented.
 - 3. Elections
 - 1. Canon II.6 describes the process for elections
 - 2. A person appearing on a ballot may remove their name from the ballot at any time during the balloting process.
- J. Every member present, when a motion is put, shall vote thereon unless excused by the chair.
- K. All committees shall be appointed by the Chair unless otherwise ordered by the Convention, and when they may deem it advisable, they may appoint to a committee, to report to the next convention, a person qualified to be a delegate who is not a member of the convention.
- L. When a member desires to speak, they shall approach a microphone, be recognized, and address the Chair in an audible voice if capable. Each speaker will introduce themselves and their community of faith and have up to 3 minutes to speak. The Chair shall endeavor to alternate between speakers for and against the motion on the floor. When three speakers in a row have spoken on the same side of the matter up for debate, the Chair shall determine if there are members who wish to speak on the other side of the matter. If no member requests to speak, the debate will end.

- M. No member shall speak more than once on the same subject without leave of the Convention, except that the person making a motion may speak twice on that motion.
- N. Debate on any principal motion and subsidiary motions addressed to it shall be limited to a total of three minutes per person, unless a majority vote of the Convention shall change the limit.
- O. Debate on any principal motion and on subsidiary motions addressed to it shall be limited to a total of thirty minutes, unless a majority vote of the Convention changes the limit.
- P. No member shall withdraw from the Convention without leave asked for and granted by the Convention.
- Q. These rules of order may be suspended on a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- R. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the convention, except as otherwise provided hereinabove.

III. THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

- A. Location, Time, and Business of the Bishop Election. The Election of the First Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes will take place on Saturday, 24 October 2026 as scheduled on the agenda of the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes that will convene at the VanDyk Mortgage Convention Center in Muskegon, Michigan beginning on Friday, 23 October 2026.
- B. All those eligible to vote in this election must be physically present on the floor of the Convention at the time any vote is taken to cast a ballot. No proxy voting shall be permitted.
- C. All who are eligible to vote at an Annual Convention of this Diocese, by Canon II.3.4 of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, shall be eligible to vote in the election of the first Bishop of the Diocese. The Convention Credentials Committee, composed as specified in Canon II.5.2, shall determine the eligibility to vote for all persons registered to attend the electing Convention and shall present a certified count of voters by Order who are registered, eligible to vote, and present at the Convention. Such certification shall be given to the Secretary of the Convention and to the Parliamentarian immediately prior to the Chair calling the electing Convention to order. In keeping with Canon II.3.4.m, "otherwise qualified people may be given seat with voice but without vote, as the Convention allows."
- D. The determination of a quorum shall be the same as for an Annual Convention of the Diocese as specified in Canon II.3.4.I. After the Convention

is called to Order, the Parliamentarian shall certify to the Convention whether a quorum is present on the floor.

- E. In accordance with Canon II.6.4.a of the Diocese, a Bishop Search Committee was appointed and charged by the Standing Committee to produce a slate of candidates to stand for election for Bishop in this Diocese. As a part of this process, the Standing Committee has received petitions, if any, and has discerned whether or not to add candidates to the slate of candidates who are qualified under the standards established by the Bishop Search Committee and approved by the Standing Committee. This final slate of candidates was thus adopted by the Standing Committee for submission to the electing Convention. Without addition or amendment, the Bishop Search Committee shall nominate the slate of candidates who shall stand for election. Nominations will then be closed without debate. Pursuant to Canon II.6.4.b of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, nominations from the floor will not be in order.
- F. Voting shall take place either by secure electronic means or by paper ballot; whether by electronic or paper ballot, the election shall be held by secret ballot. If paper ballots are used, the Secretary of the Convention shall ensure their uniformity in content and compliance with these Special Rules of Order. The ordering of names on any ballot shall be alphabetical by Christian name (a.k.a. first/given name) and shall be listed with all due ecclesial honorifics (e.g., The Rev. NN). No distinction shall be made between candidates placed on the ballot by the Bishop Search Committee or by the petition process.
- G. In accordance with Canon II.7.a of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, each election vote will be taken by Orders (Laity and Clergy). Successful election of a candidate shall require a concurrent majority of those present and voting in each Order; unless, "if in either Order less than sixty (60) percent of all entitled to vote are present, two-thirds of the votes of those present in that Order shall be necessary to determine the election. Absent non-stipendiary members of the clergy and absent retired members of the clergy shall not be counted in determining the majority of clergy." (EDGL Canon II.6.4.b.i).
- H. The Chair shall appoint a Voting Secretary for this electing Convention; the Voting Secretary shall conduct the Convention's use of electronic voting devices or paper ballots. The Voting Secretary shall certify in writing the validity of each vote tally to the Chair of the Convention, who shall then report the certified results of each vote to the Secretary of the Convention and then to all who are present. At the conclusion of each vote, if there is no election, the Convention will, after a time of prayer and discernment as specified by the Chair, receive new ballots and vote again until the Convention elects or adjourns under these rules. Pursuant to Article V of the Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, "after the first ballot, a motion to go into committee of the whole shall be of the highest privilege and shall be carried by a one-third vote of each order."

- I. Except as provided in these rules, all nominees will remain on the ballot for each vote. A nominee may withdraw at any time by submitting a written request, in person or by email, to the Chair of the Convention. Once a nominee has withdrawn, they may not be reentered on the ballot.
- J. If the electing Convention does not elect a Bishop Diocesan by the end of the day on Saturday 24 October 2026, and unless the Convention by a two-thirds vote sets another date and time to continue the election, the Convention will adjourn *sine die*, and there will be no election.
- K. Immediately following the final ballot, provided that a Bishop is elected, while the Convention remains in session, the Chair of the Convention will arrange to cause the execution of a testimonial in the required form by a constitutional majority of the Convention attesting to the due and lawful election of the Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. The Chair shall designate a Sergeant-at-Arms for the Convention who shall, with any deputies of their choosing, close and guard the doors of the Convention floor and prevent any voter from leaving the Convention floor without the expressed consent of the Chair until the Attestation is completed and certified by the Secretary of Convention.
- L. During the electing Convention, no participant, including delegates, alternate delegates, clergy, guests, or media, shall communicate in any way (e.g., by phone, email, text, social media, or by any other communication application or device) to anyone about the business of the electing Convention, except as authorized by the Chair. The Chair shall authorize and provide for Diocesan communications staff to live-stream the electing Convention in a manner that does not permit those who are live-streaming to comment or otherwise engage directly with those present on the Convention floor. No participant in the electing Convention shall have any conversations with members of the Press while the electing Convention is in session. The Chairs of the Standing Committee shall be the official spokespersons for Diocesan communications with the Press concerning this Episcopal election.

Upon the Chair declaring that an election has occurred, and the result of the election having been announced to the Convention, the Chair shall authorize and provide for the Bishop-elect to have seat and voice, but not vote, at the Convention and to address the Convention either in person or by video conference.